



MEMORANDUM

August 8, 2025

TO: TRIBAL HOUSING CLIENTS

FROM: ~~Ed Clay Goodman~~, Cari L. Baermann, & Brenda L. George
HOBBS, STRAUS, DEAN & WALKER, LLP

RE: ***NAIHC August 7, 2025 Legislative Committee Meeting and Other Housing Updates***

This memorandum provides a synthesis of information presented during the National American Indian Housing Council (NAIHC) Legislative Committee Meeting held on August 7, 2025, and updates on other housing matters.

I. NAIHC Legislative Committee

Board Chair Bobby Yandell, and NAIHC Legislative & Program Aide Blythe McWhirter facilitated the Legislative Committee Meeting.

a. Budget and Appropriations

Ms. McWhirter provided a brief update on appropriations. In May 2025, the President transmitted his fiscal year (FY) 2026 Budget Request to Congress. Ms. McWhirter commented that Congress is currently in recess, making progress slow at present. Ms. McWhirter added that over the past month, preliminary FY 2026 budget numbers were released by the House and the Senate. Ms. McWhirter shared the following chart comparing FY 2024, FY 2025, and numbers proposed for FY 2026.

Program	FY24 (Enacted)	FY25 (Enacted)	FY26 House	FY26 Senate
IHBG – Formula	\$1.11 B	\$1.11 B	\$1.11B	\$1.11B
IHBG – Competitive	\$150 M	\$150 M	\$150 M	\$100 M
ICDBG	\$75 M	\$75 M	\$75 M	\$125 M
NAHASDA T&TA	\$7 M	\$7 M	\$7 M	\$7 M
Title VI Loan Guarantee	\$1 M	\$1 M	\$1 M	\$1 M
Section 184 Loan Guarantee	\$1.8 M	\$1.8 M	\$1.8 M	\$1.2 M
Tribal HUD-VASH	\$7.5 M	\$7.5 M	\$10 M	\$10 M
NHHBG	\$22.3 M	\$22.3 M	\$18.3 M	\$22.3 M
Total Native Programs	\$1.34 B	\$1.34 B	\$1.34 B	\$1.35 M

Ms. McWhirter explained that many of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) programs are proposed to be cut under the President's current budget, and it appears that members of Congress are pushing to restore funding in line with prior years'. Ms. McWhirter used the example of the Native Hawaiian Housing Block Grant that had been zeroed out in the President's budget, but was mostly restored in the House version and fully restored in the Senate version of the budget. Ms. McWhirter stated that Congress has until the end of September deadline to agree on the budget, and it is likely that we will see another continuing resolution.

b. Senate Banking Committee

Recently the Senate Banking Committee unanimously approved the Renewing Opportunity in the American Dream (ROAD) to Housing Act of 2025. Ms. McWhirter noted it had a unanimous bipartisan support, showed immense support for homeownership, and finally, commented that this is the first time in over a decade that the Senate Banking Committee has held a mark-up and agreed upon a housing bill to move forward to the full Senate. Ms. McWhirter commented that this shows that housing is a priority in this Congress and NAIHC is happy to see recognition for real meaningful support of affordable quality housing. Ms. McWhirter stated that two resolutions passed at the NAIHC members meeting in Los Angeles in May 2025 made it into the package. One resolution was in support of the Rural Housing Service Reform Act and another was in support of the Whole-Homes Repairs Act. The ROAD to Housing Act has the support of the Administration, so it is likely to move more quickly. Ms. McWhirter provided the attached Section by Section on the ROAD to Housing Act.

c. Draft Bill: Native Children's Commission Implementation Act

Ms. McWhirter provided the attached Section by Section on a draft bill, the Native Children's Commission Implementation Act, noting that the drafters are seeking public input until September 12, 2025. This bill is grounded in the recommendations from the report, *The Way Forward*, of the Alyce Spotted Bear & Walter Soboleff Commission on Native Children, published February 20, 2024. Title 7 of the draft bill is of particular interest because it discusses tribal housing and related provisions. Section 703 would codify and make permanent the Tribal Intergovernmental Advisory Committee (TIAC) at HUD. Ms. McWhirter indicated that the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) will be organizing a webinar on this bill, details of which are forthcoming.

d. NAHASDA Reauthorization

As we have reported previously, the Senate passed a Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (NAHASDA) reauthorization bill in 2024, but the bill did not make it past the House. The Senate Committee on Indian Affairs (SCIA) Chair, Brian Schatz (D-HI), and Vice Chair Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) have communicated that they are committed to passing NAHASDA again this year. Rudy Soto, NAIHC Executive Director, previously stated that the SCIA has indicated that they will reintroduce NAHASDA this fall. Ms. McWhirter stated that NAIHC has been meeting with agencies and has a staff briefing tentatively set for the second week of September.

Next, Ms. McWhirter introduced Karly Toledo, the NAIHC Membership and Communications Coordinator. Ms. Toledo reported that NAIHC has kicked off a new storytelling initiative, known as the Tribal Housing Spotlight, to produce information and data to provide to congressional leaders. NAIHC put out a call to submit small spotlights of projects to create fliers and postcards to give to representatives from their geographic regions. The survey is available here at this [link](#). Questions or interest regarding the survey can be sent to ktoledo@naihc.net.

e. HUD Housing Showcase

HUD's 2025 Innovative Housing Showcase at the National Mall is scheduled for September 6–10, 2025. Details are available at <https://www.huduser.gov/portal/ihs.html>.

f. Office of Native American Programs (ONAP) Environmental Review

ONAP will be hosting a webinar series to provide an overview of environmental review streamlining resources available to tribes. Below is a schedule of the webinars.

Webinar Schedule

Topic	Date and Time	Link
Endangered Species Act: Streamlining for HUD Projects in Washington State	August 12, 2025 2:00-3:00 PM EDT	https://forms.office.com/r/F9TEjCiXr0
Endangered Species Act: Streamlining for HUD Projects in Oregon	August 14, 2025 2:00-3:00 PM EDT	https://forms.office.com/r/P46F5SBUSV

g. NAIHC Legislative Committee Meetings and Future Conferences

The NAIHC Legislative Committee meetings will continue to be held on the first Thursday of each month via Zoom. Anyone who would like to submit questions prior to the meetings may do so through the link provided in the NAIHC email that is sent out before each call.

NAIHC will hold its Legal Symposium on November 17–20, 2025 at the Choctaw Casino & Resort in Durant, Oklahoma. Registration is now open through the [NAIHC website](#).

Conclusion

If you have any questions about this memorandum or any of the topics discussed within, please contact Ed Clay Goodman (egoodman@hobbsstrauss.com) or Cari Baermann (cbaermann@hobbsstrauss.com). Both may also be reached at 503-242-1745.