



ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR  
POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND RESEARCH

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT  
WASHINGTON, DC 20410-6000

Dear Tribal Leader:

HUD is strongly committed to its government-to-government relationship with federally recognized Indian tribes. To honor this relationship, HUD is planning a series of consultations between HUD officials and tribal leaders on the HUD study, "Assessment of Native American, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian Housing Needs" (Housing Needs Study). The consultations will be starting in March 2012 and continuing into the summer. During the consultations, tribal leaders will have an opportunity to comment on the scope and design of the pending study.

I would like to invite you to attend the first tribal leader consultation on March 5, 2012, between 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. at the L'Enfant Plaza Hotel in Washington, D.C. The consultation is scheduled as part of the National Congress of American Indians' Executive Council winter session.

HUD will hold an additional six regional meetings and one national meeting. The second national meeting will be held in conjunction with the National Congress of American Indians' (NCAI) mid-year conference in Lincoln, NE. You are welcome to attend any of the sessions, though one session will be held in each Office of Native American Programs region to facilitate attendance.

HUD is working closely with the NCAI and the National American Indian Housing Council (NAIHC) to develop the agenda for the consultations. This series of consultations is in response to tribal requests for a formal opportunity to discuss the Housing Needs Study. While HUD will provide an overview of the of the study design and implementation process, the majority of the time will be devoted to tribal input and comments. HUD will prepare an official response to all written comments. Comments may be submitted in advance or delivered at the meeting. HUD will publish the comments and responses on its study website

[http://www.huduser.org/portal/native\\_american\\_assessment/home.html](http://www.huduser.org/portal/native_american_assessment/home.html) after the final meeting.

**Background:** Statutory language in the Fiscal Year 2010 Consolidated Appropriations Act directs HUD to perform this study as a research task under the HUD Transformation Initiative. The relevant language from Senate Report 111-69 is as follows:

"...the [HUD] Secretary is directed to undertake a Native American housing needs assessment. It is clear that the housing needs of Native Americans living on reservations are substantial, but better data is needed to quantify those needs in order for HUD and Congress to better address them."

These official consultations build on seven Native Housing Needs Outreach Sessions held between December 2010 and March 2011. An eighth session, covering the same issues, but designated specifically as tribal leader consultation was held on July 27, 2011. The sessions

introduced the Housing Needs Study to participants and stakeholders. Staff from HUD's Office of Policy Development and Research presented an overview of the study and participated in a question-and-answer discussion. Session participants were provided the opportunity to comment on the study's survey design. The sessions produced many helpful comments and recommendations, which were incorporated into the latest draft of the study's outreach plan and survey instruments.

For your information, a summary explanation of the study and a list of frequently asked questions are attached. If you have any questions about the study or the consultations, please contact Jennifer Stoloff at (202) 402-5723 or [Jennifer.A.Stoloff@hud.gov](mailto:Jennifer.A.Stoloff@hud.gov). If you would like to review the survey instruments and read about the current status of the study, please visit our website: [http://www.huduser.org/portal/native\\_american\\_assessment/home.html](http://www.huduser.org/portal/native_american_assessment/home.html)

**Action Requested:** If you plan to attend tribal leader consultation on March 5, 2012 for the Housing Needs Study, please RSVP to Angela Carroll ([Angela.R.Carroll@hud.gov](mailto:Angela.R.Carroll@hud.gov)) with your contact information and the name of the tribe you are representing.

Your views and comments are important to the Department and I hope you or your representative can attend one of the consultation sessions.

Sincerely,



Raphael W. Bostic, Ph.D.  
Assistant Secretary for Policy  
Development and Research