

# News Release

National American Indian Housing Council

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Senate Appropriations Committee Increases Indian Housing Funds Slightly; Restores Funds to Indian Housing Group at \$4 Million –NAIHC Members Request Capitol Hill Restore Organizations Funding**

Washington DC–July 20, 2006–Indian housing funding was kept stable and the only national organization working for Indian housing was spared from deep budget cuts during the Senate Appropriations Committee Transportation, Treasury, the Judiciary, HUD, and Related Agencies mark up today. The bill covers funding for Indian housing programs and the National American Indian Housing Council (NAIHC).

The Native American Housing Block Grant (NAHBG) was funded at **\$625.7 million, \$2 million** above FY06 and the same as the President's budget request. The Indian Community Development Block Grant (ICDBG) was funded at **\$58 million**. NAIHC's funding, which was **cut drastically in the House** version of the bill and **zeroed out in the President's request**, was restored to **\$4 million**.

"If this Senate funding for NAIHC is approved by the full body of Congress, we will continue to provide the same level of service to tribes as we have in the past," said NAIHC Chairman Marty Shuravloff. "For 32 years NAIHC has provided invaluable assistance to tribal housing and in no small way has made the difficult implementation phase of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act (NAHASDA) a success. With this funding level, we will be able to keep up this good work."

NAIHC members, which represent the housing programs of more than 460 tribes, overwhelmingly stated their support for NAIHC's funding, and contacted their Senators in support of a **\$5 million** budget for NAIHC. Several sister organizations, including the Housing Assistance Council, National Congress of American Indians and CFED also stated their support.

The House version of the appropriations bill, which passed on June 16, also provided **\$625.7 million** for NAHBG and **\$57.4 million** for the ICDBG but **cut NAIHC's TA and Training drastically to \$990,000**. A Senate/House Conference Committee will meet to address differences in their versions of the bill before it goes to a full vote.

#### **Overall Indian Housing Number Stagnant**

The numbers for NAHBG are slightly up from FY06 levels (\$623.7 million) and slightly down for ICDBG (\$59.4 million.) Federal funding for the NAHBG has been steadily eroded by inflation. It has gone from \$600 million in 1998 to \$623.7 million this fiscal year, an actual decline, when adjusted for inflation. To meet the current housing and infrastructure demands, NAIHC estimates that at least **\$1.1 billion per year** in funding is needed for NAHBG. A reasonable start for FY07 would be **\$748 million**.

"While a stable level of funding is appreciated in a tight budget year, without increases for inflation, Indian housing programs will not have the resources to meet the great needs in Indian Country. Additionally, if funding for NAIHC is not kept in the bill when the full Congress votes, we will be forced to discontinue our programs," said Gary L. Gordon, NAIHC Executive Director. "The success of Indian housing programs is dependent not only on the monies available for the programs, but also on tribal capacity to utilize those dollars and to leverage them effectively and efficiently. This is what NAIHC helps provide."

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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: [www.naihc.net](http://www.naihc.net)*