



**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND
URBAN DEVELOPMENT**
WASHINGTON, DC 20410-5000

December 17, 2021

SUBJECT: IHBG-CARES and IHBG-ARP Expenditures

Dear Tribal Leader:

As you know, COVID-19 has created significant challenges for communities across the country. It has been a trying nearly two years period, and the Office of Native American Programs (ONAP) is committed to being your partner in persevering through this crisis.

In 2020, we worked quickly to deliver \$200 million in Indian Housing Block Grant funding provided under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Recovery Act (IHBG-CARES) to help Tribes and Tribally Designated Housing Entities (TDHEs) prevent, prepare for, and respond to COVID-19. This year, Congress appropriated an additional \$450 million for the IHBG program through the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (IHBG-ARP), which ONAP immediately allocated to Tribes and TDHEs

I am very pleased to see that a significant amount of the IHBG-CARES funding has been spent. So far, Tribes and TDHEs have spent close to 70 percent of the allocated IHBG-CARES funds to provide assistance to Native American families in need. This is a tremendous accomplishment.

I want to remind you that these funds can be used for a broad range of activities. This includes all eligible IHBG affordable housing activities, as well as additional flexibilities provided under the various waivers and alternative requirements included in [PIH Notice 2021-14](#).

Additionally, I want to remind you that if your local needs and circumstances have changed since you first submitted your Abbreviated Indian Housing Plan (IHP), you can amend your plan and carry out new or different activities or projects using your IHBG-CARES funds. Please reach out to your local Area ONAP office for assistance. Contact information can be found at hud.gov/codetalk.

The IHBG-ARP funding can also make a significant difference in the lives of Native American families and in Tribal communities. If your Tribe or TDHE has not done so yet, I strongly encourage you to complete and submit your Abbreviated IHP in order to access these funds. While HUD has awarded a significant amount of funding under this program, some Tribes and TDHEs have yet to submit their plans to HUD and receive their funding. We are available to provide you with any technical assistance needed to complete and submit these plans so that you can begin to put these dollars to use and make major housing investments in your communities.

I wanted to also make you aware that the National American Indian Housing Council (NAIHC) facilitated a series of ONAP-sponsored IHBG-ARP implementation trainings this fall. To request additional support or inquire about future training opportunities, please contact their Technical Assistance staff at training@naihc.net.

Thank you for all the important work that you do every day. Your continued commitment to Indian Country is vital to our collective efforts to ensure that Native American families have decent, safe, and affordable housing. HUD is always available to help you implement your programs effectively. If you or your staff have any questions, please contact your local Area Office of Native American Programs.

Sincerely,



Heidi J. Frechette
Deputy Assistant Secretary for
Native American Programs