



**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND  
URBAN DEVELOPMENT**

WASHINGTON, DC 20410-5000

January 19, 2022

**SUBJECT:** Indian Housing Block Grant Competitive Program Feedback

Dear Tribal Leader,

As you know, there is a dire need to increase affordable housing in Indian Country. According to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD's) 2017 Housing Needs Study, approximately 68,000 new units are needed to eliminate overcrowding and replace inadequate dilapidated homes. Although Tribes and Tribally Designated Housing Entities have worked hard to stretch their Indian Housing Block Grant (IHBG) formula grant funds year after year, the development of new housing remains a challenge.

To help address this concern, since fiscal year 2018, the Congress has appropriated \$100 million annually for IHBG Competitive grants. In addition, the Congress has directed HUD to prioritize both new construction and rehabilitation projects when awarding these grant funds.

Having now administered three separate IHBG competitions, HUD is interested in your feedback on how the program has been working and what changes could be made to improve it in the future. The goal is to ensure that HUD is always making improvements to the Notice of Funding Opportunity process, distributing funding in an equitable manner, and funding projects that will have a major impact on Tribal communities and make the lives of Native American families better.

With this in mind, HUD is requesting your feedback on the following questions:

1. What has been your experience when applying for an IHBG Competitive grant?
2. What challenges have you faced with the IHBG Competitive grant program?
3. Do you believe HUD has administered the IHBG competition fairly and equitably?
4. What changes could HUD make to future competitions to help address your concerns?
5. Do you have any other recommendations or feedback on the IHBG Competitive grant program?

Comments should be submitted electronically to [Codetalk@hud.gov](mailto:Codetalk@hud.gov) by March 20, 2022. HUD will share any feedback received with the House and Senate Appropriations Committees to ensure that Congress is aware of the views of Tribal stakeholders and to help inform any future legislation with respect to the IHBG Competitive grant program.

Your feedback is critical. I hope that you will take the time to share your experiences and thoughts. Your continued commitment to Indian Country is vital to our collective efforts to ensure that Native American families have decent, safe, and affordable housing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Heidi J. Frechette". The signature is written in a cursive style with a blue ink color.

Heidi Frechette  
Deputy Assistant Secretary  
for Native American Programs