

NATIONAL AMERICAN INDIAN HOUSING COUNCIL
WHITE PAPER
ON LEGISLATION TO REAUTHORIZE HUD'S PUBLIC AND INDIAN HOUSING
DRUG ELIMINATION PROGRAM

June 29, 2009

INTRODUCTION

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's ("HUD") Public and Indian Housing Drug Elimination Program ("PIHDEP") was intended to reduce crime and drug use in public housing communities. PIHDEP was created by the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1988.

BACKGROUND – DRUG ELIMINATION PROGRAMS

PIHDEP provided funds for activities that would reduce or eliminate drug related crime in public housing communities. These activities included employing security personnel, developing programs to reduce/eliminate the use of drugs, funding resident organizations to develop security and drug-abuse prevention programs, making physical changes to improve security, and reimbursing local police for additional security services. Specifically, PIHDEP provided resources for Housing Authorities to work with law enforcement, citizens groups, Boys and Girls Clubs, and other community-based organizations to develop anti-crime initiatives.

In 2000, HUD added a Gun Buyback Program aimed at reducing accidental shootings, suicides, and domestic violence by reducing the number of guns in circulation. The total available funding for PIHDEP was \$8.2 million in 1988 and had risen to \$310 million in 2001.

S.1327

On June 23, 2009 Senator Tim Johnson (D-SD) introduced the "Public and Indian Housing Crime and Drug Elimination Program Reauthorization Act of 2009" (S.1327). The legislation would authorize grants and direct payments to Public Housing Authorities, Tribally Designated Housing Entities, and Indian Housing Authorities for the prevention and elimination of crime and drug use in public housing. Reauthorization legislation has been previously introduced in the 107th-110th Congresses.

S.1327 would reauthorize and fund the PIHDEP until 2014. The legislation also sets aside no less than two percent of the funding for HUD's Office of Policy Development and Research and requires HUD to conduct an effectiveness study on strategies that reduce and prevent violent and drug related crime in public and Indian low-income housing.

NAIHC is the only national organization solely dedicated to the promotion, support, and encouragement of Indian tribes and tribally-designated housing entities (TDHEs) in their efforts to provide culturally-relevant, decent, safe, sanitary, and affordable housing for American Indians, Alaska Natives and Native Hawaiians. NAIHC has a membership of 267 tribes and TDHEs, representing nearly 460 Indian tribes, and provides its members with training, technical assistance, research, communications and advocacy.