



A Tradition of Native American Housing
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NATIVE HOUSING UPDATE

March 13, 2009

NAIHC Vice-Chairperson Cheryl Parish testifies to Senate Committee on Indian Affairs regarding 2010 Budget Priorities



NAIHC Vice-Chair Cheryl Parish testifies before the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, Oversight Hearing on the Fiscal Year 2010 Budget priorities.

NAIHC Vice Chair Cheryl Parish presented NAIHC's Fiscal Year 2010 Budget priorities for Native American housing to the U.S. Senate Committee on Indian Affairs on Thursday, March 12, 2009. Ms. Parish, Executive Director of the Bay Mills Tribe of Chippewa Indians Housing Authority, described the need for adequate funding through NAHASDA Indian Housing Block Grants (IHBG), Training and Technical Assistance (T&TA), Indian Community Development Block Grants (ICDBG), Section 184 Indian Home Loan Guarantees, Title VI Tribal Housing Loan Guarantees, Native Hawaiian Home Lands, BIA Housing Improvement Program (HIP), and USDA's Rural Housing Program. Ms. Parish thanked the committee for their support of Native American housing issues in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). Senators inquired about how tribes would utilize the ARRA funding to quickly create employment opportunities in Indian Country. Also testifying at the hearing were: Jackie Johnson-Pata (National Congress of American Indians); Robert Cook (National Indian Education Association); and, Jessica Berger (National Indian Health Board). Cheryl Parish's full testimony can be viewed or downloaded at www.naihc.net.

2009 Omnibus Appropriations Bill holds new promise for Native Housing \$15 million increase from 2008 in Indian Housing Block Grant funding

On Wednesday March 11, 2009 the \$410 billion Omnibus Appropriations bill was signed into law by President Barack Obama, avoiding the need for Congress to pass another Continuing Resolution to fund the federal government operations until September 30, 2009.

“With the Senate’s action today, we have finally closed the book on last year’s appropriations work. This legislation will not only compliment the recently enacted recovery package, but will also provide much-needed guidance to executive agencies that have been operating without such guidance for the past six months,” said Senator Daniel Inouye.

Omnibus bill highlights for Indian Housing include: \$645 million Indian Housing Block Grant funding; \$3.5 million for Technical Assistance and Training; \$10 million for Native Hawaiian Housing Block Grant; \$9 million for Indian Home Loan Guarantees; and \$1 million for Native Hawaiian Home Loan Guarantees.

A complete breakdown of Native American Housing Appropriations funding can be viewed at www.naihc.net.

NAIHC Legislative Conference meets while Economic Stimulus funding allocated

One week after President Obama signed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (“ARRA” – the economic stimulus bill), the National American Indian Housing Council (NAIHC) hosted our 15th Annual Legislative Conference in Washington, DC, February 24th – February 26th, 2009.

Attended by more than 150 representatives of tribes, tribal Housing Authorities, Tribal Designated Housing Entities (TDHE) and native Hawaiians, the conference shared the latest information regarding the ARRA and its impact on Native American communities. As the conference attendees gathered in the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs hearing room Wednesday, February 25th, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) announced \$510 million for NAHASDA.

After meeting Tuesday and Wednesday to be briefed on NAIHC legislative priorities, attendees spent Thursday visiting their Congressional representatives as well as key Committee and Administration officials, delivering our Indian housing priorities to lawmakers.

Legislative priorities include funding: the Indian Housing Block Grant program at \$854 million; Indian Community Development Block Grant at \$100 million; Training and Technical Assistance at \$4.8 million; Section 184 Loan Guarantees at \$9 million; Title VI Loan Guarantees at \$2 million; Passage of the Native Hawaiian Home Ownership Opportunity Act; the Native Hawaiian Housing block Grant at least at \$20 million; BIA Housing Improvement Program at \$50 million; restore and adequately fund the USDA Rural Housing Program (Section 502 direct home loans program).

NAIHC Board and Executives met with the following Congressional leaders (or their staff): Sen. Christopher Dodd; Sen. Harry Reid; Sen. Patty Murray; Sen. Daniel Inouye; Rep. Tom Latham; Rep. John Olver; Rep. Spencer Bachus; Rep. Harry Teague; Rep. Barney Frank; Rep. Ann Kirkpatrick; Sen. Mike Johanns; Sen. John Barrasso; Sen. Jon Tester; Rep. Richard Shelby; Sen. Lisa Murkowski.

Visit our website www.naihc.net to view/download the NAIHC White Paper on the ARRA, and the latest information regarding NAIHC Legislative priorities, how they affect your community, and what you need to do now.



Congressional speakers at 2009 NAIHC Legislative Conference included: Rep. Maxine Waters (D-CA); Rep. Tom Cole (R-OK); Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-AK), and Sen. Byron Dorgan (D-ND), Chairman of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs

Read more about the Legislative Conference at: <http://www.indiancountrytoday.com/home/content/40849302.html>

Tight deadlines for tribal housing money

By Mark Fogarty, Today correspondent Story Published: Mar 6, 2009

ARRA Native American funding highlights include:

- **Housing:** \$255 million IHBG allocations to NAHASDA recipients; \$242 million IHBG will be made available through HUD for competitive project grants; 2 percent (\$10.2 million) for Department of Hawaiian Home Lands; 0.5 percent (\$2.8 million) for HUD administrative expenses.
- **Community Development:** \$10 million set aside for Indian tribes through the Indian Community Development Block Grant (ICDBG) program.
- **Bureau of Indian Affairs/Housing Improvement Program:** \$40 million for workforce training programs and housing improvement programs.
- **USDA Rural Services:** \$ 1 billion for single family direct loan program; \$10.5 billion for single family loan guarantee program; \$1.2 billion for Rural Community Services Program; \$2.8 billion for Rural Water and Waste Disposal Programs.

ARRA Native American funding highlights, continued

- **Department of Energy and HUD:** \$4.5 billion for energy efficiency programs for public and Native American housing programs; \$250 million for energy retrofit programs of privately owned federally assisted housing; DOE has \$5 billion for weatherization programs; \$3.2 billion for a new Energy and Environment Block Grant program; \$3.1 billion for State Energy programs.
- **Tribal Economic Development Bonds:** \$2 billion limit for tribal governments to issue tax-exempt bonds for financing tribal economic development projects.
- **Community Development Financial Institutions Fund:** \$8 million for financial assistance, technical assistance; training and outreach programs designed to benefit Native Americans, Alaska Native, and native Hawaiian communities.

For a more in-depth description, read the NAIHC White Paper on the ARRA at www.naihc.net.

How will you use ARRA Funding in your community?

With the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding making its way to Native American communities, how will your community utilize it to better the housing conditions and create jobs? What specific projects do you plan? What is the unemployment rate in your community? How many people will your project(s) employ? **Please send us your stories.** Submit to: David Rodriguez at drodriguez@naihc.net, fax: (202) 789-1758, or mail, 50 F Street NW, Suite 3300, Washington DC 20001.

Here are a few summarized testimonials given at the Legislative Conference on how some of our members might use their ARRA funding:

<p>Paul Torres, Isleta Pueblo, New Mexico <i>We plan to use our funds on a new building method – Lava Block Construction. With this construction method, 4 workers can frame a complete house in 4 days. We will build 3 complete homes. Lava Block have an R-50 insulation value, can stand up to 300 mph winds, and is one-half the cost of building a wood framed house.</i></p>	<p>Ron Hoffman, AVCP Housing Authority, Alaska <i>We would like to leverage our funding along with Low-Income Housing Tax Credits (LIHTC), but we're having a difficult time finding LIHTC buyers. We have a 20 unit, \$12 million development project that has a \$2 million commitment, but still need an additional \$1 million from LIHTCs. The governments takeover of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac removed two of the largest LIHTC financiers.</i></p>
<p>Jennie Greene, Aquinnah Wampanoag Tribal Housing Authority, Massachusetts <i>We plan to use the formula driven funds to replace all the trim boards on all of our houses and replace them with "plastic" boards that will not rot, and do not invite bugs to chew.... Of course we will then paint the trim as well. The new trim will be guaranteed for 25 years. This will mean employment to promote our local economy and purchasing of manufacutred "green" wood - it is made with recycled materials.</i></p>	<p>Donna Sue Hay, Chippewa Cree Housing Authority, Montana <i>We have a housing waiting list with over 500 people on it. We will utilize the funding to do much needed weatherization and energy efficiency upgrades on our present stock of housing, and may also use it towards development of 10 elderly/handicap accessible units. There is 70 percent unemployment on the reservation.</i></p>
<p>Mike Chavez, Zuni Housing Authority, New Mexico <i>We plan to use this funding towards our Blue Bird Housing Development – a 159 acre residential and open space development. Phase I is under way with 10 housing units; Phase II (with ARRA funds) will also have 10 units built. We have a housing waiting list of 850 at Zuni.</i></p>	<p>Jason Adams, Salish and Kootenai Housing Authority. <i>For the formula side of the NAHASDA funds, we plan to rehabilitate 40-50 homes. He talked about the huge backlog of homes in need of rehabilitation and the last 8 years of flat-lined funding has been a real frustration for tribal housing. For the competitive side of the NAHASDA funding, if successful they plan to construct 30-35 units. They have tribal members who have been on a waiting list for several years.</i> <i>In terms of jobs, they expect that they will employ 150 tribal members, which is huge because they have a 42% unemployment rate on the reservation. About 4,000 tribal members reside on the reservation.</i> <i>The Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes are deeply appreciative of this opportunity</i></p>
<p>Rachel Salas, Pueblo Zia, New Mexico <i>We will use our allocation to do handicapped accessibility rehabilitations, roof repairs throughout the community, and to do energy efficiency work, primarily replacing home furnaces and water heaters.</i></p>	<p>Paul Iron Cloud, Oglala Sioux, South Dakota <i>We plan to rehabilitate and weatherize approximately 300 housing units on the reservation. We currently have an 80% unemployment rate, and we estimate that we can create about 200 full and part-time jobs with these funds.</i></p>

Testimonials, continued	
<i>Charles Quartz, Walker River Paiute Tribe H.D., Nevada</i> <i>We plan to use our funding towards an Elders center, and also to make septic tank improvements throughout our community. There are 300 tribal members on the reservation.</i>	<i>Than you for sharing. Please send us your stories.</i>

HELP US GO GREEN!!

If you have access to email, then you can join the NAIHC Green Team and receive your NAIHC Updates, Federal Monitor, News Releases and Action Alerts via email – and save precious trees in the process. Please contact David Rodriguez at (202) 454-0914, or email at drodriguez@naihc.net and let him know that you want to start receiving materials electronically.

Indian Housing Training Opportunities—REGISTER NOW

NAIHC offers a wide range of training opportunities for Indian housing professionals. Individuals who successfully complete Leadership Institute courses will earn credits towards their Professional Indian Housing Manager certification.

“Pathways Home: A Guide to Native Homeownership” participants will learn how to deliver a comprehensive homebuyer education program designed to help educate prospective Native homebuyers on how to become successful homeowners. The curriculum is specifically tailored for Native American communities. Those who successfully complete the Pathways Home course will earn national certification as Homebuyer Education Instructors.

To register for all, visit our webpage: www.naihc.net

Indian Housing Training Opportunities

Leadership Institute Courses

Procurement & Contract Administration
March 17 – 20 Oklahoma City, OK

Admissions & Occupancy II
March 31-April 3 Las Vegas, NV

Introduction to Indian Housing Management
April 14-17 Reno, NV

Financial Management I
April 28-May 1 Charlotte, NC

Tuition Free Courses

Pathways Home: A Native Guide to Homeownership
March 23-27 Seattle, WA

1st Annual Southwest Native Housing Forum
- *Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) Program Basics,*
- *Methamphetamine Awareness & Abatement,*
- *Board of Commissioners,*
- *AMERIND Emergency Preparedness*
April 7-9 Albuquerque, NM

Tribal Housing Inspections
April 21-23 Oklahoma City, OK

Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) Compliance
May 27-28 Denver, CO

35th Annual NAIHC Convention & Trade Show

The NAIHC 35th Annual Convention & Trade Show will be held May 12-14, 2009 at the New Orleans Marriott in New Orleans, Louisiana. Continue to check our website at www.naihc.net for more information.

Sponsorship Opportunities: Email Phillip Hillaire at phillaire@naihc.net or call (202) 789-1754.

Hotel Information:

Marriott New Orleans
555 Canal Street

Rates: \$154 single/double occupancy

Reservations: 800-228-9290

Hotel Cut-off Date: April 24, 2009

Agenda at a glance

Tuesday, May 12

Registration
Trade Show
Plenary Session
NAIHC Training Sessions
Regional Caucus Meetings
Evening off-site tours/activities

Wednesday, May 13

Registration
Trade Show
Plenary Session
NAIHC Training Sessions
Regional Caucus Meetings
NAIHC Banquet

Thursday, May 14

Registration
Regional Caucus Meetings
NAIHC Annual Meeting of the Members



Registration and Sponsorship information at www.naihc.net



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