



The Federal Monitor

News of Issues Affecting Tribes and Tribal Housing Programs

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National American Indian Housing Council

NAIHC, a not-for-profit organization, assists tribes and tribal housing entities in reaching their self-determined goals of providing culturally relevant, decent, safe sanitary and quality affordable housing for Native people in Indian communities and Alaska Native Villages.

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IT IS CRUNCH TIME

Your Members of Congress may or may not be crunching Indian Housing numbers as the FY2007 appropriations are headed to joint conference. As it stands, the Senate and the House Transportation, Treasury and Housing and Urban Development (TTHUD) appropriations bills are miles apart. Congress is slated to return from the elections recess on November 13, 2006.

Only two appropriations bills were passed before the recess. It remains to be seen how the remaining appropriations bills will be handled. Do you want to see Congress pass an omnibus bill with everything on one package? Or do you think Congress should carefully consider each appropriations bill one by one?

The House proposed that the Indian Housing Block Grant (IHBG) be funded at \$625 Million. Of this, \$990,000 is earmarked for the National American Indian Housing Council to conduct technical assistance and training. Overall, the IHBG will enjoy a \$1.9 Million increase from last year. http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/cpquery/?&dbname=cp109&sid=cp1090zsNS&refer=&r_n=sr293.109&item=&sel=TOC_524293&

The Senate proposal for the IHBG is also \$625 Million. But, of this, \$2 Million is to be administered by NAIHC for technical assistance and training in support of NAHASDA and, in addition, \$2 Million is to be made available to NAIHC under the Self-Help and Assisted Home Ownership Opportunity Program. <http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/F?c109:4:./temp/~c109iz9YHL:e521204:>

Any proposed funding reductions will affect NAIHC. The training and technical assistance funding earmarked for NAIHC is a direct benefit to tribes and tribally designated housing entities, saving them millions in IHBG funds, by providing on-site technical assistance and training and scholarships to NAIHC and HUD Office of Native American Programs training. A funding reduction last year impacted NAIHC membership by reducing the amount of scholarships for NAIHC training. Further reduction will impact the volume of training provided overall.

What you can do:

- Thank Members of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs who supported increased technical assistance and training funding.
- Thank Members of the Senate Appropriations Committee who supported increased technical assistance and training funding.
- Thank Members of the House of Representatives and Senate Appropriations Committees for increasing the IHBG by \$1.9 Million for next year.
- Fax your Members of the House of Representatives, especially those who serve on the Appropriations Committee, and urge them to carefully consider the remaining appropriations bills.

<http://www.house.gov/house/MemberWWW.shtml>