



The Federal Monitor

Current Affairs Affecting Tribes & Tribal Housing Programs

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The National American Indian Housing Council (NAIHC), a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, assists tribes and tribally designated housing entities (TDHEs) in reaching their goal of providing culturally relevant, decent, safe, sanitary, quality, and affordable housing for native people in Indian communities, Alaska Native villages, and on native Hawaiian Home Lands.

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Senate Appropriations Committee Releases Fiscal Year 2012 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development Funding Bill

Yesterday, the Senate Appropriations Committee released the Fiscal Year (FY) 2012 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development (THUD) funding bill, which was considered by the full Senate Appropriations Committee. NAIHC staff have reviewed the bill and report the Senate Appropriators recommend \$650 million for the Indian Housing Block Grant (IHBG) for FY 2012, level with current funding. Additionally, the Senate bill includes \$3.5 million for Training and Technical Assistance program activities, \$2 million for Title VI Loan Guarantee, \$13 million for Native Hawaiian Housing Block Grant, \$7 million for the Section 184 Home Ownership Loan Guarantee, and \$60 million for the Indian Community Development Block Grant program.

The National American Indian Housing Council (NAIHC) will advocate for the Senate funding amounts and also support the Senate THUD funding bill – this bill does not include the two provisions NAIHC objected to in the House THUD funding bill: 1) a provision to limit IHBG recipients with more than \$20 million in unspent funds prior to fiscal year 2011; and 2) requiring that IHBG recipients spend FY 2012 funds within a three-year period. The NAIHC remains extremely concerned about language that remains in the House version of FY 2012 THUD funding proposal. In addition to the two provisions outlined above, the House bill fails to include any funds for essential training and technical assistance to be provided by NAIHC.

The NAIHC will continue to monitor and provide updated information on the Congressional appropriations process.

Continuing Resolution

For the 15th straight year, Congress will enter the new fiscal year without having enacted the appropriations bills in the regular process, and will need to pass a continuing resolution to keep the government running when the next fiscal year begins October 1. It is expected the continuing resolution will last about six weeks, until mid-November, when the special Joint Committee on Debt Reduction is expected to release its recommendations.

Both the House and Senate must approve a continuing resolution and NAIHC expects those negotiations to take place next week. NAIHC will continue to monitor this process and provide updated information as it becomes available.
