



# United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
Washington, DC 20240

OCT 13 2015

Dear Tribal Leader:

We invite you to attend two upcoming roundtable meetings focusing on homelessness and education in Indian Country. Both sessions will take place at the **National Congress of the American Indians' 72nd Annual Convention and Marketplace** at the Town and Country Resort in San Diego, California. Registration for the conference is not required to attend either of these events

First, the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness, in coordination with the Department of the Interior and several other member agencies, is committed to preventing and ending homelessness among Native Americans. We invite you to provide input at a roundtable regarding homelessness among Native Americans. The session will be held on **Sunday, October 18, 2015, from 1-4 p.m. at the Town and Country Resort in Royal Palm Three**. Representatives from the Department of the Interior, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness will be in attendance. To help chart a course to end homelessness in Indian Country, we are interested in receiving tribal input on:

- What are the specific needs and circumstances of Native Americans who experience homelessness?
- What strategies are working to prevent homelessness or to help people who become homeless?
- What actions can be taken to address Native American homelessness at the Federal, state, or tribal level?

Please see the enclosed list of further discussion questions and strategy areas. If you would like to submit written comments on this topic, please send them to Ms. Kathryn Isom-Clause via email to [Kathryn\\_Isom-Clause@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Kathryn_Isom-Clause@ios.doi.gov).

Secondly, over the past two years, the Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) has worked with a significant number of tribal leaders, schools, and stakeholders to redesign its organizational structure to meet the shifting demands of its school system. Since most of these schools are now operated by the tribes instead of the Federal Government, BIE needs a different paradigm to be effective. During this consultation, we will discuss the BIE's future, provide updates on its reorganization based on input from tribal consultations, and answer any questions that tribal leaders may have about BIE's proposal to restructure BIE-managed schools. This session will take place **Wednesday, October 21, 2015, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Town and Country Resort in Salon Four and Five**.

Thank you for your leadership. We look forward to continuing to work with you on these important issues.

Sincerely,

Kevin K. Washburn  
Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs

Enclosure