



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, DC 20240

AUG 12 2022

Dear Tribal Leader:

I invite you to consult on the future direction of the Tiwahe Initiative. In an effort to empower federally recognized Tribes to realize this potential, Indian Affairs (IA) launched the Tiwahe Initiative in fiscal year (FY) 2015 with six pilot sites. The Initiative is made up of several Human Services and Public Safety and Justice program components, which work together to protect and promote the development of prosperous and resilient Tribal communities. The Tiwahe model is effective because it allows Tribes to create their own potential and provides freedom to design programs and integrate services within Tribal culture and tradition to produce powerful outcomes beneficial to Indian communities and families living there. It also affords tribes the flexibility to direct Tiwahe funding where it is most needed.

The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) needs your input to inform program expansion in FY 2022 and FY 2023. The FY 2022 budget includes funding for two additional Tiwahe sites, and the FY 2023 President's budget proposes an increase of \$20.2 million above the FY 2022 enacted level to increase the number of Tribal sites participating in the program. Increases were also requested to expand the breadth of public safety and justice programs under Tiwahe, as well as adding an economic development component. To provide more detail on the program, included with this letter is an overview of the Tiwahe Initiative.

During the consultation, the BIA welcomes all comments and will be specifically seeking input on the following questions:

1. What framework should IA use to expand Tiwahe sites in FY 2022 and FY 2023?
For example, should some of the following factors be taken into account:
 - Readiness to implement a Tiwahe plan;
 - The degree of access to resources and funding;
 - Level of Tribal and community support;
 - Interest in development of a pre-Tiwahe incubator to help tribes develop plans for future Tiwahe inclusion;
 - Who should comprise the selection team
2. What other factors should BIA consider in expanding the Tiwahe program?

We invite you to register for the following consultation sessions:

Monday, September 12, 2022
2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. (ET)

Please register in advance at:

https://doitalent.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_EV4E7r4ZTC6w2FI8pFEBeQ

The Tiwahe Initiative Congressional Report is available at <https://www.bia.gov/ois/tiwahe>. We strongly recommend reviewing the Tiwahe webpage prior to attending a consultation session or submitting written comments for providing meaningful feedback.

You may also provide written comments to consultations@bia.gov by 11:59pm ET on October 12, 2022. If you have any questions, please contact Meghan Bishop, Policy Specialist to the Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs at (202) 208-4709 or via email: meghan.bishop@bia.gov.

I look forward to your input on the future direction of the Tiwahe Initiative.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bryan Newland".

Bryan Newland
Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs