



FISCAL YEAR 2019 INDIAN COUNTRY BUDGET REQUEST: **HONORING THE PROMISES, BUILDING STRONG AND PROSPEROUS NATIONS**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This FY 2019 Indian Country Budget Request benefits rural America, prioritizes federal programs and services that honor the federal trust responsibility, as well as many programs that are critical components of strong tribal economies and public safety systems. The programs highlighted in this document meet the federal treaty and trust obligations as identified by experts at national and regional tribal organizations and through FY 2019 budget formulation consultations between tribal leaders and federal agencies.

For a nation that bases its greatness to a significant degree on its rule of law, treaties and intergovernmental agreements carry paramount importance. In 1884, Supreme Court Justice Samuel Miller remarked:

“A treaty is primarily a compact between independent nations. It depends for the enforcement of its provisions on the interest and the honor of the governments which are parties of it.”

Over the last two centuries, the United States, a nation founded on Indian land, has become the richest economy in the world. Legal scholars note that Chief Justice Marshall described the trust responsibility in terms of the responsibility that sprang from “a landed people to those from whom the land had been taken.”¹

As America expanded from “sea to shining sea,” federal Indian policy in the age of Manifest Destiny led to the loss of billions of acres of Indian land, and the related promises the United States made in exchange for this land too often remain unfulfilled. Yet, despite the expropriation of land, relocation, and attempted tribal termination and assimilation, tribes in the era of self-determination and self-governance have begun rebuilding their nations, rooted in their values, quite successfully.

While the United States has yet to fully live up to the promises it has made to tribal nations,² tribal leaders are pursuing goals for their citizens similar to those of US national policy makers: building strong and prosperous nations, including economic growth and the efficient provision of necessary public services. Economic diversity characterizes modern Indian Country, but a common factor cited by tribal leaders as hindering tribal economic development is the need for adequate federal funds for essential governmental services, such as public safety, housing, education, and workforce development.³ Economic development also faces hurdles in Indian Country due to insufficient infrastructure, including roads, housing, water, sewer systems, and broadband.

While prosperity to many Americans draws on a version of the American Dream based on wage, income, and commercial success, prosperity to Native people includes preservation of culture, family, and homelands as well. For a number of reasons, American Indian populations, especially on reservations, have faced lower intergenerational upward mobility, which simply is a measure of doing better than one’s parents.^{4,5} Exacerbating the lack of upward mobility are barriers to economic development, including inadequate fulfillment of treaty and trust obligations, insufficient infrastructure, and lack of access to capital.

Solutions for facilitating broad-based economic growth in Indian Country must be multi-faceted. For instance, tribes are working to create a positive business environment via good governance and legal infrastructure, such as commercial codes and courts.⁶ However, some pieces of the growth puzzle still rely on improving basic physical infrastructure and fulfillment of other fundamental aspects of the trust responsibility, such as public safety and education.

Although Indian Country continues to face immense economic challenges, upholding Indian trust and treaty obligations holds the promise of tremendous economic success. Congress and the Administration have expressed support for Indian self-determination and honoring the trust responsibility. Indeed many tribes have made tremendous gains in the social and economic wellbeing of their communities when Congress has respected the responsibility of tribes as governments and invested in self-determination. These FY 2019 tribal budget program requests have been compiled in collaboration with tribal leaders, Native organizations, and tribal budget consultation bodies. Tribes respectfully request that these recommendations be included in the appropriations process.

SUPPORT FOR TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS

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Ensuring tribes have the tools for effective governance is critical to fulfilling the promise of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act. Key funding mechanisms that support Indian self-determination are steady tribal base funding, direct funding to tribes as opposed to grant or state pass through funding, and accurate data for policy-making, redistricting, and governance.

Support for Tribal Governments

AGENCY	APPROPRIATIONS BILL	PROGRAM	NCAI FY 2019 REQUEST
DOI	Interior, Environment	Fixed Costs and Tribal Pay Costs	Provide full funding.
DOI	Interior, Environment	BIA Funding to Tribal Governments	Provide increases via tribal base funding instead of through grants.
Commerce	Commerce, Justice, Science	Census Bureau and 2020 Census Preparations	Provide funding to meet cost projections of the 2020 Census
Government wide		Promises Zones	Extend Promise Zone preference points to all Federal competitive grant programs in all Federal agencies

PUBLIC SAFETY & JUSTICE

(MORE INFORMATION ON PAGE 30)

The public safety problems that continue to plague tribal communities are the result of decades of gross underfunding for tribal criminal justice systems; a uniquely complex jurisdictional scheme; and the historic failure by the federal government to fulfill its public safety obligations on American Indian and Alaska Native lands. Residents and visitors on tribal lands deserve the safety and security that is taken for granted outside of Indian Country. Congress has taken historic steps in recent years with the passage of the Tribal Law and Order Act in 2010 and the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013 (VAWA 2013) to begin to address some of the structural barriers to public safety in tribal communities. For the promise of these laws to be fully realized, however, they must be fully implemented. Implementation cannot occur without sufficient resources for tribal justice systems. Increased and targeted funding in the following program areas will have a significant impact on safety in tribal communities for tribal citizens, residents, and visitors to tribal lands. Highly-functioning criminal justice systems and basic, on-the-ground police protection are fundamental priorities of any government; tribal governments are no different.

Public Safety & Justice

AGENCY	APPROPRIATIONS BILL	PROGRAM	NCAI FY 2019 REQUEST
DOI	Interior, Environment	Base funding for tribal courts and the Indian Tribal Justice Act, including courts in PL 280 jurisdictions	\$83,000,000
DOI	Interior, Environment	BIA Law Enforcement and Detention	\$553,000,000
DOJ	Commerce, Justice, Science	Tribal Grants: Eliminate competitive grant funding process and utilize Justice Department appropriations as base funding where tribes and tribal courts themselves determine their own priorities	Use DOJ appropriations as base funding with tribes setting own priorities.

Public Safety & Justice

AGENCY	APPROPRIATIONS BILL	PROGRAM	NCAI FY 2019 REQUEST
DOJ	Commerce, Justice, Science	Tribal Set-Aside from Office of Justice Programs	Create a 10 percent tribal set-aside for all discretionary Office of Justice Programs (OJP) programs.
DOJ	Commerce, Justice, Science	Tribal Set-Aside from Crime Victims Fund	Create a 5 percent set-aside for tribal governments.
DOJ	Commerce, Justice, Science	Tribal Civil and Criminal Legal Assistance, Training and Technical Assistance (TCCLA) Grant Program	\$2,000,000
DOJ	Commerce, Justice, Science	Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Tribal Law Enforcement	\$52,000,000
DOJ	Commerce, Justice, Science	Tribal programs under the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), including the grants to Indian Tribal Governments Program	Provide full authorized amount.
DOJ	Commerce, Justice, Science	Indian Country Sexual Assault Clearinghouse	\$500,000

HOMELAND SECURITY & EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT*(MORE INFORMATION ON PAGE 36)*

Department of Homeland Security outreach and communication has vastly improved due to the consistent presence of tribal affairs points of contact. Funding has stagnated at a critical level for the past 10 years, which places Indian Country and the totality of the United States at risk until tribes achieve greater capacity equal to the states for homeland security and emergency management purposes. Congress and the Administration have a trust obligation to assist tribal governments to protect all citizens, Native and non-Native, within their jurisdictions. Tribal officials accept their responsibilities to do the best they can with underfunded homeland security budgets, or no budgets whatsoever. Until parity occurs, tribal communities will be unable to participate in the national homeland security strategies and will continue to be a weak link in protecting vital infrastructure from domestic and international terrorist attacks, and related threats.

Homeland Security & Emergency Management

AGENCY	APPROPRIATIONS BILL	PROGRAM	NCAI FY 2019 REQUEST
DHS	Homeland Security	Tribal Homeland Security Grant Program	\$20,000,000
DHS	Homeland Security	Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative, Tribal IDs	\$10,000,000
DHS	Homeland Security	Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative	Provide technical assistance and materials for tribes to produce tribal IDs.
DHS-FEMA	Homeland Security	Creation of National Tribal Advisory Council	\$2,000,000
DHS-FEMA	Homeland Security	Emergency Management training	\$1,000,000
DHS-FEMA	Homeland Security	Homeland Security and Emergency Management Curriculum at TCUs and Tribal Non-Profits	\$3,000,000
DHS-FEMA	Homeland Security	Homeland Security Centers of Excellence	\$2,000,000

EDUCATION*(MORE INFORMATION ON PAGE 40)*

Access to quality education is even more important in today's challenging economic climate, it is an essential strategy for creating jobs and securing the nation's future prosperity – particularly in tribal communities. An educated citizenry serves as a catalyst to boost tribal economic productivity and growth through a more highly-skilled competitive workforce, which can attract new businesses, reduce rampant high unemployment, stimulate reservation economies through direct spending, and foster a greater entrepreneurial spirit for all tribal members to become more self-sufficient. Education provides personal progression and wellness, which in turn increases social welfare and energizes tribal communities that are essential to protecting and advancing tribal sovereignty.

To give Indian tribes the necessary foundation for economic success and prosperity, the federal government must live up to its trust responsibility by providing adequate support for Native education. The requests below detail the minimum funding needed to sustain a system that is currently struggling and underfunded. NCAI has provided these FY 2019 Budget requests to illustrate the budgetary need for effectively serving Native students and strengthening tribal self-determination in education.

Education

AGENCY	APPROPRIATIONS BILL	PROGRAM	NCAI FY 2019 REQUEST
ED	Labor-HHS-Education	Title I, Part A (Local Education Agency Grants)	\$20,000,000,000
ED	Labor-HHS-Education	State-Tribal Education Partnership (STEP) Program	\$5,000,000
ED	Labor-HHS-Education	Title VII funding, ESSA (Impact Aid Funding)	\$2,000,000,000
ED	Labor-HHS-Education	Title VI funding, Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) (culturally-based education)	\$198,000,000
ED	Labor-HHS-Education	Alaska Native Education Equity Assistance Program, Title VI, Part C	\$31,400,000
ED	Labor-HHS-Education	Native Hawaiian Education Program, Title VI, Part B	\$32,400,000
ED	Labor-HHS-Education	Indian Education Language Immersion Grants, Title VI, Part D	\$5,000,000
ED	Labor-HHS-Education	Special Projects for Native Student, Including Native Youth Community Projects	\$37,000,000
ED	Labor-HHS-Education	Title III-A grants under the Higher Education Act for Tribal Colleges and Universities (Discretionary)	\$30,000,000
ED	Labor-HHS-Education	Title III-A grants under the Higher Education Act for Tribal Colleges and Universities (Mandatory)	\$30,000,000
ED	Labor-HHS-Education	Tribal Colleges and Universities: Adult/Basic Education	\$8,000,000
ED	Labor-HHS-Education	Tribally Controlled Post-Secondary Career and Technical Institutions	\$10,000,000
ED	Labor-HHS-Education	Native American-Serving, non-Tribal Institutions (Higher Education Act, Title III-F)	\$10,000,000
ED	Labor-HHS-Education	Tribal Education Departments (Dept. of Ed)	\$5,000,000
DOI	Interior, Environment	Tribal Education Departments (DOI)	\$5,000,000
DOI	Interior, Environment	Construction/Repair of Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) Schools	\$2,634,000,000
DOI	Interior, Environment	Johnson O'Malley	\$45,000,000
DOI	Interior, Environment	Student Transportation	\$73,000,000
DOI	Interior, Environment	Tribal Grant Support Costs (Administrative Cost Grants)	\$78,000,000
DOI	Interior, Environment	Facilities Operations (BIE)	\$109,000,000
DOI	Interior, Environment	Facilities Maintenance (BIE)	\$76,000,000
DOI	Interior, Environment	Indian School Equalization Formula	\$431,000,000
DOI	Interior, Environment	Education Management: Education IT	\$41,000,000

Education

AGENCY	APPROPRIATIONS BILL	PROGRAM	NCAI FY 2019 REQUEST
DOI	Interior, Environment	BIE Immersion Demonstration Grants	\$5,000,000
DOI	Interior, Environment	Juvenile Detention Education	\$620,000
DOI	Interior, Environment	Tribal Colleges and Universities' Institutional Operations, Titles I, II, and III of the Tribally Controlled Colleges and Universities Assistance Act	\$80,220,000
DOI	Interior, Environment	Institute of American Indian Arts and Center for Lifelong Education & Museum (AIANNH Culture and Art Development Act)	\$11,948,000
DOI	Interior, Environment	Haskell Indian Nations University & Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute (Snyder Act)	\$25,000,000
DOI	Interior, Environment	Tribally Controlled Career and Technical Institutions, Title V of the Tribally Controlled Colleges and Universities Assistance Act	\$10,000,000
USDA	Agriculture	1994 Institutions Extension Program (NIFA)	\$15,000,000
USDA	Agriculture	1994 Institutions Research Program	\$7,500,000
USDA	Agriculture	1994 Institutions Educational Equity Grants	\$7,500,000
USDA	Agriculture	Native American Endowment Account (Corpus Payment)	\$136,000,000
USDA	Agriculture	Tribal Colleges and Universities Essential Community Facilities Program	\$10,000,000
HUD	Transportation, Housing and Urban Development	HUD-University Partnership Program for Tribal Colleges and Universities	\$5,500,000
DHHS	Labor-HHS-Education	Indian Head Start	Provide full funding.
DHHS	Labor-HHS-Education	TCU Head Start Partnership Program	\$8,000,000
DHHS	Labor-HHS-Education	Native Languages Preservation, with Esther Martinez Program (EMP)	\$12,000,000 for NLP, with \$5,000,000 for EMP.
NSF	Commerce, Justice, and Science	Education and Human Resources Funding for Tribal Colleges and Universities	\$15,000,000

HEALTHCARE

(MORE INFORMATION ON PAGE 53)

The survival and prosperity of tribal communities depends on the safety, health, and wellness of our citizens. American Indians/Alaska Natives (AI/AN) have long experienced significant health disparities when compared with other Americans. The federal promise to provide healthcare for our people is a sacred agreement that was provided to the tribes in exchange for land and peace. As recently as 2010, Congress has declared that “it is the policy of this Nation, in fulfillment of its special trust responsibilities and legal obligations to Indians -- to ensure the highest possible health status for Indians and urban

Indians and to provide all resources necessary to effect that policy.”⁷ The federal budget for AI/AN health is not just a fiscal document between sovereign Nations. It is indeed, the execution of a moral, ethical, and legal commitment.

The Indian Health Service (IHS) has been and continues to be a critical institution in securing the health and wellness of tribal communities. Devastating consequences from historical trauma, poverty, and a lack of adequate treatment resources continue to plague Tribal communities. American Indian and Alaska Natives have an average life expectancy 4.2 years less than other Americans, but in some areas, the life expectancy is far worse. AI/ANs also suffer significantly higher mortality rates from suicide, type 2 diabetes, and heart disease than other Americans. According to CDC data, 45.9 % of Native women experience intimate partner violence, the highest rate of any ethnic group in the United States. These health statistics are no surprise when you compare the per capita spending of the IHS and other federal health care programs.

The requests listed below focus on specific increases to the IHS that reflect both the priorities of tribal leaders representing the 12 IHS Areas⁸ and the Agency-wide goals expressed by IHS.

Healthcare

AGENCY	APPROPRIATIONS BILL	PROGRAM	NCAI FY 2019 REQUEST
DHHS	Interior Environment	Total FY 2019 Indian Health Service Funding	\$6,394,093,293 Services: \$4,772,477 Contract Support Costs: \$817,970 Facilities: \$803,647
DHHS	Interior, Environment	Requested increases over FY 2016 budget request (planning base of \$5.18 billion)	Increase over Base: \$1.6 billion Current Services: \$169 million Services: \$985.5 million Facilities: \$180.2 million
DHHS	Labor-HHS-Education	On the TRAIL to Diabetes Prevention program	\$1,000,000
DHHS	Labor-HHS-Education	HRSA Native Hawaiian Healthcare Systems Program	\$14,400,000

CHILD WELFARE

(MORE INFORMATION ON PAGE 67)

Tribal child welfare programs are comprised of a number of “discrete, yet interconnected” functions that include child abuse prevention, child protection, in-home services, case management, foster care, kinship care, guardianship, adoption, court hearings, coordination and collaboration, and referrals to other services, such as health care or housing. Tribal child welfare programs work tirelessly to successfully serve children and families through holistic, strengths-based, culturally responsive, and family-centered services. In providing these services, tribes serve a critical role not only tribal citizens living within their tribal lands, but also play an important role in helping state agencies provide services to their tribal citizens living off tribal lands. The assistance tribes provide in this respect reduces state costs and administrative burden.⁹

By investing in tribal services that can reach children and their families before or shortly after child abuse or neglect has occurred, we can help curtail the pervasive effects of long term, unresolved trauma that can create increasing physical and emotional damage for children and cost tribal governments and the federal government much more to treat. Because child welfare families have extensive needs this requires intensive collaboration with other service providers and specialized services

to effectively address child maltreatment and help families rehabilitate. The current federal investment in child welfare for both tribes and states has been heavily weighted towards crisis interventions that don't work well to prevent abuse and neglect from occurring or re-occurring. These crisis services also utilize some of the most expensive services in child welfare too, such as out of home placement. After over twenty years of relying on this failed model of financing child welfare services it is time to seriously explore how moving to a model with more balance and investment in early intervention and prevention can change the paradigm and reduce child maltreatment overall.

Congress has unequivocally recognized that there is nothing “more vital to the continued existence and integrity of Indian tribes than their children.”¹⁰ Therefore, Congress must promulgate a budget that empowers tribes to provide programs and services necessary to safeguard their children and strengthen their families. The recommendations below suggest funding increases that would provide tribes with more workable funding levels after years of little or no increase and improve outcomes for American Indian and Alaska Native children and families, whether in tribal or state systems.

Child Welfare

AGENCY	APPROPRIATIONS BILL	PROGRAM	NCAI FY 2019 REQUEST
DOI	Interior, Environment	BIA Indian Child Protection and Family Violence Prevention Act	\$43,000,000
DOI	Interior, Environment	BIA Welfare Assistance	\$80,000,000
DOI	Interior, Environment	Indian Child Welfare Act On or Near Reservation Program	\$20,000,000
DOI	Interior, Environment	Off-Reservation Indian Child Welfare Act Program	\$5,000,000
DOI	Interior, Environment	BIA Social Services Program	\$50,000,000
DHHS	Labor-HHS-Education	Promoting Safe and Stable Families, Title IV-B, Subpart 2 discretionary funds (3 percent tribal allocation reserved from this amount)	\$70,000,000
DHHS	Labor-HHS-Education	Tribal Court Improvement grant program (authorized under Title IV-B, Subpart 2)	\$3,000,000
DHHS	Labor-HHS-Education	Child Abuse Discretionary Activities (tribes and states eligible to compete for these grant funds)	\$38,000,000
DHHS	Labor-HHS-Education	Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention (one percent tribal allocation reserved from this amount)	\$50,000,000
DHHS	Labor-HHS-Education	Child Welfare Services, Title IV-B, Subpart 1 (tribal allocation reserved from this amount)	\$280,000,000
DHHS	Labor-HHS-Education	Maternal Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program (tribal allocation from reserved portion)	\$420m (\$12.6m)
DHHS	Labor-HHS-Education	SAMHSA Programs of Regional and National Significance, Child and Family Programs	\$8,000,000 (\$5 million reserved for Circles of Care grants)

Child Welfare

AGENCY	APPROPRIATIONS BILL	PROGRAM	NCAI FY 2019 REQUEST
DHHS	Labor-HHS-Education	SAMHSA Garrett Lee Smith Grants, State/Tribal Youth Suicide Prevention and Early Intervention Grant	\$40,000,000
DHHS	Labor-HHS-Education	SAMHSA Garrett Lee Smith Grants, Campus Suicide Prevention Program	\$9,000,000
DHHS	Labor-HHS-Education	SAMHSA American Indian and Alaska Native Suicide Prevention	\$5,000,000
DHHS	Labor-HHS-Education	SAMHSA Tribal Behavioral Health Programs (mental health and substance abuse programs)	\$50,000,000 (\$25 million for each program)
DHHS	Labor-HHS-Education	Children's Mental Health Services Program (tribes and states eligible to compete for these grant funds)	\$124,000,000
DHHS	Labor-HHS-Education	Project Linking Actions for Unmet Needs in Children's Health (Project LAUNCH)	\$9,000,000

ELDERS

(MORE INFORMATION ON PAGE 82)

Elders are our culture bearers, and are held in the highest regard in all tribal communities. However, it is these same elders in Indian Country that comprise the most economically disadvantaged elderly minority in the nation. Grants to tribes have a history of being both well-managed and insufficiently funded to meet existing needs. Tribal governments have little or no access to the agencies, departments, ombudsman, or programs that are available to states. In addition, state programs seldom serve Native elders due to cultural and geographic barriers. Immediate action needs to be taken in order to remedy these disparities and ensure that Native elders are well taken care of.

Elders

AGENCY	APPROPRIATIONS BILL	PROGRAM	NCAI FY 2019 REQUEST
DHHS	Labor-HHS-Education	Older Americans Act (Title VI- Part A, B), Native American Nutrition and Supportive Services	\$32,000,000
DHHS	Labor-HHS-Education	Older Americans Act (Title VI-Part C), Native American Caregiver Support Program	\$8,300,000
DHHS	Labor-HHS-Education	Older Americans Act (Title VII-Subtitle B), Protection of Vulnerable Older Americans	Create a one percent tribal set-aside and recommend tribes and tribal organizations be eligible for the Elder Justice Initiative.
DHHS	Labor-HHS-Education	Older Americans Act (Title V), Senior Community Service Employment Program	\$434,371,000

ECONOMIC & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

(MORE INFORMATION ON PAGE 85)

Increasing economic opportunities and infrastructure development in Indian Country requires a comprehensive, multi-agency approach. Indian Country continues to face daunting challenges, especially high rates of unemployment and poverty, due to shortfalls in federal obligations and barriers to private and philanthropic investment. Adequate federal funding, coupled with reduced regulatory burdens, can advance tribes' efforts to access capital resources and workforce training programs. Honoring the federal government's trust responsibility by addressing key economic needs will further the economic drive of Indian Country through increased business and workforce development opportunities. These FY 2019 budget requests set forth appropriations that are essential to empowering self-determined tribal efforts to seed economic prosperity and advance the economic security of tribal nations.

Economic & Workforce Development

AGENCY	APPROPRIATIONS BILL	PROGRAM	NCAI FY 2019 REQUEST
Commerce	Commerce, Justice, Science	Minority Business Development Agency	\$35,000,000 and a set-aside to re-establish NABECs within MBDA.
Commerce	Commerce, Justice, Science	Office of Native American Affairs	\$2,000,000
SBA	Financial Services	Office of Native American Affairs	\$2,000,000
DOD	Defense	American Indian Procurement Technical Assistance Program	\$4,500,000
DOD	Defense	Indian Incentive Payment Program	\$20,000,000
Treasury	Financial Services	Community Development Financial Institutions Fund	\$20,000,000 and continue to waive non-federal match requirement for NACA financial assistance program.
Treasury	Financial Services	Community Development Financial Institutions Fund, New Markets Tax Credit Program	Provide a five percent set-aside and revise 'service area' to include Indian Country.
DOE	Energy and Water	National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) Minority Serving Institutions Partnership Program (MSIPP) Tribal College Initiative (Advanced Manufacturing)	\$5,000,000
DOI	Interior, Environment	Office of Indian Energy and Economic Development Indian Loan Guarantee Program	\$15,000,000
DOI	Interior, Environment	Office of Indian Energy and Economic Development	\$25,000,000
DOI	Interior, Environment	Community and Economic Development Program	\$1,400,000
DOL	Labor-HHS-Education	YouthBuild Program	Restore funding to \$84,500,000.

Economic & Workforce Development

AGENCY	APPROPRIATIONS BILL	PROGRAM	NCAI FY 2019 REQUEST
DOL	Labor-HHS-Education	Employment and Training Administration, Indian and Native American Program (INAP)	\$60,500,000
DOL	Labor-HHS-Education	Native American Employment and Training Council	\$125,000 from non-INAP resources.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS*(MORE INFORMATION ON PAGE 93)*

High-speed internet access is a necessity in today's modern world but unfortunately, rural tribal areas are disproportionately lacking broadband access. According to the Federal Communications Commission's, 63 percent of tribal lands across the country lack access to the high-speed broadband services needed to support economic development, tribal governance, healthcare, education, and public safety. While USDA Rural Utilities Service programs provide vital capital resources for broadband projects, certain regulatory mechanisms have hindered the deployment, maintenance, and affordability of broadband and radio services throughout Indian Country. Policies and investments focused on the deployment and adoption of these new technologies will provide renewed opportunities for tribes to build thriving rural economies. Funding for federal commitments to consult with tribal nations, and access to public media systems continue to be essential functions for bridging the Digital Divide in Indian Country.

Telecommunications

AGENCY	APPROPRIATIONS BILL	PROGRAM	NCAI FY 2019 REQUEST
FCC	Financial Services	Office of Native Affairs and Policy	Provide fixed annual budget of \$500,000.
CPB	Labor-HHS-Education	American Indian and Alaska Native Radio Station grants	\$5,000,000
CPB	Labor-HHS-Education	Native Public Media and Koahnic Broadcast Corporation	\$1,000,000

AGRICULTURE & RURAL DEVELOPMENT*(MORE INFORMATION ON PAGE 95)*

Agriculture is a major economic, employment, and nutrition sector in Indian Country. *In 2012, there were at least 56,092 American Indian-operated farms and ranches on more than 57 million acres of land. These farms and ranches sold \$3.3 billion of agricultural products, including more than \$1.4 billion of crops and \$1.8 billion of livestock and poultry.* As a result of the huge agricultural footprint across Indian Country and the fact that more than 35 percent of American Indian and Alaska Native peoples live in rural communities, tribal governments and farmers look to active partnerships throughout the US Department of Agriculture to sustain and advance common interests across the broad array of services that this federal agency provides to tribal governments.

Agriculture & Rural Development

AGENCY	APPROPRIATIONS BILL	PROGRAM	NCAI FY 2019 REQUEST
USDA	Agriculture	Office of Tribal Relations	\$1,500,000
USDA	Agriculture	Rural Development 502 Direct Loan Program	\$20,000,000 tribal set aside
USDA	Agriculture	Rural Development	\$2,500,000,000
USDA	Agriculture	Rural Utilities Service	\$9,000,000,000
USDA	Agriculture	Rural Housing and Community Facilities Programs	\$28,000,000,000
USDA	Agriculture	Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Environmental Quality Incentives Program	\$1,600,000,000
USDA	Agriculture	NRCS, Conservation Stewardship Program	\$1,449,000,000
USDA	Agriculture	Federally Recognized Tribal Extension Program	\$6,000,000
USDA	Agriculture	Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations	\$115,000,000
USDA	Agriculture	Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations, traditional foods market development	\$5,000,000

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION*(MORE INFORMATION ON PAGE 101)*

Tribal peoples maintain strong physical, cultural, spiritual, and interdependent relationships with their homelands and natural resources. Consequently, tribal peoples face direct and often disproportionate impacts of environmental degradation. Federal funding to support environmental protection for Indian reservations was not forthcoming until more than 20 years after the passage of the Clean Water and Clean Air Acts. Tribes are still trying to achieve equity, and significant gaps remain. The federal government must ensure tribes have fair and equal opportunities to preserve and enhance the environmental quality of Indian Country for present and future generations. In the recommendations below, NCAI requests that EPA tribal programs receive sufficient resources to achieve parity with states through sustainable targeted base funding.

Environmental Protection

AGENCY	APPROPRIATIONS BILL	PROGRAM	NCAI FY 2019 REQUEST
EPA	Interior, Environment	Indian Environmental General Assistance Program	\$99,500,000
EPA	Interior, Environment	Safe Drinking Water State Revolving Funds	Provide 5 percent tribal set-aside
EPA	Interior, Environment	Clean Water Act State Revolving Fund, tribal set-aside	Provide \$46,500,000 tribal set-aside and permanently lift the funding cap on tribal set-aside for wastewater facilities.
EPA	Interior, Environment	Tribal Water Pollution Control, Clean Water Act Section 106	Increase the tribal allocation to 20 percent.
EPA	Interior, Environment	Nonpoint Source Pollutant Control, Clean Water Act Section 319	Eliminate cap on tribal funding and provide \$13,000,000.
EPA	Interior, Environment	Exchange Network	Provide 10 percent set-aside for tribes.
EPA	Interior, Environment	Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, tribal allocation	\$3,000,000

NATURAL RESOURCES*(MORE INFORMATION ON PAGE 107)*

Tribes' cultures, traditions, lifestyles, communities, foods, and economies all depend upon many natural resources, and yet so many critical natural resources are disappearing faster than we can restore them. Given the state of the economy and national priorities, coupled with the increasing negative impacts of climate change, the vitality and sustainability of natural resources is even more integral to the health of American Indian and Alaska Native peoples, communities, cultures, and economies. Tribes and their communities can cite many examples where they have shaped the successful restoration and sustainable management of fragile natural resources through a commitment to stewardship that often requires arduous, though rewarding, collaboration with states, regional organizations, local governments and other stakeholders in larger ecosystem management efforts. Tribes, as proven effective managers of their own resources, must be provided with the appropriate funding and support as required by the treaty and trust responsibilities of the federal government. Federal support for tribal natural resource efforts, however, continues to not match the tribal efforts, nor capture the value of tribal ecological knowledge and natural resources for tribal peoples and for the nation.

For tribes to fully utilize their natural resources and to establish and maintain natural resource management programs, funding for Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) natural resource programs must increase. BIA programs often provide the only source of funding to protect tribal lands. Many of the BIA Trust natural resources programs discussed in this section have experienced substantial cuts over the past decade. The most supportive role for the federal government is as a resource-provider—facilitating independent decision-making and true self-governance for tribal nations.

Natural Resources

AGENCY	APPROPRIATIONS BILL	PROGRAM	NCAI FY 2019 REQUEST
DOI	Interior, Environment	Rights Protection Implementation	\$52,000,000
DOI	Interior, Environment	Tribal Climate Resilience Program	\$30,000,000
DOI	Interior, Environment	Water Management, Planning, and Pre-Development Program	\$10,500,000
DOI	Interior, Environment	Water Rights Negotiation/Litigation program	\$10,923,000
DOI	Interior, Environment	Endangered Species Program	\$3,000,000
DOI	Interior, Environment	Tribal Management and Development Programs	\$20,000,000
DOI	Interior, Environment	Wildlife and Parks Tribal Priority Allocations - Fish Hatchery Operations	\$5,000,000
DOI	Interior, Environment	Wildlife and Parks Tribal Priority Allocations - Fish Hatchery Maintenance	\$6,582,000
DOI	Interior, Environment	Wildlife and Parks Tribal Priority Allocation	\$10,000,000
DOI	Interior, Environment	Natural Resources Tribal Priority Allocations	\$10,000,000
DOI	Interior, Environment	Invasive Species Program	\$10,000,000
DOI	Interior, Environment	Fish and Wildlife's Tribal Wildlife Grants Program	\$8,000,000
Commerce	Commerce, Justice, Science	Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund	\$110,000,000
EPA	Interior, Environment	Geographic/Ecosystem Program in Puget Sound	\$50,000,000
DOI	Interior, Environment	National Park Service Deferred Maintenance	\$383,028,000
DOI	Interior, Environment	National Park Service Deferred Maintenance	Support dedicated annual funding.
DOI	Interior, Environment	National Park Service Deferred Maintenance	Support deferred maintenance funding in any infrastructure proposal.
DOI	Interior, Environment	Forestry (Tribal Priority Allocations + BIA Forestry Projects)	\$112,000,000
DOI	Interior, Environment	Office of Wildland Fire, Fuels Management	\$206,000,000
DOI	Interior, Environment	Office of Wildland Fire, Disaster Fire Funding	Support legislation that treats wildfires like other natural disasters and emergencies.
USDA	Interior, Environment	US Forest Service	Encourage support for expanded Anchor Forest initiatives.
USDA	Interior, Environment	US Forest Service	Make USFS implementation of the TFFPA a priority.

ENERGY

(MORE INFORMATION ON PAGE 118)

Tribal energy resources are vast, largely untapped, and critical to America's efforts to achieve energy security and independence, reduce greenhouse gases, and promote economic development. Energy infrastructure is also integral to many tribes' efforts to create jobs, infrastructure, and improve lives of their citizens. The Department of the Interior estimates that undeveloped traditional energy reserves on Indian lands could generate up to \$1 trillion for tribes and surrounding communities, most of which are located in rural areas.

Energy

AGENCY	APPROPRIATIONS BILL	PROGRAM	NCAI FY 2019 REQUEST
DOI	Interior, Environment	Office of Indian Energy and Economic Development, energy capacity building through development grants	\$5,000,000
DHHS	Labor-HHS-Education	Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program, (Tribes)	\$51,000,000
DOE	Energy and Water	Office of Indian Energy Policy and Programs	\$30,000,000
DOE	Energy and Water	Tribal Loan Guarantee Program	\$2,000,000,000

HOUSING

(MORE INFORMATION ON PAGE 121)

The foundation of healthy tribal communities is access to safe, culturally relevant and quality affordable housing. Yet, Native Americans still face some of the worst housing and living conditions in the United States. The Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act (NAHASDA) is intended to help bridge the gap in housing needs in Native communities and allow tribes to exercise self-determination at the local level.

Tribal programs under the Native American Housing and Self-Determination Act have been successful in allowing tribes the self-determination necessary to provide effective programs for tribal citizens. NAHASDA effectively replaced the various Indian housing programs under the 1937 Housing Act and consolidated federal housing funds through direct block grants to the tribes and their Tribally Designated Housing Entities (TDHEs). Tribes are now exercising their right of self-determination to design and implement their own housing and other community development infrastructure programs. NAHASDA has resulted in tens of thousands more housing units being constructed, as well as increased tribal capacity to address related infrastructure and economic development challenges. Since the enactment of NAHASDA in 1996, tribal housing programs have been making great strides for housing and community development by using sustainable building practices and leveraging their NAHASDA and other federal funding. Today there are close to 500 TDHEs in Indian Country. The NAHASDA authorizes several programs and activities that are in need of additional funding, they include the Indian Housing Block Grant; Indian Community Development Block Grant; Sections 184 and 184A Guaranteed Loan Program; Title VI Guaranteed Loan Program; and NAHASDA's Training and Technical Assistance Funding.

Housing

AGENCY	APPROPRIATIONS BILL	PROGRAM	NCAI FY 2019 REQUEST
HUD	Transportation, HUD	Indian Housing Block Grant	\$700,000,000
HUD	Transportation, HUD	Indian Community Development Block Grant	\$100,000,000
HUD	Transportation, HUD	Title VI Loan Guarantee	\$2,000,000
HUD	Transportation, HUD	Section 184 Loan Guarantee Program	\$10,000,000
HUD	Transportation, HUD	Tribal HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing Program	\$7,000,000
HUD	Transportation, HUD	NAHASDA's Training and Technical Assistance	\$4,800,000
USDA	Agriculture	Rural Development 502 Direct Loan Program for Tribal Relending Demonstration	Set Aside \$50,000,000
DOI	Interior, Environment	BIA Housing Improvement Program	\$23,000,000
HUD	Transportation, HUD	Native Hawaiian Housing Block Grant	\$12,000,000
HUD	Transportation, HUD	Section 184A Loan Guarantee	\$1,000,000
VA	Military Const., VA	Veterans Benefit Administration, Native American Direct Loan Program	\$10,000,000

TRANSPORTATION*(MORE INFORMATION ON PAGE 126)*

Tribal transportation infrastructure is a key component for tribal governments to bolster their economies. Transportation programs are critical to ensure tribal governments can provide for economic development and social well-being of their tribal citizens and to ensure the safety of non-tribal citizens who travel on tribal roads.

Surface transportation in Indian Country involves hundreds of thousands of miles of roads and highways; and hundreds of bridges. According to the latest National Tribal Transportation Facility Inventory (NTTFI), there are approximately 160,000 miles of roads and trails in Indian Country owned and maintained by tribes, the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), states and counties. Of those, Indian tribes own and maintain 13,650 miles of roads and trails, of which only 1,000 (or 7.3 percent) are paved, with another 12,650 miles consisting of gravel, earth, or primitive materials. Of the 29,400 miles owned and maintained by the Bureau of Indian Affairs, 75 percent are graveled, earth, or primitive. When combined, the roads owned and maintained by Indian tribes and the BIA are among the most underdeveloped and unsafe road networks in the nation, even though they are the primary means of access to American Indian and Alaska Native communities by Native and non-Native residents and visitors alike.

Transportation

AGENCY	APPROPRIATIONS BILL	PROGRAM	NCAI FY 2019 REQUEST
DOT	Transportation, HUD	Tribal Transportation Program	\$495,000,000
DOT	Transportation, HUD	Tribal Technical Assistance Programs	\$5,000,000
DOT	Transportation, HUD	Tribal Transit Program	\$35,000,000
DOT	Transportation, HUD	Tribal High Priority Projects Program	\$30,000,000
DOI	Interior, Environment	BIA Roads Maintenance	\$35,000,000

HISTORIC & CULTURAL PRESERVATION*(MORE INFORMATION ON PAGE 129)*

The protection of Native cultures spans across complex statutory and regulatory aspects of the federal government. Success in navigating these complex structures has resulted in the repatriation of cultural items, guidance regarding tribal member possession of eagle feathers, and protection of, and increased tribal access to sacred places for cultural, religious and spiritual purposes. Federal funding to support the repatriation of sacred objects and ancestors, for the preservation of cultures, and for the protection of sacred and historical places continue to remain a paramount priority for tribes.

Historic & Cultural Preservation

AGENCY	APPROPRIATIONS BILL	PROGRAM	NCAI FY 2019 REQUEST
DOI	Interior, Environment	Tribal Historic Preservation Officer Program	\$15,000,000
DOI	Interior, Environment	Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA)	\$4,000,000
DOI	Interior, Environment	Investigations into Failure to Comply with NAGPRA	Provide a 10 percent increase for investigations into failure of institutions to comply with NAGPRA, and create a line-item for investigations of complaints made by tribes.
DOI	Interior, Environment	National Study on the Sale and Trafficking of AIANNH objects and human remains	\$1,000,000