

**A Resolution urging Congress to continue to provide adequate funding levels for Native American housing programs**

RESOLUTION #2016 – 02

WHEREAS, The National American Indian Housing Council represents the housing interests of American Indian tribes, Alaska Native villages, and native Hawaiian Home Lands and more than 277 tribally designated housing entities providing housing services to approximately 466 tribes, Alaska Natives, and native Hawaiians; and

WHEREAS, The stated purpose of the organization is to promote advocacy for policy and legislative changes that will favorably impact our primary goals of providing culturally relevant and quality affordable housing for Native people in a manner recognizing the unique government-to-government relationship of tribes and the federal government; and

WHEREAS The Northwest Indian Housing Association (NWIHA) represents thirty-eight Indian Housing Authorities, Tribally Designated Housing Entities, and Tribal Housing Programs and Departments in Idaho, Oregon and Washington, and Annette Island, Alaska; and

WHEREAS, The Mission of NWIHA is to promote safe, sanitary, decent and affordable housing for all Tribal members in the Pacific Northwest, which it accomplishes by providing training and education opportunities; providing a forum for the discussion and resolution of issues; advocating for the collective benefit of all members; effectively linking members to information and financial resources; and working collaboratively with its industry partners; and

WHEREAS,Safe, healthy and affordable housing is the very foundation for sustainable, healthy communities and the underpinning for most, if not all, BIA and IHS programs; and should therefore be given equal consideration in federal budget deliberations; and

WHEREAS,To address the crisis in Indian housing and meet its trust responsibility Congress has in recent years provided “flat-lined” funding of $650 million or less for the Indian Housing Block Grant (IHBG) Program; and

WHEREAS,in 2016, both BIA and IHS received increases over FY 2015 appropriations (7.5% for BIA and 3.6% for IHS), while a $50 million increase in the IHBG as proposed in the President’s budget is merely 1.8% over funding levels of 18 years ago; and

WHEREAS,Adjusting a $650 million appropriation for the cumulative impact of inflation since 1998 (using the Social Security inflation rate) leaves recipients with the purchasing power approximately 50% of that amount ($325 - $335M); and

WHEREAS,An adjustment for inflation requires and appropriation of no less than $960 million, but recognizing federal budget constraints the IHGB should be funded at a minimum of $700 million for 2017 with $50 Million annual increases thereafter until inflationary losses are recouped; and

WHEREAS,  The Indian Community Development Block Grant is the primary funding source for community and infrastructure development and should be funded at the $100 million level; and

WHEREAS,  Section 703 of NAHASDA expressly authorizes appropriations for “providing training and technical assistance to Indian housing authorities and tribally designated housing entities”; to ensure the continuation of high-quality T&TA, Congress should appropriate funds for this purpose at no less than ~~at~~ $4.8 million; and,

WHEREAS,  The Section 184 Loan Guarantee Program is a key mortgage financing tool that has demonstrated success in Indian Country and should be funded at $18 million; and

WHEREAS,  The Title VI Loan Guarantee Program is a key financial tool for Indian tribes and their tribally designated housing entities to spur housing and community development and should be funded at $2 million dollars; and

WHEREAS,  The funding for the Native Hawaiian Housing Block Grant Program 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; and similarly, the Section 184A Loan Guarantee Program should be funded at the $1 million level; and

WHEREAS,  The Community Development Financial institution (CDFI) Program has been instrumental in providing financial education and other financial lending services, including mortgage and small business loan opportunities throughout grossly underserved areas throughout Indian Country and should be funded at $245.9 million; and

WHEREAS,  Earlier this year, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) awarded grants to 26 Tribes to offer a permanent home and supportive services to Native American Veterans who are experiencing or at risk of experiencing homelessness, known as the HUD-Veterans Affairs Supporting Housing (HUD-VASH) Program.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the National American Indian Housing Council’s highest priority is ensuring that there is sufficient funding in the congressionally approved and enacted federal budget for NAHASDA recipients to meet the basic housing needs of American Indian, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiians beneficiaries through the IHBG Program; and**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the National American Indian Housing Council therefore strongly urges the Congress of the United States to fund the IHBG Program at no less than $700 million for FY 2016, and to provide consistent, substantial increases in subsequent fiscal years of not less than $50 million each subsequent year until the program has at a minimum recovered its inflationary losses; and**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the National American Indian Housing Council strongly urges the Congress of the United States to fund additional critically necessary housing related programs at the following levels:**

* **Indian Community Development Block Grant Program: $100 million;**
* **NAHASDA Section 703 for Training and Technical Assistance: $4.8 million;**
* **Section 184 Loan Guarantee Program: $18 million;**
* **Title VI Loan Guarantee Program: $2 million;**
* **Native Hawaiian Housing Block Grant Program: $20 million;**
* **Section 184A Loan Guarantee Program: $1 million; and**
* **Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFI) Funds: 245.9 million**
* **HUD-VASH Demonstration Program: $5.2 million**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the National American Indian Housing Council, through its membership, does hereby respectfully request the National Congress of American Indians and all other regional Native American associations and organizations to join with NWIHA in supporting this Resolution.**

**C E R T I F I C A T I O N**

**As the duty appointed Secretary for the National American Indian Housing Council, I hereby certify that Resolution #2016-02 was adopted May 11, 2016 at NAIHC’s Annual Members Meeting in Honolulu, HI, with a quorum present and by a supermajority of the vote.**

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**Sami Jo Difuntorum, Chair Floyd Tortalita, Secretary**