



## Legislative Priorities for the 112<sup>th</sup> Congress, 1<sup>st</sup> Session Funding, Legislative, and Regulatory Matters

### Fiscal Year 2011 and 2012 Appropriations

- Advocate for funds for the Indian Housing Block Grant (IHBG) in the amount of \$875 million.
- Advocate for funds for the Indian Community Development Block Grant (ICDBG) program, which is essential for tribal infrastructure, in the amount of \$100 million.
- Seek to ensure the provision of high-quality tribal housing program development, implementation, management, and expansion by securing funds for NAIHC's training and technical assistance (T&TA) program in the amount of \$4.8 million.
- Advocate for funds for the Bureau of Indian Affairs Housing Improvement Program (BIA HIP) in the amount of \$50 million.

### Helping Expedite and Advance Responsible Tribal Homeownership (HEARTH) Act

- Seek sponsors to introduce the compromise version of HEARTH in both chambers of Congress.
- Promote swift passage of HEARTH.

### Weatherization and Energy Efficiency

- Encourage the introduction of legislation or include provisions within Energy legislation that would provide funding to weatherize and promote energy efficiency in tribal homes.
- Advocate for authorization of direct tribal access to weatherization funds.

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### Housing and Community Development Resources

- Promote tribal access to capital, including banking products, to spur business and promote economic development in Indian Country.
- Build, expand, and enhance the housing development and leveraging capacity of tribes, as distinguished from simply improving housing management skills, according to federal guidelines.
- Promote development of a tool, whether statutory or regulatory, that would empower tribes to reduce or eliminate barriers across two or more federal agencies.
- Include provisions within the Farm Bill that will increase infrastructure development opportunities through the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) for tribes and tribal housing programs.
- Seek revisions to current rules and regulations that limit tribal access to USDA Rural Development programs and funding.

### Bureau of Indian Affairs' Housing Improvement Program (BIA-HIP)

- Advocate for an increase in the income limits for eligible recipients.
- Secure a change in the definition of income under the BIA-HIP to exclude amounts received by a veteran, or his or her family, for service-related disability, indemnity, or dependency.

#### Indian Preference at HUD-Office of Native American Programs (HUD-ONAP)

- Promote extension of the Wheeler-Howard Act's Indian preference provisions, or enactment of a separate federal policy that mandates Indian preference equal to the Wheeler-Howard Act's Indian preference, to employment, vacancies, and promotions within HUD-ONAP.

#### Public and Indian Housing Drug Elimination Program

- Seek sponsors to introduce reauthorization and promote passage of the Public and Indian Housing Drug Elimination Program (PIHDEP).

#### Meth Abatement in Tribal Housing

- Encourage promulgation of national standards for determining the safety threshold for a meth-affected property.
- Secure federal funds for the remediation and abatement of meth-affected tribal housing properties.

#### IHS Funds for Sanitation Facilities

- Promote lifting the restriction in appropriations language that limits the use of IHS sanitation facilities funds for providing sewer or wastewater services to new or rehabilitated HUD housing.

#### Interagency Native American Housing Task Force

- Promote establishment of an interagency Native American Housing Task Force consisting of senior political appointees and senior career federal officials to improve the delivery of federal programs and services related to tribal housing and to advance housing development in Native American communities.

#### Housing Foundation

- Establish a Native American Housing Foundation, a federally-chartered foundation, authorized to accept gifts and donations of real property or money from private entities for the purpose of tribal housing development and enhancement.

#### Tribal Economic Development and Land Issues

- Encourage Congress and the Bureau of Indian Affairs to reform the federal regulations that govern leasing for homesites on tribal land.
- Encourage Congress to appropriate funds for the Indian Land Title Records Commission as established in Public Law 106-569, Section 501 (114 Stat. 2944), and encourage the President to appoint the members of the Commission.

#### AMERIND Risk Management Corporation

- Urge enactment of legislation to provide AMERIND with catastrophic natural disaster protection (in the event that AMERIND receives claims exceeding \$35 million).
- Secure federal agency recognition that AMERIND is a viable source of insurance protection for property in Indian Country and that AMERIND should have equal access to federal subsidies provided by any federal agency to insurance companies.

#### Tribal Set-Asides

- Encourage set-asides for tribes of any federal housing-related resources, benefits, or credits allocated to the states.
- Promote set-asides for tribes as part of any legislation that would benefit tribes and tribal housing entities.