



FISCAL YEAR 2017 INDIAN COUNTRY BUDGET REQUEST: UPHOLDING THE PROMISES, RESPECTING TRIBAL GOVERNANCE: FOR THE GOOD OF THE PEOPLE

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A central role of tribal governments is to protect their citizens and facilitate the recovery of their people following the accumulation of trauma and the very recent federal termination policies. While tribes are very diverse, a widespread custom exists across many tribal cultures of naming themselves with a word meaning “the people” or “the human beings.” Athabascans call themselves Dena, or “the people.” The hunting and gathering societies of the Inupiaq and the St. Lawrence Island Yupik call themselves the “real people.” The Nez Perce call themselves Nimipu, “the people.” Some of us are connected to each other through our tribal cultures, clan systems, and origin stories, which we remember to understand who we are today. Our stories and governments sustain our families, communities, and people. Our tribes’ histories, however, are also a part of America’s story: treaties and agreements bind us together, even if the promises have not always been remembered or honored.

While each tribe has a unique chronicle, non-Native expansion westward is also largely the story of American Indian and Alaska Native displacement. In the course of American history, Indian tribes lost millions of acres of land through treaties and agreements, causing devastating losses through displacement and disruption of culture and religion. Tribal nations, however, continue to remember their treaties and agreements that made the United States what it is today.

Tribes are assuming greater levels of government responsibility to meet their citizens’ needs in culturally appropriate ways, but receive exceptionally inadequate federal funding for roads, schools, police and government services promised by treaty and the federal trust responsibility. A growing body of literature indicates that sound governance institutions are critical to improved tribal economies, and a lack of federal funding of trust and treaty obligations undermines the progress made in the Indian Self-Determination era. Tribes’ abilities to govern effectively remain a defining challenge for the revitalization of Indian Country. Effective tribal governments that can meet the essential needs of their citizens require the fulfillment of the trust and treaty obligation to tribes along with respect for tribal governments.

This NCAI FY 2017 Indian Country Budget Request developed in coordination with national tribal organizations and tribal partners offers recommendations for ways the federal government, partnering with tribes, should meet the educational needs of a young Indian population through Bureau of Indian Education schools, tribal schools, and the public schools on and near tribal lands; 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

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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 2017 REQUEST
DOI	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			Extend the Promise Zone priority consideration to all Federal competitive grant programs in all Federal agencies and to all Federal procurement opportunities.

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 2017 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	\$82,000,000
DOI	Interior, Environment	BIA Law Enforcement	\$528,000,000
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 10 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
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 2017 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	\$500,000
DHS-FEMA	Homeland Security	Emergency Management Institute Tribal Course Delivery	\$1,000,000

EDUCATION

(more information on page 39)

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.

Under sequestration, critical education programs have been reduced curtailing 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 2017 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 2017 REQUEST
ED	Labor-HHS-Education	Title I, Part A (Local Education Agency Grants)	\$25,000,000,000
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	Title VI, Part A, Subpart 3, ESSA (Language Immersion Programs)	\$6,000,000
ED	Labor-HHS-Education	Native Hawaiian Education Program, Title VI, Part B	\$35,000,000
ED	Labor-HHS-Education	Alaska Native Education Equity Assistance Program, Title VI, Part C	\$35,000,000
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
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)	\$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

Education

AGENCY	APPROPRIATIONS BILL	PROGRAM	NCAI FY 2017 REQUEST
DOI	Interior, Environment	Institute of American Indian Arts and Center for Lifelong Education & Museum (AIANNH Culture and Art Development Act)	\$9,800,000
DOI	Interior, Environment	Haskell Indian Nations University & Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute (Snyder Act)	\$22,900,000
DOI	Interior, Environment	Forward Fund Five Tribal Colleges and Universities	\$21,500,000
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	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 CARE

(more information on page 51)

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. Shorter life expectancy and the disease burdens carried by AI/AN exist because of inadequate education and outreach, disproportionate poverty, discrimination in the delivery of health services, and cultural considerations.

The Indian Health Service (IHS) has been and continues to be a critical institution in securing the health and wellness of tribal communities. According to IHS data from 2007-2009, AI/AN people's life expectancy is 4.0 years less than other Americans, and AI/AN people die at higher rates than other Americans from alcoholism (520 percent higher), chronic liver disease and cirrhosis (368 percent higher) diabetes (177 percent higher), unintentional injuries (141 percent higher), homicide (86 percent higher), and suicide (60 percent higher). Additionally, the two leading causes of death for AI/AN people from 2007-2009 were heart disease and cancer. Clearly, these data indicate the need for a better funded and more efficient Indian health care delivery system.

The federal budget for Indian health care is not just a fiscal agreement between sovereign nations. The annual budget request reflects the extent to which the United States chooses to honor its promises of justice, health, and prosperity to Indian people. The federal trust responsibility mandates the delivery of adequate healthcare to Native people. The trust responsibility is based on treaties, statutes, Executive Orders, and legal precedence that recognize the federal government's obligations to tribal governments. Congress, the Administration, and the Courts must carry out the trust responsibility in a way that ensures that Native people have access to adequate health care and ensures that tribal governments are able to meet the health care needs of their citizens.

For the government to fully fulfill the trust relationship to tribal governments, it would require full funding of the IHS at \$29.96 billion. Developing and implementing a plan to bring appropriations to the level required for Native people to achieve parity with other Americans 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 representing the 12 IHS Areas and the Agency-wide goals expressed by IHS.

Health Care

AGENCY	APPROPRIATIONS BILL	PROGRAM	NCAI FY 2017 REQUEST
DHHS	Interior Environment	Total FY 2017 Indian Health Service Funding	\$6,225,642,000 <i>Services: \$5,422,971,000</i> <i>Facilities: \$802,671,000</i>
DHHS	Interior, Environment	Indian Health Service funding increase over FY 2016 budget request level to maintain current services	\$482,440,000
DHHS	Interior, Environment	Indian Health Service funding increase over FY 2016 budget request level to increase program services and facilities	\$640,216,7000 <i>Services: \$591,702,700</i> <i>Facilities: \$48,514,000</i>
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 60)

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, 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 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 and private child welfare agencies and court systems.

Congress has unequivocally recognized that there is nothing “more vital to the continued existence and integrity of Indian tribes than their children.”¹ 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 avoid unnecessary delays in being able to heal children and families.

Child Welfare

AGENCY	APPROPRIATIONS BILL	PROGRAM	NCAI FY 2017 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	\$17,000,000
DOI	Interior, Environment	Self-Governance and Consolidated Tribal Government Program (CTPG)	\$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 (three percent tribal allocation reserved from this amount)	\$90,000,000
DHHS	Labor-HHS-Education	Child Abuse Discretionary Activities (tribes and states eligible to compete for these grant funds)	\$35,000,000
DHHS	Labor-HHS-Education	Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention (one percent tribal allocation reserved from this amount)	\$60,000,000
DHHS	Labor-HHS-Education	Child Welfare Services, Title IV-B, Subpart 1 (tribal allocation reserved from this amount)	\$280,000,000
DHHS	Labor-HHS-Education	Title IV-E Foster Care/Adoption Startup Funds (mandatory)	\$27,000,000
DHHS	Labor-HHS-Education	SAMHSA Programs of Regional and National Significance, Child and Family Programs	\$6,000,000 reserved for tribal and urban Circles of Care grants.
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	\$3,200,000
DHHS	Labor-HHS-Education	SAMHSA Tribal Behavioral Health Program	\$50,000,000
DHHS	Labor-HHS-Education	Children’s Mental Health Services Program (tribes and states eligible to compete for these grant funds)	\$117,000,000

DISABILITIES

(more information on page 74)

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, tribes have had limited access to funding for vocational rehabilitation and job training when 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 2017 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 75)

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 that comprise the most economically disadvantaged elderly minority in the nation. Grants to tribes have historically been insufficiently funded to meet existing needs of elders in tribal communities. Tribal governments have not had the same access as states to the programs available to meet the needs of their elder populations. 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 cared for.

Elders

AGENCY	APPROPRIATIONS BILL	PROGRAM	NCAI FY 2017 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.
DHHS	Labor-HHS-Education	Older Americans Act (Title V), Senior Community Service Employment Program	\$434,371,000

ECONOMIC & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

(more information on page 77)

Increasing economic opportunities for Indian Country requires a comprehensive, multi-agency approach. Many parts of Indian Country continue to experience high rates of unemployment and poverty due to shortfalls in federal oversight and barriers to private and philanthropic investment. The lack of appropriate federal funding coupled with regulatory barriers has hindered the ability of many tribes 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 2017 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 2017 REQUEST
Commerce	Commerce, Justice, Science	Minority Business Development Agency	\$35,000,000 and a set-aside to re-establish NABEC within MBDA.
Commerce	Commerce, Justice, Science	Office of Native American Affairs	\$1,250,000
SBA	Financial Services	Office of Native American Affairs	\$2,000,000
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	\$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 84)

In February 2015, the Federal Communications Commission adopted a new speed benchmark for broadband. Based on this new standard, 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 and nation 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 2017 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 86)

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 2017 REQUEST
USDA	Agriculture	Office of Tribal Relations	\$1,500,000
USDA	Agriculture	Rural Development 502 Direct Loan Program	\$20,000,000 tribal set-aside
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

Agriculture & Rural Development

AGENCY	APPROPRIATIONS BILL	PROGRAM	NCAI FY 2017 REQUEST
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 92)*

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 2017 REQUEST
EPA	Interior, Environment	Indian Environmental General Assistance Program	\$75,000,000
EPA	Interior, Environment	Safe Drinking Water State Revolving Funds	Provide five 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 98)

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 we can restore them. 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, 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. 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 2017 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

Natural Resources

AGENCY	APPROPRIATIONS BILL	PROGRAM	NCAI FY 2017 REQUEST
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 Aid to Tribal Government	Increase by \$50,000,000.
DOI	Interior, Environment	BIA Forestry Tribal Priority Allocations and Forestry Projects	\$75,000,000
DOI	Interior, Environment	BIA Forestry Projects (post-fire recovery and rehabilitation activities on trust land)	Increase by \$20,000,000.
DOI	Interior, Environment	BIA Forestry Projects (Workforce Development program)	Increase by \$12,700,000
DOI	Interior, Environment	Office of Wildland Fire Management Preparedness	\$400,000,000; prioritize wildland fire suppression; and maintain separate funding for tribal CSC.
DOI	Interior, Environment	Office of Wildland Fire Fuels Management	\$206,000,000; allow use of RTRL funds on tribal lands.
DOI	Interior, Environment	Office of Wildland Fire Fuels Management	Support continuation of Resilient Landscape initiative and Disaster Fire Funding legislation.
USDA	Interior, Environment	US Forest Service	Encourage support for expanded Anchor Forest initiatives.
USD	Interior, Environment	US Forest Service	Make USFS implementation of the TFPA a priority.

ENERGY

(more information on page 108)

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 development is integral to tribal efforts to generate jobs and to improve tribal members' standard of living. 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. Further, the Department of Energy found that wind power from tribal lands could satisfy 32 percent of total US electricity demand, and tribal solar resources could generate twice the total amount of energy needed to power the country.

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 2017 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 2017 REQUEST
DOE	Energy and Water	Office of Indian Energy Policy and Programs	\$20,000,000
DOE	Energy and Water	Tribal Loan Guarantee Program	\$11,000,000
DOE	Energy and Water	Office of Indian Energy Policy and Programs Loan Authorization	\$2,000,000,000
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 111)

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 need for housing for low-income Indian people persists. Native Americans still face some of the worst housing and living conditions in the United States.

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 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 Tribally Designated Housing Entities (TDHEs) in Indian Country. The NAHASDA authorizes several programs and activities that are in need of additional funding, they 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 2017 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	\$4,000,000
HUD	Transportation, HUD	NAHASDA's Training and Technical Assistance	\$4,800,000
HUD	Transportation, HUD	Native Hawaiian Housing Block Grant	\$12,000,000
HUD	Transportation, HUD	Section 184A Loan Guarantee	\$500,000

TRANSPORTATION*(more information on page 114)*

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 2017 REQUEST
DOT	Transportation, HUD	Tribal Transportation Program	\$475,000,000
DOT	Transportation, HUD	Tribal Technical Assistance Programs	\$1,500,000
DOT	Transportation, HUD	Tribal Transit Program	\$35,000,000
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 117)

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 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 2017 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