



**A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF FY 2016
HUD INDIAN HOUSING BLOCK GRANT FUNDING**

Resolution #2015-02

- WHEREAS,** the National American Indian Housing Council (NAIHC) is the primary national organization advocating for the housing interests of American Indian tribes, Alaska Native villages, 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,** Congress recognized the need for housing assistance and economic development in Indian Country when it passed the Native American Housing Assistance and Self Determination Act of 1996 (NAHASDA); and
- WHEREAS,** the Government Accountability Office has determined that NAHASDA has been effective tool in providing affordable housing to Native Americans and Alaska Natives (GAO-10_326); and
- WHEREAS,** NAHASDA has proven to be one of, if not the most effective program in all of Indian country in terms of meeting congressional and administration goals and objectives to promote not only housing development but job creation and workforce development; and
- WHEREAS,** housing conditions and the availability of housing in Indian country fall far below those of the general United States population; and
- WHEREAS,** U.S Census data has consistently documented that Native households were overcrowded or lacked adequate plumbing and kitchen facilities by a factor of 4-5 times the national average; and
- WHEREAS,** Indian housing is not merely a federal entitlement or “discretionary program,” but has its roots in a solemn trust responsibility to Indian nations and peoples; 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, it must be noted that public housing appears to consistently receive greater consideration for increases within the HUD budget relative to Indian housing and in FY 2015 appropriations, BIA received an overall increase of 3% and IHS a 5% increase while NAHASDA remained flat; 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 an appropriation of no less than \$960 million:

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; 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;

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the National American Indian Housing Council therefore strongly urges the Congress of the United States to fund the Native Hawaiian Housing Block Grant Program at no less than \$12 million for FY 2016, and to provide consistent, substantial increases in subsequent fiscal years.

CERTIFICATION

As the duly appointed Secretary for the National American Indian Housing Council, I hereby certify that Resolution #2015-02 was adopted May 14, 2015 at NAIHC’s Annual Members Meeting in Phoenix, AZ, with a quorum present and by a supermajority of the vote.



Sami Jo Difuntorum, Chair



Floyd Tortalita, Secretary