



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

PRINCIPAL DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY
FOR PUBLIC AND INDIAN HOUSING

JUL 24 2015

Dear Tribal Leader:

I am writing today to update you on the status of the Tribal HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) demonstration program.

Implementing this demonstration program in Indian Country is a top priority for the Obama Administration. HUD staff have been working diligently with officials from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to develop a program that will bring health care, supportive services, and housing assistance to Native American veterans in tribal communities. This innovative demonstration program will be the first of its kind in Indian Country, bringing VA case management together with housing assistance to Native American veterans who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.

HUD set aside \$4 million from the fiscal year 2015 budget for the Tribal HUD-VASH demonstration program, which will fund approximately 600 housing vouchers.

HUD understands that there is strong interest in this program, and an urgent need for it to begin. Tribes advocated for this program, and have been waiting for it for some time. HUD is aware of the great need for the services and assistance it provides, and for the benefits it will bring to Native veterans, many of whom do not currently have targeted case management from the VA, and are now enduring overcrowded conditions, substandard housing, or have no permanent home.

On January 26, 2015, HUD issued a "Dear Tribal Leader" letter to tribal leaders, tribal organizations, and housing directors soliciting comments on the Tribal HUD-VASH demonstration program. HUD also held a national listening session at the National American Indian Housing Council's Legislative Conference held on February 2, 2015, followed by a series of regional listening sessions. HUD is considering the tribal comments as the notice is being developed.

The *Federal Register* notice implementing Tribal HUD-VASH is now expected to be issued by September 30, 2015. Tribal leaders and tribal housing officials will be kept informed of this demonstration program's implementation, progress, and outcomes.

Thank you for your continued support of and participation with HUD's Office of Native American Programs to bring housing assistance to low-income tribal members. Your involvement helps deliver more effective programs to those in need of adequate, affordable housing. HUD looks forward to bringing the Tribal HUD-VASH demonstration program to Indian Country, and to the positive benefits it will bring to Native American veterans and their families.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lourdes", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Lourdes Castro Ramírez
Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary