



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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Ross B. Bell
Director

ADVOCACY ALERT!!!

TIME TO HAVE YOUR CONGRESSMAN "SHOW YOU THE MONEY"

NAIHC is urging its members to immediately Fax the attached letter to their congressional representatives by Wednesday, March 15, as the window for action on the fiscal year 2007 appropriations is rapidly closing. March 15 is the date by which Congressman must submit their requests for the FY'07 appropriations. The Senate deadline is April 15, 2006. Congress will begin voting on the budget this month upon which the appropriators will begin drafting their corresponding appropriations bills.

If finalized, the President's budget could lead to severe program cuts, especially for NAIHC Training and Technical Assistance funding, which was reduced by \$2.6 million last year and completely zeroed out in the President's FY'07 Budget Request. NAIHC Technical Assistance and Training funding is a direct benefit to tribes and TDHEs, saving millions of Native American Housing Block Grant funds by providing on-site technical assistance and training and scholarships to NAIHC and HUD ONAP training conferences. The reduction last year has already impacted NAIHC membership by reducing the amount of scholarships available for NAIHC members to attend NAIHC training events and the Annual Meeting.

NAIHC is requesting that the Congress appropriate the **Native American Housing Block Grant at \$748 million**, \$123 million above the President's FY07 Budget Request, to adjust for inflation. Additionally, NAIHC is similarly requesting that the Congress appropriate the **Indian Community Development Block Grant at \$77 million and the NAIHC Technical Assistance and Training under both grants at a total of \$5 million**, both adjusting for inflation. As the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs stated in their FY'07 Views and Estimates of the President's Budget Request: "The Committee appreciates that the FY 2007 budget request, which proposes a level of \$625 million, does not propose the substantial cut included in last year's request. However, because of the inflationary pressures, FY 2007 requested level will result in fewer homes being built for an Indian population that is growing and in need of safe, decent and affordable housing...Recent NAHASDA funding levels have been inadequate to address these tremendous needs."

Attached is a sample letter for you to use, the FY'07 Appropriations Table, and the side by side of FY'05 v. FY'06 allocations.

What you can do:

- * Fax your congressman the attached letter by MARCH 15, 2006; you can get Congressman's fax number at www.house.gov.
- * Contact Ross B. Bell at 202-454-0928 to let him know the results of your fax.