



“A Tradition of Native American Housing”

**NATIONAL AMERICAN INDIAN HOUSING COUNCIL
RESOLUTION #2009-04**

SUPPORT FOR FUNDING NATIVE AMERICAN HOUSING PROGRAMS

WHEREAS, the National American Indian Housing Council (NAIHC) is comprised of 273 voting members representing the housing interests of American Indian tribes, Alaska Natives, and native Hawaiians; and

WHEREAS, the stated purpose of the organization is to promote advocacy for policy and legislative changes that will favorably impact our primary goals of providing culturally relevant and quality affordable housing for Native people in a manner recognizing the unique government-to-government relationship of tribes and the federal government; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Congress recognized the need for housing assistance and economic development in Indian Country when they passed the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (NAHASDA) as amended; and

WHEREAS, the Indian Housing Block Grant should be funded at \$854 million for FY 2010 and \$875 million in FY 2011 just to keep pace with inflation since the program was funded at \$600 million in FY 1997, yet all indications are that at least \$1 billion is needed annually to meet tribal housing needs nationally; and

WHEREAS, previous Presidential budget requests included significant reductions for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development budget that includes a significant reduction for the Indian Community Development Block Grant and elimination of funding for Rural Housing and Economic Development, programs that are vitally important to tribal housing programs; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Senate has proposed a new program to provide Economic Development Assistance to Tribes with broad support from tribal housing programs at an initial level of \$12 million; and

WHEREAS, previous Presidential budget requests proposed a reduction of the Native Hawaiian Housing Block Grant funds, but should be funded at \$20 million for FY 2010 and FY 2011 to address the vast unmet housing needs of Native Hawaiians; and

WHEREAS, the YouthBuild program helps provide education and housing construction training to low-income youth yet has a low participation rate in Native American communities and the President's Budget for FY 2010 proposed an increase in appropriations to \$114 million; and

WHEREAS, previous Presidential budget requests proposed a reduction in funding for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Indian Health Service Sanitation Facilities Construction Program, an infrastructure program vital to the health and well-being of our people; and

WHEREAS, previous Presidential budget requests proposed complete elimination of funding for programs vital to tribal housing programs, such as the Bureau of Indian Affairs Housing Improvement Program and U.S. Department of Agriculture direct loan programs for single and multi-families; and

WHEREAS, Indian Country sorely needs these programs fully funded to support the development of affordable housing for American Indians, Alaska Natives and Native Hawaiians who face some of the most deplorable housing and living conditions in the United States; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the National American Indian Housing Council urges Congress to reverse cuts and elimination of funding for tribal housing programs that are so vital to Indian Country, within the

- U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development,
- U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs,
- U.S. Department of Agriculture,
- U.S. Department of Labor,
- U.S. Department Health and Human Services, Indian Health Service; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Native Hawaiian Housing Block Grant should be funded at \$20 million for FY 2010 and FY 2011; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, a set-aside of 10% for the YouthBuild program for Native American communities is urgently needed; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Indian Housing Block Grant should be funded at \$854 million for FY 2010 and \$875 million for FY 2011 just to keep pace with inflation since the program was funded in FY 1997; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the National American Indian Housing Council requests an increase of funding from Congress to at least keep pace with inflation from FY 1997 funding levels and also increased levels of funding for the Indian Housing Block Grant be at a level commensurate with the \$1 billion need; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, at no time will the funding provided in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 have a negative monetary impact on FY 2010 or FY 2011 funding levels; and

THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that National American Indian Housing Council calls upon Congress to conduct hearings and field hearings to document the impact of NAHASDA and the substantial unmet funding needs for Native American housing.

CERTIFICATION

As the duly appointed Secretary for the National American Indian Housing Council, I hereby certify that Resolution #2009-04, was adopted at NAIHC's 35th Annual Business Meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana on May 14, 2009, with a quorum present.



Marty Shuravloff, Chairman



Jason Adams, Secretary