

News Release

National American Indian Housing Council

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Housing Seminar Seeks to Improve Low Homeownership Rate of Native Americans —Financial and tribal experts from around the country to participate —Homeownership rate on reservations: less than 33%

WASHINGTON—October 10, 2005— The **National American Indian Housing Council (NAIHC)** is hosting its second training program to focus on homeownership projects and mortgage finance **Nov. 1-3 in Phoenix, AZ** with new and expanded panel options. Highlights from the **Planning for Homeownership Projects** seminar will include an expanded panel on credit and panels on alternative sources of finances, how tribes can help their members overcome credit problems and foundations that make grants available for homeownership. Homeownership rates are low for Native Americans on reservations, less than 33%, according to the Government Accounting Office (GAO.)

“Native Americans still face disparities in homeownership and lending when compared to the general public,” said **NAIHC Chairman Chester Carl**. “Through this training, housing authorities will gain knowledge from others that succeed on what is needed to plan and prepare their members for homeownership.”

NAIHC’s second homeownership project seminar will feature the following topics:

- **Selecting and developing a site;**
- **Managing a construction project;**
- **Budgeting resources development;**
- **Meeting the funders;**
- **Building assets and credit; and**
- **Leveraging for homeownership**

Panelists will include experts from the financial institutions GreenPoint Mortgage, Washington Mutual Bank, CFED, PMI Mortgage Insurance, and Native American Bank. Loan Guarantee Specialists from the Housing and Urban Development Department’s Office of Native American Programs and the Agriculture Department will also be in attendance.

“This seminar will present material not covered in our first seminar in May 2005,” said **NAIHC Executive Director Gary Gordon**. “We are offering new and informative panels to help tribal housing programs give their members a leg up toward homeownership.”

The sessions are just one of many initiatives that are a part of *Housing First for First Americans*, NAIHC’s \$10 million capacity-building campaign to help its members develop 100,000 homes in Indian country over ten years. *Housing First* is supported by the **Fannie Mae, Washington Mutual, the Federal Home Loan Bank System, PMI Mortgage Insurance and GreenPoint Mortgage**. In addition, **Wells Fargo Bank** is sponsoring this specific seminar.

Though registration is required, there is no registration fee. You may register online at www.naihc.net or call Executive Events at (888) 625-7667. To book a room at the Wyndham Phoenix Hotel, call: (602) 333-5000 by Oct. 11, reference NAIHC for discounted rate. Travel scholarships are available! Call **NAIHC at (800) 284-9165. Media are welcome to attend any of the sessions. Please contact Kim Hayes for more information at (202) 454-0931.**

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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.
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