



The Federal Monitor

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News of Issues Affecting Tribes and Tribal Housing Programs

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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.

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President's FY2007 Indian Housing Budget Allocation

On Monday, February 6, the President released his administration's budget request for FY 2007. [The President's FY '07 Budget Request](#) funds: the Native American Housing Block Grant (NAHBG) at \$625.7 million dollars, an increase above FY '06 appropriations (after the 1% across-the-board rescission) approximately \$1.9 million dollars, and roughly \$102.5 million above last year's President FY '06 Budget Request; the Indian Community Development Block Grant (ICDBG) at \$57.4 million dollars amounting to a \$2 million decrease below FY '06 appropriations(after the 1% across-the-board rescission), and a decrease of roughly \$.2 million below the President's FY '06 Budget Request; Section 184 at \$5.9 million amounting to an increase of \$1.9 million above FY '06 appropriations and \$3.25 million increase above the President's FY '06 Budget Request; National American Indian Housing Council Training and Technical Assistance was not funded resulting in a decrease below FY '06 appropriations of \$2 million and matches the President's FY '06 Budget Request. Two significant differences are in the FY '07 Budget Request that were not in the FY '06 Budget Request; the NAHBG and ICDBG are funded separately and the NAHBG distribution formula change passed in the FY '06 appropriations was reintroduced. The fact that Indian housing has maintained level funding is a relief given the President's State of the Union Address in which 140 discretionary programs have been slated for substantial cuts. The increase in funding, above the FY '06 Presidential Request, has been attributed to the President's commitment to increase minority home ownership. NAIHC will work with Congress to increase the NAHBG and ICDBG to a level that matches current inflation, \$748 million and \$77 million respectively, and secure restoration of NAIHC's Training and Technical Assistance at \$5 million.

As a reminder, regarding the NAHBG distribution formula changes, using the words written by the former Director of the Office of Governmental Affairs in November of 2004 in response to a member's concerns: "One thing to keep in mind is that we made it very clear to anyone we spoke to in Congress that we did not protest or support the change to the Census data and I spent a lot of time talking to people about why many tribes would support this, but that if there was a legislative proposal moving through that would alter the funding formula that we had not even seen or had a chance to comment on then we must oppose it. ... Slipping something in at the 11th hour that will hurt some tribes and help others will always be problematic for us, as I am sure you can understand. Keep in mind that this would have been the first time there would have been legislation to alter the funding formula. In my experience, that is something NAIHC has always been opposed to. We did not consider this taking one side over the other, but protecting the integrity of the process for now and in the future when there might be a rider that does the opposite of this one or is in some other way advanced without the support of the organization." NAIHC's Board of Directors reaffirmed this position for FY '07.

Formula Negotiated Rulemaking Committee Final Meeting

The [Formula Negotiated Rulemaking Committee](#) met in Denver, Colorado on January 31 through February 1, 2006, to review public comments on the draft final regulation. The preamble of the proposed regulation will describe in plain

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language what the regulation does. It will also list all issues on which the committee could not reach consensus, providing background and an explanation to the general public for the Committee's work. The committee received 54 written comments that were grouped into 13 issue categories; however, the committee failed to reach consensus on the review of comments and their impact on the final regulation. The process will now move to write the final regulation for publication. As a reminder, all documents pertinent to this and all previous meetings, including proposed regulatory language and a complete list of consensus items, are available on the HUD CodeTalk website at: www.codetalk.fed.us/NegReg.htm.

NAHASDA Reauthorization Policy Formulation Schedule

NAHASDA Reauthorization position formulation will begin at the 12th Annual Legislative Conference during the Legislative Committee meeting on February 28, 2006. The Committee will start to address mutual areas of agreement and specify areas where differences exist. Additionally, the NAHASDA Reauthorization policy formulation will continue at NAIHC's Annual Convention but will be held at an earlier date, during the Legislative Committee Meeting on Sunday, May 21, 2006 in Honolulu, Hawaii. The meeting in Hawaii will be a continuation of the February meeting but with the intention to develop a NAHASDA reauthorization resolution for consideration and vote by the full membership at the Business Meeting on Wednesday, May 24. Specific language will be drafted on Thursday, May 25, to submit to Congress. The full convention is being held May 22-25. Members interested in attending the Legislative Meeting on both February 28 and May 21 should arrange their travel and hotel accommodations accordingly. For more information on the Legislative Committee Meeting, please contact Ross Bell, (202) 454-0928.

Legislative Priorities for NAIHC

The Legislative Priorities for the 109th Congress 2nd Session suggested at the Legislative Committee Meeting during the Legal Symposium have been approved by the Board of Directors. White Papers on the Priorities and Talking Points will be available at the 12th Annual Legislative Conference held February 28-March 2, 2006. If you have comments or concerns please e-mail Ross B. Bell, Director of the Office of Governmental Affairs, at rbell@naihc.net.

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

- *Appropriations
- *30% Rule
- *Reserve Accounts
- *Formula Issue (Internal Resolution by NAIHC Members)
- *Infrastructure
- *PART-NAIHC Data Collection Source
- *NAHASDA Reauthorization
- *Methamphetamine Legislation
- *Mold
- *Federal Procurement
- *Remove Secretarial Approval for Long Term Leases

Infrastructure Task Force Meeting

With the success and momentum of now three signatures on the Memorandums Of Understanding (MOU), EPA, HHS, and HUD, the Infrastructure Task Force will begin to convene on a more regular schedule: the second Thursday of each month at 2:00pm EST. The next meeting is scheduled for February 9, 2006 to discuss communications coordination, USDA concerns, and the MOU luncheon sponsored by NAIHC and NCAI that will take place in the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs hearing room in 486 Russell Senate Office Building 12:00pm – 1:30pm on March 2, 2006. EPA will host the meeting at the EPA East Building,

Room 2123. For those who can not attend in person, please call into the meeting through the following number: (800) 416-8128 Code 898881.

ANNOUNCEMENT:

Request for Applications: Tribal Water Program Council

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Water is soliciting proposals for the development of a national Tribal Water Program Council (TWPC or "Council"). The TWPC will work to raise awareness of a wide variety of water related issues pertaining to the health of tribal communities and the quality of tribal aquatic resources and watersheds. The Council is intended to promote information exchange, facilitate the exposure of tribal water program employees to best management practices for addressing water quality concerns, and encourage the enhancement of tribal water protection program development and implementation. Federally recognized tribal governments, intertribal consortia, public and private universities and colleges, other public or private nonprofit institutions, and individuals are eligible to apply for this cooperative agreement. Applications must be received by EPA no later than 4 p.m. Eastern Standard Time, March 10, 2006.

http://www.epa.gov/water/funding.html#twpc_rfc

SAVE THE DATE- 12th Annual Legislative Conference!!!

NAIHC's 12th 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. Start scheduling your Capitol Hill visits today. 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.