



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

OFFICE OF PUBLIC AND INDIAN HOUSING

April 15, 2020

SUBJECT: Input Requested on ICDBG-CARES Act Grant Ceilings

Dear Tribal Leader:

On March 27, 2020, the President signed the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act (Public Law 116-136), which provides additional funding to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. The CARES Act included up to \$100 million for the Indian Community Development Block Grant (ICDBG) program.

The \$100 million is specifically for ICDBG Imminent Threat (ICDBG-CARES) grants, which will be awarded on a non-competitive basis to eliminate or lessen problems that pose an imminent threat to public health or safety of tribal residents. The Office of Native American Programs (ONAP) is working on awarding this funding as quickly as possible and intends to publish an ICDBG-CARES Implementation Notice outlining how Indian tribes can apply for this funding.

ONAP is seeking your feedback on how ICDBG-CARE funds should be awarded. Specifically, ONAP is interested in Tribal feedback to the following questions:

- What should the award ceilings be for ICDBG-CARES grants? HUD has waived the regular maximum grant ceiling, which is set at \$900,000 for areas under a Presidential disaster declaration.
- Should there be more than one tier for the maximum grant ceiling? If so, what data should HUD use to set those tiers? For example, should HUD set lower maximum grant ceilings for small, medium, and large Indian tribes by using population, the Indian Housing Block Grant CARES formula allocations, or some other data?
- Are there any other considerations that ONAP should take into account as it develops the ICDBG-CARES Implementation Notice and establishes funding criteria and other program requirements?

Please submit your feedback electronically to Codetalk@hud.gov by Wednesday, April 22, 2020. ONAP is providing a shorter comment period than usual due to the current exigent circumstances and the need to award this new funding as quickly as possible to Tribal communities that need this assistance.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter, and for your continued partnership and collaboration in the effective delivery of HUD's programs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Heidi J. Frechette". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Heidi J. Frechette
Deputy Assistant Secretary
for Native American Programs