

Impact of Outreach Session on the Design of the Assessment of Native American, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian Housing Needs

This document highlights the most critical changes made to the study based on feedback from the Outreach Session. It contains most, but not all of the responses to those comments.

Comments from the ONAP outreach sessions contributed to:

- Refinements to our sampling approach
- Survey content for the household survey
- Survey content for the tribal/TDHE survey
- Additional surveying to include all tribes/TDHEs
- Outreach strategies to encourage participation

Refinements to the sampling approach

- In consultation with HUD and in response to concerns expressed that Alaskan villages are disproportionately affected by the exclusion of small tribal areas, the decision was made to lower the threshold for inclusion in the sample to 150 persons (it was originally 250) because this increases the share of the population that is covered in the Alaska sample.

Household Survey

- The outreach sessions confirmed the importance of assuring respondents confidentiality.
- Questions were added about tribal enrollment and tribal affiliation due to comments from the outreach sessions.
- Additional components and questions were added to the household roster in response to comments about accurately reflecting the members of a household, including young adults living with parents due to lack of other housing options, children in boarding school, children who split their time staying with family members, etc.
- Questions were revised to better address overcrowding and homelessness, as we were informed that the standard definition of homelessness often does not apply in Indian country (e.g., on Indian reservations there are very few homeless because people take them in), but overcrowding is an issue.
- The module on housing preferences was changed to “Culturally-Responsive Housing.” Items were added based on suggestions made at the outreach sessions. Items added include: floor plan or arrangement of rooms, type of rooms, (e.g., for weaving, crafts, sewing, tools, curing and storing meat, etc.).
- Questions on attitudes toward tribally-assisted housing: based on feedback from the outreach sessions, the length of this module was shortened significantly and

a question was added to explore the issue of respondent “voice” in housing issues.

Tribe/TDHE survey

- The title of the survey was changed from the TDHE Survey to tribe/TDHE Survey to appropriately include either the tribes that directly manage their housing program or TDHEs, when appropriate.
- We will review available ONAP data to minimize burden and we will provide respondents with advance notice of data they may need to compile for the survey.
- Added a question about homeless shelters to the tribe/TDHE survey (also added to the in-person interview guides and the data collection guides for the study of Native Americans living in urban areas).
- To address overcrowding, added a question about doubling up.

Web-based survey of tribes/TDHEs

- In the outreach sessions, people expressed an interest in expanding participation in the survey, so that all tribes could be included. In response, HUD will adapt the tribe/TDHE telephone survey for the web. This web-based survey will be administered by HUD staff.

Outreach strategies to encourage participation

- Feedback from the ONAP sessions confirmed the research team’s approach to outreach, which included incorporated employing tribal members as interviewers, working with tribal officials and tailoring strategies to each tribe, and providing an incentive payment to respondents.
- Alternatives to incentive payments: tribal representatives suggested that Wal-Mart gift cards or gas vouchers would be suitable incentives in lieu of cash (in some places). This will be re-confirmed with each tribe prior to conducting household surveys for specific communities.
- The sessions suggested a number of additional strategies for outreach to tribes to encourage participation by emphasizing the importance of the survey, providing information, and generating enthusiasm for the study. These strategies include:
 - Distributing a newsletter to participants;
 - Airing public service announcements on radio stations;
 - Informing participants at places where people gather, including IHS facilities, churches, youth clubs, etc.; and
 - Holding introduction parties before the actual survey.

Through discussions, the outreach approach will be tailored to each tribe.