



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, DC 20240

MAY - 6 2022

Dear Tribal Leader:

I am following up on the Tribal enrollment data collection which we collaboratively engaged in last April to ensure accurate data was used to inform timely allocations of American Rescue Plan funding.

During consultations held for that effort, Indian Affairs identified, and Tribes expressed support for, collection of current Tribal enrollment data to inform American Rescue Plan funding allocations for federally recognized Tribes by the Department of the Interior and other Federal agencies. As a result, Indian Affairs worked with federally recognized Tribes to get updated, aggregate Tribal enrollment information. The enrollment data collected was limited to one aggregate number of enrolled members for the Tribe, no further detail or personal information was collected.

Indian Affairs invites you to a consultation on June 8, 2022 regarding next steps for further collection, use and dissemination of enrollment data. Specific information regarding participation at the consultation session is as follows:

Date	Time	Topic	Teleconference Number
June 8, 2022	1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. Eastern Time	Enrollment data collection, use and dissemination	https://www.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_XU0vhxFTT52Sh1vv2WEBSA

Indian Affairs continues to get requests from other Federal agencies for access to enrollment data to inform action(s) on enacted legislation, such as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funding allocations to federally recognized Tribes, as well as programs supported by annual appropriations. Accordingly, we are holding a consultation on establishing a process for the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) to collect total enrollment data on an annual basis and to make this information publicly available. While I understand there are sensitivities related to enrollment data, many Tribes include total enrollment numbers on their individual websites or must report this information several times for different funding application processes. Ultimately, enrollment data currently collected by Federal agencies is also discoverable through the Freedom of Information Act and may be made publicly accessible through the Open Data Act. Increasing access to regularly updated enrollment data by making it publicly accessible on the BIA website would enable accurate, timely and transparent payments to Indian Country and reduce reporting burdens on Tribes.

In advance of the consultation, below are questions we will address during the consultation in addition to any other comments you have:

- Did the process used to collect enrollment data during April 2022 work well for your Tribe? What could have helped improve the process?
- Do you have concerns with making the Tribal enrollment data publicly accessible? If so, what are these specific concerns? Do the benefits of making the data accessible outweigh the drawbacks?
- How frequently should the data be updated?

Written comments can be sent to consultation@bia.gov until July 8, 2022. If you have any questions, please contact Jeannine Brooks at jeannine.brooks@bia.gov.

I look forward to your input on Indian Affairs implementation regarding collection and management of this critical data.

Sincerely,



Bryan Newland
Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs