



HUD OUTREACH SESSIONS ON ASSESSMENT OF NATIVE AMERICAN, ALASKA NATIVE, AND NATIVE HAWAIIAN HOUSING NEEDS

National American Indian Housing Council

A report on the regional Outreach Sessions conducted by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Office of Native American Programs and the Office of Planning, Development, and Research



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BACKGROUND

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Office of Native American Programs held seven (7) Outreach Sessions between the months of December 2010 and March of 2011. The purpose of the sessions was to discuss the upcoming HUD Housing Needs Assessment and to lay the groundwork for developing and implementing the study.

These meetings included breakout sessions, which provided the opportunity for attendees to discuss housing successes and needs, identify problems and barriers, and to make recommendations to address the needs.

MEETING LOCATIONS & DATES

Denver, CO - December 1-2, 2010

Reno, NV - December 14-15, 2010

Honolulu, HI - January 12-13, 2011

Oklahoma City, OK - January 26-27, 2011

Hollywood, FL - February 23-24, 2011

Seattle, WA - March 2-3, 2011

Anchorage, AK - March 23-24, 2011

SESSION FORMAT

At each of the Outreach Sessions, attendees first met in plenary for an overview of the process to be followed over the course of the two-day meeting. They also heard an outline of the Needs Assessment Study provided by Jennifer Stoloff, Ph.D. from HUD's Office of Policy Development and Research. Attendees were then afforded the opportunity to ask questions or provide comments.

After the plenary session, attendees adjourned to their pre-selected breakout session. During the registration process, attendees had the option of choosing a session covering one of the following discussion topics:

- Choice in Housing Type and Design
- Sustainable Community Development and Infrastructure
- Community Wellness and Environmental Health
- Leveraging Funding and Finance
- Housing as an Engine of Economic Development

Each Outreach Session also offered a breakout topic of regional interest.

A staff member from the National American Indian Housing Council was in attendance at each of the regional Outreach Sessions.

ISSUES & CONCERNS

Many common issues and concerns were raised during the plenary sessions. In both Alaska and Hawaii, attendees expressed the importance for the survey to capture the uniqueness of their respective housing needs.

Following is a summary of the common issues from each of the Outreach Sessions:

- How tribes would be selected to participate in the survey
- The number of households to be surveyed and the small number of locations identified for on-site visits
- How the survey instrument would be developed
- How the breakout sessions related to the study itself

- Whether the outreach sessions were considered tribal consultation
- Whether on-site, in person interviews would take place on the Hawaiian Homelands
- Who would conduct the household surveys

EXPERT ADVISORY PANEL

An Expert Panel consisting of nine individuals was formed to provide input on the housing needs study's design, to review the data collection plan, and to review the project deliverables. The panel held a one-day meeting on April 27, 2011 in Washington, DC. Members of the panel include:

- Dr. Laura R. Appelbaum - University of Colorado
- Dr. Blake Kazama – Executive Director, Tlingit-Haida Regional Housing Authority
- Patricia Nie - Community Development Officer, Wells Fargo
- Dr. Miriam Jorgensen - Research Director, Native Nations Institute
- Don Shircel - Director, Client Development Tanana Chiefs Conference
- Peter Morris - Director, NCAI Policy Research Center
- Marvin Jones - Manager of Housing Oversight, Cherokee Nation
- Kauila Clark - Native Hawaiian Traditional Healing Center

This meeting was also attended by NAIHC's Deputy Executive Director, Dennis Daniels, and Lead T&TA Specialist, Erna Reeves.

STUDY DETAILS

The Urban Institute is the primary contractor for the needs assessment. Econometrica, a Maryland research firm, will assist with the research and analysis.

The main research topics include:

- Demographic, social, and economic conditions
- Housing conditions and needs
- Housing policies and programs
- Assessment of Native Hawaiian housing needs and programs

Primary data will be collected through:

- Household surveys – including 1280 interviews at 40 sample sites
- Telephone surveys with 80 tribes or housing authorities
- In-person interviews at 24 sites
- 449 web-based surveys
- Surveys with 30-35 lenders active in Indian Country
- Site visits or in-person interviews in 5 urban Indian areas, and telephone interviews with 25 agencies (i.e. Indian community centers)
- Telephone interviews and review of reports and documents to assess Native Hawaiian housing needs

Secondary data sources include the Census and the Indian Housing Block Grant formula and other information available from HUD.

PROJECT TIMELINE

- May 2011 – the final design of the project and a data collection plan will be completed
- June 2011 - the research team will begin their outreach efforts, which will continue through the month of October
- November 2011 – the data collections process begins and continues through September 2012
- December 2011 - the interim report will be made available
- Early 2013 – the Expert Panel will convene again in Washington, DC
- April – June 2013 - the final reports on the HUD Housing Needs Assessment will be available