



"A Tradition of Native American Housing"

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**NAIHC Office of  
Governmental  
Affairs**

900 2<sup>nd</sup> Street NE  
Suite 218  
Washington, DC  
20002

Ph: (202) 789-1754  
Fax: (202) 898-0027

**WWW.NAIHC.NET**

The National American Indian Housing Council is a not-for-profit organization representing tribes and tribal housing organizations on affordable housing, mortgage lending, finance, and economic development issues.

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**Kristy McCarthy Weight**  
Government Affairs Director

# The Federal Monitor

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*News of Issues Affecting Tribes and Tribal Housing Programs*

### **FY 2005 Appropriations Signed by President**

On December 8, 2004, the President signed into law the Consolidated Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2005, including nine of the thirteen annual appropriations bills. Final funding amounts are the same as what were reported November 21 with the lowest Indian housing appropriations in five years at \$627 million for the Native American Housing Block Grant. All amounts are additionally subject to a .83% across-the-board cut. Contact [rbell@naihc.net](mailto:rbell@naihc.net) if you would like a copy of the chart of Indian housing appropriations.

### **Legal Symposium Wrap-Up**

NAIHC held its most successful Legal Symposium ever last week with over 500 conferees and presenters participating at the Mirage in Las Vegas. As promised, NAIHC plans to make handouts and summaries of all of the sessions available on our website at [www.naihc.net](http://www.naihc.net) under "Conferences". Watch for information to be posted over the next couple weeks. Thank you to all who participated, particularly our presenters, vendors, and sponsors, including AMERIND Risk Management Corp., Bank 2, Downey Savings, Fannie Mae, and Hobbs, Straus, Dean & Walker, LLP.

### **Preparing for Legislative Conference**

NAIHC's 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Legislative Conference will be February 15 – 17, 2005, at the Wyndham Washington, D.C. Online registration has been activated at [www.naihc.net](http://www.naihc.net) or directly at [www.regonline.com/Checkin.asp?EventId=18851](http://www.regonline.com/Checkin.asp?EventId=18851). The Legislative Committee meeting will be the afternoon of February 15, with speakers and a luncheon on February 16. All day February 17 has been reserved for meetings on Capitol Hill. There are a lot of new members of Congress and some key committee changes, so come take part in 2005's most important event for Indian housing advocacy!

The NAIHC Legislative Committee met December 7 and has drafted a legislative agenda for the 109<sup>th</sup> Congress that will be reviewed for approval by the NAIHC Board of Directors in January. This legislative agenda and supporting documentation will be available for participants meeting with members of Congress during the Legislative Conference in February.

**NOTE: My resignation from the National American Indian Housing Council will become effective on Thursday, December 16, 2004, so this will be the final issue of the *Federal Monitor* I will write. The continuation of the *Federal Monitor* and all NAIHC advocacy activities will now be under the direction of Ross Bell, the new Government Affairs Director. I would like to thank all NAIHC members and affiliates for supporting NAIHC activities while I have been here. It has been a tremendously rewarding experience representing NAIHC. – Kristy McCarthy Weight**

The *Federal Monitor* is distributed periodically in both email and fax format. If you would like to receive the *Federal Monitor* via email, please send a message to [rbell@naihc.net](mailto:rbell@naihc.net).