

News Release

National American Indian Housing Council



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President Releases FY 07 Budget

Level Funding for Indian Housing, NAIHC training zeroed out again!

Washington DC – February 7, 2006 – NAIHC applauds a positive change in level funding for Indian housing in the President’s budget for FY 07, compared to FY 06. The Native American Housing Block Grant proposed funding is at **\$625.7 million** from that **\$2 million** is directed to the Title VI Loan Guarantee Program. The Indian Community Development Block Grant budgeted amount is **\$57.4 million**. Section 184 Indian Housing Loan Guarantee Program is proposed at **\$5.9 million**. The National American Indian Housing Council (NAIHC) training and technical assistance is zeroed out again.

The Native American Housing Assistance and Self Determination Act of 1996 (NAHASDA) created the block grants for tribes to address their own housing needs. The primary goal of the Title VI program is to encourage private lending in Indian Country. According to the U.S. Census, Native Americans are three times more likely to live in overcrowded housing, and 12% of Native American homes lack complete plumbing, which means a lack of running water or sewage systems compared to 1.2% of the general population.

“NAIHC appreciates the President’s Indian housing budget request. The NAHASDA block grant program has worked well to serve the needs of Indian Country-enabling tribal nations to expand the use of the limited funds by leveraging.” said Chester Carl, Chairman of NAIHC. “In total, the Administration’s 2007 Budget proposes a reduction or elimination of 141 domestic discretionary federal programs, for a savings of \$15 billion. The level funding shows the support for continued effective federal investment in Indian country.”

NAIHC Technical Assistance and Training were zeroed out in the President’s FY 07 budget. After being zeroed out in the FY 06 budget, Congress restored \$2 million to NAIHC’s vital programs. The technical assistance and training that NAIHC provides is essential to the effective implementation and success of NAHASDA.

Since the passage of H.R. 797 in December of 2005, tribes are able to access YouthBuild funds; a federal program that integrates leadership skills with home construction. The Presidents FY 2007 budget proposed \$50 million for Youthbuild and moves its funding from the Department of Housing and Urban Development to the Department of Labor.

“We are pleased with the budget allocations for the block grant programs, but there still remains a concern that tribes will not receive the essential training and technical assistance,” said Gary Gordon, Executive Director of NAIHC. “We urge Congress to ensure the essential and invaluable training and technical assistance programs remain available for tribes to successfully implement NAHASDA.”

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NAIHC assists tribes and tribal housing entities in reaching their self-determined goals of providing culturally relevant, decent, safe, sanitary, and quality affordable housing for Native people in Indian communities and Alaska Native villages.

NAIHC...A Tradition of Native American Housing

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