

# THE FIRST KIDS 1ST



## EVERY CHILD IS SACRED INITIATIVE

First Kids 1st is a national collaborative effort comprised of leading Native American organizations, allies, and partners, focused on changing national, tribal, and state policy to create conditions in which American Indian and Alaska Native children can thrive. One step in that process is prioritizing the needs of Native children within the federal budget.

Advancing this charge, the National Congress of American Indians, National Indian Child Welfare Association, National Indian Education Association, and National Indian Health Board selected programs where collaboration for the purpose of serving and supporting Native children and youth to forge measurable progress is occurring.

Native Children’s Budget FY 2020

AGENCY	APPROPRIATIONS BILL	PROGRAM	FK1ST FY 2020 REQUEST
Department of Education	Labor, Health and Human Services, Education	ESSA Title VI: Indian Education Formula Grants	\$198,000,000
Department of the Interior	Interior, Environment	Construction / Repair of Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) Schools.	\$430,000,000
Department of the Interior	Interior, Environment	BIA Indian Child Protection and Family Violence Prevention Act	\$43,000,000
Department of the Interior	Interior, Environment	Indian Child Welfare Act On or Near Reservation Program	\$20,000,000
Department of the Interior	Interior, Environment	Tribal Courts, including courts in PL 280 jurisdictions	\$83,000,000
Department of the Interior	Department of the Interior	Total FY 2020 Indian Health Service Funding	\$7,030,369,083 Services: \$5,242,487,000 Contract Support Costs: \$900,000,000 Facilities: \$887,883,000
Department of the Interior	Labor, Health and Human Services	Tribal Opioid Response Grants and Tribal Behavioral Health Grants	\$75,000,000 a year tribal state set aside in tribal opioid response grants at SAMHSA & \$50,000,000 Tribal Behavioral health grants at \$50 million.
Department of Commerce	Commerce Justice and Science	2020 Census	\$4.456 billion in FY 2019, ensuring that of this amount, \$3.648 billion is spent on 2020 Census activities

## EDUCATION:

Increases are needed as this critical grant funding is designed to supplement the regular school program and assist Native students so they have the opportunity to achieve the same educational standards and attain parity with their non-Native peers. Title VI funds support early-childhood and family programs, academic enrichment programs, curriculum development, professional development, and culturally-related activities. As Native students lag far behind their non-Native peers in educational achievement, increased funding is necessary to address this substantial gap.

-  ***Provide \$198 million to Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Title VI: Indian Education Formula Grant Programs.***

Schools operating within the BIE system are woefully outdated and, in some cases, dangerous for students and staff. Currently more than 60 BIE schools are rated in “poor” condition, which puts Native students at an unfair disadvantage. The Department of the Interior’s Office of Inspector General published in September of 2016, an evaluation titled “condition of Indian School Facilities,” that estimated the cost of fixing the dilapidated BIE schools, concluding that more than \$430 million would be needed to fix the problems already identified. This funding category includes school construction, facilities improvement and repair, and replacement school construction.

-  ***Provide \$430 million for system-wide Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) school construction and repair.***

## CHILD WELFARE:

The Indian Child Protection and Family Violence Prevention Act provides funding to fill gaps in tribal child welfare services – specifically child abuse prevention, child protection, and child abuse treatment – and ensures better coordination between child welfare and domestic violence programs.

-  ***Provide \$43 million for three discretionary grant programs under this law.***
  - \$10 Million for the Indian Child Abuse Treatment Grant Program
  - \$30 Million for the Indian Child Protection and Family Violence Prevention Grant Program
  - \$3 million for the Indian Child Resource and Family Service Centers Program.

***As the Attorney General’s Advisory Committee on American Indian/Alaska Native Children recently stated “If AI/AN children today are to be provided with a reliable safety net, the letter and spirit of [the Indian Child Welfare Act] must be enforced.”***

ICWA was a response to national findings that public and private child welfare agencies were systematically removing AI/AN children from their homes, communities, and culture in order to place them in non-Native foster and adoptive homes. To prevent these troubling practices which unfortunately still occur today, ICWA provides protections to tribes and AI/AN families in state child welfare and judicial systems. It also recognizes the sovereign authority of tribal nations to provide child welfare services and adjudicate child welfare matters. To effectuate these provisions, ICWA authorized grant programs to fund child welfare services on or near reservations and for ICWA support in off-reservation, urban Indian programs.

-  ***Provide \$20 million for the Indian Child Welfare Act On or Near Reservation Program.***

## TRIBAL COURTS:

Originally enacted in 1993, the Indian Tribal Justice Act authorized an additional \$50 million per year for each of seven years for tribal court base funding. In today's dollars this would be \$83 million per year, which would be less than 10 percent of the overall need estimated by BIA. Despite numerous congressional reauthorizations of the Act over the past couple of decades – most recently in the Tribal Law and Order Act – funds have never been appropriated to implement the Act. The Act does not differentiate between tribes based on the applicability of P.L. 280 jurisdiction. The promise of this much-needed base funding must be fulfilled.

-  ***Provide \$83 million dollars for Tribal Courts, including courts in PL 280 jurisdictions, and to incrementally move towards fully meeting the need for tribal court funding.***

## HEALTH:

The Indian Health Service (IHS) budget represents a commitment made to our ancestors to provide healthcare services to all American Indian and Alaska Natives. IHS has been, and continues to be, central to securing the health and wellness of the Native youth in our communities. The Indian health care delivery system faces significant funding disparities in per capita spending when IHS is compared to other federal health care programs. In 2017, the AI/AN per capita spending was just \$3,332 per person, compared to the national health per capita spending of \$9,207. Native children suffer due to these disparities. To address the urgent health care needs central to the growth of Native children, funding for IHS must be increased.

-  ***Provide \$7 billion to fully fund Indian Health Services (IHS).***

The opioid epidemic is one of the most pressing public health crises affecting Native youth. Although this epidemic affects many communities throughout America, it disproportionately impacts tribes and Native youth. To honor the federal trust responsibility to tribal nations, the federal government must take concrete action to ensure that Indian Country has appropriate tools and resources needed to address opioid abuse and heal tribal communities, so that Native youth can succeed. Critical opioid prevention and treatment dollars must reach tribal communities so that tribes have adequate support for prevention, intervention, and treatment efforts.

Tribes saw progress when a 5% direct set-aside was provided to tribes under the Cures Act along with an additional \$50 million total set aside in FY2018 and FY2019 appropriations for opioid response efforts. This progress must be maintained and expanded in FY2020 and beyond if tribes are to truly tackle the opioid epidemic in their communities. In addition, tribes are in need of behavioral health specialists who can address complex patterns of opioid addiction among AI/ANs, and are also in significant need of medication assisted treatments to assist individuals seeking recovery. Tribes must also have consistent access to lifesaving overdose-reversing medications like naloxone. In addition, congress should provide supplemental funding to tribes to expand public health workforce capacity and to hire first responders to better respond to overdoses.

-  ***Provide \$75 million a year tribal set aside in tribal opioid response grants at SAMHSA & Tribal Behavioral health grants at \$50 million.***

**CENSUS:**

Federal funding for Indian schools, Indian education programs, Indian health programs, Indian housing programs, and other critical programs that address Native children are based on data collected by the Census Bureau every ten years. In the 2010 census, the Census Bureau estimates that American Indians and Alaska Natives living on reservations or in Native villages were undercounted by approximately 4.9%. An increase in funding to address this disturbing undercount of AI/AN children is needed, especially those living in rural, low-income, geographically isolated, and/or linguistically isolated households. The Census Bureau generally ramps up for the decennial count with a decade-long cycle of spending, so funding this year is critical.



*Provide the Census Bureau with at least \$4.456 billion in FY 2019, ensuring that of this amount, \$3.648 billion is spent on 2020 Census activities.*



*Provide enough funding in FY 2019 for the Census Bureau to carry out the expanded partnership, communications, and field operations efforts discussed in the Senate Appropriations Committee report accompanying the Commerce, Justice, and Science bill (S. Rept. 115-275) and supported by census stakeholders.*



*Ensure that the Census Bureau has sufficient funding at the start of FY 2020 — including certainty of its full-year funding level through an advance appropriation, if possible — to begin implementing a full 2020 Census program, without shortchanging the Bureau in FY 2019, the critical final year of preparations.*