

Heidi J. Frechette, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Office of Native American Programs



Heidi J. Frechette serves as the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Native American Programs, within HUD's Office of Public and Indian Housing. In this capacity, she manages a budget of more than \$700 million and leads a team of approximately 140 professional employees in Washington, DC, and seven other locations across the nation. This team supports more than 567 American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian communities that are working with HUD to provide their low-income residents with decent affordable housing, expand and improve housing infrastructure, provide opportunities for low-income residents to become self-sufficient, and develop thriving economies. HUD's Native American programs also include loan guarantee programs, which bring market-rate loans to moderate and higher income residents who have traditionally been underserved by lenders in these areas.

Ms. Frechette, who is Menominee and Brothertown from Wisconsin, has over 20 years of experience in Native American law, policy and legislative affairs. Ms. Frechette started with the Department as the Director of Performance and Planning in the Office of Native American Programs. More recently, she has served as the Director of the Appropriations Liaison Division in the Budget Office. As the Department's liaison to the U.S. Senate and House Appropriations Committees that fund HUD and its programs through annual appropriations, Ms. Frechette coordinated timely and accurate responses to complex questions regarding HUD's \$45 billion annual budget.

Prior to joining HUD, Ms. Frechette provided legal counsel, advice, and representation to tribal, federal, and state governmental leaders and the private sector. As Senior Counsel to the Chairman of the United States Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, she drafted and managed passage of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Reauthorization Act of 2008. She worked with Senate Appropriations staff to secure federal funding for Indian housing and health care budgets.

Ms. Frechette earned her Juris Doctor in 2003 from the University of Wisconsin-Madison where at the same time she earned a Master of Public Affairs from the La Follette School of Public Affairs.