



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Washington, DC 20240

MAY 24 2022

Dear Tribal Leader:

This is a correction to a Dear Tribal Leader Letter dated May 20, 2022, that identified Monday, June 20, 2022, as one of the consultation dates. Because Monday, June 20, is a Federal holiday, we are changing this consultation date to Wednesday, June 22.

I invite you to consult on the funding methodology for the Small Tribe Supplement budget line item (previously known as the Small and Needy program). This has been a critical budget line item that ensures smaller Tribes receive a minimum base level of funding to run viable tribal governments.

This consultation is especially important because the Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 President's budget proposes an increase of \$16 million above the FY 2022 enacted level to raise the minimum Tribal Priority Allocation (TPA) base threshold from \$200,000 in Alaska and \$160,000 in the lower 48 states to \$300,000 for all eligible tribes, regardless of geographic location. The current base amounts were established in 1994 and are no longer sufficient for small tribes to run viable Tribal governmental operations.

During the consultation, the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) welcomes all comments and will be specifically seeking input on the following questions:

1. What types of funding should be considered in the minimum funding level calculation? Should it continue to be restricted to the total base TPA funding level for a given year?
2. Should all base TPA line items be included in the total amount calculated or are there other budget program lines that should be excluded because they are in a different budget activity yet identified with a specific funding level for a specific Tribe?
3. Should the 2021 Tribal enrollment levels submitted by Tribes, to the BIA, be the year established for one of the components in the eligibility determinations or should the Tribal enrollment levels be updated annually for this program to determine eligibility? What are your recommendations for establishing a threshold in coordination with a threshold TPA base amount, for example should we continue with the 1994 report enrollment threshold of 1,700?
4. What, if any, changes should be made to the minimum base level of funding thresholds? We are proposing to raise it to \$300,000 in the BIA FY 2023 budget for all eligible Tribes, regardless of location.

5. Should the parameters be based solely on a Tribe's TPA base funding amount and Tribal enrollment level (with the establishment of what that level should be) or are there other criteria that should be considered?

We invite you to register for one or more of the following consultation sessions:

Tuesday, June 21, 2022
2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. (ET)

Please register in advance at:
<https://www.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJltdOmrpj0rHIQYa0H4L9oZfepBDkN4ucQ>

Wednesday, June 22, 2022
2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. (ET)

Please register in advance at:
https://www.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJlIf-ioqz0vHbtJekwnq_ia5qbVLaLoyUM

You may also provide written comments to consultation@bia.gov by 11:59pm ET on July 1, 2022. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Rose Petoskey, Senior Counselor to the Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs at (202) 208-7163 or via email: rose.petoskey@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