



The Federal Monitor

News of Issues Affecting Tribes and Tribal Housing Programs

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**NATIONAL
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National American Indian Housing Council

NAIHC is a non-profit organization, which effectively and efficiently promotes and supports American Indians, Alaska Natives and native Hawaiians in their self-determined goals to provide culturally relevant and quality affordable housing for native people.

Office of Governmental Affairs

50 F Street NW
Suite 3300
Washington DC
20001

Ph:(202)789-1754
Fax:(202)789-1758

Wendy L. Helgemo
Director

Lyndsay Gorton
Intern

www.naihc.net

2008 NAHASDA AMENDMENTS – GAO REPORT MANDATE

In the *Native American Housing Assistance and Self Determination Reauthorization Act of 2008* (NAHASDA), the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) received a mandate from Congress to study the effectiveness of NAHASDA in achieving its purpose of meeting the affordable housing needs of low-income Indian families.

WHAT IS GAO?

The GAO works to help Congress meet its constitutional responsibilities and improve performance and accountability in the federal government. As such, GAO's work involves reporting on how well government programs and policies are meeting their objectives.

NAHASDA MANDATE

In the mandate, Congress asked GAO to look at the effectiveness of NAHASDA in meeting the needs of tribes of various sizes, specifically with respect to smaller tribes or those receiving minimum Indian Housing Block Grant (IHBG) amounts. GAO will report its findings in October 2009.

METHODOLOGY

As part of its work on this study, GAO is soliciting input from Native American tribes and tribally designated housing entities (TDHEs) participating in the IHBG program. In addition to conducting site visits with a small sample of grantees, GAO will send out a questionnaire over the Internet to obtain input from all 2008 grantees.

SURVEY

The survey asks questions about each tribe and/or tribally designated housing entity, housing activities and beneficiaries, and remaining housing needs, if any. GAO will make the survey available for completion on the Internet in the next few weeks and will send a notification to each grantee's available email address. **The survey should be completed by the person who oversees IHBG activities and is knowledgeable about the grantee's low-income housing needs.**

If you are unable to complete the survey on the Internet, please call Paul at 202-512-7757 or Bernice at 404-679-1892 to request a paper copy and provide your fax number or mailing address. GAO needs your input in order to provide Congress with an accurate picture of NAHASDA.

Please Fill Out the GAO Survey You Will Receive via E-Mail!