

**NAIHC 2021 Q2 Update**

***(edited March 31, 2021)***

**NAIHC News:**

* COVID Impacts Continue, Trainings Moving Online
  + NAIHC Headquarters staff remain teleworking, but all are available for any assistance
  + Most TTA is online only, a few sessions where tribe and TTA provider are comfortable and live in close proximity have been held in-person, following tribal and local rules
  + Conducting 1-3 Online Training sessions a week (in lieu of regional trainings), there was a break for holidays.
* Leadership Institute
  + In-person courses for 2021 are still TBD
  + Indian Housing Management course is available online
  + Online Pathways Homebuyer Education will be rolled out this quarter
    - Provides training to the Housing professional & can be used with individuals in the community
  + Hopeful to produce 2-3 LI courses each year moving forward; Admissions and Occupancy and Procurement are the next two courses to be developed.
    - Targeting the full development of one certification track
* NAIHC Rehab Grant (2020)
  + NAIHC awarded grants to 20 tribes for Rehab of Senior-owned at the beginning of 2020
  + Work still ongoing in many communities due to COVID, extensions have been provided
* ***NAIHC COVID Housing Assistance Grant (NEW for 2021)***
  + NAIHC and Wells Fargo announced the next grant during the Virtual Legal Symposium
  + NAIHC intended to provide grants to 20 tribes for COVID-related housing projects, up to $44,000 per tribe
  + First deadline passed, awarded 16 grants, solicited applications for remainder with April 2 deadline.

**NAIHC Events:**

* **2021 Legislative Conference Postponed**
  + NAIHC working with the Board/Legislative Committee and NCAI on best options:
    - Something sooner in 2021, but virtual
    - Wait until the fall to host something in-person in DC
* **2021 Annual Convention and Members Meeting: May 24-27**, **Hawaii**
  + Proposed to 2023
  + Under Contract for Seattle in 2022
* **2021 Legal Symposium: December 6-7-8, Las Vegas**
  + Currently planned in person in Las Vegas

**Other Meetings/Trainings:**

* ***HUD Housing Summit***
  + Working with HUD/ONAP on details of large-scale event
  + Dates TBD, but targeting August 2021, and will develop either in-person or virtual agenda
* ***HUD Regional Trainings***:
  + Check NAIHC’s website/calendar
  + Adding new online trainings sessions almost every week

**Update on Pending HUD Grants/COVID Funding**

* FY 2020 Competitive Grant ($100M)
  + Applications submitted in December 2020, awards announcement -- <https://www.hud.gov/press/press_releases_media_advisories/HUD_No_21_058>
* FY 2021 Appropriations Included:
  + $100M in Competitive IHBG
  + $70M in ICDBG
  + $5M for HUD-VASH
  + $647M in traditional IHBG
* Emergency Rental Assistance funding (meant to follow IHBG allocation formula)
  + $800M for tribal Rental Assistance coming from U.S. Treasury Department
    - Tribes should have money now
  + Tribes can provide rental and utility assistance (including arrears) to members 80% AMI and other eligibility requirements
  + ***Must be spent by September 30, 2022 (original deadline of Sept 2021 was extended by American Rescue Plan passed in March)***
    - *Treasury could re-allocate funding to other tribal grantees beginning in September 2021 (still to be determined if and how that might happen)*
  + Operated through Treasury Department, latest FAQ/guidance provided Feb 22
  + <https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/136/ERA-Frequently-Asked-Questions_Pub-2-22-21.pdf>
  + NAIHC will work with Biden Administration and Congress if changes need to be made
* American Rescue Plan passed in March (COVID Relief)
* $1.9T American Rescue Plan has over $30 billion in funding for tribal programs:
* NAHASDA Funding - $750 M​
* IHBG - $450M​ (Indian Housing Block Grant by formula)
* NHHBG - $5M​ (Native Hawaiian Housing Block Grant)
* ICDBG - $280M (non-competitive) (Indian Community Development Block Grant similar to Imminent Threat/COVID grants last summer)​
  + - * HUD is carrying out consultation (March 31 over zoom, written comment deadline is April 2)
* TTA & Admin - $10M & $5M​ (training and technical assistance)
* Homeowner Assistance - ~$500 M​
  + 5% set-aside of larger national program​
  + Operated through Treasury, Similar to Emergency Rental Assistance program​
    - ***Does*** include national or local AMI
    - Has not been sent to tribes yet
* Tribal Relief Fund - $20 Billion for all tribes, (similar to $8 billion CRF from last summer)
  + Not tied to NAHASDA formula, Treasury will consult with tribes
* Individual Payments - another $1400
* Other tribal funds (non-housing) as well

**Legislative Updates:**

* End of 116th Congress included the passage of the Tribal Access to Homeless Assistance Act, allowing tribes to apply direct for HUD Continuum of Care grants, and the passage of a bill that allows HUD to provide the 184 Loan Guarantee to lenders prior to BIA documentation (with some specific requirements on the lender).
* **117th Congress starts all bills over again.**

**NAHASDA Reauthorization**

* Last Congress saw bipartisan NAHASDA bills in both House and Senate, which hasn’t been seen in over a decade (detailed below)
* Looking for new bill sponsors as some past bill sponsors have retired and we want to engage new Senate and House Committee leadership
  + Senate lead sponsors include: Schatz and Murkowski
  + House lead sponsors could include Rep. Cleaver, Rep. Lucas, Rep. Davids and others
* Last Congress House Bill: H.R. 5319
  + Bill included provisions impacting 184 court jurisdiction issues, USDA program improvements, homebuyer counseling grants eligibility, increased TDC allowances for energy efficient homes, and other small non-NAHASDA improvements
* Last Congress Senate Bill: S. 4090
  + The bill would reauthorize NAHASDA programs through 2031 and update several key provisions such as: creating an Assistant Secretary for Indian Housing at HUD; re-establishing a Drug Elimination program for tribal communities; consolidating environment review requirements; allowing student housing assistance; recognizing tribal sovereignty to govern maximum rent requirements; allowing tribal housing programs to access the IHS sanitation funding; make tribes eligible for HUD Housing Counseling grants; make tribes eligible for HUD Homelessness Assistance grants; reauthorizing Native Hawaiian housing programs; and other updates
* ***This Congress, NAIHC will push both chambers to adopt each other’s provisions for a single bill***
* ***Senate Committee on Indian Affairs has indicated it wants to push Senate version, more friendly Senate Committee structure this year***

**HUD-VASH**

* Last Congress, bill passed the Senate but not the House
* Is included in the larger NAHASDA efforts
* ***This Congress, NAIHC will again push for stand-alone and NAHASDA HUD-VASH provisions, work with House Leadership on getting bill finalized***

**Other Housing Bills**

* FY 2022 Appropriations
  + Hope to make gains in base funding.
  + Asking for nearly $1 billion in annual IHBG
* Infrastructure Bill
  + President Biden released his $2 trillion infrastructure proposal, which included $213 billion for housing “Through targeted tax credits, formula funding, grants, and project-based rental assistance” and specifically calls out assistance to tribal areas.
  + NAIHC working with other Native orgs in DC to provide specifics to Congress on how to include tribes in any infrastructure package
* Other legislative topics for tribal housing funds include:
  + Drug risks/Remediation funding (NAICH Resolution 2018-02)
  + Housing & Infrastructure connection (NAIHC Res. 2019-04)
  + Homeownership program improvements
    - 502 Single Family Loan Guarantee, other USDA programs (NAIHC Res. 2018-01)
    - NADL improvements (NAIHC Res. 2019-03)
  + Section 8 and LIHTC improvements (NAIHC Res. 2018-03 & 2018-04)
    - Last Congress, bills did include restoring tribal access voucher program

**Overall reminders:**

* Sign up online to receive newsletter by email every two weeks for recent updates
* Legislative Committee
  + First Thursday of Each Month
  + <https://zoom.us/j/97496787338>
* Encourage vendors, product and service providers serving Indian country to become exhibitors at NAIHC events and/or Associate Members!