



The Federal Monitor

News of Issues Affecting Tribes and Tribal Housing Programs

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National American Indian Housing Council

NAIHC, a not-for-profit organization, 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.

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WORK ON FEMA TRAILERS BEARS FRUIT

Through ongoing efforts of Senator Tim Johnson, D - S. Dak., and tribal leaders, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Department of the Interior Bureau of Indian Affairs, Government Services Administration and the Federal Emergency Management Agency have been working on a plan to implement the disposition of emergency housing from Hurricane Katrina to Indian Country. These mobile homes have come to be known as "FEMA trailers."

On June 20, 2007, the Assistant Secretary -- Indian Affairs, Carl Artman, sent a "Dear Tribal Leader Letter" announcing:

1. Notification Regarding Availability of 2000 unused FEMA Mobile Homes
2. Request for Comments on Allocation Methodology to Tribes

The notification says that the mobile homes will be free of charge but that tribes are responsible, physically and financially, for the transportation, set up and retrofitting of units. Indian Housing Block Grant funds can be used to pay such costs.

The initial suggested allocation methodology is to disburse one trailer per requesting tribe until all tribes have been allocated one and a second one, until those are allocated, and so forth, until all homes are allocated. Other factors may include fairness to tribes and simplicity of implementing allocation methodology.

Please note these dates:

July 9-20, 2007 - Tribal Representatives may view mobile homes in Hope, Arkansas

July 11, 2007 - Deadline for Comments on Allocation Methodology to Tribes

See the Dear Tribal Leader Letter at: <http://www.johnson.senate.gov/Tribal-FEMATrailers.pdf>

You can find Senator Johnson's June 22, 2007 Press Release at: <http://johnson.senate.gov/record.cfm?id=277613>

For More Background: See Federal Monitor Volume 6, No. 5 (October 17, 2006) here:

<http://www.naihc.net/NAIHC/files/ccLibraryFiles/Filename/00000000984/101706-fed-monitor.pdf>

What you can do:

1. Thank Senator Johnson for keeping his eye on the ball to move FEMA trailers to Indian Country.
2. Identify the need in your communities and make a plan to view and inspect mobile homes in Hope, Arkansas.
3. Submit your comments on allocation methodology in accordance with instructions.

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