

REN-19-047: Providing Resiliency Continuity Funding for Homeland Security and Emergency Services to Tribal Governments

Sponsor: Councilmember Paul Downing

Summary:

- Tribal nations have largely been left out of homeland security and emergency services funding. The primary source of grant funding for tribal nations in this area, the Tribal Homeland Security Grant Program (THSGP), is available to only a fraction of tribal nations.
- Resolution REN-19-047 urges Congress to establish Resiliency Continuity Funding for all 573 tribal nations to develop core capacities.
- Resolutions REN-19-047 urges the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to be more flexible to enhance tribal self-determination and increase national security.

Issue:

Since 2003, Congress has allocated over \$55 billion in homeland security grant funds to state and local governments. In contrast, tribal nations have only been allocated just over \$70 million in federal homeland security funding during the same period. Tribal nations are continuously being left further and further behind in meeting the core homeland security and emergency services capabilities for which the federal government has provided funding to state and local governments over the past 50 years. Today tribal nations are expected to meet the same standards as state and local governments with only .8 percent of DHS grant funding. The Resiliency Continuity Fund would be a non-competitive grant that would provide each of the 573 tribal nations with \$360,000 for 1.5 FTEs to meet the minimum national security standards.

DHS currently administers the THSGP, which for the last seven years has provided approximately \$10 million per year in grant funding to a limited number of tribal nations. However, only 48 to 51 of all of the 573 tribal nations meet the DHS requirements to even apply. These requirements have prevented the majority of tribal nations from building their homeland security and emergency services capacity. Each year, tribal nations' needs are at least four times more than the funding amount provided in the THSGP. Additionally, of those tribal nations that do apply, several could use the entire amount budgeted for THSGP on their own. The THSGP is just one of many examples in DHS where the inflexibility to meet the needs of tribal nations has detrimentally impacted public safety and falls far short of the federal government's treaty and trust responsibilities.

Action:

- REN-19-047 urges Congress to provide a Resiliency Continuity Fund for all tribal nations to develop core capabilities and capacities in homeland security and emergency services.
- REN-19-047 urges DHS to use flexible approaches to enhance tribal self-determination and increase national security through congressionally appropriated funds.

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Resolution Action Plan: REN-19-047

Title: Providing Resiliency Continuity Funding for Homeland Security and Emergency Services to Tribal Governments

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Action Plan:

- 30 Days:
 - Reach out to the sponsor of the resolution to assure that we have captured the intent of the flexible language in the resolution.
 - Determine if the Homeland Security Advisory Council seats can be expanded by DHS or if they need to be amended by Congress.
 - Gather information from tribal nations impacted by natural or man-made disasters in the last five years to showcase real impact stories.
 - Gather information from tribal nations who have endured cyber and infrastructure attacks.
 - Pull NCAI information on MMIW and public safety impacts in Indian Country.
 - Reach out to applicable tribal associations to see if they are working on this issue and if they would be interested in collaborating on the identified issues.
 - Identify potential Senate and House sponsors and co-sponsors for the bill on committees of jurisdiction.
 - Identify potential Senate and House co-sponsors on the appropriate appropriations committees.
- 60 Days:
 - Develop an advocacy message plan.
 - One pager on the issue and the bill for the Hill.
 - One pager on the issues for DHS.
 - Talking points.
 - Letters.
 - Reports that include data and info graphics etc.
 - Set meetings with key DHS officials on issues that DHS can change via internal policy.
 - Follow up with key DHS officials.
 - Reach out to Senate and House potential sponsors for the legislation.
- 90 Days:
 - Send out information about the issues to NCAI members.
 - Work with the NCAI communications team to develop short term and long term communications plan for the congressional track and the agency track on this issue.
 - Press releases.
 - Social media plan.
 - Op-eds.
 - NCAI website build out.
 - General outside press.
 - Hill briefings.

- Arrange additional House and Senate meetings as needed.
- Reach out to appropriate Senate and House committee staff to brief them on the issue and bill.
- Follow up with tribal nations, House and Senate offices, and appropriate committee staff on the legislation.
- Follow up with DHS officials.
- 120 Days:
 - Continue Hill visits and collaborate with tribal nations, relevant tribal organizations, and allies.
 - Continue to follow up with key DHS officials.