Tribal Leaders, Tribal members, Stakeholders and Partners: The Eastern Woodlands Office of Native American Programs (EWONAP) is pleased to present the November 2013 newsletter. The return of this valuable communication tool is long overdue and we hope you will find it useful. You can contribute to its growth and effectiveness by sharing training and funding opportunities along with your local news, events, and success stories. Please email any contributions or questions to rebecca.l.halloran@hud.gov.

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Indian Country News and Events

President Obama Proclaims November 2013 National Native American Heritage Month

President Obama Announces 2013 White House Tribal Nations Conference in Washington, D.C. — On Wednesday, November 13, President Obama will host the 5th annual White House Tribal Nations Conference at the Department of the Interior. The conference will provide leaders from the 566 federally recognized tribes the opportunity to interact directly with the President and members of the White House Council on Native American Affairs. Each federally recognized tribe will be invited to send one representative to the conference. This event continues to build upon the President’s commitment to strengthen the government-to-government relationship with Indian Country and to improve the lives of Native Americans. As in past years, NCAI will co-host a Tribal Leaders Preparatory Meeting on Tuesday, November 12th at the Washington Plaza Hotel.
President Obama Establishes a Task Force on Climate – On November 1, 2013 President Obama established a Task Force on Climate Preparedness and Resilience to advise the Administration on how the Federal Government can respond to the needs of communities nationwide that are dealing with the impacts of climate change. The Task Force members include state, local and tribal leaders from across the country who will use their first-hand experiences in building climate preparedness and resilience in their communities to inform their recommendations to the Administration. Chairwoman Karen Diver of Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa was one of two Tribal leaders named to the President’s new Task Force.

Honoring Our Veterans - The National Park Service will honor all military veterans with special events and free entrance to all 401 national parks for everyone during the long Veterans Day weekend, Nov. 9 - 11. “Every national park tells a part of the American story, and many of the parks have a direct connection to those who have served in the military through the years,” said National Park Service Director Jonathan B. Jarvis. “I invite everyone to come to a national park to commemorate Veterans Day, whether it is to learn more about those who have given so much to defend our freedoms or to simply enjoy the beauty and majesty of the land they fought to protect.”

Veteran’s Day - In observance of Veteran’s Day, all HUD offices will be closed November 11th, 2013.

VA Office of Tribal Government Relations (OTGR) October 2013 Newsletter - The OTGR team works to strengthen and build closer relations between the VA, tribal governments and other key federal, state, private and non-profit partners in an effort to effectively and respectfully serve Veterans across Indian Country. This work is done in the spirit of government to government consultation and collaboration, respectful of the special relationship that exists between the United States and tribal governments.

Native American Food Sovereignty Alliance Formed to Address the Immediate Need to Restore Native Food Systems - The Native American Food Sovereignty Alliance (NAFSA) is Native American-driven and controlled. It will be nationally active in addressing food security, health and cultural identity in Native American communities at the national, tribal and local levels. NAFSA’s goal is to develop a movement that gives voice to issues of Native food sovereignty, food-system control and policy development, and serve as a strong network for collaboration among various organizations engaged in Native food-system control. “We commit to take collective and individual action to address food sovereignty, and to build the necessary understanding and awareness among our peoples, nations, leaders and policymakers, as well as our youth and coming generations, to make it a continuing reality.” For more information about NAFSA, click here. Program Contact: Raymond Foxworth, rfoxworth@firstnations.org or (303) 774-7836. Media Contact: Randy Blauvelt, rblauvelt@firstnations.org or (303) 774-7836.

NCAI and Google partner for the first ever Indigenous Mapping Day - In partnership with the National Congress of American Indians, and in honor of the United Nation’s International Day of the World’s Indigenous Peoples, Google Map Maker, Google Earth Outreach and the Google American Indian Network are proud to present Google’s first ever Indigenous Mapping Day on August 9, 2013.
Registration to participate in Indigenous Mapping Day is now closed, but you can edit in Google Map Maker at any time or organize a MapUp, a group of people coming together to improve how Google Maps represents their community. You can add local roads, schools, health facilities, tribal offices and more. Google Map Maker currently supports Cherokee, Navajo, Inuktitut, Inupiaq, Kalaallisut, and Hawaiian.

Senate Committee on Indian Affairs held a hearing on extending Federal recognition to the Chickahominy Indian Tribe, the Chickahominy Indian Tribe-Eastern Division, the Upper Mattaponi Tribe, the Rappahannock Tribe, Inc., the Monacan Indian Nation, and the Nansemond Indian Tribe and to provide for the recognition of the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina, and to extend the Federal recognition to the Little Shell Tribe of Chippewa Indians of Montana on October 30, 2013.

A First Nation Profiles Interactive Map, hosted by Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada, is a collection of information on First Nation communities across Canada. The profiles include information on First Nations, their reserves, governance, federal funding, geography, population statistics and other statistics. Also available is an Inuit Community Interactive Map.

National ONAP News

2014 NAHASDA Funding Update - Current funding is frozen at 2013 sequester levels ($617 million) until the Continuing Resolution expires on January 15th, 2014. Whether a new budget will be passed or another CR enacted is unclear.
ICDBG NOFA is expected in mid-January. Funding levels have yet to be determined.

ONAP 2013 Fiscal Year End Accomplishments-

FY 2013 IHBG-
- 2,239 IHBG rental units were built, acquired, or rehabbed; target was 1,380
- 3,038 IHBG homeownership units were built, acquired, or rehabbed; target was 4,415.

FY 2013 ICDBG-
- 354 units were rehabbed; target was 573.
- 51 community buildings were built; target was 41.
- 273 jobs were created; target was 73.

FY 2013 Loan Guarantee Programs-
- Title VI – Six loans were guaranteed; the target was five loans. These six loans total almost $19.5 million; 495 units of affordable housing are associated with the funded projects, and the loans leveraged more than $9.5 million in other funds.
- Section 184 – 3,852 loans were guaranteed for $672.3 million. The target was 3,600 loans for $650 million.
- Section 184A – FY 2013 total: 61 loans were guaranteed for $15.1 million. The target was 30 loans, for $8 million.

EWONAP Regional News and Events

Robert McGhee, Treasurer for the Poarch Creek Band, joins the Center for Native American Youth Board.

Red Cliff Band works to teach Ojibwe language to next generation - Young children in the Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Tribe will soon have more opportunities to learn their native Ojibwe tongue from tribal elders as part of a language preservation grant from HHS’ Administration for Children and Families (ACF).

GLIHA Meeting – The Great Lakes Indian Housing Association held their quarterly meeting November 5th and 6th in at the Mystic Lake Casino, MN. EWONAP Grants Management Director, Elton Jones, attended to give a HUD update.

Chairwoman Karen Diver of Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa was one of two Tribal leaders named to the President’s new Task Force.
Seneca President, Barry Snyder, Jr. featured in Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian’s series Meet Native America. The series invites tribal leaders, cultural figures, and other interesting and accomplished Native individuals to introduce themselves and say a little about their lives and work. Together, their responses illustrate the diversity of the indigenous communities of the Western Hemisphere, as well as their shared concerns, and offer insights beyond what’s in the news to the ideas and experiences of Native peoples today. Read President Snyder’s interview here.

EWONAP Office News

EWONAP welcomes Mr. Francis Harjo, the national ONAP Communications and Information Manager, as acting Administrator of the Eastern Woodlands Office of Native American Programs. Mr. Harjo can be reached at Francis.L.Harjo@hud.gov and 202.402.4074.

Staffing Changes - Grants Evaluation Team Leader, Eula Simpson, retired on October 31st, 2013 after over 30 years of serve with HUD. Grants Management Specialist, Joseph Templin, will be leaving EWONAP for USDA November 15th, 2013.

Section 184 Accomplishments - In FY 2013, EWONAP had 432 Section 184 loans totaling $62.8 million.

Collecting IHBG Leveraging Success Stories -

In light of the fiscally conservative climate in Washington and the delay in the reauthorization of NAHASDA, we would like to collect housing development success stories that illustrate the impact of IHBG funding. Specifically, we are looking to highlight how IHBG funds can be optimized when leveraged with Low Income Housing Tax Credits, New Market Tax Credits, Section 184, Title VI and private loans, or funds from state and federal partners.

We ask Tribal Leaders or Tribal Housing Directors willing to participate in a short (10 minute) conference call to discuss your leveraging experiences to include the funding sources and beneficial outcomes, to email EWONAP Administrator Advisor, Rebecca Halloran, at Rebecca.L.Halloran@hud.gov or call 312.913.8027. Your collaboration in this time-sensitive initiative is appreciated. We hope to share these success stories with Congress and other Tribes.

Training Opportunities and Resources

Check the HUD ONAP Calendar of Upcoming Training here.

January 2014: An Alternative Funding Training - This session is being scheduled for January 2014 in Atlanta, GA. Registration information will be forthcoming.

Annual IHP/APR and ICDBG NOFA Training at the Chicago HUD office will be announced by email and posted to the EWONAP website.
November 11-13, Palm Springs, CA- Native American Contractors Association Annual Conference: NACA's 1st Annual B2B Conference & Expo will feature three (3) different learning tracks that include: Getting Business Started and on the Right Course, Legislative Issues Impacting Small Business, and Contemporary Issues Impacting Small Business Federal Contractors. The conference will feature 60+ experts on small business matters. The complete 2013 conference agenda, online registration, and other conference information is available here.

November 12-13, Reno, NV- HUD ONAP Training- Board of Commissioner/ Housing Board Training: This FREE 2-day training provides an overview of Housing Board roles and responsibilities involved in providing affordable housing for tribal communities. Experienced trainers will provide examples and scenarios to inform and educate about these important roles to insure successful tribal housing for eligible community members under HUD’s IHBG. To register, click here or call (202) 789-1754.

November 21-22, Reno, NV- HUD ONAP Training- Indian Housing Plan/Annual Performance Reports (IHP/APR): FREE interactive 2-day training. IHBG Grantees are responsible for meeting program requirements including submission of Indian Housing Plans (IHPs) and Annual Performance Reports (APRs). This course will assist grant recipients in understanding the important IHP/APR components, deadlines and other requirements. For more info click here or call 202-393-6400. This is also available in Phoenix, AZ January 28th and 29th 2014 and February 4-5 in Albuquerque, NM.

November 19-20, Oklahoma City- HUD ONAP Training- Financial Management: This training provides participants with an orientation of the financial management systems necessary to achieve and maintain administrative capability in operating the Indian Housing Block Grant program. Participants will be provided with an overview of the financial and administrative requirements that pertain to the use of the funds distributed to tribes and Tribally Designated Housing Entities (TDHE) under the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act (NAHASDA). Register here.

November 22, Native American Direct Loan Program Webcast – 2pm EST: The Office of Tribal Government Relations in collaboration with the Veterans Benefits Administration Loan Guaranty Office will host a webcast on the Native American Direct Loan Program. The webcast will feature subject matter experts and highlight the benefits of the program. Questions will be answered during the webcast and can be sent to tribalgovernmentconsultation@va.gov. To view the webcast please click the link the day of the broadcast. Watch the live stream here.

December 10-11, Albuquerque, NM- HUD ONAP Training- Construction Administration: Learn how to manage construction in Native communities from the drafting table to the grand opening. This 2-day
training will offer IHBG Grantees the skills to understand the process of construction administration. Training topics include basic administrative skills, reading schematics and drawings, understanding the project manual, contracting, construction, and closeout. Topics of special interest include contracting for rehabilitation work and also special procurement and construction issues such as design-build, force account, small purchase, and non-competitive. For more info click here or call 202-393-6400. Also available in Tacoma, WA February 5-6, 2014 and Phoenix, AZ March 4-5, 2014.

December 3-4, Oklahoma City- HUD ONAP Training Self-Monitoring: Save the Date- FREE training for IHBG Grantees on policy and procedures od Self-Monitoring. For details and registration information, visit NAIHC or call 202-789-1754.

December 3-4, Sacramento, CA- HUD ONAP Training- Federal Procurement: This FREE two-day course presents current procurement practices as they affect contract administration & procurement of materials or services for tribal housing organizations. Training topics include: pre-planning, purchasing, procurement, and policy development. Management activities intended to avoid sanctions, penalties, and indictable offenses will also be discussed. For more info visit NAIHC or call 202-789-1754.

December 10-12, Las Vegas, NV- NAIHC Legal Symposium 2013: Issues arising in the areas of law and regulation often play as large a part in Indian housing programs as funding. NAIHC’s annual Legal Symposium seeks to bring the Indian housing community together for discussion and information sharing on these important issues as we work together to improve housing for Native communities. Session details can be found by clicking here.

January 7-9, 2014- Denver, CO- HUD ONAP Training- Occupancy & Maintenance: Save the Date: FREE training for recipients of Indian Housing Block Grant funds. Course will cover tribal housing occupancy and unit maintenance requirements to insure compliance with the IHBG program. For details and registration information, visit NAIHC or call 202-789-1754.


IRS’s Indian Tribal Governments office is offering the Tribal Bonds Financing: The Basics phone forum recording. The 40-minute presentation covers Tribal bonds fundamentals, the benefits of Tribal Economic Development Bonds, and clean renewable energy bonds. You can also submit questions about the phone forum contents.

IRS’s Indian Tribal Governments office has updated Publication 3908, Gaming Tax Law and Bank Secrecy Act Issues for Indian Tribal Governments. This definitive "go to" guide will help Indian Tribal gaming facilities and other customers access the parts they need without searching the entire publication for their answer.
Native Learning Center Webinars: The Native Learning Center offers FREE courses and trainings to Native Americans and Indigenous people with an emphasis on the educational needs of Tribal members and their communities. Course topics range from Tribal Management to Persuasive Writing.

Funding Opportunities and Resources

Section 184 Indian Housing Loan Guarantee Program: Many Tribes are now considering or utilizing Section 184 loans to develop up to 20 units of housing at a time. Some of the benefits include:
- Residential mortgage interest rates (which continue to be low)
- Low-down payment
- Rapid processing (may take longer if obtaining TSRs for Tribal Trust land)
- May utilize up to 15% for site infrastructure costs
- Flexibility in offering housing units on a rental or lease-to-own basis to tribal members
- Nominal loan assignment fee
- No household income restrictions
- May utilize other funding to assist low-income families.

For more information on Section 184 financing contact EWONAP Native American Program Specialist, Brian Gillen at Brian.Gillen@hud.gov or 312.913.8626.

Exchange Network Grant Program
The Exchange Network Grant Program provides funding to states, territories, and federally recognized Indian tribes to support the development of the National Environmental Information Exchange Network. Since FY 2002, EPA has awarded approximately $171 million in assistance agreements to build the Network. All 50 states, five territories, and 87 federally recognized tribes have received grants to facilitate their involvement in the development and implementation of the Exchange Network.

Deadline: November 8th, 2013

Rural Community Development Initiative (RCDI) - The U.S. Dept. of Agriculture (USDA) is seeking grant applications from organizations to help rural businesses create jobs and spur economic development in rural areas. Qualified intermediary organizations receiving the grants will provide financial and technical assistance to recipients to develop their capacity to undertake housing, community facilities, or community and economic development projects. Recipients will be nonprofit organizations, low-income rural communities, or federally recognized tribes. Intermediary organizations must provide matching funds at least equal to the RCDI grant. For more info, click here. Deadline: November 12th, 2013.

Grants for Native Americans and Native American Caregiver Support Program (HHS): This program funds organizations providing nutritional & supportive services to Native American and Native Hawaiian elders. Nutritional services include congregate meals & home-delivered meals. For home & community-based supportive services, assistance, transportation, chore services, and other supportive services that contribute to the welfare of older Native Americans. Federally recognized Indian tribal organizations that are not now participating in Title VI are eligible to apply as a new grantee. Deadline: November 21st, 2013.
BIA FY13 Climate Adaption Grants for Tribes: Successful grant applications will propose adaptation planning that supports the greatest number of tribes, range of tribal programs, or tribal communities. High level tribal adaption plans (covering all tribal programs), vulnerably assessments, or data downscaling that covers multiple tribes will receive priority in the grant evaluation process. Leveraged funding is also encouraged and will improve ranking. Inquiries and proposals can be sent to this email address: climate-adaption-grant-info@bia.gov  Deadline: November 29th, 2013.

First Nations Development Institute: Native Agriculture and Food Systems Initiative- In 2014, First Nation’s Native Agriculture and Food Systems Initiative will provide up to ten grants, averaging $37,500, to support projects that increase access to fresh, healthy foods and improve the overall health and well-being of Native children and families. Priority will be given to projects aimed at increasing the availability of healthy, locally-produced foods in Native communities; projects that work to reduce food insecurity; and entrepreneurship programs that create systemic change by increasing community control of local food systems. Native American-controlled nonprofit tribal organizations and community-based groups committed to increasing healthy food access in rural and reservation-based Native communities are eligible to apply. Deadline: December 6, 2013.

Smart Growth America Offers Free Technical Assistance Workshops: Smart Growth America's free technical assistance workshops program helps city, regional and community leaders find solutions to local issues and concerns. Smart Growth America will offer 12 types of workshops as part of this free program. These workshops help participating communities to grow in ways that benefit families and businesses while protecting the environment and preserving a sense of place. Indian tribes are eligible. For more info contact Chelsea Hogan, at assistance@smartgrowthamerica.org or at 202-207-3355 x143. Deadline: December 6th, 2013.

Corporation for National and Community Service's AmeriCorps State and National Grants: Focus areas for the grants include: Disaster Services, Economic Opportunity, Education, Environmental Stewardship, Healthy Futures, and Veterans and Military Families. Grants may be used to provide support for direct services that contribute to increased energy and water efficiency, renewable energy use, or improving at-risk ecosystems. Tribes are eligible. Notices of intent due: Dec. 11, 2013. Applications due: January 8th, 2014.

Native American Scholarships Fund is an endowment established to foster a sense of shared purpose and positive interaction between archaeologists and Native Americans. The Society for American Archeology is offering three competitive scholarships for Native Americans. Scholarships are open to all Native peoples from anywhere in the Americas, Alaska Natives, Native Hawaiians, and Indigenous Pacific Islanders. Deadline: December 16th, 2013.

Environmental Solutions for Communities (Wells Fargo & National Fish & Wildlife Foundation): This program seeks to promote sustainable communities by supporting highly-visible projects that link economic development and community well-being to the stewardship and health of the environment.
Tribes are eligible. Grant awards will typically range from $25,000 to $100,000. **Deadline: December 16th, 2013.**

**Rural Solid Waste Management Grants (USDA):** This U.S. Dept. of Agriculture grant was created to evaluate current landfill conditions to determine threats to water resources. Funds will help provide technical assistance and/or training to enhance operator skills, reduce solid waste streams, and develop and implement closure, future land use, and safety and maintenance plans. Eligible: Private nonprofit organizations; public bodies; Native American tribes. **Deadline: December 31st, 2013.**

**American Battlefield Protection Program (NPS):** The U.S. Dept. of the Interior’s National Park Service program supports projects that lead to the protection of battlefield land and sites to safeguard and preserve them for present & future generations as symbols of individual sacrifice and national heritage. Nonprofit groups, academic institutions, and local, regional, state, & tribal governments are eligible. **Deadline: January, 2nd, 2014.**

**America’s Historical & Cultural Organizations Planning Grants:** National Endowment for the Humanities planning grants support the early stages of humanities project development, including consultation with scholars, refinement of themes, preliminary design, and audience evaluation. Federally recognized Indian tribal governments are eligible to apply. In most cases, grants in this program cover no more than 50- 60% of project costs. **Deadline: January 8th, 2014.**

**National Endowment for the Arts FY 2014 Our Town Initiative:** All applications must involve two primary partners: a local government entity and a nonprofit organization. Grants range from $25,000 to $200,000 each. Federally recognized tribal governments are eligible. These NEA grants are for creative place-making projects that contribute toward the livability of communities and help transform them into lively, beautiful, and sustainable places with the arts at their core. The Our Town Initiative will invest in creative and innovative projects in which communities, together with their arts and design organizations and artists, seek to improve their quality of life, foster stronger community identity and a sense of place, and revitalize economic development. **Deadline: January 13th, 2014.**

**National Forest Foundation Grants:** The program provides grants to community-based and national nonprofit organizations to engage in conservation initiatives that benefit National Forests and Grasslands with forest stewardship, watershed health and restoration, wildlife habitat improvement, and recreation issues. Nonprofit organizations, Native American tribes, and universities are eligible to apply. **Deadline: January 14th, 2014.**

**National Digital Newspaper Program Grants:** The National Endowment for the Humanities will fund newspaper projects that convert pages published in a state or territory between 1836 and 1922 into digital files, primarily from microfilm. About 10 grants of up to $350,000 over a 2-year period will be funded. Federally recognized Indian tribal governments are eligible. **Deadline: January 15th, 2014.**
Community Forest & Open Space Program (USDA Forest Service): Eligible entities: Local governments, federally recognized tribes and Alaska Native corporations, & nonprofits eligible to hold title to land for conservation purposes. This grant program provides financial assistance to establish community forests that provide continuing and accessible community benefits. Community forests provide many benefits and can provide economic benefits through timber resources. For more info, visit the opportunity synopsis at Grants.gov. **Deadline: January 15th, 2014.**

Transitional Living Program and Maternity Group Homes (HHS): Up to $200,000 per year for a period of up to 5 years. The U.S. Dept of Health and Human Services seeks alternatives for runaway and homeless youth involved in law enforcement, child welfare, mental health, & juvenile justice systems. Funded transitional living programs will provide shelter, supervision, life & interpersonal skill building, career counseling, job skills, and medical care. Maternity group homes will provide the same services in addition to parenting instruction and child care. Native American tribal governments (Federally recognized), Native American tribal organizations are eligible. **Deadline: January 15th, 2014.**

Rural Business Cooperatives Loans & Grants
USDA Rural Development’s Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant (REDLG) program for FY 2013. Funding will support $33 million in loans and $10 million in grants. Deadline: **OPEN**

**Useful Links**

- HUD ONAP CodeTalk website
- EWONAP website
- HUD Indian Housing Block Grant
- HUD Indian Community Development Block Grant
- HUD Section 184 Home Loan Guarantee
- HUD Title VI Loan Guarantee
- HUD Healthy Homes
- HUD ROSS Grant
- HUD’s Office of Sustainable Housing
- HUD PIH Environmental Resources
- HUD PIH Notices to Tribes and TDHEs
- HHS Residential Energy Assistance Challenge Program
- HHS Low Income Housing Energy Assistance Program
- DSIRE - Energy Efficiency Incentives
- USDA Rural Development Grants
- Army Corp of Engineers Tribal Resources
- VA Native Health Services
- Economic Development Administration
- Grants.gov
- Federal Register Today
- White House Native Americans Resources Page
- DOT Tribal Transportation Program
- Safe Drinking Water and Basic Sanitation Task Force
- Asset Building for Native Communities
- Center for American Indian Economic Development
- Native American Contractors Association
- National Congress of American Indians
- National American Indian Housing Council
- DOE Tribal Energy Program
- DOE Weatherization Grants
- DOE Federal Energy Management Program
- EPA Tribal Grants
- Small Business Administration Loans
- CDFI Native American Initiatives
- VA Native American Direct Loan
- BIA Housing Improvement Program
GLIHA – Great Lakes Indian Housing Association
USET – United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.
GLITC – Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council
MAST – Mid-West Alliance of Sovereign Tribes
Four Directions – Four Directions Development Corporation

Contact Us

Eastern Woodlands Office of Native American Programs

Francis Harjo, acting Administrator
Ralph H. Metcalfe Federal Building
77 West Jackson Boulevard, Room 2404
Chicago, Illinois 60604-3507
Telephone: (800) 735-3239, Fax: (312) 353-8936

Link to EWONAP Staff

Please send contributions and questions to: Rebecca.l.halloran@hud.gov