



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT
WASHINGTON, DC 20410-7000

OFFICE OF PUBLIC AND INDIAN HOUSING

February 13, 2020

SUBJECT: Two-Year Notices of Funding Availability for ONAP Competitive Programs

Dear Tribal Leader:

As you may know, the Office of Native American Programs (ONAP) recently revised the way in which it awards competitive grant funding. In previous years, ONAP awarded appropriated grant funds using a one-year Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) – meaning that once Congress appropriated funding for a specific program, ONAP would publish a NOFA and compete that year’s appropriated funds. However, when ONAP competed grant funding appropriated for the recent Indian Housing Block Grant (IHBG) Competitive program, it awarded funding appropriated for both FY 2018 and FY 2019 under a single [two-year NOFA](#). ONAP chose this approach to award this important funding to Tribal communities as quickly as possible, to avoid further unnecessary delays, and to reduce administrative burden on both applicants and ONAP staff. Similarly, HUD recently posted a [two-year NOFA](#) for the Indian Community Development Block Grant (ICDBG) program and is currently competing funding appropriated for both FY 2019 and FY 2020 under this competition. The decision to move to this new format was made, in part, to encourage long-term planning and to further support the development of larger projects.

The two-year NOFA approach has many advantages. It allows HUD to allocate critical resources in a more expeditious manner to assist Native American families and Tribal communities. It also relieves heavy workload on applicants and ONAP staff who at times must dedicate their limited time and resources to multiple competitions at or around the same time.

While the two-year NOFA approach has its advantages, some Tribal housing practitioners have also informally expressed concerns to ONAP regarding this change in how ONAP awards competitive funds.

As part of HUD’s commitment to robust tribal consultation, HUD is requesting your feedback regarding this two-year NOFA format for future planning. Specifically, ONAP is interested in hearing from you about whether this new format is practical and workable for you and your staff, and whether ONAP should continue to award competitive funding in the future using this two-year NOFA format.

Input from Tribal Leaders is essential to developing effective programming. Our goal is to ensure that ONAP can administer effective and efficient programs that address pressing needs across Indian Country. Please submit your comments within 30 days from the date of this letter to ONAP-ICDBG@hud.gov or by postal mail to:

Hilary Atkin, Director, Office of Grants Management
Office of Native American Programs
Department of Housing and Urban Development
451 7th Street SW, Room 4108
Washington, D.C. 20410

After the comment period has expired, HUD will consider all comments as it plans for future competitions. Thank you for your continued partnership and collaboration in the effective delivery of HUD's programs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Heidi J. Frechette". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name and title.

Heidi J. Frechette
Deputy Assistant Secretary
for Native American Programs