

# Press Release



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

April 25, 2025

## **Native Housing Block Grant on the Chopping Block: Trump's Budget Proposal is a Dangerous Violation of Tribal Sovereignty**

NEW ORLEANS, LA — The Trump administration's proposed FY2026 federal budget includes the complete elimination of the Native American Housing Block Grant (IHBG)—a critical funding stream that serves as the backbone of housing programs in Indian Country. As a Native woman, housing consultant, and advocate who has helped secure over \$135 million for tribal housing and infrastructure, I am calling this proposal what it is: **an assault on Native life, tribal governance, and federal trust obligations.**

This isn't political—it's existential. The IHBG is not a handout. It is a legally mandated obligation of the United States government under the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act (NAHASDA). It affirms the inherent sovereignty of tribal nations to govern and administer their own housing programs in alignment with their values, culture, and community needs.

Eliminating this program would dismantle the only consistent funding stream that tribal nations use to build, rehabilitate, and maintain housing on reservations and in tribal communities.

### **And let's be clear: Native communities are already facing a housing crisis.**

- Overcrowding on reservations is 8 times the national average (61,941 households)
- Roughly 276,797 new housing units are needed immediately to meet demand (IHBG Housing Shortage estimate)
- Many tribal housing authorities are the only local providers of affordable housing and emergency shelter for Native families

To propose eliminating this program—under the justification that it's "duplicative" or unnecessary—is not only false, but shamefully dangerous. The administration's vague reference to "opportunity zones" and state-controlled initiatives as alternatives completely ignores the government-to-government relationship between tribes and the federal government and removes Native voices from decisions that impact Native lives.

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At the same time, tribes have been waiting for years for NAHASDA reauthorization, a process that would strengthen and modernize the very law that governs tribal housing programs. If President Trump is proposing to eliminate IHBG altogether, then it also confirms what many of us have feared: this administration has no intention of reauthorizing NAHASDA and no interest in honoring its commitment to tribal housing and sovereignty.

This proposal is a blatant violation of tribal sovereignty, and it flies in the face of the United States' legal, moral, and treaty responsibilities. The very existence of this proposal shows how little regard this administration has for the health, stability, and self-determination of Native nations.

Now is the time to act. I urge every tribal leader, housing authority, Native organization, and ally to raise your voice. Contact your members of Congress. Call your senators. Make it clear that this is non-negotiable.

We do not need less funding — we need more.

We do not need temporary, state-run gimmicks — we need permanent, tribally directed solutions.

We do not need paternalism — we need sovereignty.

**The Native American Housing Block Grant cannot be eliminated. It must be protected—and expanded. And NAHASDA must be reauthorized. Now.**

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