



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

WASHINGTON, DC 20410-7000

OFFICE OF COMMUNITY PLANNING
AND DEVELOPMENT

October 11, 2022

SUBJECT: Consultation on Tribal Directory Assessment Tool (TDAT) Enhancement Project

Dear Tribal Leader:

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is in the process of updating its Tribal Directory Assessment Tool (TDAT) through the TDAT Enhancement Project. TDAT is a tool developed by HUD to assist HUD staff and its Responsible Entities (RE) in identifying the federally recognized Indian tribes to consult with per Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), when assessing potential impacts a project may have on Tribal cultural resources and sites located on ancestral lands. REs are units of government who, as per regulation, assume the responsibility for environmental review, decision-making, and actions that would otherwise apply to HUD and can include Tribes.

TDAT is a publicly available database that identifies counties where Tribes have ancestral interest and provides Tribal contact information for initiating Section 106 consultation. HUD recognizes that each Tribe has its own consultation processes and interests. Accordingly, HUD is invested in ensuring that REs have the tools they need to perform Tribal consultation with Tribes that have an interest in particular geographic locations. Updates to TDAT require many levels of review and approval which can make it cumbersome to update. To address this, the Federal Permitting Improvement Steering Council (FPISC) has coordinated with HUD to fund technical upgrades that will ensure that county and contact data will be regularly updated. The current TDAT webpage can be accessed here ([TDAT](#)).

HUD has drafted an Information Request Form to be added to TDAT as part of the Enhancement Project. The intent of this form is to facilitate the Section 106 consultation process by including specific Tribal consultation preferences. If a Tribe chooses to complete the form, which is not mandatory, the information will provide REs and HUD with the preferred communication methods and types of projects that Tribes do not wish to regularly review. Without this information, contact methods and project types submitted will continue to be determined by those initiating the consultation. The draft Information Request Form is attached for review in advance of the virtual sessions. As the TDAT updates may have direct impacts on Section 106 consultation processes, we invite you to join us for an information

session highlighting TDAT on November 10, 2022, followed by a consultation session on November 17, 2022.

HUD will host a virtual webinar on **November 10, 2022**, to provide background and context on TDAT, its features, and its use for consulting with Tribes under Section 106. The TDAT Information Session begins at **2:00 p.m. Eastern Time**. You may join the conference 10 minutes prior. The suggested browser for Webex access is Google Chrome.

To join the session, click: <https://ems8.intellor.com/login/845515>

Join the Webex event and follow the prompts to connect audio by computer or telephone.
Webex Support: 888-793-6118

As a follow-up to the TDAT Information Session and to allow time for prepared remarks, HUD will host a virtual Tribal Consultation via webinar on **November 17, 2022**, to solicit feedback on the TDAT Enhancement Project and the proposed Information Request Form associated with the project. The webinar begins at **2:00 p.m. Eastern Time**. You may join the conference 10 minutes prior.

To join the Tribal Consultation, click: <https://ems8.intellor.com/login/845516>

Join the Webex event and follow the prompts to connect audio by computer or telephone.
Webex Support: 888-793-6118

In accordance with HUD's Tribal Consultation Policy, HUD is inviting Tribal leaders to participate in a 60-day comment period to solicit feedback on an Information Request Form that will be incorporated into TDAT as part of the TDAT Enhancement Project. Please send your recommendations or comments via email to: TDAT_info@hud.gov by **December 13, 2022**.

We appreciate your expertise and insight on this topic. Thank you for your continued partnership and collaboration in the effective delivery of HUD's programs in Indian Country.

Sincerely.

Kristin Leahy Fontenot
Director, Office of Environment and Energy