

ASSESSMENT OF NATIVE AMERICAN, ALASKA NATIVE AND NATIVE HAWAIIAN HOUSING NEEDS

Frequently Asked Questions

Why is HUD doing this?

- It was mandated by Congress. Senate Report 111-69, filed August 5, 2009, states : “...the 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.”

What is the purpose of this study?

- The study seeks to assess the current housing conditions in Native American communities. If effective, it will inform policy in ways that enable tribes to more effectively use existing resources to improve housing conditions. It also will provide important information that will allow HUD to serve tribes more effectively.

What impact will the study have on the IHBG formula?

- The study will not affect individual formula allocations, as it is not designed for this purpose. Rather, the survey is designed to provide a picture of the aggregate national level of need, which can help inform decisions about the total level of resources provided for the IHBG.

What is the timing of the study?

- The study’s survey instrument are in development and will soon enter the final review process. Data collection in the field is planned to begin in late October 2011 and continue through October 2012. A draft report summarizing findings is scheduled to be completed in January 2013, with the final report being completed in April of 2013. Once the final report is done, HUD will conduct a series of briefings on its findings and implications.
- The research team will also examine Census data and data from other sources to do some preliminary analyses of need. An interim report on these efforts is due in December 2011.

How will HUD distribute the final reports?

- The final report will be sent to all of HUD’s tribal partners, as well as to the House and Senate Appropriations Committees and the Office of Management and Budget in the White House. It will also be made available to the public via the PD&R website, HUDUser.org.

How will tribes participate in the study?

- Tribes will participate in the survey in multiple ways:
 - All tribes and THDEs will have an opportunity to complete a web-based survey.
 - 120 randomly selected tribes/TDHEs will be asked to answer additional questions either in-person or by phone.
 - A randomly selected sample of 40 tribes will be included in the more in-depth household survey

What if my tribe is not among the 40 selected for the household survey? Can we still participate?

- HUD will work to support any tribe that wishes to conduct a survey of their housing needs . If a tribe that was not selected as one of the 40 tribes in the household survey, but would like to be surveyed, that tribe should contact HUD. If your tribe would like to use the household survey instrument to conduct its own needs assessment, HUD will make the instrument available for your use. In this case, we strongly advise you to also contact HUD in order to make sure the survey is administered in ways that produce valid, unbiased data.
- Results from these supplemental household surveys will likely not be able to be added to the 40 household surveys that are part of the current design. However, HUD is exploring ways to have this information be part of the final survey report package.