



U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development Tribal Consultation

Indian Community Development Block Grant – American Rescue Plan March 31, 2021

Teagan:

Welcome and thank you for joining today's conference, Indian Community Development Block Grant American Rescue Plan Tribal Consultation. Before we begin, please ensure you have opened the WebEx participant and chat panels, we're using the associated icon, select it the bottom of your screen. If you require technical assistance, please send a chat to the events' producer. Please note that all audio connections are muted at this time. If you'd ever like to ask a question verbally, dial pound two on your telephone keypad. You'll hear a notification when your line is unmuted, at which point, please then state your name and question. You're also welcome to submit written questions throughout today's conference. To submit a written question, select all panelists from the dropdown menu in the chat panel, enter your question in a message box provided and send. As a reminder, this conference is being recorded. Well then, we turn the call over to Heidi Frechette, deputy assistant secretary for HUD's office of Native American Programs. Please go ahead.

Heidi:

Great. Thank you so much. And so everyone, hello. As the moderator said, my name is Heidi Frechette. I am the deputy assistant secretary for the office of Native American Programs. And I'm very honored to be here with you today addressing tribal leaders, tribal housing practitioners, and advocates as well. And I want to say [inaudible 00:01:16] thank you so much for joining us today. I know it's been a busy several weeks with consultations and really, really appreciate your engagement on this. I want to start out by saying, I hope you all are staying safe and well during these times, I think there's hope on the horizon, especially when you look at the amazing success Indian country has had in vaccinating our community. And I hope you're finding strength in your families and this renewed help, as well as in your community during these times. Today, we are joined once again by HUD's senior leadership, as well as ONAP leadership team.

And we're here to focus on the funding provided under President Biden's American rescue plan act of 2021, which was signed into law on March 11th. So I know we've spoken recently about consultation and look forward to this dialogue as well. So the American rescue plan provided a total of \$750 million to the office of Native American Program to prevent, prepare for and respond to COVID-19 pandemic, setting up those programs. It includes 280 million for the Indian community development block grant or ICDBG program, the topic of today, and similar to ICDBG cares, this funding will be used to provide grants to tribes, to eliminate or alleviate problems that are posed by the imminent threat to public health, safety, and tribal residents.

For simplicity sake, we'll refer to this program as ICDBG ARP, we have ICDBG care and now we'll have ICDBG ARP. And before we go further, I want to say that since the onset of the pandemic, our focus has been to work diligently with tribes to provide resources in a quick and efficient manner, minimizing burdens.



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And over the past few weeks, our own app team has been focused, laser focused on getting these new resources out that were just provided March 11th. And so we're working as quickly as we can, as you may have seen last week, we published at your tribal leader letter announcing the 450 million for the IHBG, Indian Housing Block Grant ARP allocations. And our team is actively working closely with you all with the grantees in the field to develop a clear implementation notice, and we'll be issuing more guidance on how to access these funds very shortly. As you've heard me say before we take consultation very seriously.

And so we aim to do our best given the time period and the competing demands of getting the resources out quickly to do a regular robust and meaningful consultation. So we're prioritizing, finalizing any ICBP program grants or policy, but we want feedback from you all today. So that's why we're here. We had some good discussion on the last consultation. I know we will have more invaluable insight and discussion as well as we discuss ICDBG ARP today. So Hilary Atkin, who is our director of Grants Management, will lead this tribal consultation. She is responsible for overseeing the two large block grants, as well as the additional funding that we get under the pandemic response [inaudible 00:04:56]. And so she will be leading today. I really look forward to hearing your ideas and your suggestions on how we can better serve you all, how we can get the resources out with minimal burden. And so I am going to turn it over to Hilary to give an overview, and then we can begin the consultation. Hilary,

Hilary:

Thank you so much, Heidi. Good morning. Good afternoon everyone. Like Heidi, I'm honored to be here with you today to help facilitate getting your comments and feedback on the ICDBG ARP program. And I hope you all are doing well or as well as can be expected. Next slide please. Okay. So before we dive into taking your comments, I did want to go through a bit of background. Hold on, let me make sure my phone is somewhere where you can hear me a little bit better and also a couple of logistical type items. A couple of weeks ago, we got this consultation on the ICDBG ARP program started through a letter to your tribal leaders to solicit feedback. We posed a couple of topics in that letter. Next move grant ceilings for the program, priority consideration for tribes that submitted applications and were not ordered grant funds under ICDBG care, eligibility for Indian tribes that were awarded to ICDBG cares grants and other areas of considerations, including program funding criteria and other program requirements. Next slide, please.

Since issuing that letter, we have received some feedback generally covering the following things, giving priorities for eligible applicants that were not funded by ICDBG care, not excluding tribes that were previously awarded under ICDBG care and that the grant ceilings originally given under ICDBG cares were fine.



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Since we put these slides together, we have gotten additional comments. Just want to take a moment to say that we really appreciate the comments that defense submitted, and then we are considering them and look forward to more today. Okay, great. Now we don't want to limit your comments in any way, but did want to share a few questions in case that's helpful for discussion. So we have some questions here up on the screen. I'll read through them in just a moment and we'll leave them up as feedback is shared with us today. Here's a couple of questions to noodle on. How should ICDBG ARP funds be awarded? Should priority consideration be given to unfunded ICDBG cares applicants?

We are strongly considering getting priorities to try but applied for ICDBG care and were not awarded due to lack of funding. If we establish this priority, how should that be done? Should the next moment grant ceilings or ICDBG ARP grants be higher than the maximum grant ceilings that we set for the ICDBG cares grants, or should they remain the same? Should tribes that were awarded an ICDBG care grants be eligible to receive and ICDBG ARP grants? Are there any other things that ONAP should consider as we develop the ICDBG ARP program policies? Okay. So we will now take your comments, just a couple of logistical things before that gets started.

We're lucky to be joined by a facilitator named Teagan who will help us with the phone queue and remind us every once in a while, how to call in a question. But if you have any trouble with that, please just let us know in the chat and we'll make sure to repeat that instruction. We're also lucky to be joined by Neil Minish on our staff here and the owner of headquarters who will be helping handle the comments that you submit in the chat. Finally, our very own [inaudible 00:09:32] will be helping us with the slides today. Thank you so much [inaudible 00:09:35] for that. And thank you to Irish Friday, who just makes everything go well. So we make her do everything.

Okay. So I think that's good for logistics and we will take your comments. Oh, and Teagan, if you wouldn't mind reminding us all how to call in to question, let's get started with that.

Teagan:

Sure thing. If you'd like to make your comment verbally, please dial pound two on your telephone keypad. You'll hear a notification when your line is un-muted, at which point please and state your name and where you're calling from. And you'll hear notification when your line is un-muted. And if you'd like to submit your comments using the chat feature, just remember to use the chat box on the right hand side of your screen, select all panelists from the dropdown menu, put your comment in and send it over. All right, we'll go to the first caller in the queue. Caller, your line is unmuted.



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Andrews Maltais: Good afternoon. This is Chairwoman Andrews Maltais from the Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head, Aquinnah. And I'd like to thank you for hosting this consultation. I think that the direction that we're heading in this administration is so positive and really appreciate this opportunity. As we know, in the last go around funding, several tribes were disadvantaged by the numbers that were utilized as the basis for their funding and including, and especially ours. So what I wanted to do was ask a couple of questions upfront, whether or not we have the opportunity to challenge those numbers that the original formulas were based upon because as we all know, unless tribes are doing their own certification of the numbers being reporting, those numbers are generally incorrect in a not reflective of what the tribes actual needs are. And if there is no plan to, will you plan to allow for challenges to those numbers and the tribes to self-certify the numbers that we are submitting, as well as creating a set aside for those challenges to mitigate the negative impacts of those underfunded or under counted tribes.

Secondly, I think we need to really get away from competitive grants, because what continues to happen is that we're pitting tribes against each other, which is just not the way that Congress intended or the constitution and the trust and treaty obligations provide. We should, all tribes are deserving the federal government's Preston treaty obligations. And therefore we need to come up with something that is far more equitable than the competitive grant system that was done and particularly last go around would say that we have to be ready to be hitting the send button at a certain time of the day, and really putting a race to tribes, which was really not the way that tribes should be considered and respectfully treated with regard to our sovereignty. I also like to note that we really needed to have had embrace executive order 13175.

And specifically with embracing the policy making criteria, employing the respect of sovereignty and the flexibility for maximum administrative discretion and wherever possible, defer to tribes to establish our own standards when standards are actually necessary, as well as the flexibility for waivers or any of the guidelines that are established, because we know that previously, although there was attempts to for consultation, it did not come with free prior and informed consent, which is beyond consultation should be consensus and consent to the policies and guidelines that the any federal agency is putting together.

With relation to the methodology, the front should be awarded because all tribes are deserving of a base and a base funding to either continue or initiate safe, affordable, and sanitary housing for their tribal communities. So by taking a formula base that allocates a significant portion, 50% or somewhere in that amount to be allocated to all tribes and weighted averages for other tribes that take into account large populations, large land bases and or remoteness such as



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the Alaska tribes and villages and or tribes that had large land bases that have the requirement to try to get infrastructure there, whether it's broadband, plumbing, electrical, whatever the case may be, needs to be taken into account and weighted so that those tribes are not disadvantaged.

And it should be up to the tribes on how the tribes determine what they need tribes to pay for it with the lives of our ancestors, our land and our natural resources. We ourselves have a housing crisis here and there is no housing available. And so when we're looking at what our needs are, we have to really take into consideration and account the socioeconomic situations of all tribes based upon where they are located, whether or not we're in Alaska or the 48 lower 48, the cost of living as a cost of living and the poverty level should be aggregate and also based upon a sliding scale, similar to how we deal with our per diems with Konas, as we travel across the country on behalf of our tribes or the federal government. We'd like to see that rated formula moved forward and should priority be given to unfunded prior applicants.

If we do not go with a way to that, I mean, with a base formula to allocate equitably across tribal nations throughout Indian country, so that no tribe is disadvantaged because of their size or their advancement or lack of economic development, then yes. Any tribes that were not previously funded should be given a higher priority on this new round of funding because they were, it was an all or nothing situation. And that is really not fair to all tribes. And again, if we do establish that tribes need to weigh in on how this priority is going to be established and I believe that all tribes should be given something and maximum grant ceilings really do need to be changed. And the minimum floors, because I believe that this was set up arbitrarily in his past without having that much opportunity to the tribes to weigh in.

And again, going back into the criteria that was established and the way that the numbers were based, or the formula that the numbers were based upon were not accurate. So as the saying goes garbage in, garbage out, if the basis is not accurate, then obviously your outcome cannot be accurate and we are grossly underfunded. And let me see how the other things... Yeah. On that should be considering in all situations, what the true fundamental principles of the trust and treaty responsibilities are. And all tribes have need to establish fake sanitary housing.

And we can't bring up people's back home if we have no land to put it on, we can't bring people back home to be closely linked to our tribe programs and services, culture, and traditions if we don't have housing for them, and we cannot continue to provide for our peoples if we're always being blocked out. Tribes that were early contact have minimal opportunity for land basis versus tribes that were later contacted. Tribes that do not have the antiquated



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reservation process being disadvantaged tribes that have antiquated reservation process are disadvantaged by the lack of infrastructure or ability to reach and or protect and or monitor.

And of course, with the situation with our Alaskan brothers and sisters, their situation is even more dire when it comes to being able to provide for their people because you can't even access their land. So those are the factors that we need to consider. And though it's one of the reasons why it is so complicated that tribes have the best position to make those decisions. So if we provide all tribes villages with an equal disbursement, we can make the determinations best for our peoples in apply those fundings as we need to. Thank you for the opportunity. And it's great seeing everybody again.

Hillary: Thank you so much for your comments. Covered a lot of ground, really appreciate your comments on basically getting at the basis of funding and how we were looking at basing our funding for ICDBG ARP. Theoretically, we did that similarly to how we did with ICDBG cares, appreciate your perspective on that. If that touched a bit on some of the theory or how we allocate our formula funding. So we also appreciate your honest perspective on looking at formula funding, considering issues like need and land and the impact that that has on that recipient. I appreciate your comments on competitive grants and consultation and flexibilities that we are provided and utilization of those things such as waivers, appreciate your comments and your grounding us in thinking about self-determination and sovereignty and all of the work that we do, including this program for ICDBG ARP. Just appreciate your comments today and the kind of set you have shared in our previous consultation. Thank you.

Speaker 1: Thank you. [inaudible 00:20:23].

Teagan: Yep. We do have more comments in the queue. Caller your line is unmuted.

Jonathan Nez: Hello. This is Jonathan Nez, the president of the Navajo nation, thank you Hillary and Heidi, and the team there at HUD. Of course, we will be submitting written comments. So let me make it brief. We do appreciate the allocation coming from Congress and this new administration. I have our team also listening in on this call, our cabinet member for our administration, Dr. Pearl Yellowman and her staff, Patrick [inaudible 00:21:26] who is affiliated with the Navajo community housing infrastructure department. And we have advocated many tribal consultations, right? I mean, right now, I think some of us are going to be trying to be juggling this tribal consultation and then the \$20 billion treasury consultation in about five minutes. So there's just so many of these happening. So I want you all to recognize that sometimes it's difficult to juggle these and to also try to get comments in. We have overall stated, and this is from the care



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Zack as well, that large land-based tribes have an opportunity to comment on these tribal consultations.

I know that we don't hear much. And when we do comment, it seems like we're not supporting other tribes. And I agree with the previous tribal leader, these types of discussions, pit one tribe against another, large land base, smaller tribes, and the treasury \$20 billion discussion for the HRPB has \$1 billion set aside for equal distribution for 574 tribes. And then the remaining 19 billion is going to be up to treasury. Now, if that's something that can be done, maybe there should be a smaller allocation that goes equally to all the tribes where the larger percentage, maybe 90% of what's remaining should be based on again, and I'll say this, and I'm probably going to step on all, some tribal leaders toes here, land base population, and the number of employees on the Navajo nation or in a tribal nation.

And forth, not every tribe was hit hard and it's no secret the Navajo nation has been hit hard and I just need to remind our federal friends, partners there that over 1,200 of our Navajo people have lost their lives. If you look at the Indian health services overall total deaths or 12 service areas, half of those deaths are from the Navajo area.

And we are wanting to get direct relief, get homes built for our citizens. Multi-generational people living under one roof. If we're trying to get our people support through this pandemic, then we should be able to do that where this pandemic has been hit hardest and to prepare ourselves for something down the road. And I hate to say this as a tribal member, as an indigenous person, you don't talk about the negativity, but of course we have to begin to think about the long term here in this United States. Studies have indicated that there may be additional viruses coming. And so what we're trying to do is prepare ourselves for any type of pandemic in the future. And so building homes here on that low 34,000 families are needing new homes. Some people have had their homes burned, burnout assistance, dilapidated homes, homeless and foreclosure have happened during this pandemic.

So they highlighted a lot of issues. So again, the position here from the Navajo nation is these allocations should be based on population, land base and the employees of the tribal government and how hard hit the tribe has throughout this pandemic. Now the ceiling limit for the ICDBG ARPA should be higher than the cares act, because it's a bigger allocation and it should be even more than the cares act ceiling on it. And in terms of the regulation statutes, I think that's another thing that we need to reevaluate. There is just so much barriers into constructing a home in Indian country, but that's not under HUD, it's under like USCPA, under the interior. Those policies and regulations need to be updated if not waive temporarily, but for the long run, I think we need to reevaluate those



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laws and policies that have hindered economic and community development or in our tribal communities.

And that's also difficult and building homes for Navajo citizens. So I'll end there, Hillary and Heidi, thank you for the opportunity to say a few words, but we will be submitting written comments. And I believe those written comments are due. This is how it works, right? Friday, April 2nd, a quick turnaround. And then we got all these other tribal consultations about tribal consultation policy, revisits. And I don't know how some of our tribal leaders can juggle all this. I'm blessed to have some support here from our local network tribal leaders to get on as many tribal consultations as we can, but we're there to help. And we appreciate the time given to Navajo nation. Thank you so much.

Heidi: Great. Thank you, President Nez and Chairwoman Andrews. Appreciate your engagement. I know...

Heidi: [inaudible 00:28:00] Andrews, appreciate your engagement. I know your time is valuable. I know there's a lot of competing consultations going on, and really we're trying to balance a quick turnaround, with getting the money out to you as soon as possible. So, it's not always ideal, but we hear what you're saying. And I also appreciate you sharing the idea of a base amount. I think we follow the approach Congress has set out for us, with the formula funding for the IHBG grant, where everyone gets a piece of it, right? And then the ICDBG piece, that's not necessarily competitive, last time it was first come first serve. And so, I looked at the impacts of the pandemic on your community, but also good to look at some of the other approaches that agencies are sharing. So, thank you so much for both of you, for your time, and also your ideas that we can consider, as we're looking at this funding. Great. Do we have more calls?

Hillary: Yes, let's go to the next caller in the queue. Caller, your line is unmuted.

Chuck Hoskin: OCO Heidi and Hillary, this is Chuck Hoskin, Principal Chief of the Cherokee Nation. Appreciate the opportunity to engage on this subject. Appreciate the assistance that HUD has been to the Cherokee Nation, our partnership. I think we've done a great deal of good over the years with the funding. The principal concern today is, the ICD BG imminent threat grant. Just have a few comments to make. We'll certainly submit some follow-up in writing, sort of follow up on the points I'd like to make today. The Cherokee Nation applied last year, for what was a fairly limited pool of dollars, we were not funded. I think that's in part, because the demand was great across Indian country. So, we have a completed application with the agency. We think number one, increasing the ceiling on these grants from 3 million to 5 million will be good for Cherokee Nation, and all of Indian country, just a larger pool of funds.



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We know the demand is out there, and COVID has revealed some vulnerabilities in our populations that we need to address. We're trying to build capacity, as we continue to respond to COVID in housing, as a way that we can address, and even head off some public health issues for our people who unfortunately, in some cases still live in substandard housing. So, increasing the grant ceiling from three million to five million, would be a great help to us. We, as I noted, have an application on file, and we favor priority consideration being given to tribes with applications on file.

Certainly, the larger pool of funds means more applications will be approved, but we also have really some shovel-ready product projects that we can get started on, based on our earlier application. And then finally it would be helpful if amendments to applications were allowed, certainly with the increase in funds, and with the passage of time. And we've identified some other areas in our reservation, where assistance is needed, the opportunity to amend our application, and yet still keep that place in line, so to speak, would be a great assistance. So with that, I'll close. Again, we appreciate the partnership with HUD. We look forward to the opportunities that come under this new administration, and under the American rescue plan. [inaudible 00:32:10]

Heidi: Great [inaudible 00:32:14] and thank you so much, Principal Chief Hoskins, really appreciate your time today. I know you're pulled in many directions, and also your thoughtful comments. Very helpful to get your input on the ceilings, as well as, how we then look at the existing pipeline of applications. So, thanks again, this is very helpful for us. [inaudible 00:32:38] are there additional folks on the line?

Hillary: Yes, there are. We'll go to the next caller in queue. Just a quick reminder. If you want to make your comments verbally, just dial pound two on your telephone keypad. Caller, your line is unmuted. Caller, your line is muted.

Marcus Luke: Hello?

Hillary: Yes, we can hear you.

Marcus Luke: Oh hey, this is Marcus Luke, with the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla, Indian reservation here in Oregon. First of all, I can thank you, Heidi, Hilary for... this is a tremendous consulting that you are doing, and I know any country very much appreciate that opportunity. So, my question is, or comment is last year during the CARES Act 2020, we were partially funded. And so, there were projects that we didn't get started, or were able to complete. And so, that's one of our things that we would like to apply for, with this eminent threat. Speaking of an eminent threat, at the same time in our area, in Northeastern, Oregon in February, we had a flood. And so, it pretty much ran through 72 miles of river,



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damaged around 17 homes with major damage. But right now we have possibly 15 of our housing units.

That could be, that's now in a flood way, as we all don't really always talk about in everyday language is climate change. Well, the climate change is now making this flood happen more and more. So, I guess the imminent threat, along with the CARES Act, we were looking to apply for both of those. At the same time, we had an internet project that we weren't able to complete. So, those are those kinds of comments and questions that we have from Umatilla tribes. You know, we all have that same need, but it seems like everyone else, I don't want to repeat what everybody else was saying, but I think this is a tremendous opportunity. And I'm wondering too, if there's a timeline for when that ARP guidelines and requirements are coming out, and are the rules, or the requirements for this, I see DVG, is that the rules going to be the same as before, along with last year's CARES Act. Appreciate it.

Heidi: Well, thank you so much, Mr. Luke, for your comments. Appreciate your comments regarding projects that have been partially funded, and the opportunity to potentially pursue them, this funding. I appreciate your comments on other imminent threat situations. I'm not sure if this is helpful, but I did want to note that the regular, if you will, in the net spread program, but we run out of our office, is available for other threats, not related to the COVID-19 pandemic. And, if that's something that you all are in need of, you can work with your area office, and we'd be very happy to work with them, to take a look at what you have going on. And, I also appreciate your comment, question on the timeline. We're working very diligently, to get the notices and other information out as quickly as possible, for both funding, ICDBG, ARP, and the IHP GARP funding. I thank you again.

Hillary: All right, let's go to the next caller in the queue. Caller, your line is unmuted. Caller, check if your phone is muted.

Ben Barnes: Hello, this is Ben Barnes, Chief of the Shawnee tribe. Can you hear me?

Hillary: Yes, we can.

Ben Barnes: First, I want to thank you all, for making this opportunity, and I appreciate this administration, reaffirming our government relationship. And there's been real value shown towards consultations and true consultations. I want to second the comments from the Wampanoag chairwoman. Things that she said that we have from all the things that she mentioned. My comments in this call today, are solely related to the specific HUD ICDBG opportunity being discussed between our governments, and the President Biden administration. The first



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question about tribes being given priority, that did not receive ICDBG last time. The Shawnee tribe, we got in our application early.

And the funds, there were such a run on the funds. We weren't funded much like Chief Hoskins stated from the Cherokee Nation. We were in the same boat. The monies were gone before we even had a chance at it, and not being considered that money because it was already gone. I think that we really need to have... We really need to think about what is equity like, cause this is pandemic money. That first round of pandemic money wasn't enough, obviously. Because, so many tribes were left unfunded. So, I do think that if we're going to be equitable, we need to provide an opportunity, and extra consideration to tribal nations that did not receive funding. Then the CARES Act and the ARP needs to be managed in a way to address that equity.

Secondly, if we are seeking equity, and if we are given consideration to tribes and did not receive ICDBG funds last time, I feel it would be hypocritical of me to tell you, that we need to raise the increase, we need to increase the C1. Increasing that ceiling to previously unfunded drives, would predict situation that would not be equitable to previously funded tribes. So, this is specifically only related to this opportunity for ICDBG fund, via the ARP. I'm not speaking towards the ICDBG program generally, just the ARP. And lastly, I think if there are concerns of equity, if equity is really our concern, and I think it should be, and we take care of previously unfunded tribes at the ceiling level of what we, what was done last time via CARES Act, then any remaining funds should be distributed, to any of the tribal nations, but also were previously funded during the CARES Act. That's all the comments from the Shawnee Nation, and we will submit our formal content comments before the deadline. Nila, thank you very much.

Heidi: Great, thank you Chief Barns for your input. Very helpful, with as far as our thoughts, or figuring out how to address the pipeline of applications, and also the feelings. And I think you make a very good connection between the two. So, very much appreciate your engagement in housing, and on this issue, and also your comments as well, was very helpful.

Hillary: All right, we'll go to the next caller in the queue. Caller, your line is unmuted.

Patrick Goggles: Good morning, Heidi. [crosstalk 00:40:19] Good morning, Hillary. [inaudible 00:40:24]. This is Patrick Goggles, with Northern Arapaho Tribal Housing in Wyoming. And first of all, like the other speakers before me, I'd love to thank you, for this opportunity to comment on the ICDBG's ARP? Let me be clear, at the beginning here, I was not funded. Our application, I believe it was very competitive, but it was not funded, because of the first come, first serve format. We live in a rural area, and we depend on cell towers, and Wi-Fi, and our



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broadband. And, that's the day that we were submitting, unfortunately, [inaudible 00:41:14] were down, and didn't have that fiber optics. So, it was disadvantaged for us on that day... that was to be pretty competitive, because of the rural nature of our native community.

Having said that, speaking behalf of the Northern Arapaho tribe, and the Region five tribes in Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, Utah. Those tribes, they were not funded under the ICDBG CARES. I believe that those tribes should receive priority, when your ICDBG ARP, and be allowed like the previous speakers have set, amend your grant after the specific amount, and that I'm not sure that the amount of one for the tribes, will maybe exceed what you have in available for the ARP. So, they may not be a lot of funds available, after you funded all of those unfunded as ICDBG CARES application as previously submitted.

We do agree that the city amount should be raised. We're in a rural area, and many of the tribes are rural. Our needs are magnified, because of the pandemic in this area. I could use 600 more houses, to provide for overcrowding. And that would help us diminish the transmission of COVID-19 amongst our people. We have lost many close relatives here in our area. Today, we still have spikes on COVID. I still have to abide by our original protocols. So, the funding very much helpful. Our native community dealt with the COVID-19 pandemic. And we wanted to make that clear that we, as a previous applicant would ask you to consider funding are our CARES application under the ARP. And we will submit written comments, and thank you once again for the consultation with your office, and look forward to more. Thank you.

Heidi: Great, thank you. It's so great to hear from you and thank you for your continued engagement in housing, it's always great. We really, really value your input, and also you, sharing your thoughts on the pipeline as well, feelings, that's helpful for us to speak as we look at this. So thank you, it was good to hear from you today.

Patrick Goggles: Thank you. Good to see you.

Hillary: All right, we'll go to the next caller in the comments queue. Caller, your line is unmuted.

Dave Heisterkam...: Hello? Can you hear me? [crosstalk 00:44:45] Hello? Okay, thank you. Hey, this is Dave HeisterKamp. Thanks again for the opportunity to comment on the new money, that's raining down on us, these days. We represent a number of TDAG's in the Northern Plains, and Rocky Mountain Region. And, many of them did compete for CARES, ICDBG, and many of them can... plan to compete for the ARP ICDBG. And, they would like if tribes that are in the queue for CARES, are given some kind of priority, the ones that weren't funded. Because of the way



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that came down. Only being able to fund a certain number of tribes, and believes that it would be fair to give them an added chance, that the ARP money for the same reason. Along with that, they'd like to make sure, that the Brandt levels are roughly the same as they were for the CARES Act, because then it would be an equivalent size grant. But they wanted to make sure that those comments got on the record.

Heidi: Thank you so much, Mr. Heisterkamp. We appreciate the comments on both the priority or unfunded, and then the equity and grant ceilings. Thank you.

Dave Heisterkam...: Thanks Heidi, you're welcome.

Hillary: All right, go to the next commentary in the queue. Caller, your line is unmuted.

Vince Lujan: Hello. My name is Vince Lujan, and I'm an Attorney with Titla & Parsi, and we represent the San Carlos Apache tribe, as well as the San Carlos Housing Authority. And, we just want to thank you for the opportunity, to participate in consultation on the distribution of the ICDBG ARP funding. The tribe very much appreciates the agency's efforts to include tribal voices, as part of the decision-making process. With regard to the maximum grant ceilings question, we believe that a tiered approach, does not lend itself to providing enough funding for a major project in its entirety. During the ICDBG CARES funding period, the San Carlos Housing Authority, prioritized several projects on an incremental basis. For example, we had to prioritize some issues with infrastructure at a particular housing subdivision, and could not fund the entire cost of remediating that issue. So, we had to focus on replacing faucet, and plumbing lines and whatnot. But in any event, we weren't awarded the funding either.

So, that issue was a great concern to both the San Carlos Apache tribe, and to the housing authority. Because, the residents in that subdivision did not have access to potable water during the height of the pandemic. So, that's something that we would like to address, with this next go around. Secondly, we recommend an approach that give the San Carlos Housing Authority and the tribe flexibility in the use of funds, by allowing out the allocation to be used as a match for other grants. We believe that this would allow the tribe to leverage the funds, and may make a greater impact to the community.

With regard to the second question, on should different priority considerations be given to Indian tribes. We strongly agree that the priority should be given to Indian tribes, who did not receive an award under the ICDBG CARES funding round. We also believe, however, that the process was somewhat inequitable, because it resulted in a competitive process, that excluded tribes from receiving grants, based on a deadline as a single factor for competition, rather than a multi-factor rating process. So, we hope that you can take that into



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consideration. It definitely hurt the San Carlos Apache tribe to lose out on the opportunity due to timing.

And lastly, there's a question about whether ONAP should consider other issues, with regard to implementation and establishing funding criteria. So, both the tribe, and the housing authority believes, that the agency's goals should be to conduct an equitable process. Again, emphasizing a process that does not force competition. And if the award amounts under the program are not sufficient to fund an entire project, our recommendation is that, the allowable use be flexible enough, to permit the leverage of these funds. And finally, we need to make sure that tribal members, not just in the San Carlos Apache tribe, but nationwide, who are in dire need of basic services and infrastructure, should be considered in the award of future funding. So, on behalf of the San Carlos Apache tribe and the San Carlos Housing Authority, we submit these comments for your consideration, and also we'll be submitting written comments. Thank you very much.

- Heidi: Thank you, Mr. Lujan, for your comments on behalf of San Carlos Apache tribe and housing authority. Appreciate your comments regarding stealings and issues with tiering, as it pertains to smaller tribes. Also, appreciate your perspective and comment on the ability to use as leverage priority for unfunded, and the first come first serve structure of the competition. These are all good things for us to keep in mind, as we think about the pipeline, and other issues facing us with the ICDBG ARP funding. And you're echoing some of the perspectives' equity shared today, also appreciate that. Thank you.
- Speaker 2: I just want to jump in real quick on one of the comments as well, that you can leverage these funds. ICDBG can use to meet, matching requirements of other programs, provided there in accordance with the program requirements. So, you have to be careful, as far as the program requirements. But there are some flexibilities, and I would encourage you to reach out to us specifically on that, so that we can assist you in looking at that piece as well.
- Hillary: All right, we'll go with the next commentary in the queue. Once again, if you'd like to make a comment verbally, dial pound two on your telephone keypad. You'll hear a notification when your line is unmuted. Caller, your line is unmuted.
- Alicia Mousseau: Good day to everybody, my name is Alicia Mousseau. I'm the Vice President for the Oglala Sioux tribe. Thank you for this consultation, we're echoing a lot of things, the other tribes have mentioned. But we know this year has been hard on everyone, so I just wanted to first tell you all, that I hope you and your families and your communities have been safe. And well, during this time, we all trying to figure out how to get through this. And we know housing is one big



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piece of this puzzle, and to keep our communities safe. Here in Pine Ridge, we have had a need for housing for a very long time. We need about 4,000 new housing units, in about a thousand of our housing units need repair. We know the pandemic has hit communities that have high poverty rates, and minority communities, the hardest and especially tribal communities.

We know American Indians are one of the highest populations hit. And housing is one big piece of that, especially for us here in Pine Ridge. You know, we have multiple generations living in one home, and that makes it really hard to quarantine and isolate, if someone does get sick and at home. And so, it just creates a lot of issues, when we don't have homes in the first place, but especially with the pandemic, it has created extra issues for us. So, we know that the ICDBG eminent threat grants, will definitely help us with lessening the problems posed by this imminent public health threats, and being also very rural and isolated, it is hard if there are no houses in the first place on our reservation. Traveling to the border towns to get housing, and facing those other issues from the border town.

So we could be able to provide our community with housing, that would reduce some of those other extra issues that come with living outside of our borders, especially here in South Dakota. And so, we also think that the maximum grant ceiling should be higher. You know, like I mentioned, this is a huge piece of this public health issue. And, if we had more of those housing, and opportunities to provide to our community, we could definitely protect, and prevent, and help our community get through this public health crisis, that we are in right now. So, we also think it should be based on needs. Like I mentioned, the rural needs to [inaudible 00:54:51] that's another factor. The lack that we have here, and just the large need that we've had for a very long time. So with that, those are the comments for the Oglala Sioux tribes. Thank you so much.

Heidi: Great, thank you so much, Madam Vice President, appreciate your engagement on this and your input. I know, as I keep saying, [inaudible 00:55:16] leaders are being pulled in many different directions. And, also sharing the rural perspective, highlighting the overcrowding issues, that we know exist in Indian country, and our huge barrier to general public health, as well as your input on the ceiling. So, thank you so much.

Hillary: Alright, we'll go to the next caller in the comments queue. Caller, your line is unmuted.

Harriet Brouill...: Good morning, this is Harriet Brouillette. I'm calling from the Chilkoot Indian Association in Haines, Alaska. We're a really small tribe. We have no land base, but we were lucky enough to receive funding through the CARES Act.



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- Ms. Roulette: Received funding through the CARES Act, listening to the comments that we've had this morning. I really have ... It's changed my perspective on the way I look at this funding now. I think that it's important that the previously unfunded tribes are a priority. I also believe that the ceiling should be raised. Like I said, we were lucky enough to receive CARES Act funding, but that funding is not covering all of our needs. And I can't even imagine being a larger tribe and trying to make that amount work for you. It's just, it's not enough. I also believe that tribes who have received CARES Act funding should be funded. And the reason why I believe that is because, like I said, the money does not go very far.
- So what should have been a two-year project for our small tribe, I think is probably going to be less than a year, and we will be running out of funding, and we still have quite a large need here in our tribe. Definitely not as large as the other times that I'm hearing this morning, but we still do have needs that are going to be unmet. So again, I'm in support that the priority given to tribes who did not receive funding through CARES, I think raising the ceiling is important, and that tribes who did receive CARES Act funding should be considered for this next round of funding. Thank you for your time.
- Hillary: Thank you so much, Ms. [Roulette 00:57:39] for sharing those comments on behalf of the Chilkoot Tribe, appreciate perspective on the priorities for unfunded applications and for consideration of those that were previously funded under the CARES Act. And I appreciate your comments on increased grant ceilings. Thank you so much.
- Teagan: All right, we'll go to the next commenter in the queue. Caller, your line is unmuted.
- Dave Heistercam...: Hi Heidi. This is Dave [Heistercamp 00:58:15] again. I had a question for the panel. Last year, when the CARES Act money came in, HUD issued PIH notices, 202005 and 202006 that had a lot of waivers specifically for IHBG, and ICDBG programs. Do you know, does ONAP intend to continue those waivers for the ARP money? Will it use the same notices or will it issue similar notices?
- Hillary: Hello, Mr. Heistercamp, this is Hillary. Thank you for that question. But we do intend to address waivers in the implementation notices that we hope to publish soon for both IHBG ARP, and ICDBG ARP. And we do intend that there will be, essentially, the same waivers.
- Dave Heistercam...: So basically, you're anticipating, Hillary, that there'll be based on those original PIH notices?
- Hillary: Yes, that is that we are anticipating.



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Dave Heistercam...: Great, thank you for that clarification.

Hillary: No problem at all. Thank you for the question.

Teagan: Okay, we'll go the next commenter in the queue. Caller, your line is unmuted.

Susan Schrader: Is this me? No?

Teagan: Yes, I can hear you.

Susan Schrader: Hello? Oh, good morning. My name is Susan [Schrader 00:59:48]. I'm the director of the Oglala Sioux Tribe's energy program, which consists of two HHS grants, the Community Service Block Grant, and [LEAP 00:59:59], and I submitted a ICDBG CARES application last year, but the funding was gone immediately. I think we're one of the largest tribes in number and land base in the United States. I work with and for Dr. Alicia [Musso 01:00:18], who spoke earlier on behalf of the Oglala Sioux Tribe. So, I will get with Dr. Musso and we will submit formal input into this tribal consultation hearing, if you will. But just briefly, I do believe that HUD should consider and give priority to tribes that were not awarded last year. I believe that that priority should be also based on land base and numbers of tribal members. The fundings on the Oglala Sioux Tribe will make it work with whatever we can. Of course, the more funding, the better.

A lot of the issues that were in our ICDBG application are still here. Our project was called [Olyate 01:01:15]. We chose ONAP, and the first portion was Olyate. We chose ONAP, means people of good health. And the first portion addressed our water issues. One was a well and minor home repair, and it was called [foreign language 01:01:38], the first medicine, which is water. And so it was some water issues. And the other part addressed [foreign language 01:01:48], meaning helping a family. So I will get with Dr. Musso, and we'll submit formally the Oglala Sioux Tribe's input on the ICDBG ARP funds.

But as an administrator for the tribe, and someone who put a lot of work in time going out into the community, when I did the needs assessment, people thought that funding was available. So we were swamped with calls, and we originally posted just the needs assessment, because it was for minor home repairs that our people need to be clean, and have access to clean water. And we got a lot of calls. And I'm really proud of the Oglala Sioux Tribe and our shelter in place ordinances, and we had lockdown. We still have border patrol. I'm really proud of the Oglala Sioux Tribe and all the laws, the COVID team that kept us safe. And I would ... But COVID is still here. The needs of our people are still here. And so with that, I defer to Madame Vice-President Dr. Alicia Musso of



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the Oglala Sioux Tribe. And I thank you for your consideration for this funding. Stay safe and healthy, thank you.

Hillary: Thank you, Director Schrader for those comments. And thank you for grounding us in the fact that this pandemic is still here, and many of us are still in the middle of things. And for sharing your perspective on administering the requirements of ICBDG CARES and our funding programs in general. Thank you for your comments on priority to unfunded. Thank you for your comments pertaining to weighing in on issues like land base and populations. Of course, we are taking your comments here today, your spoken comments, but we also look forward to the written comments that you will be submitting. Thank you.

Susan Schrader: Thank you.

Teagan: All right, we'll go to the next commenter in queue. Once again, if you would like to make a comment verbally, dial #2 on your telephone keypad to enter the queue. Caller, your line is unmuted.

Floyd Tortalita: Good morning.

Hillary: Good morning.

Teagan: Good morning.

Floyd Tortalita: Good morning. My name is Floyd Tortalita, Executive Director of the Pueblo of Acoma Housing Authority here in New Mexico. I hope everyone is doing well this morning. Just a few comments here in regards to ICDBG. We are one of those tribes that did not receive funding again, just because of the lack of availability in the last round, under the CARES Act. And we do have concerns. I most recently did speak with Tribal Administration here from the Pueblo of Acoma. The need for the ... on the application we had submitted is still valid. It is still there, because we were starting to talk about what has become available under ARP. So, I believe that considerations should be given to those tribes that did not receive funding through the last allocation under the same guidelines. I'm hoping that the consideration can just be picked off from the next application that was unfunded, and carried on until those applications that are valid at this point are filled. They'll remain imbalanced, because now that there is \$280 million available, which is a lot more than there was available under CARES, it's almost three times the amount, the \$280 million, a different criteria could be set aside for that.

But then I don't think it should also hinder us from Acoma to apply for the rest of those dollars at that point, as the same as those tribes that received dollars in the first round. Because we're merely catching up to those of us that would



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receive funding with this continuance. We'd just be receiving as they did in the first. So it shouldn't hinder us from being able to apply for the remaining amount, because we still have those needs. The needs are in place.

So, I don't know the exact numbers of what the number of applications that were unfunded in the last round. But I think those should be given priority. Then with the remaining funds, I think we should also have the same chance at obtaining those funds, the remaining funds as any other tribe, whether they were funded in the first round or the second round here. So those are comments that from the Pueblo of Acoma, because we still have that need, and we're going to continue to have those needs to be able to now recover from ... start the recovery process for COVID for our community members. So those are comments here from the Pueblo of Acoma, thank you.

Hillary: Thank you so much for your comments on behalf of the Pueblo of Acoma. I really appreciate your comments regarding keeping in mind that needs and the guidelines should be similar this time around with the notice for ICDBG ARP, thank you.

Teagan: All right, we'll go to the next caller in queue. Once again, if you would like to make a verbal comment, dial #2 on your telephone keypad. Again, it's #2, if you want to make a verbal comment. Caller, your line is unmuted.

Jacque Pata: Hello. This is Jackie Pata with Tlingit-Haida Regional Housing Authority, and I'm a tribal delegate for Central Council Tribes of Alaska. I would also like to join in, in first of all, thanking the good work of ONAP for being as responsive as they have been with all of the CARES Act funds, and keeping us well-informed, and allowing for these consultations in a timely way. When it comes to the ICDBG, I would expect that the existing standards and requirements and processes would be in place where there has already been a process put in place that if you currently have an existing, ICDBG, then you get preference points if you don't have a current one, for example.

And so, I feel like that addresses the need for those who didn't receive funds before that may have a viable project that they can put forward at this time, or reapply with a viable project at this time. And so, trying to just keep things as consistent as possible, so it doesn't create more confusion and more need for additional FAQs that delay the process in place. So utilizing prior notices from, for example, eligible activities under the CARES Act, all of those kinds of things that would, I think, make the processing and the implementation, getting the money out to the eligible applicants, expeditious. And so I would urge to the extent possible to utilize those programs. So, thank you very much.



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Hillary: Oops, sorry. I kept hitting my mute button. Thank you so much, Ms. Pata for your comments. We definitely hear you, and seeking to avoid confusion, and we appreciate your comments and suggestions on how to do that.

Teagan: All right. I'm not showing any other callers in the queue at this time. If you would like to make a verbal comment, dial #2 on your telephone keypad. Again, if you'd like to make your comments verbally, dial #2 on your telephone keypad. You're also welcome to submit them in writing by using the chat box on the right-hand side of your screen. Just remember the select All Panelists before submitting your comment.

Neil: I see we have a number of comments here in the chat box. While we're getting more callers on the line, I can go through the comments that have been provided. The first one we have is from Paul Scott. The comment reads, "To provide feedback, yes, we would like to see the maximum grant ceilings be higher. Our tribe is in the less than \$750,000 range, and have needs greater than \$900,000. We were also not awarded initially, and would like priority.

Hillary: Thank you, Mr. Scott, for your comments on higher grant ceilings, and on the prioritization of unfunded. Thank you.

Neil: The next comment comes from Delia Carlisle. And the comment reads, "Good morning and afternoon. Will the PowerPoint presentation be made available to attendees?" Yes, I can confirm that it will be. It usually takes a few days for us to get the recording and presentation posted on [Cotalk 01:11:43], but we will send an update once that has been posted.

The next comment comes from Joe [Gervais 01:11:55], and the comment reads, "Please provide funding to those who applied, but were not funded for ICDBG CARES funding at the ceiling levels established."

Hillary: Thank you, Mr. Gervais for your comment on priority to unfunded and on the ceilings, thank you.

Neil: The next comment reads ... Oh, sorry, this is from Paul Irwin, and it reads, "I would recommend that priority be provided both to those that were not funded, and those who had awards reduced. Our tribe's application was divided, since we submitted at the same time as another, and were the last to receive funding. So, the remaining funds were split and we received below the amount requested." And that comes from Paul Irwin with North Fork Rancheria.

Hillary: Thank you, Mr. Irwin for your comments on funded priority, but also consideration for those that we gave partial funding in the last round. We appreciate that.



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- Neil: Next. We have a question from Sylvia [Werba 01:13:07] and the question reads, "Hello, for clarification, aside from eligibility, will their global funds be distributed based on first come first serve like ICDBG Cares?" .
- Hillary: And thank you for the question. That is part of what we will need to figure out for the implementation notice for this funding. And we are very interested in any comments you may have on that, thank you.
- Neil: I see that the next comment is from Susan Schrader with Oglala Sioux, and I think we already touched on that over the phone, so I'll go down. Next, I see we have a comment from, let's see, Mr. Vince [Luan 01:13:58]. I think we may have touched on Vince Luan as well.
- Hillary: Yes.
- Neil: So let's see if we have any new comments further down in the chat. Okay, I see we have another one from Sylvia Werba here. It says, "Comment on behalf of Janine Thompson at Lower Brule Housing Authority. If unfunded applicants are given priority, then the limits should be the same as ICDBG CARES to be fair to all."
- Hillary: Okay. Thank you, Ms. Silva. We appreciate that comment on funding levels, thank you.
- Teagan: We do have a commenter in the verbal comment queue. Once again, if you would like to ask your comment verbally, please dial #2 on your telephone keypad. Caller, your line is unmuted.
- Dr. Rosanna Jum...: Hi, good afternoon. My name is Dr. Rosanna Jumbo-Fitch from the Chinle Chapter community. And I am currently the Chinle Chapter president on the Navajo Nation. And I would just like to make a minor comment. I do appreciate everyone's effort in having this open comment and discussion to help review the ICDBG funding. And I think it is important, as many leaders has described. It is a need for our chapter specifically. We are continuing to assist all of what community members as we can. Obviously, funding is a huge restriction in our area. We do serve a variety of population, and a very mass majority of the Navajo community members have a rural setting where we have limited running water and electrical needs in all the housing with the overcrowding. So I just wanted to highlight that it is a need, and a necessity, and we do appreciate resources provided, especially funding. And I just wanted to make a comment [inaudible 01:15:59] appreciate. [inaudible 01:16:01]
- Hillary: Thank you, Dr. Jumbo-Fitch for sharing those comments.



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- Teagan: All right, I'm not showing any other comments in queue at this time. Once again, if you would like to make a verbal comment, dial #2 on your telephone keypad.
- Neil: We have a few more comments in the chat. The next comment is from Monica Hunger-Moran, and the comment reads, "Rosebud, South Dakota, we would not like to see ICDBG CARES tribes, or TDHEs that were funded. We don't think they should be eliminated because our tribes were selected as first come first serve, and getting our applications in. And we should be able to receive ICDBG ARP also."
- Hillary: Thank you, Ms. Hunger-Moran for sharing that comment on eligibility of previously funded, thank you.
- Neil: The next comment is from Troy [Ralston 01:17:05], and the comment reads, "Tribes that receive the ICDBG IT CARES funds would be disadvantaged if you were to increase the grants ceilings for ARP funds. Again, the NAHASDA numbers are very dated, which creates an unfair distribution grant ceilings. Prior competitive ICDBG programs created grants ceilings equal to all applications, not based on the previous numbers. Small reservation tribes also have a great need for projects that still have the same costs, while larger population tribes have already received large IHBG funds." And that's Troy Ralston, ED of the [Toluwedene 01:17:47] Nation.
- Hillary: Thank you, Mr. Ralston, for your perspective and comment on the ceilings. We appreciate that.
- Neil: Okay, I see one more comment here from Mr. Paul Irwin, and the comment reads, "I would also like to express concerns over internet speed and receipt, if applications are again to be awarded on a first come, first serve basis. The date stamp of our email submission was 12:00 PM PDT, and the application was not received by HUD until 3:02 PM EDT. Our application was submitted as soon as possible, could be as possible submitted, and our award was not fully funded due to the availability of funds in the last in time from submission to receipt by HUD."
- Hillary: Thank you, Mr. Irwin for sharing that comment. We definitely appreciate the limits of the first come, first serve structure, and we appreciate your perspective.
- Teagan: [crosstalk 01:19:04] We do have another caller in queue. I'm getting some background noise, one moment. Caller, your line is unmuted.
- Demi Maltos: Hello? Can you hear us?



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Teagan: Yes, we can.

Hillary: Yes we can.

Demi Maltos: Hi, my name is Demi Maltos, and I'm the Treasurer of the Sauk-Suiattle Indian Tribe in Darrington. And we have a comment. Sauk-Suiattle support prioritizing tribes that apply for CARES Act grants, but were not awarded. While we agree with other tribal leaders that we generally don't support competitive grants that force tribes to compete against one another, unfortunately, that process was already started with the CARES Act funding. The only path forward is to prioritize those tribes that missed out on the last round of funds. Also, while a first come, first serve approach may not be competitive process in the strictest sense, it's still ultimately led to some tribes being left out. We feel like it's unfair for a lot of the tribes that didn't get funding to be left out during the pandemic. Everybody has different issues, and it's really unfair to leave some tribes out, or say that their issues are not important. And by not allocating funding to these tribes, that's leaving them out. Thank you.

Hillary: Thank you so much, Ms. Maltos for your comments. I appreciate your comment on priority to unfunded, and your thoughts on the fairness of the first come, first serve structure, thank you.

Demi Maltos: Thank you.

Teagan: I'm not showing any other verbal questions at ... Wait, we do have another caller in queue. Caller, your line is unmuted.

Neil Whitegull : Good afternoon. This is Neil Whitegull and I'm with Ho-Chunk Housing and Community Development Agency out of Wisconsin of the Ho-Chunk Nation, and I would like to make a couple comments on the fairness issue. And while I personally do not agree that it was fair on the first come first serve, Ho-Chunk Nation was awarded an ICDBG IT grant last year. And listening to many of the tribes, I think it does come down to what we're hearing is there were lots of good applications that were not awarded, simply because of a mouse click, or how fast their internet was. And it was not based upon what their needs of their tribes were. And I believe that if there is a prioritization given, you simply cannot do a submission on a first come, first serve, or simply meaning that tribes that had received that had high needs can apply again, but they still have those needs.

And I believe HUD should actually look at a rating factor, and not just simply use a, if you received the grant last year, you can not apply again. And it should be based upon need for tribes. And I understand this creates a more workload on HUD, and the Office of Native American Programs, but the needs that tribes are



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talking about didn't go away because some tribes were funded, or some tribes might be better at submitting grants. But the needs should be looked at, and evaluated across the board. Prioritization, whether it be a point structure could be evaluated then, based upon a narrative and need of applications that would be addressed, similar to a ICDBG, thank you.

- Hillary: Thank you, Mr. Whitegull for sharing that comment on potentially weighing need in a different way with this ICDBG ARP funding, thank you.
- Teagan: All right, at this time, I'm not showing any other callers in the verbal comments queue. Once again, if you would like to make your comments, please dial #2 on your telephone keypad. Again, it's #2. if you'd like to make your comments verbally.
- Neil: Okay. You have another comment here in the chat. The comment comes from Amelia Werner, and the comment reads, "In regards to the required environmental review, will there be waivers for special COVID-19 project conditions?"
- Hillary: Thank you, Ms. Werner for the question. There hasn't been any updated guidance pertaining to the IC ... or I should say, the ARP funding specifically on environment ...
- Hillary: Or I should say the ARP funding specifically on environmental review, but I can tell you with certainty that generally waiver of environmental court requirements is not possible under our funding programs. It's usually in this case, written specifically into the appropriations that that cannot be waived. But there may be some additional capabilities that we're able to take, and we hope to share guidance on that in the near future. Thank you.
- Teagan: All right. We do have another verbal comments in the comment queue caller. Your line is un-muted.
- Julie Kitka: Good morning. This is Julie Kitka. I have the honor of serving as the president of the Alaska Federation of natives in Anchorage, Alaska, and we will be providing a written comments. But I did want to ask a question for you to think about, and part of these initiatives by the Biden Harris administration is to make transformational efforts that improve our lives and the lives of our people.
- Is they're going to be any provisions in these resources that give additional points for innovation, for energy efficiency, for partnering with other agencies? So for example, we have a lot of cold climate housing needs up here, and there's a cold climate housing center in the national energy labs on that. And it just seems, as part of the transformational efforts of the administration in these



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massive transfers of funds, we need to incentivize innovation. We need to incentivize energy efficiency and transfers from energy sources that are less efficient or that are not sustainable.

And also I think that it's worth considering whether or not there needs to be any increase in consideration for those tribes, that partner with the private sector. When you partner with the private sector, sometimes you can stretch limited federal resources further, and then you can have all kinds of other positive benefits from that. And then lastly, employment and native hire. Jobs are really valuable to our communities on that. And possibly that, ought to be considered in your consideration of funding. Is these projects, how many native people, Indian people actually get a job by doing this. Because then that has multiple other benefits. Again, thank you for your time. And we're going to submit written comments on the distribution formula ideas. Thank you.

Hillary: Thank you, Ms. Kitka, for sharing your comments today, we appreciate those and we look forward to your written comments, also. We appreciate your comments are keeping innovations in mind and how to encourage that energy efficiency, partnerships, native hire. Thank you.

Teagan: I'm not showing any of the verbal comments at this time. Once again, if you would like to make a verbal comment, dial # 2 on your telephone keypad.

Neil: We do have a more comments here in the chat. The next comment comes from [Shelley Buck 01:27:44] and the comment reads, well, there's a question and a comment. The question reads, "Are tribes who were/are unable to participate in the IHBG program eligible for any of these funds? We are working to get in the IHBG program, but are having issues with it."

Hillary: Okay. Thank you for the question. So, the question was pertaining to eligibility for ICDBG ARP. The eligibility requirements for this program would be the same as though it's for the regular ICDBG program. So I would look to that for a bit more guidance on eligibility. And if you have specific questions about that, please feel free to reach out to the co-talk emails for your area office. We are happy to help you. Thank you.

Neil: Okay. The next comment comes from [Mary Camp 01:28:47], and the question reads, "If the cap is raised, tribes who received cares funds should be awarded the difference"

Hillary: Thank you for your comment.



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- Neil: Okay. The next, is a question now from [Annalee Trujillo 01:29:09], and the question reads, "Can you give, can you please give out the information as to where to send written comments?"
- Hillary: Thank you, Ms. Trujillo for the question. Written comments should be sent to the codetalk@hud.gov email address. Before we wrap this up today, we will have the last slide posted, which has that email address on it. And when we post these, actually these slides won't be posted before the due date that we set. So please keep that email in mind, codetalk@hud.gov, and you can look for that here when you scroll to that next slide.
- Neil: Okay. The next comment comes from [Shelley Marshall 01:30:05], and the comment reads, "We would like to support the ICDBG to be given to tribes that have previously not received an ICDBG grant."
- Hillary: Thank you for that comment on prioritization. Thank you.
- Neil: I just posted the Codetalk email address in the chat for all attendees for reference.
- Hillary: Great. Thank you [crosstalk 01:30:32] and I would be remiss if I didn't mention that we did give the email address in the Dear Tribal Leader Letter that we sent out for this consultation. So if you go to the ONAP Codetalk website, if you look at the front page with our announcements or go to the section with your Tribal Leader Letters, that address is posted there. Okay. Thank you.
- Neil: The next comment comes from Dave Cade, and the comment reads, "Recommendation. Tribes that received CARES IT ICDBG funding and have completed their projects and closed their CARES IT ICDBG, should have priority over tribes that have received CARES, but still have an open project. That's from Dave Cade Housing Director of Dry Creek Rancheria Band of Pomo Indians.
- Hillary: Thank you, Mr. Cade for that comment on prioritization. Thank you.
- Neil: Okay. We have another comment here from Ann Sandoval, and the comment reads, "Good afternoon, all. My name is Ann Sandoval from the top Pueblo Housing Authority in Taos New Mexico. My comment is, I also agree in prioritizing funds for those that didn't get funded through ICDBG CARES. Secondly, what is the deadline and expending funds for this grant? One year? Reason is, with all the funding that's being awarded to tribes, it is difficult to extend all of this funding in one year. The amendment process for ICDBG CARES takes time to process."



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- Hillary: Thank you for your comments. As far as the deadline there isn't a one year deadline, no. The period of availability at the leave is 2024, maybe 2025, but it's not a limited amount of time, like some of the funding that is available to address the pandemic. So I appreciate the question. And I'm sorry, I think I might've missed the first part of her comment. I apologize.
- Neil: Oh, that's fine. I think I can read it again. She first stated her comment. She said, "I also agree in prioritizing funding for those that didn't get funded for ICDBG CARES." And then she wanted to know the deadline for extending funds for the grant.
- Hillary: Okay, great. Thank you. Appreciate that. [crosstalk 01:33:09] Okay. Thank you. I appreciate that comment. There are some steps, or I should say deadlines from the appropriation that we keep in mind as far as extensions, but you do have at least a couple of years to work with if an extension is needed. Thank you.
- Heidi: [crosstalk 01:33:33] I would just say, as long as you can tie that to the purpose of the funding, I think that is the factor that drives it more.
- Hillary: Yeah. In case it's helpful for the ICDBG CARES funding specifically, there is a notice on amending the grant and then it's the grant, which includes the timelines that were proposed in that grant application that should really get all the detail you would need on that process and what needs to be submitted to justify as Heidi mentioned, as well as other requirements. Thank you.
- Neil: Okay. We do have another comment here. This comment comes from Chastity [inaudible 01:34:27] , and then comment read, oh this is a question. The question reads, "Do you have an estimated percentage of how much underfunded ICDBG CARES applicants would be issued out of ARP funds if the allocation was to give them priority?"
- Hillary: Well, thank you for the question, Ms. [inaudible 01:34:54]. We do have an idea of how much funding would likely be utilized due to prioritization. This is kind of a rough number because we would, for some of the applicants that we had the last round, we would need to make sure things are squared away. And, if we give a higher ceiling, that's going to come into this too, but kind of assuming things are okay. And that there isn't a higher ceiling. We anticipate about \$130 million of unfunded applications from ICDBG CARE.
- Neil: Okay. The next comment is from [Juliet Pittman 01:35:41]. And the question is in regard to the deadline for comments or consultation for ICDBG ARP the comment reads, "Is the deadline time on April 2nd, 2020 11:59 PM or sooner. Thanks.



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- Hillary: Thank you for the question. We have not set a deadline or applications to the ICDBG ARP Program. That guidance will be forthcoming in the notice.
- Neil: I think she may be referring to the deadline to submit comments, to inform the process for the consultation.
- Hillary: Gotcha. Sorry. My mind is obviously on a very specific thing right now. There is a deadline for consultation comments. It is on Friday, April 2nd. I don't think we set a time though. If you get it to us later in the day, we'll still take it. Thank you.
- Neil: And the final comment we currently have in the chat is from [Nicole Borromeo 01:36:51], and the comment reads, "Is there a list of tribes who received CARES funding?"
- Hillary: Thank you, Ms. [Borromeo 01:37:04] for the question. Yes. When we awarded funds for ICDBG CARES, the announcement of those boards was posted publicly and is still available on the ONAP Codetalk website.
- Teagan: We do have a caller in the verbal cue. Caller, your line is un-muted.
- Michaela Lowe: Good afternoon is Michaela Lowe here with the St. Croix Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin, representing the St. Croix Chippewa Housing Authority. Thank you for this opportunity. And listening to the other tribes comment and feedback has been very beneficial. I would like to give support to those unfunded applications for ICDBG CARES that you have the information you have it in front of you and you have the funding available. What I do disagree with is that smaller tribes, such as St. Croix with small land base and lower enrollment numbers, not be segregated from, or tiered off into any future priority listings because we do have needs. And we do have loss here due to COVID and that we've all shared in, in this pandemic. [inaudible 01:38:35] for the time.
- Hillary: Thank you for your comment on behalf of the St. Croix Tribe and for your comments on prioritization of unfunded and your comments on the considerations for smaller tribes. Thank you.
- Teagan: All right. I'm not showing any other comments in the verbal comments queue at this time. If you'd like to make your comments verbally dial # 2 on your telephone keypad. If you'd like to make your comments in the chat box, you may do so, just remember to select all panelists from the dropdown menu before submitting your comments.
- Neil: At this time, there are no comments in the chat.



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Hillary:

Okay. Well, I think what we could do at this point is give, maybe just another manager to see if some other comments come in. In the meantime, if you all don't mind putting up with me, I may do a little bit of a tour of our ONAP Codetalk website to show you where some of the reference resources are located and where you can expect to see future updates for this program. ICDBG ARP and others. So we're going to give that a shot here. Oh, let me see if I can think I have the right.

Okay, great. So here you all can see the front page of the ONAP Codetalk website for the COVID-19 recovery programs, including the CARES act programs. And IHBG ARP AND ICDBG ARP. The easiest thing to do is click here on COVID-19 recovery programs. So we'll take a look at that real quick. As more information is revealed, notices, other guides that are published on these programs, we will be posting them here on the separate link to the American Rescue Plan Act information you click on that link. You can see we've already started to assemble the information that we've published on those specific programs.

Another item that I did want to note specifically, while we're all on the line, given the representations and tribal leadership and others on this call, is where we post our Dear Tribal Leader Letters, just in case that's helpful for you all with all of the complications that are going on. Back on this home page, we have our own programs listed first, but on the second line, we have some other quick links, which includes dear tribal leader letters. And if you click there, you could see what we have sent out. So I hope that's helpful. I wanted to take the opportunity to show that to you if we had a bit of time today and we just happen to. All right, let's get back to the queue. Thank you.

Teagan:

All right. At this time, I'm not showing any callers in the verbal question queue. Once again, if you would like to ask, to make a comment in the verbally, please dial # 2 on your telephone keypad. Again, that's # 2 for verbal comments, or you can use the chat box, just remember to select all panelists in the down menu.

Neil:

I see we do have a comment that's coming through the chat. The comment is from Victor Velasquez from the White Mountain Apache Housing Authority, and the question, or the comment reads, "White Mountain Apache Housing Authority applied and received an ICDBG Imminent Threat. Received funding last year through ICDBG Imminent Threat funded by the CARES Act, we use that funding to meet critical needs in response to COVID-19. The fact that we use the funding to meet an imminent threat does not diminish that there's still an existing threat. It is imperative that HUD distribute ICDBG ARP Imminent Threat funds based on exactly that imminent needs and threats. Our housing projects had significant needs before COVID-19 and the situation has only become more dire. Overcrowding is rampant because there is no available housing for tribal members. And our ability to construct new housing has not kept up with the



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population increase. We urge HUD to consider the emergency housing crisis, that many tribes face right now when deciding how best to distribute this new funding pool."

Hillary: Thank you, Mr. Velasquez for sharing these comments, getting at need and how we prioritize this funding. Thank you.

Neil: I see, we have a comment as well from Suzie Trader and the comment reads, "Can the participants to this consultation be given updates by email?"

Hillary: [crosstalk 01:44:20] Oh, no, go ahead. I'm sorry, Heidi.

Heidi: Oh, no, that's fine. I was just going to say that we do keep folks up to date on our Codetalk website. That's a good resource, as well as your Tribal Leader Letters we send out through [inaudible 01:44:36] delivery by email.

Hillary: Okay, great. Thank you so much. I was just going to, perhaps additionally mentioned that there, maybe Neil, correct if I'm wrong, but I believe there is a list serve for the Codetalk website that you can sign up for it so that when updates are posted, you will be alerted and that may be helpful to you.

Neil: You are 100% correct. And actually our dear colleague, Iris Friday, has posted in the chat for everyone's awareness, a link so that you can subscribe to the Codetalk list serve. So now you have multiple options to get updates while it's there, it's visiting the website, getting the update notifications through email or tours, talking with your local area office.

Hillary: Wonderful. Thank you, Neil. Thank you, Iris.

Neil: We do have a comment that just came in. This comment is from Mr. Bobby Yandel and the comment reads, "I have no issue with priority going to tribes, not awarded under CARES funding, however tribes that were awarded should not be excluded just because they were awarded under CARES funding. Tribal and enrollment base should be considered as it is a consideration in providing service to early tribal members. We all still have needs and should be awarded based on their need."

Hillary: Thank you so much, Mr. Yandel for your comments prioritization of those that were not awarded and also those that were previously awarded. Thank you.

Teagan: I'm not showing any verbal comments at this time. Once again, if you would like to make your comment verbally dial # 2 on your telephone keypad, or you can submit your comments in writing, by using the chat feature on the right-hand



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side of your screen. Just remember to select all panelists from the dropdown menu before submitting your chat.

Hillary:

Okay. It looks like everyone may be tired of us for the day. Thank you so much for the comments that you shared today. I just want to give a little bit of an idea of next steps before we close out. As we have discussed a couple of times here today, there is a deadline for feedback on the ICDBG ARP funding this Friday, April 2nd.

Anytime that day that you can get your feedback into us, we would very much appreciate it. We are recording this conversation and the comments that you had shared with us today. And so those comments will be considered, but we also appreciate and encourage written comments. And we look forward to those. Additionally, please keep an eye on ONAP Codetalk website moving forward, for information such as notices, implementing this funding opportunity. Other guidance that will be helpful [inaudible 01:48:18] were mentioned, all that kind of good stuff that we were able to publish and provide on the CARES Act funding. I was keep an eye out for similar resources for the ARP funding and just emphasize, checking the [inaudible 01:48:34] websites is one avenue to keep yourself updated. But as Iris shared earlier, the ONAP Codetalk lists serve will ping you actively with any updates that we post. So thank you again. And we look forward to any written comments we'll be sharing.

Teagan:

That concludes our conference. Thank you for using events services. You may now disconnect.