



# The Federal Monitor

News of Issues Affecting Tribes and Tribal Housing Programs

Volume 5, No. 13  
December 22, 2006

**NAIHC  
Office of  
Governmental  
Affairs:**

**Capitol Place,  
Bldg Three  
50 F Street NW  
Suite#3300  
Washington, D.C.  
20001**

**Ph:(202)789-1754**

**Fax:(202)898-0027**

[www.naihc.net](http://www.naihc.net)

The National American Indian Housing Council is a not-for-profit organization representing tribes and tribal housing organizations on affordable housing, mortgage lending, finance, and economic development issues.

*A publication of  
the NATIONAL  
AMERICAN  
INDIAN  
HOUSING  
COUNCIL*

***President Signs P.L. 109-115, Transportation, Treasury, Housing and Urban Development, the Judiciary, the District of Columbia, and Independent Agencies Appropriations Act of 2006 on November 30, 2005***

On November 30, 2005, upon the President's signature [H.R. 3058, making appropriations for Transportation, the Treasury, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Judiciary, and the District of Columbia became P.L. 109-115](#). The Native American Housing Block Grant (NAHBG) has been funded at **\$630 million, an \$8 million increase from FY 2005**. The Indian Community Development Block Grant (IGDBG) has been funded at \$60 million, an \$8 million decrease from FY 2005. **Overall level funding for both programs was maintained from FY 2005 at \$690 million**, \$107 million above the President's budget request and \$90 million over House funding levels. Public Law 109-115 also includes a change to the distribution formula that directs HUD to count both the multi-race census data and the single race census data in determining the block grant amount. HUD has not published any runs or information on how the new formula will impact distribution allocations. Additionally, a new set-aside was established of \$4 million for imminent threats under the NAHBG. The Senate language establishing a \$5 million dollar set-aside taken from the NAHBG to the Affordable Housing and Economic Development Technical Assistance Board was removed and the National American Indian Housing Council T/A programs have been funded at \$2 million, a \$2.4 million decrease in funding from FY 2005. Finally, Congress is expected to pass a **1% across the board recession for all discretionary federal programs, including the NAHBG and the ICDBG**.

The new Indian Housing Appropriations Table is attached and is also available on the [NAIHC website](#).

***Congress Passes H.R. 797, the Native American Housing Enhancement Act of 2005***

On December 18, 2005, the House of Representatives concurred with the Senate amendments and passed the [Native American Housing Enhancement Act of 2005, H.R. 797](#). The legislation will effectively improve housing programs for Indians in three primary ways: by amending the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 in prohibiting the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development from restricting tribes access to housing grant funds if a tribe retains program income funds; specifying that, title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000d et seq.) and title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3601 et. Seq.) shall not apply to federally recognized tribes, and; amending the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act, to make, tribes and tribally designated housing entities eligible for YouthBuild grants. The bill, was sponsored by Congressman Rick Renzi (R-AZ), and co-sponsored by Representative Jim Matheson (D-UT) and Representative Nick J. Rahall (D-WV). A counterpart bill was sponsored in the Senate by Senator Tim Johnson (D-SD) and co-sponsored by Senator Michael Enzi (R-WY). The legislation is now on the President's desk awaiting signature.

**Legal Symposium 2005 was Largest in NAIHC History**

**Ross B. Bell**

Director

**Jennifer**

**McLaughlin**

Legislative Associate

**Megan Alvanna-**

**Stimpfle**

Legislative Assistant

The Legal Symposium 2005 in Las Vegas, Nevada, December 5-9 was the largest in NAIHC history. Attendance increased by roughly 17% percent over last year, with a total of 404 participants, 47 speakers and 36 staff. The opening plenary session featured a video conference with the Deputy Assistant to the President for Intergovernmental Affairs, Ruben Barrales, at the White House, and, making his first address to Indian Country, the newly appointed HUD Assistant Secretary to Public and Indian Housing, Orlando Cabrera. The plenary session also included a live performance by Joanne Shenandoah, who composed NAIHC's theme song, "Home is Love; Katnuhsu: Ni He (Oneida Iroquois)." The song was released in conjunction with the debut of the NAIHC research video, "Our Elders and Their Homes." Dr. Shelia Harris, Director of the Arizona Department of Housing, Jefferson Keel, First Vice President of the National Congress of American Indians, and Joel Frank, Chairman of American Risk Management also spoke at the plenary session. Replacing the big binders from previous years, NAIHC also presented an interactive CD featuring NAHASDA regulations and the NAIHC song. The panel sessions covered a variety of topics including: methamphetamine legal issues, law enforcement and crime tracking, legal barriers in Indian housing, promoting economic development that supports affordable housing, the consultation process, and a tax session on down payment assistance. In preparation for NAHASDA reauthorization in 2007, a roundtable discussion on NAHASDA was also held. Copies of the presenter's materials will be continually posted on the NAIHC website, [www.naihc.net](http://www.naihc.net).

***NAIHC Legislative Committee Meeting on February 28, 2006  
to Continue the debate on the NAHBG Distribution Formula***

The NAIHC Legislative Committee met December 6 and has drafted a legislative agenda for the 109<sup>th</sup> Congress that will be reviewed for approval by the NAIHC Board of Directors in January. This legislative agenda and supporting documentation will be available for participants meeting with members of Congress during the Legislative Conference in February. The Committee will hold its second formal session on February 28, 2006 at the Legislative Conference. An agenda will be distributed in advance and any members wishing to ensure concerns are addressed are requested to submit them to Ross B. Bell, Director of the Office of Governmental Affairs by February 15, 2006. Items not included on the agenda will be considered for discussion at the meeting pending time. The Board has also instructed the Office of Governmental Affairs to continue as a priority the resolution of the census formula dispute. **The first item on the Legislative Committee Agenda will be a continuation of the open dialogue among all sides on the NAHBG formula distribution census data dispute to see if there can be a common ground established as NAHASDA reauthorization begins.**

***SAVE THE DATE- 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Legislative Conference!!!***

NAIHC's 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Legislative Conference will be February 28 – March 2, 2006, at the Crystal City Hilton in Arlington, Virginia. Online registration has been activated at [www.naihc.net](http://www.naihc.net). **The deadline for hotel registration is January 26, 2006. Hotel reservations can be made online at [www.hilton.com](http://www.hilton.com) or by calling (703) 418-6800.** Start scheduling your Capitol Hill visits today. **Attached is at meeting request template drafted by the Office of Governmental Affairs.** Please inform the NAIHC Office of Governmental Affairs who you have scheduled a meeting with and if we can provide any assistance or background to you in advance of your meeting.