



American
Indian Policy
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POLICY UPDATE

Legislative Activity in the 116th Congress and Administrative Actions Affecting Tribes

In this Issue, Dated July 27, 2020 through August 21, 2020 the Following Federal Legislative and Administrative Actions Were Taken on Issues Affecting Tribes—

Federal Congressional Hearings – 116th Congress

- i. **July 29, 2020** – [House Natural Resources Committee. Full Committee Markup: Hybrid FC Markup on S. 294, H.R. 1031, H.R. 4888, H.R. 6237, H.R. 6535, and H.R. 7119, among others.](#)
 - S. 294, Native American Business Incubators Program Act. Ordered to be Reported by Unanimous Consent. Introduced by Sen. Tom Udall (D-NM) on January 31, 2019. Passed the Senate without amendment by Voice Vote on June 27, 2019.
 - H.R. 1031, Pala Band of Mission Indians Land Transfer Act of 2019. Ordered to be Reported (Amended) by Unanimous Consent. Introduced by Rep. Juan Vargas (D-CA-51) on February 6, 2019.
 - H.R. 4888, To amend the Grand Ronde Reservation Act, and for other purposes. Introduced by Rep. Kurt Schrader (D-OR-5) on February 6, 2019.
 - H.R. 6237, PRC for Native Veterans Act. Ordered to be Reported by Unanimous Consent. Introduced by Rep. Ruben Gallego (D-AZ-7) on March 12, 2020.
 - H.R. 6535, To deem an urban Indian organization and employees thereof to be a part of the Public Health Service and for the purposes of certain claims for personal injury, and for other purposes. Ordered to be Reported by Unanimous Consent. Introduced by Rep. Ruben Gallego (D-AZ-7) on April 17, 2020.
 - H.R. 7119, Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium Land Transfer Act of 2020. Ordered to be Reported (Amended) by Unanimous Consent. Introduced by Rep. Don Young (R-AK-At Large) on June 4, 2020.

ii. **July 29, 2020** – [Senate Committee on Indian Affairs. Business Meeting to consider S. 1161, S. 2165, S. 2610, S. 2716, S. 2891, S. 3044, S. 3099, S. 3100, S. 3650, S. 3948.](#)

- S. 1161, Native Educator Support and Training Act. Introduced by Sen. Jon Tester (D-MT) on April 11, 2019.
- S. 2165, Safeguard Tribal Object of Patrimony Act of 2019. Ordered to be reported with an amendment in the nature of a substitute favorably. Introduced by Sen. Martin Heinrich (D-NM) on July 18, 2019.
- S. 2610, Tribal Energy Reauthorization Act. Ordered to be Reported with an amendment in the nature of a substitute favorably. Introduced by Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) on October 16, 2019.
- S. 2716, A bill to amend the Grand Ronde Reservation Act, and for other purposes. Ordered to be reported with an amendment favorably. Introduced by Sen. Jeff Merkley (D-OR) on October 28, 2019.
- S. 2891, A bill to require the Secretary of the Interior to establish Tribal Wildlife Corridors, and for other purposes. Ordered to be Reported without an amendment favorably. Introduced by Sen. Tom Udall (D-NM) on November 19, 2019.
- S. 2912, Blackwater Trading Post Land Transfer Act. Ordered to be Reported without an amendment favorably. Introduced by Sen. Martha McSally (R-AZ) on November 20, 2019.
- S. 3019, Montana Water Rights Protection Act. Ordered to be Reported with an amendment in the nature of a substitute favorably. Introduced by Sen. Steve Daines (R-MT) on December 11, 2019.
- S. 3044, Western Tribal Water Infrastructure Act of 2019. Ordered to be Reported with an amendment in the nature of a substitute favorably. Introduced by Sen. Ron Wyden (D-OR) on December 12, 2019.
- S. 3099, Southeast Alaska Regional Health Consortium Land Transfer Act of 2019. Ordered to be Reported with without amendment favorably. Introduced by Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) on December 18, 2019.
- S. 3100, Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium Land Transfer Act of 2019. Ordered to be Reported with an amendment in the nature of a substitute favorably. Introduced by Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) on December 18, 2019.
- S. 3650, Coverage for Urban Indian Health Providers Act. Ordered to be Reported with an amendment favorably. Introduced by Sen. Tina Smith (D-MN) on May 5, 2020.
- S. 3948, A bill to amend the Alyce Spotted Bear and Walter Soboleff Commission on Native Children Act to extend the deadline for a report by the Alyce Spotted Bear and Walter Soboleff Commission on Native Children, and for other purposes. Ordered to be reported without amendment favorably. Introduced by Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) on June 11, 2020.

- iii. **July 29, 2020** – Senate Committee on Indian Affairs. Oversight Hearing on “Preparing to head Back to Class: Addressing How to Safely Reopen Bureau of Indian Education Schools”.

Panel I

- Mr. Tony Dearman, Director, Bureau of Indian Education, U.S. Department of the Interior, Washington, DC

Panel II

- Ms. Marita Hinds, President, National Indian Education Association, Washington, DC
- Dr. David Yarlott, Jr., Chair, American Indian Higher Education Consortium, Alexandria, VA

Federal Bills Introduced/Considered by the 116th Congress

- i. (See Bills Considered by Congressional Committees in Previous Section)

Federal Administrative and Regulatory Actions

- i. **July 30, 2020** – Department of Health and Human Services; Indian Health Service; Notice; Funding announcement; Tribal Self-Governance Negotiation Cooperative Agreement.
- ii. **July 30, 2020** – Department of Health and Human Services; Indian Health Service; Notice; Funding announcement; Tribal Self-Governance Planning Cooperative Agreement.
- iii. **August 4, 2020** – Department of the Interior; Bureau of Indian Affairs; Notice; Rate Adjustments for Indian Irrigation Projects.
- iv. **August 13, 2020** – Department of the Interior; Office of the Secretary; Notice of planning document with teleconference consultations with Tribes and Alaska Native Corporations, teleconference public listening sessions and public comment; Draft Invasive Species Strategic Plan; Tribal and Alaska Native Corporation Consultations, Public Listening Sessions and Request for Public Comments.
- v. **August 13, 2020** – Department of Health and Human Services; Indian Health Service; Office of Clinical and Preventative Services; Notice of award of a single-source unsolicited grant to Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland; Awards Unsolicited Proposal for the Health Communication Initiative Program.
- vi. **August 14, 2020** – United States Department of Agriculture; Forest Service; Request for applications; Request for Applications: The Community Forest and Open Space Conservation Program.
- vii. **August 17, 2020** – Department of Education; Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services; Final waiver and extension of project periods; Final Waiver and Extension of the Project Periods for the American Indian Vocational Rehabilitation Services Program.

- viii. **August 17, 2020** – Department of Education; Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services; Notice; Withdrawal of Notice Inviting Applications and Cancellation of the Competition for the American Indian Vocational Rehabilitation Services Program.
- ix. **August 18, 2020** – Department of the Interior; Bureau of Land Management; Notice of official filing; Notice of Filing of Plats of Survey; Arizona.
- x. **August 21, 2020** – Department of Transportation; Federal Highway Administration; Notice; request for comments; Tribal Technical Assistance Program.

Federal Congressional Hearings – 116th Congress

- i. **July 29, 2020** – House Natural Resources Committee. Full Committee Markup: Hybrid FC Markup on S. 294, H.R. 1031, H.R. 4888, H.R. 6237, H.R. 6535, and H.R. 7119, among others. [Link to Hearing](#).

- S. 294, Native American Business Incubators Program Act. Ordered to be Reported by Unanimous Consent. Introduced by Sen. Tom Udall (D-NM) on January 31, 2019. Passed the Senate without amendment by Voice Vote on June 27, 2019. [Link to Bill](#).

Bill would elevate the Office of Native American Business Development to be placed within the Department of Commerce Office of the Secretary, would expand the use of the Buy Indian Act to federal agencies outside the Bureau of Indian Affairs and Indian Health Service, and reauthorize and expand initiatives under the Native American Programs Act. The bill would also create a Native American Business Incubators Program under the Department of the Interior, Office of Indian Energy and Economic Development.

- H.R. 1031, Pala Band of Mission Indians Land Transfer Act of 2019. Ordered to be Reported (Amended) by Unanimous Consent. Introduced by Rep. Juan Vargas (D-CA-51) on February 6, 2019. [Link to Bill](#).

Bill would take approximately 700 acres of land into trust for the Pala Band of Mission Indians located in San Diego County. Lands taken into trust cannot be used for gaming purposes.

- H.R. 4888, To amend the Grand Ronde Reservation Act, and for other purposes. Introduced by Rep. Kurt Schrader (D-OR-5) on February 6, 2019. [Link to Bill](#).

Bill would place into trust 84 acres of land known as the “Thompson Strip” to become part of the Grand Ronde Reservation. Class II and Class III gaming under the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act is prohibited on the newly acquired trust lands.

- H.R. 6237, PRC for Native Veterans Act. Ordered to be Reported by Unanimous Consent. Introduced by Rep. Ruben Gallego (D-AZ-7) on March 12, 2020. [Link to Bill](#).

Bill would require the Department of Veterans Affairs or the Department of Defense to reimburse the Indian Health Service, tribes, or tribal organizations for health care services provided to American Indian and Alaska Native veterans, regardless of whether such services

are provided directly by the IHS, tribes, or tribal organizations, or through certain contracts for services.

- H.R. 6535, To deem an urban Indian organization and employees thereof to be a part of the Public Health Service and for the purposes of certain claims for personal injury, and for other purposes. Ordered to be Reported by Unanimous Consent. Introduced by Rep. Ruben Gallego (D-AZ-7) on April 17, 2020. [Link to Bill](#).

Bill would extend federal torts claim coverage for certain personal injury claims, such as medical malpractice liability protection, to urban Indian organizations and their employees by recognizing them as part of the Public Health Service. Currently, such coverage is provided to Indian tribes, tribal organizations, Indian contractors, and their employees.

- H.R. 7119, Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium Land Transfer Act of 2020. Ordered to be Reported (Amended) by Unanimous Consent. Introduced by Rep. Don Young (R-AK-At Large) on June 4, 2020. [Link to Bill](#).

Bill directs the Department of Health and Human Services to convey specified property in Anchorage, Alaska, to the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium for use in connection with health programs. Bill also states that the consortium shall not be liable for any environmental contamination that occurred before such conveyance.

ii. **July 29, 2020** – [Senate Committee on Indian Affairs. Business Meeting to consider S. 1161, S. 2165, S. 2610, S. 2716, S. 2891, S. 3044, S. 3099, S. 3100, S. 3650, S. 3948.](#)

- S. 1161, Native Educator Support and Training Act. Introduced by Sen. Jon Tester (D-MT) on April 11, 2019. [Link to Bill](#).

Bill would create the Indian Educator Scholarship Program and direct the Secretary of Education to award scholarships to eligible applicants pursuing a course of study in early childhood education, elementary or secondary education. Upon completion of a course of study the scholarship recipient would be required to be employed full-time at a Bureau of Indian Education funded school, a public elementary school or secondary school that serves a significant number of Indian students as determined by the Secretary in consultation with Indian tribes, a tribal early childhood education program, or in a federally funded early childhood education program that serves a significant number of Indian students. Bill would also authorize loan forgiveness for Indian educators working in Bureau of Indian Education funded schools and local educational agencies with a high percentage of American Indian students. Authorizes the Secretary to repay no less than \$17,500 of the borrower who has been employed as a full-time teacher or school administrator for five consecutive complete school years.

- S. 2165, Safeguard Tribal Object of Patrimony Act of 2019. Ordered to be reported with an amendment in the nature of a substitute favorably. Introduced by Sen. Martin Heinrich (D-NM) on July 18, 2019. [Link to Bill](#).

Bill would increase penalties for the illegal trafficking and exporting of Native cultural objects. Also directs the Secretary of the Department of the Interior to create a tribal working group of representatives from Indian tribes and Native Hawaiian organizations to advise the federal government on the return of items of cultural patrimony.

- S. 2610, Tribal Energy Reauthorization Act. Ordered to be Reported with an amendment in the nature of a substitute favorably. Introduced by Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) on October 16, 2019. [Link to Bill](#).

Bill would reauthorize certain programs under the Office of Indian Energy and Policy Programs at the Department of Energy. Bill would make tribal energy development organizations eligible for the Department of Energy Indian Energy Education Planning and Management Assistance Program and authorizes an appropriation of \$50 million for each of fiscal years 2020 through 2030. Bill also provides an authorization of appropriations of \$30 million for each of fiscal years 2020 through 2030 for the Department of Energy Loan Guarantee Program.

- S. 2716, A bill to amend the Grand Ronde Reservation Act, and for other purposes. Ordered to be reported with an amendment favorably. Introduced by Sen. Jeff Merkley (D-OR) on October 28, 2019. [Link to Bill](#).

Bill would place into trust 84 acres of land known as the “Thompson Strip” to become part of the Grand Ronde Reservation. Class II and Class III gaming under the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act is prohibited on the newly acquired trust lands.

- S. 2891, A bill to require the Secretary of the Interior to establish Tribal Wildlife Corridors, and for other purposes. Ordered to be Reported without an amendment favorably. Introduced by Sen. Tom Udall (D-NM) on November 19, 2019. [Link to Bill](#).

Requires the Secretary of the Interior to establish Tribal Wildlife Corridors. An Indian tribe may nominate a corridor by submitting an application to the Secretary of the Interior for purposes of restoration of natural habitat, management of land, or to prevent barriers that hinder the facilitation of native species movement.

- S. 2912, Blackwater Trading Post Land Transfer Act. Ordered to be Reported without an amendment favorably. Introduced by Sen. Martha McSally (R-AZ) on November 20, 2019. [Link to Bill](#).

Bill would direct the Department of the Interior to take 55.3 acres of land of the Blackwater Trading Post in Pinal County, AZ into trust for the Gila River Indian Community. Gaming would be prohibited on lands taken into trust.

- S. 3019, Montana Water Rights Protection Act. Ordered to be Reported with an amendment in the nature of a substitute favorably. Introduced by Sen. Steve Daines (R-MT) on December 11, 2019. [Link to Bill](#).

Bill would ratify a compact to settle the water rights claims for the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Indian Reservation and the State of Montana and directs the

Secretary of the Interior to execute such compact. Directs the Secretary of the Interior to allocate to the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Indian Reservation 90,000 acre-feet of water per year to be stored in the Hungry Horse Reservoir for use by the tribes and managed by the Bureau of Reclamation. Authorizes the tribes to use, lease, contract, exchange, or enter into other agreements for use of the allocated water within the Flathead basin or the Clark Fork Basin within the State of Montana. Directs the Secretary of the Interior to establish the Séliš-Qlispé Ksanka Settlement Trust Fund to implement the Water Compact. Congress is authorized to appropriate \$1.9 billion for the Trust Fund to remain available until expended.

- S. 3044, Western Tribal Water Infrastructure Act of 2019. Ordered to be Reported with an amendment in the nature of a substitute favorably. Introduced by Sen. Ron Wyden (D-OR) on December 12, 2019. [Link to Bill](#).

Bill would amend the America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018 to expand the Indian reservation drinking water program to include 10 eligible projects within the Columbia River Basin. Authorizes an appropriation for \$30 million for fiscal year 2020 and each fiscal year thereafter.

- S. 3099, Southeast Alaska Regional Health Consortium Land Transfer Act of 2019. Ordered to be Reported with without amendment favorably. Introduced by Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) on December 18, 2019. [Link to Bill](#).

Bill directs the Department of Health and Human Services to convey specified property in Anchorage, Alaska, to the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium for use in connection with health programs. Bill also states that the consortium shall not be liable for any environmental contamination that occurred before such conveyance.

- S. 3100, Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium Land Transfer Act of 2019. Ordered to be Reported with an amendment in the nature of a substitute favorably. Introduced by Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) on December 18, 2019. [Link to Bill](#).

This bill directs the Department of Health and Human Services to convey specified property in Anchorage, Alaska, to the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium for use in connection with health programs. The consortium shall not be liable for any environmental contamination that occurred before such conveyance.

- S. 3650, Coverage for Urban Indian Health Providers Act. Ordered to be Reported with an amendment favorably. Introduced by Sen. Tina Smith (D-MN) on May 5, 2020. [Link to Bill](#).

Bill would extend federal torts claim coverage for certain personal injury claims (i.e., medical malpractice liability protection) to urban Indian organizations and their employees by deeming them as part of the Public Health Service. Currently, such coverage is provided to Indian tribes, tribal organizations, Indian contractors, and their employees.

- S. 3948, A bill to amend the Alyce Spotted Bear and Walter Soboleff Commission on Native Children Act to extend the deadline for a report by the Alyce Spotted Bear and Walter Soboleff

Commission on Native Children, and for other purposes. Ordered to be reported without amendment favorably. Introduced by Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) on June 11, 2020. [Link to Bill](#).

Bill would extend the deadline, from three years to five years, for the Alyce Spotted Bear and Walter Soboleff Commission on Native Children to submit its report to the President and Congress. The commission was established to conduct a comprehensive study of federal, state, local, and tribal programs that serve Native children and to develop plans for federal policy related to Native children.

- iii. **July 29, 2020** – [Senate Committee on Indian Affairs. Oversight Hearing on “Preparing to head Back to Class: Addressing How to Safely Reopen Bureau of Indian Education Schools”](#). [Link to Hearing](#).

Panel I

- Mr. Tony Dearman, Director, Bureau of Indian Education, U.S. Department of the Interior, Washington, DC. [Link to Testimony](#).

Panel II

- Ms. Marita Hinds, President, National Indian Education Association, Washington, DC. [Link to Testimony](#).
- Dr. David Yarlott, Jr., Chair, American Indian Higher Education Consortium, Alexandria, VA. [Link to Testimony](#).

Federal Bills Introduced/Considered by the 116th Congress

- i. (See Bills Considered by Congressional Committees in Previous Section)

Federal Administrative and Regulatory Actions

- i. **July 30, 2020** – [Department of Health and Human Services; Indian Health Service; Notice; Funding announcement; Tribal Self-Governance Negotiation Cooperative Agreement](#). [Link to Federal Register Notice](#).
- The Indian Health Service (IHS) Office of Tribal Self-Governance (OTSG) is accepting applications for Negotiation Cooperative Agreements for the Tribal Self-Governance Program (TSGP). This program is described in the Assistance Listings found [here](#). The purpose of this Negotiation Cooperative Agreement is to provide Tribes with resources to help defray the costs associated with preparing for and engaging in TSGP negotiations.
 - The total funding identified for fiscal year (FY) 2020 is approximately \$240,000. Individual award amounts are anticipated to be \$48,000. Approximately five awards will be issued under this program announcement and the period of performance is one year.
 - Questions on programmatic issues may be directed to: Roxanne Houston, Program Officer,

Office of Tribal Self-Governance, 5600 Fishers Lane, Mail Stop: 08E09B, Rockville, MD 20857, Phone: (301) 443-7821, Email: Roxanne.Houston@ihs.gov.

- Application deadline date: October 28, 2020. Earliest anticipated start date: November 12, 2020.

ii. July 30, 2020 – Department of Health and Human Services; Indian Health Service; Notice; Funding announcement; Tribal Self-Governance Planning Cooperative Agreement. [Link to Federal Register Notice](#).

- The Indian Health Service (IHS) Office of Tribal Self-Governance (OTSG) is accepting applications for Planning Cooperative Agreements for the Tribal Self-Governance Program (TSGP). This program is described in the Assistance Listings found [here](#). The purpose of this Planning Cooperative Agreement is to provide resources to Tribes interested in entering the TSGP and to existing Self-Governance Tribes interested in assuming new or expanded PSFAs.
- The total funding identified for fiscal year (FY) 2020 is approximately \$600,000. Individual award amounts are anticipated to be \$120,000, meaning approximately five awards will be issued under this announcement. The period of performance is one year.
- Questions on programmatic issues may be directed to: Roxanne Houston, Program Officer, Office of Tribal Self-Governance, 5600 Fishers Lane, Mail Stop: 08E09B, Rockville, MD 20857, Phone: (301) 443-7821, Email: Roxanne.Houston@ihs.gov.
- Application deadline date: October 28, 2020. Earliest anticipated start date: November 12, 2020.

iii. August 4, 2020 – Department of the Interior; Bureau of Indian Affairs; Notice; Rate Adjustments for Indian Irrigation Projects. [Link to Federal Register Notice](#).

- The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) owns or has an interest in irrigation projects located on or associated with various Indian reservations throughout the United States. The agency is required to establish irrigation assessment rates to recover the costs to administer, operate, maintain, and rehabilitate these projects. This notice publishes adjusted irrigation assessment rates at several BIA irrigation projects and facilities to reflect current costs of administration, operation, maintenance, and rehabilitation. Multiple projects and facilities in and around Arizona will have adjusted rates for 2021.
- For details about a particular BIA irrigation project or facility, please use the tables in the [supplementary information](#) section to identify contacts at the regional or local office at which the project or facility is located.
- The irrigation assessment rates are current as of January 1, 2020.

iv. August 13, 2020 – Department of the Interior; Office of the Secretary; Notice of planning document with teleconference consultations with Tribes and Alaska Native Corporations, teleconference public listening sessions and public comment; Draft Invasive Species Strategic Plan; Tribal and Alaska Native Corporation Consultations, Public Listening Sessions and Request for Public Comments. [Link to Federal Register Notice](#).

- Notice is hereby given of the development of the U.S. Department of the Interior Invasive Species Strategic Plan.

- A teleconference consultation with Tribes will be held on September 17, 2020 at 4:00 p.m. Eastern. RSVPs are required to participate in this session and must be received by 5:00 p.m. Eastern, September 14. Teleconference listening sessions for other interested parties and the public will be held on September 24 at 4:00 p.m. Eastern and September 28 at 4:00 p.m. Eastern. RSVPs are required and must be received by 5:00 p.m. Eastern, September 21.
 - To RSVP for the Tribal, Alaska Native Corporation, or public teleconference sessions, please enter your contact information into [this form](#). Call-in details for the sessions will be provided to registered participants in advance of the calls.
 - Written comments will be accepted online at [Regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov) or by mail to U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of Policy Analysis—Mailstop 3530, ATTN: Invasive Species Comments, 1849 C Street NW, Washington DC, 20240. Written comments must be submitted online or by mail by 11:59 p.m. Eastern, October 9, 2020.
 - For further information, contact Hilary Smith, Senior Advisor for Invasive Species, (202) 763-3118; email: invasives_strategic_plan@ios.doi.gov.
- v. August 13, 2020 – Department of Health and Human Services; Indian Health Service; Office of Clinical and Preventative Services; Notice of award of a single-source unsolicited grant to Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland; Awards Unsolicited Proposal for the Health Communication Initiative Program. [Link to Federal Register Notice](#).**
- The Office of Clinical and Preventive Services (OCPS) announces the award of a single-source cooperative agreement in response to an unsolicited proposal from Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland. The proposal submitted was not solicited either formally or informally by any federal government official.
 - The purpose of this cooperative agreement is to collect, develop, package and distribute information to American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) communities to address the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)-specific recommendations on healthcare, in a culturally sensitive way.
 - Johns Hopkins University received \$127,644 for a period of performance from April 24 – August 24 of this year.
 - For further information contact: Audrey Solimon at Audrey.Solimon@ihs.gov or by telephone at 301-590-5421.
- vi. August 14, 2020 – United States Department of Agriculture; Forest Service; Request for applications; Request for Applications: The Community Forest and Open Space Conservation Program. [Link to Federal Register Notice](#).**
- The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Forest Service, State and Private Forestry, Cooperative Forestry staff, requests applications for the Community Forest and Open Space Conservation Program (Community Forest Program or CFP). The Community Forest Program is a competitive grant program whereby local governments, qualified nonprofit organizations, and federally recognized Indian tribes are eligible to apply for grants to establish community forests that provide community benefits through fee simple acquisition of private forest land.
 - Tribal applicants must submit applications to the appropriate Tribal government official. All

applications, either hardcopy or electronic, must be received by Tribal governments by January 11th, 2021. Tribal government officials must forward applications to the appropriate Forest Service Regional office or International Institute of Tropical Forestry by February 8th, 2021.

- Applicants are encouraged to contact and work with the Forest Service Region or International Institute of Tropical Forestry, and State Forester or equivalent Tribal government official when developing their proposal. Applicants must consult with the State Forester and equivalent Tribal government official prior to requesting technical assistance for a project.
- All applicants must also send an email to SM.FS.CFP@usda.gov to confirm an application has been submitted for funding consideration. Tribal government officials shall submit applications, either electronic or hardcopy, to the appropriate Forest Service Region/Institute contact. For the Southwestern Region (AZ, NM), the contact is: Alicia San Gil, USDA Forest Service, 333 Broadway SE, Albuquerque, NM 87102, 505-842-3289 (phone), 505-235-9233 (mobile), alicia.sangil@usda.gov.

vii. August 17, 2020 – Department of Education; Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services; Final waiver and extension of project periods; Final Waiver and Extension of the Project Periods for the American Indian Vocational Rehabilitation Services Program. [Link to Federal Register Notice.](#)

- The U.S. Department of Education (Department) waives the requirements in the Education Department General Administrative Regulations that generally prohibit project periods exceeding five years and project period extensions involving the obligation of additional Federal funds.
- The waiver and extension enable 29 American Indian Vocational Rehabilitation Services (AIVRS) projects under Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) number 84.250K to receive funding for an additional period, not beyond September 30, 2021. Among those receiving additional funding are the Hopi Tribe and Tohono O’odham Nation.
- The waiver and extension of the project periods went into effect on August 17, 2020.
- For further information contact: August Martin, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue SW, Room 5064A, Potomac Center Plaza, Washington, DC 20202-1800. Telephone: 202-245-7410. Email: August.Martin@ed.gov.

viii. August 17, 2020 – Department of Education; Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services; Notice; Withdrawal of Notice Inviting Applications and Cancellation of the Competition for the American Indian Vocational Rehabilitation Services Program. [Link to Federal Register Notice.](#)

- The U.S. Department of Education (Department) withdraws the notice inviting applications (NIA) and cancels the competition for the fiscal year (FY) 2020 American Indian Vocational Rehabilitation Services (AIVRS) program under Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) number 84.250N. The Department intends to announce a new competition in FY 2021.
- The withdrawal and cancellation of [this document](#) published on March 9, 2020 is effective as of August 17, 2020.

- For further information contact: August Martin, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue SW, Room 5064A, Potomac Center Plaza, Washington, DC 20202-1800. Telephone: 202-245-7410. Email: August.Martin@ed.gov.
- ix. August 18, 2020 – Department of the Interior; Bureau of Land Management; Notice of official filing; Notice of Filing of Plats of Survey; Arizona. [Link to Federal Register Notice](#).**
- The plats of survey of the lands described in this notice are scheduled to be officially filed 30 days after the date of this publication in the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Arizona State Office, Phoenix, Arizona. The surveys announced in this notice are necessary for the management of lands administered by the agency indicated.
 - The plats in question are located near the Gila and Salt River Meridian, Arizona. The plats are prepared at the request of the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the United States Forest Service.
 - For further information contact: Gerald Davis, Chief Cadastral Surveyor of Arizona; (602) 417-9558; gtdavis@blm.gov.
- x. August 21, 2020 – Department of Transportation; Federal Highway Administration; Notice; request for comments; Tribal Technical Assistance Program. [Link to Federal Register Notice](#).**
- This notice requests comments on the future delivery models proposed for the Tribal Technical Assistance Program (TTAP). All delivery models will utilize the current core curriculum material. To achieve regional specificity within the curriculum, Tribes in the regions will be solicited for the challenges or issues they face due to geography, climate, or local regulations so that those elements may be included. The subject matter experts will supplement the core training modules to integrate the regional elements.
 - The Federal Highway Administration is asking the public and specifically Tribal leaders or their direct designees for comments on the following questions: 1. Of the two proposed delivery models being advanced, which do you support and why? 2. Are there aspects of either of the two proposed delivery models being advanced that you think should be adjusted? Which aspects? How and why should they be adjusted? 3. If you do not support either of the two models, please explain your rationale and provide any alternatives you believe would meet the TTAP's legislative intent and maximize the Tribal objectives from the consultations.
 - Comments may be submitted online at [Regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov), by mail to: Docket Management Facility, U.S. Department of Transportation, 1200 New Jersey Ave. SE, W12-140, Washington, DC 20590, or by hand delivery to West Building Ground Floor, Room W12-140, 1200 New Jersey Ave. SE, Washington, DC 20590, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. The telephone number is (202) 366-9329.
 - For questions about the TTAP, contact Victoria Peters, FHWA Center for Local Aid Support, (720) 963-3522, or by email at Victoria.Peters@dot.gov. For legal questions, please contact Vivian Philbin, FHWA Office of the Chief Counsel, (720) 963-3445, or by email at Vivian.Philbin@dot.gov. Business hours for FHWA are from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., E.T., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.
 - Deadline: comments must be received on or before September 21, 2020.

For more information contact:

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