

News Release
National American Indian Housing Council
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National American Indian Housing Council Convenes in Las Vegas, Legal Symposium Covers NAHASDA Reauthorization and Other Crucial Issues

Las Vegas, NV–December 6, 2006—Crucial legislative and legal issues are on the table at the 2006 Legal Symposium hosted by the **National American Indian Housing Council**. The symposium, which kicked off today in Las Vegas, marks a milestone in **NAIHC**'s work on the Native American Housing Assistance and Self Determination Act (NAHASDA) Reauthorization, **Chairman Marty Shuravloff** told attendees during the plenary session.

Shuravloff acknowledged the members of **NAIHC**'s Legislative Committee and the Formula Allocation Task Force for their hard work this past year. The Legislative Committee members worked on NAHASDA Reauthorization and the Formula Allocation Task Force members had the difficult task of coming up with suggested solutions regarding the manner in which Indian Housing Block Grants (IHBG) are allocated.

“This work has occurred over the past four and a half months and I know the committee and task force members have put in hundreds of hours of work and worked through many thoughtful proposals in the attempt to arrive at fair and flexible solutions to difficult and complex issues,” **Shuravloff** said.

Reauthorization of NAHASDA of Paramount Importance

“We want to ensure that the Legislative Committee’s proposed amendments to NAHASDA promote flexibility in how we run our programs,” **Shuravloff** said. “We know the importance of recognizing self-determination because tribes and their respective tribal housing organizations know best how to serve the needs of their people.”

The word “flexibility” is key because each and every tribe is unique. “I am an Alaska Native—a member of the **Leisnoi Village**,” **Shuravloff** said. “What the **Kodiak Island Housing Authority** sees as needs on a day-to-day basis is surely different from what the **Wampanoags** see as needs in Massachusetts, even though we are both island communities.”

The Legislative Committee has proposed multiple amendments to NAHASDA. Those amendments range from giving tribes more flexibility on income rules for tenants to providing more flexibility on the requirements for Indian Housing Plan submissions. The Formula Allocation Task Force has as its mission how tribes count their people for formula distribution purposes. This has been a difficult issue for tribes since the Housing and Urban Development department decided that they would use a different set of data for IHBG distribution purposes. **NAIHC** members, at a special membership meeting on December 7, will vote on four actions that seek to address the issue of formula distribution.

The Legal Symposium is also offering presentations on case law updates, ethical conduct, Methamphetamine, a new land assignment law from the Mashantucket Pequot tribe, tribal sovereignty and the Earned Income Tax Credit, a law that allows tribal members to secure refunds on their tax returns, even up to the previous 3 years, for families making under \$38, 000 and meeting certain criteria.

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NAIHC assists tribes and tribal housing entities in reaching their self-determined goals of providing culturally relevant, decent, safe, sanitary, and quality affordable housing for Native people in Indian communities and Alaska Native villages.

“NAIHC...A Tradition of Native American Housing” Web Site: www.naihc.net