

Congress funds Indian Health Service less than other health programs

The National Congress of American Indians estimates that to reach parity with the care provided to other Americans, the Indian Health Service would need about \$30 billion a year. U.S. Congress currently funds the agency at about one-fifth of that target. Funding increases in recent years primarily caught up with cuts forced by sequestration when Congress could not agree on a budget. Other health programs, such as Medicaid, are considered entitlements rather than discretionary and were not subject to those cuts.

Funding per beneficiary for federal health care programs

NOTE: Figures shown are from the most recent year for which comparative data was available .

