



ADMINISTRATION FOR
CHILDREN & FAMILIES

Office of Community Services | 330 C Street, S.W., Washington, DC 20201
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Low Income Household Water Assistance Program

Dear Colleague Letter

DCL#: LIHWAP DCL-2022-20

DATE: September 15, 2022

TO: Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) Tribal Grant Recipients

SUBJECT: Water Infrastructure Resources for Tribes

ATTACHMENT(S): N/A

Dear Tribal Grant Recipients,

Purpose

The purpose of this Dear Colleague Letter (DCL) is to notify Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) tribal grant recipients about the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) under the [Indian Housing Block Grant](#) and [Indian Community Development Block Grant](#), which are administered through the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

Funding Opportunities

The Office of Public and Indian Housing recently released a [letter](#) announcing two Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) announcements under the Office of Native American Programs (ONAP). The Indian Housing Block Grant (IHBG) Competitive Program and the Indian Community Development Block Grant provide a combined total of approximately \$221 million in funding for eligible Indian Tribes and Tribally Designated Housing Entities (TDHEs) to carry out affordable housing activities for the benefit of low-income American Indian and Alaska Native families.

Allowable activities under these block grants include affordable housing development, real property acquisition, site improvement, new construction, rehabilitation, utilities, infrastructure, conversion, demolition, financing, administration and planning, energy efficiency improvement, mold remediation, and related activities. Tribes may apply to both programs and have until **November 17, 2022**, to submit their applications.

Leveraging Programs

Since LIHWAP cannot cover infrastructures expenses, the Office of Community Services strongly encourages tribes to pursue these funding opportunities if they are experiencing challenges related to water infrastructure. Tribal governments can provide wholistic remedies to water affordability and safety by combining block grant funds with the Low Income Household Water Assistance Program.

Example Project

The Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina is a notable example of a tribe that has been strategic in their use of available funding. The Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina utilizes the Indian Housing Block Grant to connect households to the city water system, repair leaking pipes, and improve the overall state of household water systems. In addition, the tribe directs eligible households to LIHWAP to pay for water connection fees, pay off arrearages, and provide bill payment assistance. Administrators for the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina noted that the combination of the two programs has been instrumental in addressing water accessibility issues for Lumbee tribal members.

Additional Information

Additional information about the Indian Housing Block Grant (IHBG) Competitive Program or the Indian Community Development Block Grant can be found on the [Office of Native American Program's webpage](#). You can also contact IHBGCompetitiveProgram@hud.gov or your local area [ONAP office](#) with questions.

Visit the [webpage](#) for the Low Income Household Water Assistance Program or contact your LIHWAP program specialist for additional questions related to LIHWAP.

/s/

Dr. Lanikque Howard

Director

Office of Community Services