



# FISCAL YEAR 2018 INDIAN COUNTRY BUDGET REQUEST: INVESTING IN INDIAN COUNTRY FOR A STRONGER AMERICA

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Since the 1970s with the passage of federal policies reinforcing Indian self-determination and self-government, tribal leaders have dramatically improved conditions throughout Indian Country in terms of health<sup>1</sup>, education, entrepreneurship<sup>2</sup>, income<sup>3</sup>, and numerous aspects of physical infrastructure and human capital. However, considerable potential for economic growth remains because much of the economic and infrastructure improvement has stalled since 2010.<sup>4,5</sup> Fulfilling the federal trust responsibility is essential to realizing the economic potential of Indian Country. This FY 2018 Tribal Budget Request presents numerous opportunities for public investment in Indian Country by our partners in Congress and the Administration.

For Indian Country to make continued and sustained economic progress, federal and tribal governments have important responsibilities, including crafting broad public investment portfolios. Public investment is spending that provides benefits in the future and can fund core infrastructure, such as new highways or fund non-core investments, such as better-educated children. Tribes currently face decades of underinvestment in physical infrastructure as well as ongoing disparities in public and social services.

While the federal treaty and trust relationship calls for federal funding of education, healthcare, and other government services, upholding Indian treaty and trust obligations is also an important component of tribal and surrounding regional economies. Economists have found that tribal economic growth leads to economic growth in surrounding regions. When underutilized tribal land, infrastructure, and other capital are put to better use, such development adds to gross state product. Tribal economic activity produces regional multiplier impacts for the off-reservation economy.<sup>6</sup>

Well-functioning governments are essential to market economies. Governments provide local and national public and quasi-public goods that the private sector would otherwise under provide<sup>7</sup>, such as public safety and justice – essential for conducting business on reservations and tribal lands. Public investments in core infrastructure, such as roads, bridges, and water and sanitation systems provide high economic rates of return.<sup>8</sup> Such core infrastructure in Indian Country has faced insufficient public investment for decades. Additionally, governments must not neglect noncore public investments, such as early childhood education, early childcare, health care, and a range of human services, which provide at least as much of a near-term economic boost as core infrastructure.<sup>9</sup>

Federal funding that meets federal Indian treaty and trust obligations also provide significant contributions to the economy. In just the Department of the Interior, the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) and Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) “contribute substantially to economic growth in tribal areas through advances in infrastructure, strategic planning, improved practices of governance, and the development of human capital.”<sup>10</sup> In FY 2012, Indian Affairs “contributed over \$14 billion in value added, \$18 billion in economic activity and supported nearly 93,000 jobs.”<sup>11</sup> Value added is the contribution of an activity to overall Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

Modernizing Indian Country infrastructure and sustainably managing natural resources while ensuring the quality of human services, public safety, and education systems are all critical to strengthening tribal and the surrounding, often rural, economies. Indian Country has faced insufficient public investment for decades in housing, roads, education, criminal justice systems, water and sanitation systems, and human services.<sup>12</sup> Now is the time to address this historic underinvestment in Indian Country.

## SUPPORT FOR TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS

(more information on page 27)

Ensuring tribes have the tools for effective governance is critical to fulfilling the promise of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act. Two key tools are contract support costs and tribal base funding. To build a more prosperous American future, Congress should continue to fully fund contract support and support tribal base funding to allow tribes to exercise their inherent right to self-government.

### Support for Tribal Governments

AGENCY	APPROPRIATIONS BILL	PROGRAM	NCAI FY 2018 REQUEST
DOI/HHS	Interior, Environment	BIA and IHS Contract Support Costs	Provide full funding.
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.
Government-wide			Improve Data Quality and Availability for Tribes and Tribal Populations

## 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 2018 REQUEST
DOI, DOJ, HHS	Interior, Environment; Commerce, Justice, Science; and Labor, HHS	Tribal Law & Order Act	Provide full funding.
DOI	Interior, Environment	Base funding for tribal courts and the Indian Tribal Justice Act	\$83,000,000
DOI	Interior, Environment	BIA Law Enforcement	\$548,000,000
DOJ	Commerce, Justice, Science	Tribal Grants	Utilize DOJ appropriations as base funding with tribes setting own priorities.
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	Title II Delinquency Prevention Block Grants	Create a 10 percent set-aside for tribal governments.
DOJ	Commerce, Justice, Science	Title V Incentive Grants for Local Delinquency Prevention Programs	Create a 10 percent set-aside for tribal governments.
DOJ	Commerce, Justice, Science	Tribal Youth Program under the Juvenile Accountability Block Grants program	\$25,000,000
DOJ	Commerce, Justice, Science	Research, Evaluation, Technical Assistance, and Training, Part D of JJDP	Increase funding and establish a tribal set-aside.
DOJ	Commerce, Justice, Science	Tribal Civil and Criminal Legal Assistance, Training and Technical Assistance (TCCLA) Grant Program	\$3,000,000
DOJ	Commerce, Justice, Science	Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Tribal Law Enforcement	\$52,000,000

*Public Safety & Justice*

AGENCY	APPROPRIATIONS BILL	PROGRAM	NCAI FY 2018 REQUEST
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 37)*

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 2018 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 41)

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 2018 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 2018 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

## Education

AGENCY	APPROPRIATIONS BILL	PROGRAM	NCAI FY 2018 REQUEST
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
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	\$89,220,000
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)	\$22,900,000
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

**HEALTH**

(more information on page 55)

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.”<sup>13</sup> 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 percent 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 Areas<sup>14</sup> and the Agency-wide goals expressed by IHS.

*Health*

AGENCY	APPROPRIATIONS BILL	PROGRAM	NCAI FY 2018 REQUEST
DHHS	Interior Environment	Total FY 2018 Indian Health Service Funding	\$7,096,772,250 Services: \$5,425,361,027 Contract Support Costs: \$828,532,659 Facilities: \$842,878,564
DHHS	Interior, Environment	Requested increases over FY 2017 budget request (planning base of \$5.18 billion)	Increase over Base: \$1.9 billion Current Services: \$314.9 million Services: \$1.39 billion Facilities: \$172.7 million Contract Support: \$28.5 million
DHHS	Labor-HHS-Education	On the TRAIL to Diabetes Prevention program	\$1,000,000
DHHS	Labor-HHS-Education	HRSA Native Hawaiian Health Care Systems Program	\$14,400,000

## CHILD WELFARE

(more information on page 65)

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, placement home recruitment, kinship care, permanent placement, court hearings, Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) coordination and collaboration, and referrals to other services. Tribal child welfare programs work tirelessly to successfully serve children and families through holistic, strengths-based, culturally responsive, and family-centered services throughout these various endeavors. In providing these services, tribes play a critical role in not only serving their citizens that live within their tribal lands, but also play an important role in helping state agencies provide the best possible services to this population and reduce state costs and administrative burden.<sup>15</sup>

By investing in tribal services that can support early childhood interventions that have shown proven success we can reasonably expect long term investments to be similar or greater with the provision of high quality services. Child welfare families have extensive needs that, when unaddressed, produce long-term societal costs. Preventing child abuse and neglect, especially early on in a child’s life before maltreatment can become chronic and cause long term physical and mental health damage, can have significant benefits for society and cost savings.<sup>16</sup>

Congress has unequivocally recognized that there is nothing “more vital to the continued existence and integrity of Indian tribes than their children.”<sup>17</sup> 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 sufficient child welfare funding 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 2018 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	\$18,000,000
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	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)	\$45,000,000
DHHS	Labor-HHS-Education	Child Welfare Services, Title IV-B, Subpart 1 (tribal allocation reserved from this amount)	\$280,000,000

*Child Welfare*

AGENCY	APPROPRIATIONS BILL	PROGRAM	NCAI FY 2018 REQUEST
DHHS	Labor-HHS-Education	SAMHSA Programs of Regional and National Significance, Child and Family Programs	\$8,000,000 (\$4 million reserved for Circles of Care grants)
DHHS	Labor-HHS-Education	SAMHSA Garrett Lee Smith Grants, State/Tribal Youth Suicide Prevention and Early Intervention Grant	\$40,00,000
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	\$4,000,000
DHHS	Labor-HHS-Education	SAMHSA Tribal Behavioral Health Programs (mental health and substance abuse)	\$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

**ELDERS***(more information on page 78)*

Elders are our cultural 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 2018 REQUEST
DHHS	Labor-HHS-Education	Older Americans Act (Title VI- Part A, B), Native American Nutrition and Supportive Services	\$30,000,000
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 IV (national minority aging organizations to build the capacity of community-based organizations)	\$3,000,000
DHHS	Labor-HHS-Education	Older Americans Act (Title V), Senior Community Service Employment Program	\$434,371,000

## DISABILITIES

(more information on page 81)

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, approximately 30 percent of American Indian and Alaska Native adults have a disability—the highest rate of any population in the nation. Of those Native adults with a disability, 51 percent reported having fair or poor health. Despite this need, however, tribes have had limited access to funding for vocational rehabilitation and job training compared to states. An increase in the Vocational Rehabilitation Services Projects to \$67 million would begin to put tribal governments on par with their state government peers and better equip tribes to provide support to their disabled citizens.

### Disabilities

AGENCY	APPROPRIATIONS BILL	PROGRAM	NCAI FY 2018 REQUEST
ED	Labor-HHS-Education	Vocational Rehabilitation Services Projects for American Indians with Disabilities	\$67,000,000
ED	Labor-HHS-Education	Vocational Rehabilitation Services Projects for American Indians with Disabilities (line item for outreach to tribal recipients)	\$5,000,000

## ECONOMIC & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

(more information on page 82)

Increasing economic opportunities and infrastructure development for 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. Lack of appropriate 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 2018 budget requests highlight appropriations that are essential to promote tribal self-determination to economic prosperity and advance the economic security of tribal nations.

### Economic & Workforce Development

AGENCY	APPROPRIATIONS BILL	PROGRAM	NCAI FY 2018 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 Business Development	\$1,250,000
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	\$18,000,000

*Economic & Workforce Development*

AGENCY	APPROPRIATIONS BILL	PROGRAM	NCAI FY 2018 REQUEST
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.
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.
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 89)*

Based on the Federal Communications Commission’s 2016 Broadband Progress Report, 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 exercise self-determination, nation building and economic development. 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 2018 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 91)

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 2018 REQUEST
USDA	Agriculture	Office of Tribal Relations	\$1,500,000
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 96)

Tribal peoples maintain spiritual, cultural, practical, and interdependent relationships with their homelands and natural resources. Consequently, tribal peoples face direct and often disproportionate impacts of environmental degradation including climate change. 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 Act. Tribes are still trying to achieve equity, however, significant gaps remain. The federal government must ensure tribes have fair and equal opportunities to realize, preserve, and enhance the environmental quality of Indian Country for present and future generations and to sustain tribal cultures. In the recommendations below, NCAI requests that EPA tribal programs receive, at a minimum, sufficient resources to achieve parity with states through sustainable targeted base funding.

*Environmental Protection*

AGENCY	APPROPRIATIONS BILL	PROGRAM	NCAI FY 2018 REQUEST
EPA	Interior, Environment	Indian Environmental General Assistance Program	\$75,000,000
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 102)*

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. 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 they can be restored. 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. 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 and resources. Many of the BIA Trust natural resources programs discussed in this section have experienced substantial cuts over the past decade. The most supportive role the federal government can provide to tribal governments is as a resource-provider—facilitating independent decision-making and true self-governance for tribal nations.

## Natural Resources

AGENCY	APPROPRIATIONS BILL	PROGRAM	NCAI FY 2018 REQUEST
DOI	Interior, Environment	BIA Rights Protection Implementation	\$52,000,000
DOI	Interior, Environment	Cooperative Landscape Conservation Initiative	\$30,000,000
DOI	Interior, Environment	BIA Water Management, Planning, and Pre-Development Program	\$10,500,000
DOI	Interior, Environment	BIA Water Rights Negotiation/Litigation program	\$10,923,000
DOI	Interior, Environment	BIA Endangered Species Program	\$3,000,000
DOI	Interior, Environment	BIA Tribal Management and Development Programs	\$20,000,000
DOI	Interior, Environment	BIA Wildlife and Parks Tribal Priority Allocations - Fish Hatchery Operations	\$3,350,000
DOI	Interior, Environment	BIA Wildlife and Parks Tribal Priority Allocations - Fish Hatchery Maintenance	\$6,582,000
DOI	Interior, Environment	BIA Wildlife and Parks Tribal Priority Allocation	\$10,000,000
DOI	Interior, Environment	BIA Natural Resources Tribal Priority Allocations	\$10,000,000
DOI	Interior, Environment	BIA 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	BIA Forestry Tribal Priority Allocations	\$73,000,000
DOI	Interior, Environment	BIA Forestry Projects	\$23,300,000
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 TFPA a priority.

## ENERGY

(more information on page 113)

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 2018 REQUEST
DOE	Energy and Water	Office of Indian Energy Policy and Programs, Tribal Loan Guarantee Program	\$30,000,000
DOE	Energy and Water	Office of Indian Energy Policy and Programs Loan Authorization	\$2,000,000,000
DOE	Energy and Water	Administrative funding to establish a Tribal Loan Guarantee Program	\$2,000,000
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

## HOUSING

(more information on page 116)

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, which 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 2018 REQUEST
HUD	Transportation, HUD	Indian Housing Block Grant	\$700,000,000
HUD	Transportation, HUD	Indian Community Development Block Grant	\$70,000,000
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
HUD	Transportation, HUD	Native Hawaiian Housing Block Grant	\$12,000,000
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	Section 184A Loan Guarantee	\$500,000

**TRANSPORTATION***(more information on page 121)*

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 2018 REQUEST
DOT	Transportation, HUD	Tribal Transportation Program	\$485,000,000
DOT	Transportation, HUD	Tribal Technical Assistance Programs	\$1,500,000
DOT	Transportation, HUD	Tribal Transit Program	\$30,000,000

*Transportation*

AGENCY	APPROPRIATIONS BILL	PROGRAM	NCAI FY 2018 REQUEST
DOT	Transportation, HUD	Tribal High Priority Projects Program	\$30,000,000
DOI	Interior, Environment	BIA Roads Maintenance	\$40,000,000

**HISTORIC & CULTURAL PRESERVATION***(more information on page 124)*

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 2018 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