



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

Washington, DC 20240

March 2, 2023

Dear Tribal Leader,

The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) was appropriated an additional \$2 million for land acquisition efforts on and off current reservations to support sustainable land practices. The increase supports self-determination on Tribal trust land and natural resources and enhances Tribal authority. The land acquisition effort is intended to foster and restore lands to new and landless Tribes, at Regional authority levels, for the development of conservation practices, law enforcement, applicable regulatory policies, and sustainable Tribal communities and economic development.

Consistent with applicable laws and regulations, the BIA Regional Directors are responsible for issuing decisions on all requests for non-gaming, off-reservation, and fee to-trust land acquisitions. The funds will directly support the BIA Regions for fee to-trust acquisitions.

Meaningful Tribal consultation, respect for Tribal sovereignty, and a commitment to trust and treaty responsibilities are Administration priorities. Given the expected Tribal interest in determining the best methodology for distribution of the additional funding, the Department of the Interior will conduct the following Tribal consultation sessions prior to making any final determination on how this will be accomplished.

Date	Time	Location	Registration Link
April 18, 2023	1 p.m. – 3 p.m. EST	Virtual	https://www.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJIscOirrjsoGnPZuJTds51I_NxewZ5OgTI
April 20, 2023	4 p.m. – 6 p.m. EST	Virtual	https://www.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJIscO6srjoiGnErX-OfjUKfCbj6byhgZ8w

We look forward to speaking with you to discuss possible methodologies for distribution of the additional funding. If you would like to provide written input, please email the input to consultation@bia.gov by midnight Eastern Time on April 24, 2023. For further information, please contact Trina Locke, Acting Deputy Bureau Director, BIA Office of Trust Services.

Sincerely,

Darryl LaCounte
Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs