

Tribal Leader Consultation on HUD's Housing Needs Assessment: Proceedings and Notes

Washington, DC, March 5, 2012

Note: The March 5 consultation in Washington, DC was the first in this series and shorter in duration, so the notes are brief. Please see the handouts and summaries of subsequent consultations, located on the study web site at http://www.huduser.org/portal/native_american_assessment/home.html for more detail.

A. Proceedings

This meeting was held in conjunction with the National Congress of American Indians' Executive Council winter session.

An invocation was provided by Randall Vicente, Governor, Pueblo of Acoma.

Rodger Boyd, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Office of Native American Programs, welcomed the tribal leaders, housing professionals, and commissioners.

Sandra Henriquez, Assistant Secretary for Public and Indian Housing, thanked everyone for coming. She stated that HUD takes the Government-to-Government relationship very seriously. This is the first of seven consultations that will be held across the country, continuing through early July. 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.

Raphael Bostic, Assistant Secretary for HUD's Office of Policy Development & Research (PD&R), provided an overview of the study, including a delineation of what the purpose is, and what the outcomes are. He described the study process, from design to implementation, to analysis and report writing. This study is still in the design phase. He noted that input will be solicited throughout all phases of the study.

Nancy Pindus, Urban Institute, described in detail the components of the study, including a household survey, a survey of Tribally Designated Housing Entities (TDHEs), and case studies for Native Americans living in urban areas. She also provided more detail on the study team members and pointed out several other sources of data that will be used. Finally, she detailed the research topics for the study.

Jennifer Stoloff, Study Manager for HUD's Office of Policy Development & Research (PD&R), reviewed the participant handouts and discussed ways to provide input to HUD.

B. Questions and Answers

Stephen Ortiz: Since these will be national numbers, how do tribes use these data for their tribes and other service needs? For example, because of issues with tribal trust land, they can't build.

Francisco Simbana: Regarding the consultations, each session and each person will hear different things; he thinks these sessions are too short.

Raphael Bostic: The survey won't solve problems, but will provide input to the problem-solving process. It's not a census—can't do that with the resources available. Answers to questions will be posted on the web site. The goal is to be as transparent as possible; may not be able to resolve everything.

Buster Adberry: Large tribes have unique situations.

Governor Vicente: He wrote a position paper to NCAI and expressed concerns about the urban population in Albuquerque. His tribe is the largest employer in the county.

Floyd Tortolito: Will there be time to comment on the selection of tribes? On the methodology?

Bart Minor, Sitka Tribe: we are falling behind on funding. Summer is a bad time for a consultation. Will there be tribal representation in preparing the report? Could a change in administration cancel the study?

Jennifer Stoloff: The tentative date for the meeting in Alaska is April 25 or 27.

Raphael Bostic: Gut feeling is, no, but there will be the equivalent of an academic review. This is an issue of interpretation vs. analysis.

Joseph Ray, Laguna Pueblo: can we volunteer our expertise? Is there anyone who deals with disability and elder needs? Issues of independent living mentioned.

Jennifer Stoloff: we will certainly consider adding questions about accessibility. Some of this is relevant to HUD's sustainable building practices study.