



National American Indian Housing Council's Briefing Paper

Recommended Fiscal Year 2017 Budget Request for Tribal Housing Programs

FUNDING SUMMARY: Funding for Indian housing and related community development activities is appropriated annually to a variety of Federal agencies, primarily through the Department of Housing and Urban Development's Office of Native American Programs (HUD-ONAP), but to a lesser extent funding also comes from the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Department of Agriculture.

IHBG: Fund the Indian Housing Block Grant: Fund the IHBG at \$875 million dollars and no less than \$700 million dollars. The IHBG is the single largest source of Federal funding for housing development, housing-related infrastructure, and home repair and maintenance in Indian Country. Even at \$875 million, this funding will not meet all tribal housing needs, but will, rather, only keep pace with the increased cost of housing construction, energy costs, and other inflationary factors. An analysis made by NAIHC indicates that since inception of the IHBG program, Indian country has lost out on millions in funding through inflation.

ICDBG: Indian Community Development Block Grant (ICDBG): Fund the ICDBG at \$100 million dollars. The ICDBG funds are essential to tribal economies and community development efforts and should be funded at \$100 million. ICDBG funding has actually decreased since FY 2004 and this trend should be reversed.

Training and Technical Assistance (T/TA): Section 703 of NAHASDA expressly authorizes appropriations for "a national organization representing Native American housing interests for providing training and technical assistance to Indian housing authorities and tribally designated housing entities...." The National American Indian Housing Council is the only national Indian housing organization that provides comprehensive training and technical assistance (T&TA) to tribal nations and their housing entities. Because they know the value added by NAIHC, the NAIHC members has voted to set-a-side funding from the IHBG for NAIHC's T&TA program. To ensure that NAIHC can continue to provide high-quality T&TA, Congress should appropriate funds under the Section 703 authority at no less than \$4.8 million.

Section 184 Loan Guarantee: The Section 184 Program has shown enormous success. However, it has been less successful in Indian communities where housing economies are less developed, where employment and income levels are lower, and where residents live on restricted lands. This key mortgage financing tool should be funded at \$9 million. NAIHC further urges changes to the program to simplify and to make it more available to prospective homebuyers. Our Pathways Home trainings across the country have prepared thousands of Native Americans for homeownership and is highly acclaimed by HUD and Tribal housing officials alike.

Title VI Loan Guarantee: Continue to fund Title VI at \$2 million dollars. The Title VI Loan Guarantee is a key financial tool for Indian tribes and their housing authorities to spur housing and community development efforts.

NHHBG: The funding for the Native Hawaiian Housing Block Grant should be increased to at least \$20 million to address the significant needs for low-income and affordable housing on the Native Hawaiian Home Lands. Similarly, the Section 184A Loan Guarantee Program should be funded at the \$1 million level.