

**PROMOTING
SELF-DETERMINATION,
MODERNIZING THE
TRUST RELATIONSHIP**





National
Congress of
American
Indians



About this publication: The Indian Country Budget Request Report is published annually by the National Congress of American Indians as part of its mission to serve as a forum for unified policy development among tribal governments in order to: (1) protect and advance tribal governance and treaty rights; (2) promote economic development and health and welfare in American Indian and Alaska Native communities; and (3) educate the public toward a better understanding of American Indian and Alaska Native tribes. The Fiscal Year 2016 report is the eleventh annual Indian Country budget request issued by the National Congress of American Indians.

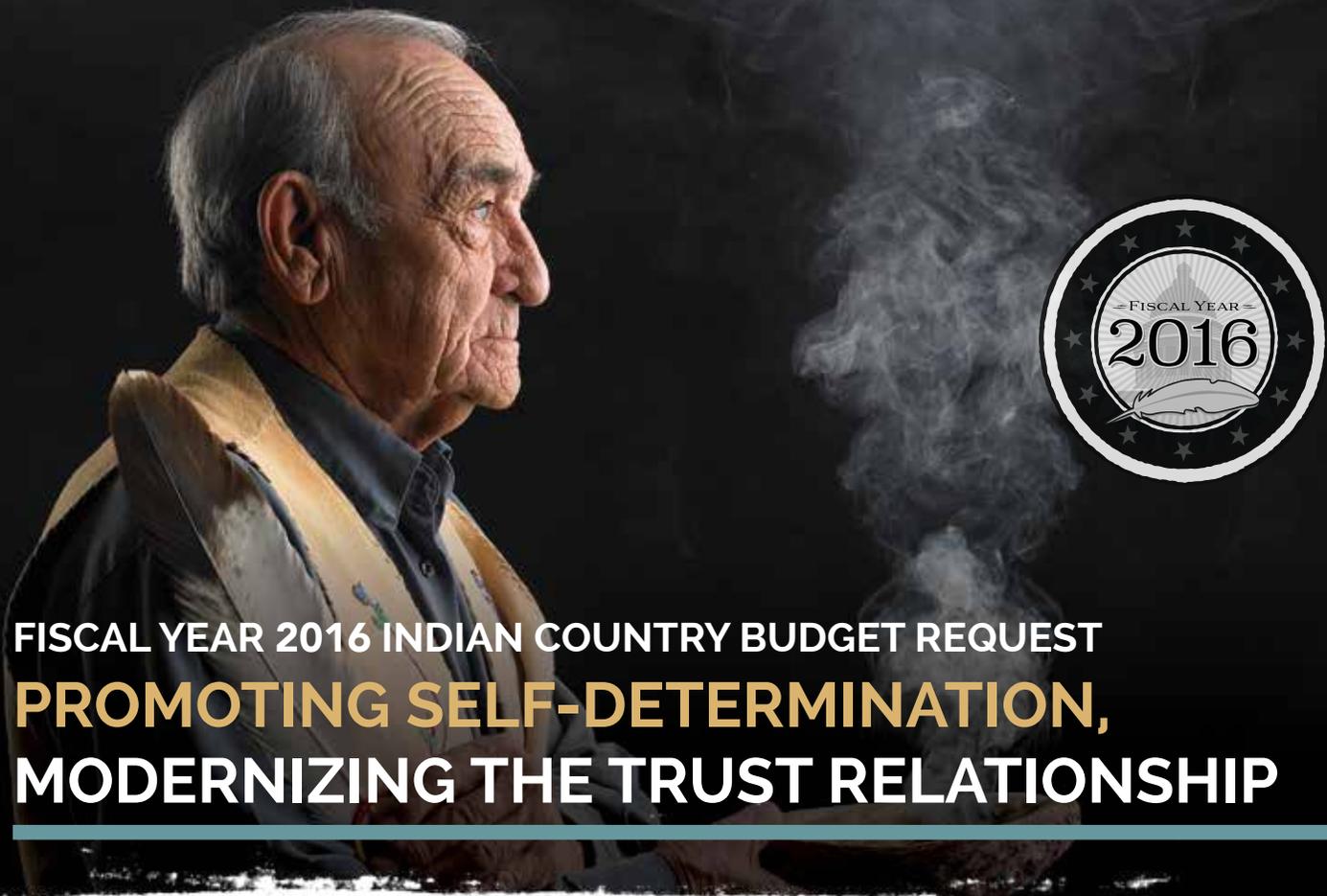
About the seal: The seal developed for the Indian Country Budget Request document represents the nation-to-nation relationship between tribes and the United States government. The twelve stars symbolize the twelve areas represented by the National Congress of American Indians. The image of the US Capitol is a reminder of the federal governments' trust responsibility. Finally the feather invokes the cultural values of Native people, tribal governments, and the written laws that affirm tribal sovereignty.

About the front cover: © Matika Wilbur Photography for Project 562, www.project562.com. Jenni and Sharlyce Parker - Northern Cheyenne

National Congress of American Indians. (2015). Fiscal Year 2016 Indian Country Budget Request: Promoting Self-Determination, Modernizing the Trust Relationship. Washington, DC: Author.

Table of Contents

Executive Summary	2
Budget Requests	21
Introduction	22
Support for Tribal Governments	30
Public Safety & Justice	34
Homeland Security & Emergency Management	41
Education	43
Health Care	56
Human Services	65
Child Welfare	65
Disabilities	81
Elders	81
Economic & Workforce Development	84
Telecommunications	93
Agriculture & Rural Development	95
Environmental Protection	100
Natural Resources	106
Energy	116
Housing	119
Transportation	122
Historic & Cultural Preservation	125
Endnotes	128
Acknowledgements	133



FISCAL YEAR 2016 INDIAN COUNTRY BUDGET REQUEST **PROMOTING SELF-DETERMINATION,** **MODERNIZING THE TRUST RELATIONSHIP**

Executive Summary

The modern experiences of Native people reflect ongoing social and economic hardships due to a legacy of dispossession, attempted subjugation, and economic deprivation over centuries. Yet those hardships should not overshadow the successful resurgence of tribal sovereignty and self-determination – effective tribal control – in remedying the challenges that once seemed so insurmountable. Rebuilding nations and societies after generations of turmoil requires time, resources, and a commitment to the approaches that work. The approaches that work include respecting tribal self-determination and sovereignty, while honoring the promises made to Indian nations through the treaties negotiated and signed by our forebears.

The trust relationship in the 21st Century must maintain the nation-to-nation treaty obligations, such as the provision of education, public safety, health care and more, while promoting tribal capacity and governance. That relationship has evolved over time to one of recognition of the self-governance potential of Native peoples and governments, but it is also one that needs to be modernized to reflect the needs of Native people today. The federal government, in meeting its treaty and trust obligations, plays a key role in Indian Country. If Congress shrinks away from its commitments, the ensuing shortfalls lead to grave impacts to the harmony of tribal communities. But when the federal government honors its commitments based in the trust responsibility, while promoting tribal self-determination, Native people and leaders can solve long-standing social and economic dilemmas.

Many tribes recognize historical trauma as the root cause of disproportionate rates of depression, suicide, and reoccurring trauma from domestic violence and sexual assault. Historical trauma is the result of historical policies of genocide, boarding schools, relocation, and child welfare practices. These experiences, and the

subsequent loss of traditional kinship systems, traditional language, spiritual practices and cultural values, impact the core of self-worth and identity, and has left a legacy of familial and community grief and a cycle of economic conditions that continue to contribute to extraordinary mental health needs. Reflecting a desire to address these issues, tribal leaders identified mental health as a top health concern for FY 2016 in tribal budget consultations.

Similar to the dynamics of tribal health status, the trends in economic characteristics throughout Indian Country offer cause for hope, even while many complex disparities remain to be addressed. Although some tribes have implemented strategies that enhance economic development for their communities to supplement federal sources, these efforts do not displace the federal government's duty to fulfill its trust responsibility. The treaty and trust obligations to tribes contribute to the other regional economies as well in which tribes are major players. Ensuring tribal government capacity and promoting the creative and economic potential of the Indian self-determination era remains a key element for sustained economic growth among all tribes and regions.

Tribal leaders and administrators throughout Indian Country seek the same outcomes as other state and national leaders: to protect the health, safety, and prosperity of the people they serve. Tribal leaders are addressing urgent societal challenges, often with inadequate resources, but still facing expectations from their people for safe communities, educational opportunities, health care, clean air and water, and economic growth. Effective tribal governments that can meet the essential needs of their citizens require the fulfillment of the federal trust responsibility *and* respect for tribal self-determination.

This NCAI FY 2016 Budget Request offers recommendations for ways the federal government, partnering with tribes, should meet the educational needs of Indian youth; provide adequate health care via the Indian Health Service, for both direct and self-governance tribes; ensure responsible resource development for the future; provide safe and secure tribal communities; and supply the long-term investments in tribal public infrastructure and services required to ensure every American Indian and Alaska Native enjoys a decent quality of life and has an opportunity to succeed.

Support for Tribal Governments

(More information on page 30)

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 2016 REQUEST
DOI, DHHS	Interior, Environment	BIA and IHS Contract Support Costs	Provide full funding without impacting program funding and resolve claims.
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.

Public Safety & Justice

(More information on page 34)

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, abject 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, which requires sufficient resources for tribal justice systems and ongoing coordination and consultation between various federal agencies and tribal governments. 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 2016 REQUEST
DOI, DOJ, DHHS	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	\$82,000,000
DOI	Interior, Environment	BIA Law Enforcement	\$528,000,000
DOI	Interior, Environment	BIA Safe Indian Communities	Increase to allow four more tribes.
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 seven 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 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.

Public Safety & Justice

AGENCY	APPROPRIATIONS BILL	PROGRAM	NCAI FY 2016 REQUEST
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
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 41)

The Administration and Congress have significantly underfunded budgets for homeland security and emergency management. In addition, they have not addressed limited access to grants for tribes, preventing them from adequately providing for emergency and first-responder responsibilities, extensive border security responsibilities, and law enforcement jurisdiction to deal with illegal immigration, terrorism, and smuggling. Tribes are part of the national homeland security strategy, and, in certain areas, are the only major governmental presence in many rural and isolated locations, serving as the first, and oftentimes only, law enforcement authority and emergency responders for Native and non-Native communities alike. Tribal homeland security and emergency management operations funding is an essential component of the federal government’s trust responsibility.

Homeland Security & Emergency Management

AGENCY	APPROPRIATIONS BILL	PROGRAM	NCAI FY 2016 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-FEMA	Homeland Security	Creation of National Tribal Advisory Council	\$500,000
DHS-FEMA	Homeland Security	Emergency Management Institute Tribal Course Delivery	\$1,000,000

Education

(More information on page 43)

Ensuring equal educational opportunities is not simply a matter of fairness, but even more importantly 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 workforce, which can attract new businesses, reduce unemployment, stimulate reservation economies through direct spending, and foster a greater entrepreneurial spirit for all tribal members to become more self-sufficient. Education also drives personal advancement and wellness, which in turn improves social welfare and empowers communities—elements that are essential to protecting and advancing tribal sovereignty and maintaining tribes’ cultural vitality.

Recent budget constraints and sequestration caused reductions in funding of critical education programs, which curtailed their efficiency and effectiveness. The across-the-board reductions disproportionately affect Native youth and leave America’s most vulnerable populations and students behind, representing a blatant abandonment of the federal trust responsibility for educating Native students. To address this urgent situation and give tribal nations the vital foundation for economic success, 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 2016 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 2016 REQUEST
ED	Labor-HHS-Education	Title I, Part A (Local Education Agency Grants)	\$25,000,000,000
ED	Labor-HHS-Education	State-Tribal Education Partnership (STEP) Program	\$5,000,000
ED	Labor-HHS-Education	Title VIII funding, NCLB (Impact Aid Funding)	\$2,000,000,000
ED	Labor-HHS-Education	Title VII funding, No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) (culturally-based education)	\$198,000,000
ED	Labor-HHS-Education	Alaska Native Education Equity Assistance Program, Title VII, Part C	\$35,000,000
ED	Labor-HHS-Education	Native Hawaiian Education Program, Title VII, Part B	\$35,000,000
ED	Labor-HHS-Education	Indian Education Language Immersion Grants, Title VII, Part D	\$5,000,000
ED	Labor-HHS-Education	Title III-A grants under the Higher Education Act for Tribal Colleges and Universities (Discretionary)	\$30,000,000

Education

AGENCY	APPROPRIATIONS BILL	PROGRAM	NCAI FY 2016 REQUEST
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	\$8,200,000
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	\$263,400,000
DOI	Interior, Environment	Johnson O'Malley	\$42,000,000
DOI	Interior, Environment	Student Transportation	\$73,000,000
DOI	Interior, Environment	Tribal Grant Support Costs (Administrative Cost Grants)	\$73,000,000
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	BIE Immersion Demonstration Grants	\$3,000,000
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	\$89,100,000
DOI	Interior, Environment	Forward Fund Five Tribal Colleges and Universities	\$18,000,000
DOI	Interior, Environment	Institute of American Indian Arts and Center for Lifelong Education & Museum (AIANNH Culture and Art Development Act)	\$9,600,000
DOI	Interior, Environment	Haskell Indian Nations University & Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute (Snyder Act)	\$22,900,000

Education

AGENCY	APPROPRIATIONS BILL	PROGRAM	NCAI FY 2016 REQUEST
USDA	Agriculture	1994 Institutions Extension Program (NIFA)	\$6,000,000
USDA	Agriculture	1994 Institutions Research Program	\$3,500,000
USDA	Agriculture	1994 Institutions Educational Equity Grants	\$3,500,000
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	Native Languages Preservation, with Esther Martinez Program (EMP)	\$12,000,000, with \$5,000,000 for EMP
NSF	Commerce, Justice, and Science	Education and Human Resources Funding for Tribal Colleges and Universities	\$13,300,000

Health Care

(More information on page 56)

The survival and prosperity of tribal communities depend on the safety, health, and wellness of our citizens. American Indians and Alaska Natives have long experienced health disparities when compared with other Americans. Shorter life expectancy and the disease burdens carried by American Indians and Alaska Natives exist because of inadequate education, disproportionate poverty, discrimination in the delivery of health services, and cultural differences. The Indian Health Service (IHS) has been and continues to be a critical institution in securing the health and wellness of tribal communities. The federal government's trust responsibility, mandated by treaties, statute, and federal doctrine, is based on need. Funds to the Indian Health Service are prepaid obligations between the United States and tribal nations. In order to build on the foundation of this partnership, NCAI calls for a long-term plan that brings American Indian and Alaska Native health care into line with the rest of the American population.

Developing and implementing a plan to achieve parity is critical to the future of Indian health and to the fulfillment of the United States' trust responsibility to tribal nations. The requests listed below focus on specific increases to the IHS that reflect both the priorities of tribal leaders from the 12 IHS Areas and the Agency-wide goals expressed by the IHS.

Health Care

AGENCY	APPROPRIATIONS BILL	PROGRAM	NCAI FY 2016 REQUEST
DHHS	Interior, Environment	Indian Health Service, Total	\$5,448,948,000
DHHS	Interior, Environment	Indian Health Service funding increase over the FY 2015 budget request to maintain current services.	Increase of \$368,935,000
DHHS	Interior, Environment	Indian Health Service funding increase over the FY 2015 budget request level for program services.	Increase of \$445,836,000
DHHS	Labor-HHS-Education	On the T.R.A.I.L. 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, case management, foster care, foster home recruitment, permanent placement, court hearings, Indian Child Welfare Act 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 appropriate, and family-centered services throughout these various endeavors. In providing these services, a great number of tribes work simultaneously, in numerous jurisdictions across the country, to defend tribal and family rights threatened by state child welfare and court systems.

Congress must enact appropriations that empower 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 avoid unnecessary restraint on tribal decision making in their efforts to heal families.

Child Welfare

AGENCY	APPROPRIATIONS BILL	PROGRAM	NCAI FY 2016 REQUEST
DOI	Interior, Environment	BIA Indian Child Protection and Family Violence Prevention Act, Total	\$43,000,000
DOI	Interior, Environment	Child Abuse Treatment	\$10,000,000
DOI	Interior, Environment	Child Abuse/Violence Prevention	\$30,000,000
DOI	Interior, Environment	Resource Centers	\$3,000,000

Child Welfare

AGENCY	APPROPRIATIONS BILL	PROGRAM	NCAI FY 2016 REQUEST
DOI	Interior, Environment	BIA Welfare Assistance	\$80,000,000
DOI	Interior, Environment	Indian Child Welfare Act Program, Total	\$37,000,000
DOI	Interior, Environment	Indian Child Welfare Act On or Near Reservation Program	\$15,500,000
DOI	Interior, Environment	Self-Governance and Consolidated Tribal Government Program (CTPG)	\$16,500,000
DOI	Interior, Environment	Off-Reservation Indian Child Welfare Act Program	\$5,000,000
DOI	Interior, Environment	BIA Social Services Program	\$46,000,000
DHHS	Labor-HHS-Education	Promoting Safe and Stable Families, Title IV-B, Subpart 2 (discretionary component)	\$75,000,000
DHHS	Labor-HHS-Education	Child Abuse Discretionary Activities, Innovative Evidence-Based Community Prevention Program	\$35,000,000
DHHS	Labor-HHS-Education	Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention	\$60,000,000
DHHS	Labor-HHS-Education	Child Welfare Services, Title IV-B, Subpart 1 (tribal allocation)	\$280,000,000
DHHS	Labor-HHS-Education	SAMHSA, Children and Families Programs, Circles of Care Reserved for Tribal and Urban Indian Community	\$6,000,000
DHHS	Labor-HHS-Education	SAMHSA Garrett Lee Smith Grants, State/Tribal Youth Suicide Prevention and Early Intervention Grant	\$40,500,000
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	\$2,940,000
DHHS	Labor-HHS-Education	SAMHSA Programs of Regional and National Significance, Tribal Behavioral Health Program (Native Connections Grants)	\$40,000,000
DHHS	Labor-HHS-Education	Children's Mental Health Services Program	\$117,000,000

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 2016 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

Elders

(More information on page 81)

In tribal communities, elders are considered the “wisdom-keepers” and are held in the highest regard. However, it is these same elders in Indian Country who 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 the existing needs of our elder citizens. Tribal governments have little or no access to the agencies, departments, and 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 2016 REQUEST
DHHS	Labor-HHS-Education	Older Americans Act (Title VI-Parts A and B)	\$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.

Elders

AGENCY	APPROPRIATIONS BILL	PROGRAM	NCAI FY 2016 REQUEST
DHHS	Labor-HHS-Education	Older Americans Act (Title V), Senior Community Service Employment Program	\$434,371,000

Economic & Workforce Development

(More information on page 84)

As trustee to tribes, the federal government has a solemn responsibility to support the economic prosperity and security of Indian Country. The empowerment of tribal efforts to manage and control their own affairs requires the federal government to grant tribes the flexibility needed to administer federal programs, while removing barriers and bureaucratic hurdles that undermine tribal self-determination and discourage private investment in tribal communities.

A comprehensive, multi-agency approach is necessary to address the issues hindering economic success for many tribes. Conditions such as minimal access to capital, poor physical infrastructure, lack of broadband access, and a need for workforce training all combine to contribute to the economic development challenges found in Indian Country. These conditions, along with inadequate funding and programs for tribes have contributed to the chronically high unemployment rates throughout Indian Country. Honoring the trust responsibility and addressing the key economic needs will unleash the economic power of Indian Country. These FY 2016 budget requests highlight appropriations that are essential to promote the economic prosperity and advance the economic security of tribal nations.

Economic & Workforce Development

AGENCY	APPROPRIATIONS BILL	PROGRAM	NCAI FY 2016 REQUEST
Commerce	Commerce, Justice, Science	Minority Business Development Agency	\$35,000,000
Commerce	Commerce, Justice, Science	Office of Native American Affairs	\$1,250,000
SBA	Financial Services	Office of Native American Affairs	\$1,250,000
DOD	Defense	American Indian Procurement Technical Assistance Program	\$3,600,000
DOD	Defense	Indian Incentive Payment Program	\$18,000,000
Treasury	Financial Services	Community Development Financial Institutions Fund	\$12,000,000 and continue to waive non-federal match requirement for NACA financial assistance program

Economic & Workforce Development

AGENCY	APPROPRIATIONS BILL	PROGRAM	NCAI FY 2016 REQUEST
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
DOL	Labor-HHS-Education	YouthBuild Program	Restore funding to \$83,500,000.
DOL	Labor-HHS-Education	Employment and Training Administration, Indian and Native American Program (INAP)	\$65,000,000
DOL	Labor-HHS-Education	Native American Employment and Training Council	\$125,000 from non-INAP resources

Telecommunications

(More information on page 93)

As the United States progresses with the deployment and adoption of 21st Century technologies, mechanisms implemented must take into consideration the unique circumstances that exist on tribal lands. As new policy initiatives spur robust, high-speed broadband services throughout the country, adequate resources and funding for these efforts will need to keep pace. Policies focused on the deployment and adoption of these new technologies provides renewed opportunities for tribes to exert self-determination and advance capacity building. 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 2016 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 2016 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	\$5,000,000
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 100)

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 catch up, and 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 2016 REQUEST
EPA	Interior, Environment	Indian Environmental General Assistance Program	\$75,000,000
EPA	Interior, Environment	Safe Drinking Water State Revolving Funds	Provide 4.5 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
EPA	Interior, Environment	Tribal Information Exchange Network	\$20,000,000
EPA	Interior, Environment	Tribal-Based technical IEN committees, such as the Tribal Governance Group	\$500,000

Natural Resources

(More information on page 106)

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. 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, does 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 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 2016 REQUEST
DOI	Interior, Environment	BIA Rights Protection Implementation	\$52,000,000
DOI	Interior, Environment	Cooperative Landscape Conservation Initiative	\$10,000,000
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

Natural Resources

AGENCY	APPROPRIATIONS BILL	PROGRAM	NCAI FY 2016 REQUEST
DOI	Interior, Environment	BIA Forestry Projects	Increase by \$12,700,000
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, Anchor Forests Initiative	Encourage support for expanded Anchor Forest initiatives.

Energy

(More information on page 116)

Tribal lands contain abundant and largely underdeveloped conventional and renewable energy resources that hold great promise for the current and future generations of Native peoples. Even with this substantial potential, there are only two commercial-scale renewable energy projects operating in Indian Country. In the conventional energy field, tribes boast nearly a quarter of the nation's on-shore oil and gas reserves and developable resources and one-third of the nation's western low-sulfur coal. Nevertheless, Indian tribes and communities face not only many of the same challenges in developing their energy resources and infrastructure that state and local governments and non-Indian communities face but also additional challenges—including special laws, regulations, and policies that are completely unique to Indian Country and often to a specific tribe, as well as grossly inadequate physical infrastructure, limited access to capital, and high workforce training and development needs. This FY 2015 budget request identifies authorized energy programs that have never been funded but, if adequately funded, would provide innovative, important new tools to spur new investment in tribal energy development and meet critical analysis and planning, capacity building, and resource management needs. Further development of tribal energy would contribute significantly to national energy security, clean energy development to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, as well as tribal economic development and job creation.

Energy

AGENCY	APPROPRIATIONS BILL	PROGRAM	NCAI FY 2016 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	\$2,000,000,000
DOI	Interior, Environment	Office of Indian Energy and Economic Development, energy capacity building through development grants	\$5,000,000

Energy

AGENCY	APPROPRIATIONS BILL	PROGRAM	NCAI FY 2016 REQUEST
DHHS	Labor-HHS-Education	Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program, Tribes	\$51,000,000

Housing

(More information on page 119)

The foundation of healthy tribal communities is access to safe, culturally relevant and quality affordable housing. Tribes have made great strides toward improving housing conditions in their communities through the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act (NAHASDA). This authorization addresses the persistent need for housing for low-income Indian people, and it is essential since Native Americans still face some of the worst housing and living conditions in the United States.

Funding for NAHASDA and the Indian Housing Block Grant has steadily remained around \$650 million since FY 2012, while the need for housing continues to increase in Indian Country. It has been over a year since the current authorization of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 2008 (NAHASDA) expired on September 30, 2013, and this reauthorization remains a top priority for Indian Country. The NAHASDA consists of housing programs such as the Indian Housing Block Grant and the Indian Community Development Block Grant, which allows tribes to design and implement their own tribal housing and other community development infrastructure programs. This authorization has produced scores of housing units to be constructed in Indian Country, on top of increasing tribal capacity to address the much needed housing and community development infrastructure. NCAI recommends the swift reauthorization of NAHASDA and recommends funding at levels that will allow tribes to continue to meet the vast housing needs of tribal members.

Housing

AGENCY	APPROPRIATIONS BILL	PROGRAM	NCAI FY 2016 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	NAHASDA's Training and Technical Assistance	\$4,000,000
HUD	Transportation, HUD	Native Hawaiian Housing Block Grant	\$13,000,000
HUD	Transportation, HUD	Section 184A Loan Guarantee	\$1,000,000

Transportation

(More information on page 122)

Surface transportation in Indian Country involves thousands of miles of roads, bridges, and highways, and connects and serves both tribal and non-tribal communities. These modes of travel need to be safe, adequate, and well-maintained because these systems are what Indian children rely on to get to school; what all tribal members and surrounding non-tribal communities need to get from point A to point B; what law enforcement and emergency personnel use to respond to emergency situations; and what businesses on tribal lands use to bring and sell goods. Despite being the primary transportation system for all residents of and visitors to tribal communities, Indian Country roads are still the most underdeveloped road network in the nation. Maintaining and enhancing transportation infrastructure is critical to safety, economic development, job creation, and improving living conditions for individuals and families throughout Indian Country. Tribal nations require sustained and adequate federal transportation appropriations to address the continuing growing backlog of deferred road and bridge construction and road maintenance needs. Investing in tribal transportation will create jobs and make tribal economies stronger.

Last year, the President signed P.L. 113-159, the Highway and Funding Act of 2014, which extends the current authorization of the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21) until May 31, 2015. MAP-21 is a major authorization that administers highway, bridge, transit, and safety programs within the Department of Transportation. Particularly for tribes, MAP-21 comprises the Tribal Transportation Program (TTP) and Public Transportation Program on Indian Reservations (also known as the Tribal Transit Program). Currently tribes receive \$450 million for TTP for the construction and maintenance of highways, roads, and bridges; and \$30 million for Public Transportation on Indian Reservations. This funding represents the majority of all funding available to tribes for development and maintenance of transit systems that serve tribal communities. Adequate funding is crucial to enable tribal governments to complete their high priority transportation projects.

Transportation

AGENCY	APPROPRIATIONS BILL	PROGRAM	NCAI FY 2016 REQUEST
DOT	Transportation, HUD	Tribal Transportation Program	\$600,000,000
DOT	Transportation, HUD	Tribal Technical Assistance Programs	\$1,500,000
DOT	Transportation, HUD	Tribal Transit Program	\$40,000,000
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 125)

After nearly two centuries of failed policies to assimilate Native people, the era of tribal self-determination has advanced cultural preservation and revitalization efforts. Federal policies enacted over the past 20 to 30 years have increased tribal management of programs and services. However, continued funding is crucial to support efforts for the preservation of cultural practices and historic sites and for the advancement of tribal self-determination.

Historic & Cultural Preservation

AGENCY	APPROPRIATIONS BILL	PROGRAM	NCAI FY 2016 REQUEST
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	Tribal Historic Preservation Officer Program	\$15,000,000