



A Message from the Executive Director

January 16, 2019

Happy New Year!

We're two weeks into 2019, and unfortunately, 25 days into a federal government shutdown. Despite the shutdown I'd like to highlight all the exciting plans that NAIHC has to improve our services to tribal housing programs throughout Indian Country. This year, NAIHC will be growing our Pathways Home homebuyer education program and launching our Leadership Institute courses online for the first time ever! We're also continuing our national NAIHC events, starting with our Legislative Conference on February 25-27 here in Washington, DC. In addition, we will be having our Annual Convention held jointly with Amerind Risk on May 7-9 in Denver and another informative Legal Symposium in December in Las Vegas at the new Bally's location. Once the shutdown ends, we expect to add more national and regional HUD trainings throughout the year as well.

I want to remind you that this year, more than ever, we need your voice on Capitol Hill to urge Congress and the Administration to re-open the government. Click [here](#) to visit the Legislative Conference registration website. One of our goals in hosting this event, is to allow a direct line of communication to members of Congress.

NAIHC has slowly been learning how the government shutdown is impacting your programs and the communities you serve. We know that several tribes have slowed or halted their operations as they run out of IHBG funding from HUD and are unable to draw down more funds. We know many individual Native American home buyers are unable to secure individual home loans as they need federal offices at HUD or the BIA to help process those documents. That's why last week, NAIHC Board Chairman Gary Cooper signed on to a [letter](#) along with several of the other national native organizations calling for an end to the government shutdown.

But we need to know more about how the shutdown is impacting your program. Please take this short 4-question survey to tell us how your tribal housing program is faring during this nearly month-long government shutdown.

[SURVEY LINK](#)

The data you provide in this survey will help NAIHC as we work with our allies on Capitol Hill and federal partners. The more offices that are aware of the impacts to your housing programs, the more pressure that all legislators will feel to find a solution and reopen the government.

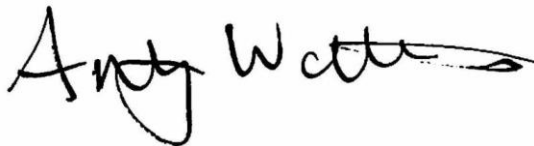
While I'm on the topic of surveys, I want to share with you the results of a survey that NAIHC issued last summer in conjunction with the National Native Homeownership Coalition. That survey asked various questions about the types of services your housing programs provide, the sources of your funding, and how you assist individuals in your communities with homeownership. Please click on the article [here](#), that highlights some of the results.

While tribal housing programs have certainly grown tremendously over the past twenty years under NAHASDA, the survey was clear that most tribes are still relying solely on HUD funding and the Indian Housing Block Grant to operate their programs. We'll use that information to ensure that we're doing a better job of finding other federal (or non-federal) funding opportunities to help your programs. Similarly, the responses showed that nearly every tribe has some type of homeownership program or provides homebuyer education, and we will continue to make our Pathways Home trainings available to your staff and that they have the materials they need to be effective homeownership counselors in your communities.

We expect to continue this survey throughout 2019, with a focus on each region, so we can see how the tribes across the country differ and how we can better target specific unmet needs across the various regions.

Moving forward, I expect to release more updates like this to keep you all better informed about NAIHC initiatives in 2019. I know the government shutdown will eventually end! When it does, tribes will be able to access their full-year funding, but also awards from the ICDBG program - and hopefully soon after that, new awards under the \$100 million in competitive funding that HUD still needs to make available. Regardless of the shutdown the increase in overall federal funding, along with our own initiatives, have me and the staff at NAIHC excited about what we can all accomplish for tribal housing in 2019.

Kind Regards,



Tony Walters, Executive Director

