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

OFFICE OF COMMUNITY PLANNING
AND DEVELOPMENT

March 1, 2021

Dear Tribal Leader:

The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (Public Law 116-260, approved December 27, 2020) included language allowing participation of Indian Tribes and Tribally Designated Housing Entities (TDHE) in the Continuum of Care (CoC) Program (Section 102).

Background

The CoC Program is authorized by subtitle C of title IV of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, (42 U.S.C. 11381–11389) (the Act), and the CoC Program rule found in 24 CFR part 578 (the Rule), and is designed to promote a community-wide commitment to the goal of ending homelessness; to provide funding for efforts by nonprofit providers, states, tribal entities and designated tribal entities), and local governments to quickly rehouse homeless individuals, families, persons fleeing domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking, and youth while minimizing the trauma and dislocation caused by homelessness; to promote access to and effective utilization of mainstream programs by homeless individuals and families; and to optimize self-sufficiency among those experiencing homelessness.

Funding for the CoC Program is appropriated annually with an average of $2.5 billion available to homeless providers who assist individuals and families experiencing homelessness with an additional $50 million to $52 million available in bonus funding to specifically address victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking since Fiscal Year (FY) 2018. CoCs with approved registrations between the second Tuesday of January and first Thursday in March annually are eligible to submit a CoC Consolidated Application that includes the CoC Application, CoC Priority Listing, and project applications that were approved and ranked, or rejected in the local competition.

The Office of Special Needs Assistance Programs opens and closes the annual registration process identifying the CoCs eligible to access the CoC Consolidated Application once the FY CoC Program Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) is published that includes the statutory CoC Program requirements for application submission for funding consideration and additional priorities related to homelessness. All funding for the CoC Program is competitive and based on CoC Application scores as outlined in the NOFOs.

Tribal Feedback

In accordance with the Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Tribal Consultation Policy, HUD is reaching out to tribal leaders to solicit feedback. Specifically, the Department seeks comments on the following points:

- Participation in the upcoming FY 2021 CoC Program Competition process and availability to coordinate with neighboring CoCs;

- Homeless needs within the tribal areas and how CoC Program funds can help address homelessness;

- Challenges related to homelessness and recommendations where CoC Program funds can assist with housing and services; and

- Based on the statutory and regulatory requirements and restrictions, what obstacles are anticipated and recommendations to assist Indian Tribes and TDHE's towards addressing, reducing, and ending homelessness.
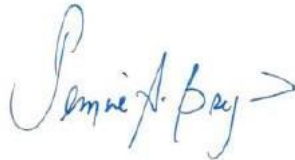
Due to the ongoing COVID-19 National Emergency, HUD will host a virtual tribal consultation via webinar in late-March 2021 on how to provide tribal leaders the opportunity to provide comments to HUD. The Department will publish and disseminate webinar details soon. Tribal leaders and TDHEs are highly encouraged to participate.

Additional information regarding the Continuum of Care is available for your review on HUD's Website. Additionally, HUD also encourages written comments from tribal leaders and THDEs via email, CoCTribalConsult@hud.gov and enter "Tribal Consultation" in the subject line of the email.

Input from tribal leaders and TDHE is essential to the development of HUD's programs.

Thank you for your interest in the Department's programs.

Sincerely,

Jemine A. Bryon
Deputy Assistant Secretary
Office of Special Needs