

FACT SHEET: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Expanding Opportunity for Tribal Communities Across the Country

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Secretary Marcia L. Fudge has worked to expand opportunities for Tribal communities across the country. The Biden-Harris Administration and HUD are committed to prioritizing relationships with Tribal Nations that are built on respect for Tribal sovereignty and self-governance, honor federal trust and treaty responsibilities, and protect Tribal homelands.

The Office of Native America Programs

- HUD's Office of Native American Programs (ONAP) administers the largest federal source of Indian housing funding to almost 600 sovereign Tribal nations. ONAP works with Tribal and other governments, Federal agencies, community organizations, and the private sector to provide a coordinated and comprehensive response to Indian Country's housing and community development needs, through 17 programs dedicated to Native American communities. In addition, ONAP administers three programs (two block grants and a loan guarantee program) dedicated to Native Hawaiians residing in Hawaii.
- ONAP's mission is to ensure that safe, decent, and affordable housing is available to low- and middle-income Native American families; to create economic opportunities for Tribes and their residents of assisted housing; to help Tribes plan community development; and to ensure fiscal integrity in the operation of the programs.

Honoring Federal Trust and Treaty Responsibility

- The Federal Government and HUD recognize the unique relationship between the Government of the United States and the governments of Indian tribes, and the unique Federal responsibility to Indian people.
- Secretary Marcia L. Fudge and President Joe Biden have focused attention on the needs of Tribal communities since Day One. This support reflects a strong commitment to improving tribal governments' capacity for controlling their own futures.
- [Executive Order 13175](#) of November 6, 2000 (Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments) charges all executive departments and agencies with engaging in regular, meaningful, and robust consultation with Tribal officials in the development of Federal policies that have Tribal implications.
- In his January 26, 2021, [Memorandum on Tribal Consultation and Strengthening Nation-to-Nation Relationships](#), President Biden affirms respect for Tribal sovereignty and self-governance, commitment to fulfilling Federal trust and treaty responsibilities to Tribal Nations, and regular, meaningful, and robust consultation with Tribal Nations as cornerstones of Federal Indian policy and priorities of the Biden-Harris Administration.
- The Presidential Memorandum further asserts that "we best serve Native American people when Tribal governments are empowered to lead their communities, and when

Federal officials speak with and listen to Tribal leaders in formulating Federal policy that affects Tribal Nations.”

- In response to President Biden’s directive, HUD established the Department’s Tribal Consultation Plan of Actions and formed its first Tribal Intergovernmental Advisory Committee (TIAC). In April 2023, Secretary Fudge hosted the first meeting of the TIAC at the Robert C. Weaver Federal Building. The two-day convening included Tribal leaders from across the continental United States and Alaska that comprise the HUD Tribal Intergovernmental Advisory Committee. The meeting focused on HUD’s Nation-to-Nation relationships with Tribal governments, Tribal Sovereignty, housing needs and challenges in Indian Country, and funding for Tribal housing and community development programs.

Tribal Intergovernmental Advisory Committee Activity and Accomplishments

- Tribal members have committed to biweekly working group meetings focused on prioritizing the most pressing issues in Indian Country.
- Working on developing policy recommendations that will
 - increase access to infrastructure and special needs housing funding; and
 - streamline administrative requirements like the Environmental Review and procurement.
- TIAC members have contributed significant written feedback on Build America Buy America, Indian Community Development Block Grant Rulemaking, the Housing Counseling Final Rule, and the PRICE Notice of Funding Opportunity focused on ensuring Tribal sovereignty and Tribal self-determination responsibilities are met.
- Through the continued work of TIAC members there has been a commitment to collaborating, resulting in finding innovative ways to solve problems, build capacity, and convey the concerns and issues HUD needs to hear and understand.
- TIAC continues to serve as a crucial advisory arm of HUD.

Ensuring Housing and Community Development in Indian Country

- Housing and infrastructure needs in Indian Country are severe and widespread and far exceed the funding provided to Tribes. Despite the assistance provided by HUD and other federal agencies, overall housing conditions in much of Indian Country have worsened in the last decade.
- Federal investment in Native American housing programs is critical to ensure the health and safety of Native Americans and Tribal communities. HUD’s 2017 Housing Needs study identified that the physical housing problems for households in Tribal areas are much more severe than for U.S. households.

- In Tribal areas, homelessness often looks like overcrowding with estimates that between 42,000 and 85,000 Native Americans are “doubled up.” This means they are living with family or friends because they have no place else to stay and would otherwise be staying in a homeless shelter, a place not meant for human habitation, or living on the streets. **Tribes require at least 68,000 units of new affordable housing to replace substandard or overcrowded units, and this does not include the number of new units needed to house those Tribal members who wish to move back to their homelands but cannot because of a lack of housing.**
- Honoring the Federal Government’s trust and treaty responsibilities is particularly vital now, as Native Americans are recovering from the pandemic and accompanying economic hardships, and as they continue to grapple with issues of racial justice and the impacts of extreme climate events. All these factors have been demonstrated to be disproportionately harmful in Tribal communities.
- Despite these substantial challenges and insufficient funding, Tribes and Tribally Designated Housing Entities (TDHEs) remain resilient, continuing to deliver housing assistance and services to low-income members of their communities. Researchers have found effective partnerships among Tribes and other community stakeholders, not only to leverage funds, but also to provide homebuyer education; provide new homeowners with the skills to maintain their homes; improve home energy efficiency; and provide training and employment in the building trades. To further these goals, HUD continues to work diligently to disseminate information on best practices and strategies to leverage funds to allow Tribes and TDHEs to improve housing conditions in Indian Country.

HUD Funding in Indian Country

- In FY23, HUD administered well over \$1 billion in resources for Tribal communities.
- Including more than [\\$794 million in formula grants](#), [\\$128 million for competitive grants](#) for Indian Housing Block Grants (IHBG). This program is the primary means by which the Federal Government fulfills its trust responsibilities to provide adequate housing to Native Americans and is the single largest source of Indian housing assistance.
- Additionally, in FY23 HUD announced [\\$95.5 million for the Indian Community Development Block Grant](#) (ICDBG). This competitive grant is distributed annually to over 50 Tribes through a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO). Beneficiaries are primarily low- or moderate-income persons. Projects in Indian Country tend to focus on affordable housing rehabilitation, and construction of community buildings and infrastructure.
- In FY23, HUD has allocated nearly \$5 million through the ICDBG Imminent Threat program to help Tribal communities address impacts of disasters, emergencies, and other threats on Indian reservations, in Tribal communities, and in Native Alaskan villages.

- In FY23, HUD announced over [\\$21 million for the Native Hawaiian Housing Block Grant](#) program to support the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL). The funding may be used for the construction, rehabilitation, and acquisition of housing; infrastructure; and various support services. In addition, the funding may be used to provide rental assistance to Native Hawaiians living on or off the Hawaiian Home Lands.
- HUD announced [\\$8.6 million in Tribal HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing](#) (Tribal HUD-VASH) funding. This program provides rental assistance and supportive services to Native American Veterans who are experiencing homelessness or are at risk of becoming homeless in Indian Country in FY23.
- During the past year, ONAP has guaranteed over 1,400 loans worth \$339 million through Section 184, which means that HUD was able to help over 1,400 Native American families finance their homes despite the significant rise in interest rates, which has presented affordability challenges.