

# News Release

National American Indian Housing Council

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**CONTACT:** Kim Hayes, (202) 454-0931 or [khayes@naihc.net](mailto:khayes@naihc.net)  
Jane DeMarines, (202) 454-0911 or [jdemarines@naihc.net](mailto:jdemarines@naihc.net)

## **NAIHC Launches Online Training for Indian Housing; Future Web-based Courses on Meth Prevention Planned**

**WASHINGTON—March 24, 2006—**A new free online training service from the **National American Indian Housing Council (NAIHC)** provides tribes with an opportunity to obtain valuable housing information and save money. **NAIHC** is launching the first of its Online Training series today. Indian housing authorities that receive the Native American Housing Block Grant (NAHBG) are eligible to participate in this new service, which will deliver training through Internet-browsing computers.

“With no let up in site to the cutbacks in the government funding needed to support Indian housing programs, **NAIHC** has looked to new technologies to get its training programs out to as many people as possible in Indian Country,” said **NAIHC Executive Director Gary L. Gordon**. “We believe that Webcasting will allow us to reach a large audience and save both **NAIHC** and tribes travel and training dollars.”

This first training focused on the basics of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self Determination Act (NAHASDA), the 1996 law which Indian housing authorities use to fund and complete their housing projects. The NAHBG is funded through NAHASDA. Future scheduled online trainings will focus on Practical Procurement, Home Inspections, and Supervisory Management.

### **Popular Meth Prevention Training an Ideal Fit for Online Training**

While **NAIHC** currently has four on-line Webcasts scheduled under this pilot project, a fifth may be added later in the year, dealing with “The Threat of Methamphetamines to Indian Housing.” One of **NAIHC**’s most sought-after trainings is for meth prevention and detection. Responding to a flood of requests, **NAIHC** expanded its training on dealing with meth use in tribal housing, launching a Crime Prevention and Safety Program last year. Meth is a particular problem for housing authorities as they deal with clean-up of “meth kitchens” in the homes, which is a costly and dangerous procedure.

Each online session consists of two parts: first is a self-paced web-based training available two weeks prior to a live Webcast. In the second part, a live event, participants will have the opportunity to sharpen their knowledge through direct interaction with a topic expert from **NAIHC**’s Field Services Department.

“Students taking advantage of our on-line Webcasts will be able to be keep current on Indian housing issues, via an interactive and real-time format, from the convenience of their desktop computers,” said **NAIHC**’s **Special Projects Director John Seignemartin**. Because the service can accommodate only a limited number of participants, only NAHBG recipients can participate. “We want to make sure those who are directly involved in Indian housing issues get access. If the demand grows for the service, we will increase access at a later time.”

Further details and dates of the Webcasts are on **NAIHC**’s website: [www.naihc.net](http://www.naihc.net) in Training and Related Services. Please call **NAIHC**’s Field Services Department Staff for further information, (800) 284-9165.

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*The National American Indian Housing Council ([www.naihc.net](http://www.naihc.net)) 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.*