

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development  
Washington, D.C. 20410-50000

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY  
FOR PUBLIC AND INDIAN HOUSING

**March 27, 2001**

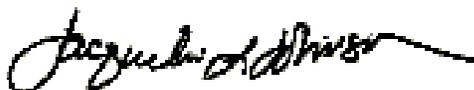
Dear Conference Participant:

I am pleased to welcome you to **The 1<sup>st</sup> National Urban Indian Housing Conference: Expanding the Circle - Building the Foundation for Self Sufficiency**. This is an excellent opportunity to learn and share ideas about the successful ingredients of partnership, collaboration and empowerment and how to utilize those skills in building up our urban Indian communities. In the spirit of collaboration, HUD, tribal organizations, planners and urban Indian groups, private institutions, the Department of Labor, local government organizations, as well as tribal representatives have worked together to offer you an exciting agenda for the two days. The conference agenda is comprised of comprehensive sessions on key topics, in-depth break-out sessions on a wide range of planning issues. There are also interactive sessions that allow us to share knowledge and learn from one another.

This is the first time that such a large number of Federal agencies, tribes, and tribal organizations have come together to identify issues and priorities, and formulate solutions to build stronger communities for urban families. Your presence at this conference sends a very important message: you are devoted to working together to increase opportunities throughout Indian country. We are grateful for your energy and commitment. I am certain you will come away from this conference with ideas and contacts that will enrich your community's abilities to chart its own successes and help to improve opportunities for your tribal members and for Indian families nationwide.

Thank you for joining us. We look forward to a successful conference.

Sincerely,



Jacqueline Johnson  
Deputy Assistant Secretary

Office of Native American Programs  
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development