

The Trump Administration Is Supporting Indian Country in Response to COVID-19

We will leverage every resource we have to bring safety to our tribal communities, and we will not waver in this mission.

– President Donald J. Trump

Overview: Response and recovery efforts are locally executed, State and Tribal Government managed, and federally supported. Successful emergency management requires nationwide cooperation and unity of effort, combining the strength and ingenuity of our citizens and private sector with a sweeping, all-inclusive, and whole-of-government response. The below is a partial overview of Federal assistance provided to the 574 federally recognized Tribes in the United States to combat the Coronavirus. The information is bolstered by hundreds of additional actions by the Federal Government to help Tribal governments, their leaders, and Tribal citizens. Implementation of the CARES Act and other supplemental funding is ongoing and will also bring additional support to Indian Country. President Donald J. Trump and Vice President Mike Pence have appreciated the strong partnership with Tribal leaders, Tribal public health officials, and Indian Country professionals nationwide.

Supportive Actions by President Donald J. Trump:

- **President Trump Declares a National Emergency:** On March 13, President Trump **declared** a national emergency concerning COVID-19. The emergency declaration authorized direct Federal assistance, temporary facilities, commodities, equipment, and emergency operation costs for all States and Tribes of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act. A Tribal government may choose to be a sub-recipient under a state that has chosen to be a recipient of FEMA assistance or choose to be a direct recipient of FEMA. As of May 4, 40 Tribes have signed agreements with FEMA making them eligible for assistance under the emergency declaration. Additional information and guidance can be found [here](#).
- **Tribal Government Disaster Declarations:** In addition to assistance available to Tribal governments under the nationwide emergency declaration, Tribal governments have the option to request assistance under a Presidential major disaster declaration. For the first time in history, every State in the country has received a major disaster declaration, which means every Tribal government in the country is covered by a major disaster declaration (should a Tribe opt to be a sub-recipient under the State declaration). More [here](#).
- **Coronavirus Guidelines for America:** On March 16, President Trump and the White House Coronavirus Task Force **announced** guidelines (*15 Days to Slow the Spread*) to assist State, Local, and Tribal leaders in preventing the spread of the Coronavirus. On March 31, President Trump **announced** revised guidelines (*30 Days to Slow the Spread*) extending mitigation measures through April 30.
- **Historic Economic Relief:** On April 24, President Trump **signed** the *Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act* into law. The law provides further unprecedented economic relief to American citizens, small businesses, workers, healthcare providers, and State, local, and Tribal governments and builds on the *Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act*, *Families First Coronavirus Response Act*, and the *Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriation*. More [here](#).
- **Guidelines for Opening Up America Again:** On April 16, President Trump and the White House Coronavirus Task Force unveiled **guidelines** for the reopening of America. Developed by the top medical experts from across the Government, the guidelines outline a phased return to reopening and include specific steps for State, Local, and Tribal officials to follow in tailoring their response.

Testing, Resource & Logistics Support: The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is working with the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (HHS), other Federal agencies, and private sector

partners, to produce, allocate, and distribute key resources to the Indian Health Service (IHS) and key Tribal health facilities nationwide. Most notably, these include personal protective equipment (PPE), testing supplies, ventilators, and the expedition of critical supplies from overseas to various U.S. locations.

- On March 6, 2020, the IHS activated the IHS Incident Command Structure (ICS) in response to COVID-19. This formally established ICS sections charged with leading Agency activities. Each section facilitates activities that may assist Tribes in their response and recovery to COVID-19.
- HHS, the Centers for Disaster Control and Prevention (CDC), and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), are providing unprecedented regulatory flexibilities, resources, and guidance to expand the availability of testing and to assist States and Tribes across the country in scaling testing. Learn more from the CDC [here](#) and FDA [here](#). In addition, CARES Act and other supplemental disbursements, alongside FEMA resources, are important avenues for Tribal governments to scale testing.
- The IHS continues to scale COVID-19 testing and contact tracing for Indian Country. IHS [distributed](#) 250 Abbott ID Now test machines through IHS area offices to Federal and Tribal health care facilities. Through these efforts, IHS testing has increased 10-fold over since April 1. Data reported from IHS, Tribal, and Urban Indian Organization facilities can be found [here](#).
- For the first time in history, all ten FEMA regions are concurrently activated. Each of the ten FEMA regions has Regional Tribal Liaisons that have and continue to coordinate with Tribes located within that respective region. More [here](#). FEMA has also dedicated a National Tribal Advisor Desk to help ensure Tribal response for COVID-19 in FEMA's National Response Coordination Center (NRCC).
- Response and recovery efforts are locally executed, State/Tribally managed, and federally supported. The White House, in coordination with FEMA and Federal Agency partners, provided a [disaster response primer](#) for the benefit of State, Local, and Tribal governments to navigate the COVID-19 response and recovery process. FEMA has also provided specific guidance for Tribal Governments [here](#) and [here](#).
- In support of the White House Coronavirus Task Force, FEMA and HHS/IHS are coordinating a whole-of-America approach to source PPE, ventilators, testing supplies, and other critical resources for States, Tribes, and Territories. The effort is led by Rear Admiral John Polowczyk of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and supported by Rear Admiral Michael Weahkee, Director, Indian Health Service. [Project Air Bridge](#), a coordinated public-private partnership, is a key component of this strategy.
- Through the Strategic National Stockpile, other FEMA/HHS procurements, and donations, FEMA has distributed 7.3 M face shields, 111.8 M surgical masks, 896,183 coveralls, 929.9 M gloves, 65.5 M N95 respirators, and 18.1 M gowns across the country. These distributions do not include efforts to support supply chains in every State through Project Air Bridge and other sources. More [here](#).
- As of April 28, FEMA has obligated more than \$358,000 in support of ongoing Tribal response efforts.
- FEMA, in coordination with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and HHS/IHS, is providing direct support to Tribal Governments in response to COVID-19. For example, FEMA and Arizona State Health mission have assigned a Disaster Medical Task Force to Tuba City Regional Health Care and provided subject matter expertise and other assistance. FEMA has also deployed two Disaster Medical Assistance Teams (DMAT), two 50 bed Federal Medical Stations, and 100 ventilators to assist in response and capacity efforts. HHS/IHS has deployed a liaison to assist the Navajo Nation Health Command Operations Center and assist with coordination.

Federal Agency Support: The Trump Administration continues to provide unprecedented resources, guidance, and regulatory flexibilities for State, local and Tribal governments to develop and deploy innovative solutions for COVID-19 response. To date, the Administration has distributed billions of dollars in resources and supplemental funding to Tribal Governments and entities.

- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Indian Health Service (IHS)

- The IHS has allocated a total of \$1.096 B from COVID-19 supplemental appropriations. On April 3, IHS began distributing \$600 million of CARES Act funding to IHS, Tribal, and Urban Indian Organizations following consultations with Tribal governments. On April 24, IHS began distributing the remaining \$367 M in CARES Act funds. On March 27, the IHS began distribution of the full \$64 M provided in the second supplemental appropriation for COVID-19 testing.
- The IHS has and continues to provide guidance and resources to IHS, Tribal, and Urban Indian Health Organizations. Through partnership with Johns Hopkins University, IHS created COVID-19 [materials](#) for Tribal use focused on community prevention education. IHS has also conducted ten COVID-19 webinars aimed at increasing prevention and treatment resources.
- The IHS has [expanded](#) telehealth across the agency. Telehealth services means patients can reduce their risk of infection and also keep healthcare workers and others in waiting rooms and emergency departments safe from COVID-19. It is also means frontline emergency physicians have instant access to critical care consultation across miles where the service has traditionally been very difficult to access.
- The IHS is activating Alternative Healthcare Sites (ACS) to address insufficient ambulatory care or hospital capacity, as well as the need to screen and isolate select patients.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

- CDC is providing direct funding to Tribes and Tribal organizations to address COVID-19. As of April 28, CDC's COVID-19 spend plan for Tribes totals more than \$200 million across CARES Act and other supplemental funding streams. Specific allocations include:
 - \$10.4 M, including \$8 million to the National Council of Urban Indian Health and sub-awards to 41 Urban Indian Health Centers, through CDC's existing cooperative agreement (more [here](#));
 - \$36 M, including to 11 regional Tribal organizations with capacity to each more than 500 Tribes and more than 2 million American Indians and Alaska Natives as well as funding to four Tribal nations serving populations of 40,000 or more through CDC's existing cooperative agreement (more [here](#));
 - As of April 28, \$1.17 M from \$159 M in non-competitive grants to federally recognized Tribes, Tribal organizations, and bona fide agents (more [here](#)).
- CDC is providing guidance, training, tools, and information to Tribes, Tribal organizations, and individual Tribal members to assist them in addressing COVID-19. Many of these resources, such as guidance on *Social Distancing for Tribal Communities with Local COVID-19 Transmission*, can be found on CDC's COVID-19 [website](#).
- CDC is actively working with the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ASTDR) to share information and gain input from Tribal leaders on the challenges Tribal nations are experiencing in addressing COVID-19.

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)

- CMS has approved waivers under the authority granted to the Secretary in section 1135 of the Social Security Act that provide a range of flexibilities in response to COVID-19. These waivers apply to Medicare and Medicaid providers, including IHS, Tribal and Urban Indian Programs that participate in Medicare and Medicaid. Examples of flexibilities include:
 - CMS is authorizing States and Territories to temporarily suspend Medicaid fee-for-service prior authorization requirements through the termination of the emergency declaration.
 - CMS is temporarily waiving certain provider requirements in States and Territories. For example, States and Territories may request that CMS temporarily waive payment of application fee, criminal background checks, and site visits to temporarily enroll a provider; permit providers located out of State/Territory to provide care to an emergency state's Medicaid enrollee; temporarily cease revalidation of providers who are located in the state or otherwise directly

impacted by the emergency; and, temporarily waive requirements that physicians and other health care professionals be licensed in the state in which they are providing services, so long as they have equivalent licensing in another state.

Administration for Children and Families (ACF)

- Through the Administration for Native Americans (ANA), ACF supports critical programs that are important for Tribes and Native American communities as they respond to COVID-19. Specific resources, guidance, and programs offered through the ANA can be found [here](#).
- ACF is hosting calls with the ACF Tribal Advisory Committee on a biweekly basis to connect Tribal regional representatives with ACF program leadership and representative to discuss ACF COVID-19 response and communications.
- The CARES Act provided \$3.5 billion for the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) program for the prevention, preparedness, and response as it relates to child care programs on April 13, 2020. ACF awarded over \$96 M of this supplemental funding to all Child Care Tribal grantees. Lead Agencies can utilize this funding for, among other things, immediate assistance to child care providers to sustain their operations during decreased enrolment or closures, and to otherwise support child care for families, including for healthcare workers, first responders, and others playing critical roles during this crisis.
- As a result of the CARES Act, over \$10 M in Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) COVID-19 supplemental funding will be awarded to approximately 137 Tribes/Tribal communities.
- As a result of the CARES Act, over \$5.6 M in Community Service Block Grant (CSBG) COVID-19 supplemental funding will be awarded to approximately 96 Tribes/Tribal communities.

Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)

- The HRSA is the primary Federal agency for improving health care to people who are geographically isolated, economically or medically vulnerable. *The Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act* funding enabled HRSA to [award](#) \$100 million to 1,381 health centers across the country. This included 35 Tribal and Urban Indian health centers that received over \$2 M.
- The CARES Act provided HRSA with \$1.32 B in emergency funding for 1,387 health centers across the country. As a result of this funding, 35 Tribal and Urban Indian health centers [received](#) over \$22 M in supplemental awards, to detect coronavirus, prevent, diagnose, and treat COVID-19, and maintain current health center capacity and staffing levels, for the duration of the national emergency.

Administration for Community Living (ACL)

- The Administration for Community Living (ACL) has distributed a total of \$30 million from COVID-19 supplemental appropriations for nutrition and supportive services to elders from the 282 American Indian, Alaskan Native and Native Hawaiian organizations that receive grants from ACL. The funds must be used in order to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the COVID pandemic. On April 20, ACL awarded \$20 million of CARES Act funding and on March 25, ACL distributed \$10 million in the first round of Coronavirus response funding. [More here](#).
- ACL has also coordinated with national aging organizations to provide weekly calls with Tribal organizations to discuss COVID response for Tribal elders.

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)

- On April 27, as part of its CARES Act Response grants, SAMHSA announced the distribution of over \$22 million in funding to Tribes, Tribal organizations, and urban Indian health organizations to provide crisis intervention services, mental and substance use disorder treatment, and other related recovery supports for children and adults impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. SAMHSA received a tremendous response from Tribal entities and was able to award 50 Tribal programs from \$100k to \$500k for up to 16 months.

- Additionally, through the CARES Act, SAMHSA will allocate \$15 million to Tribes, Tribal organizations, urban Indian health organizations, or health or behavioral health service providers to Tribes. SAMHSA has consulted with Tribes on this funding and is working on its expeditious release.

- **U.S. Department of the Treasury (USDT)**

- As of May 1, the Internal Revenue Service has issued over 127.5 million Economic Impact Payments (EIP) totaling more than \$216.7 billion to eligible individuals across the country. [Authorized](#) under the CARES Act, EIPs are being automatically issued to eligible 2019 or 2018 Federal tax return filers who received a refund using direct deposit. Social Security recipients who do not file tax returns will automatically receive economic impact payments. More [here](#) and [here](#).
- Title V of the CARES Act provides \$8 billion through the [Coronavirus Relief Fund](#) (CRF) to cover expenses related to effective COVID-19 preparedness and response activities and programming to support American Indians and Alaska Natives. Following two rounds of consultation with tribal leaders, on May 5, the Department of the Treasury announced the beginning of distributions to Tribal governments in all states. More [here](#).

- **U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)**

- USDA is ensuring that Tribal citizens have food they need. USDA's Food Nutrition Service (FNS) is in the process of disbursing \$100 million for the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservation ([FDPIR](#)) appropriated in the CARES Act, with \$50 M going towards facility improvements and equipment grades and the other \$50 M going towards additional costs related to additional food purchasing. Additionally, FNS is reviewing waivers for multiple nutrition programs, such as WIC, to ensure maximum flexibilities directly to Tribes.
- USDA has and continues to provide numerous flexibilities and resources to Tribal governments to ease program operations and protect the health of participants. A list of waivers broken down by Tribe can be found [here](#).
- USDA published a [COVID-19 Federal Rural Resource Guide](#) for rural residents, Tribal citizens, businesses, and communities to find information about Federal funding and partnership opportunities during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- On April 17, Secretary Perdue joined President Trump in announcing the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program ([CFAP](#)) to assist farmers, ranchers, and consumers across States and Tribal governments in response to COVID-19. This \$19 B relief program will provide \$16 B in direct support based on actual losses for agricultural producers and \$3 B in purchases of fresh produce, dairy, and meat, including producers in South Dakota.

- **U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI)**

- The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) distributed more than \$355 M of the \$453 M it received in CARES Act funding directly to tribal governments in April to support their COVID-19 response efforts.
- The CARES Act provides \$69 M for education-related needs, including salaries, equipment, online curriculum development and other costs through the Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) to support the more than 46,000 tribal students, 183 BIE-funded schools, and tribal colleges and universities impacted by COVID-19.

- **U.S. Department of Education (ED)**

- To supplement the funds directly appropriated to the BIE, the CARES Act also provides support through the Education Stabilization Fund. In consultation with the Secretary of the Interior, the legislation directs the Secretary of Education to allocate \$153.75 M to Interior for programs operated or funded by BIE. ED and BIE recently concluded a joint Tribal listening session with Tribes, Tribal organizations, Tribal Colleges and Universities, and other stakeholders.

- ED granted several waivers to BIE regarding the assessment, accountability, and fiscal requirements under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). More [here](#).
- In recognition of the widespread school closures faced by school districts nationwide due to COVID-19, the Department has extended the deadline for eligible school districts to submit applications for FY2020 OIE Title VI Formula Grant funding. The Department will now accept OIE Title VI Formula Grant applications until the end of the day on June 19, 2020.

- **U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ)**

- The U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) meets monthly with the Attorney General's Tribal Nations Leadership Council to discuss emergent issues in Indian country, including DOJ support for Tribes during the COVID-19 global pandemic. Information about DOJ funding and assistance has been disseminated to Tribes in each of the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) regions through the Leadership Council. Additionally, DOJ is assisting with the inter-governmental coordination of Tribal public safety efforts to minimize COVID-19 exposure on Reservations as appropriate.
- The U.S. Department of Justice's United States Attorney's Offices are continuing their efforts, along with their Federal and state law enforcement partners, to coordinate with Tribal governments on public safety issues and to prosecute violent crime in Indian Country, especially domestic violence. Additionally, the Department's U.S. Attorney's Offices are engaging Tribal leaders and Tribal law enforcement within their districts to offer support and explore ways in which the Department can assist our Tribal partners impacted by the COVID-19 global pandemic.
- The Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) received \$850 M through the CARES Act for the purpose of assisting state, local, and Tribal jurisdictions with preventing, preparing for, and responding to the coronavirus. The BJA quickly developed the Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding (CESF) program that will provide funding to all fifty states, six territories, and over 1,800 local and Tribal jurisdictions across the nation. Seventeen Tribes from seven states will be eligible applicants for the CESF grant funding totaling \$1,892,805. Ten of the seventeen Tribal applications have been started, and BJA staff continues outreach and application assistance to the remaining Tribes as needed. More [here](#).
- In response to feedback received over the past several years from Tribal leaders in a series of Tribal consultations, the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) will allocate \$118 M from the FY 2020 Tribal Victim Services Set-Aside (TVSSA) funding through a discretionary administrative formula. The formula responds directly to concerns raised by Tribal leaders that Tribes not be required to compete against each other for OVC funding, and that OVC ensure that the maximum available set-aside funding be disseminated directly to Tribes. More [here](#).

- **U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA)**

- With funding authorization under the CARES Act, the SBA created additional loan/funding [programs](#), including the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP), to assist small businesses impacted by COVID-19. The PPP is available to small businesses, 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations, veterans' organizations, sole proprietors, and independent contractors, including Tribal business concerns.
- With an initial authorization of \$349 B, SBA executed more loans to small businesses across the country in 14 days than the agency had in 14 years. SBA is currently issuing Round II of PPP loans with an additional \$310 B in authorized funding. In total, SBA has approved over 3.8 million loans to small businesses totaling more than \$500 B.
- SBA has approved Economic Injury Disaster Loan Assistance (EIDL) declarations as it relates to COVID-19 for every State. The declarations make SBA loans available statewide to small businesses and private, nonprofit organizations to help alleviate economic injury caused by the coronavirus. More [here](#).

- **U.S. Department of Commerce (DOC)**

- The CARES Act allocated \$50 M to the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP), a National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) program, to help manufacturers respond to the coronavirus. For assistance, U.S. Tribal manufacturers should contact their [local](#) MEP Center.

- The CARES Act provided the Economic Development Administration (EDA) with \$1.5 B to “*prevent, prepare, and respond to coronavirus.*” In the coming weeks, EDA will accept applications for grants from eligible entities, including Tribal groups, to support a wide variety of economic development assistance. EDA also intends to directly contact and provide special instructions to Tribal groups on how to receive funds for economic recovery planning and coordination under the CARES Act.
- The Department of Commerce’s Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA) continues to do its part keeping America safe and resilient while encouraging minority owned businesses to do the same. Currently, MBDA offers its services to American Indian and Alaska Native (AIAN) entrepreneurs through a network of business development projects targeted specifically to AIAN businesses located across the country. Each project offers a range of services to AIAN businesses, including technical assistance, business consulting, access to capital and procurement opportunities, and strategic partnerships. More [here](#).
- The CARES Act authorizes the Secretary of Commerce to provide \$300 M in appropriated funds to assist fishery participants affected by COVID-19. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is currently operationalizing distribution of this supplemental assistance. Additional and updated information can be found [here](#). Other provisions in the CARES Act will help NOAA maintain continuity of operations and support the continued success of our nation’s fisheries.
- The U.S. Census Bureau is planning a listening session with federally and state recognized Tribes, and AIAN organizations across the country. This listening session continues ongoing communication with an update on 2020 Decennial Operations, the 2020 Disclosure Avoidance System (DAS) and the geographic hierarchy of DAS.

- **U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT)**

- In FY 20, the Federal Transit Authority (FTA) apportioned \$32,604,193 in funding under the Tribal formula to eligible recipients for capital, operating, planning, and administrative expenses for public transit projects that meet the growing needs of rural Tribal communities. More [here](#). With additional authorizations under the CARES Act, FTA [provided](#) another \$30 M to eligible recipients for qualified expenses. FTA is permitting Tribes to use funds for meal delivery or other essential deliveries for a 6-month period from January 20, 2020.
- On April 14, 2020, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) [announced](#) CARES Act grant allocations, including 22 grants for Tribal airport sponsors totaling \$470 K. This funding will help these general aviation airports prevent, prepare for, and respond to the impacts of the COVID-19 public health emergency.
- On April 17, 2020, the BIA Indian Highway Safety Program requested the first flexibility in use of traffic safety equipment for COVID-19 response activities. The majority of NHTSA-funded Tribal grants, totaling approximately \$5 M annually, are used for traffic enforcement and child passenger safety programs.

- **U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)**

- With the \$19.6 B allocated under the CARES Act, the VA is hiring new staff and procuring additional resources to deal with the evolving needs of the COVID-19 pandemic. This includes expanding free or subsidized telehealth services and waiving a requirement that VA State homes maintain a 90 percent occupancy rate in order to receive Federal benefits for times when the Veteran is not in the home. More [here](#).
- The VA traditionally provides Veterans’ healthcare, benefits and memorial affairs. In times of national crisis, such as the current COVID-19 pandemic, VA provides services to the Nation based on requests from States, while being clear that Veterans are our first priority. This is known as VA’s [Fourth Mission](#). In coordination with the Indian Health Service, the VA is exploring Tribal engagement opportunities, including surge planning in the Albuquerque, Navajo, and Oklahoma City Areas.
- The U.S. Department of the Treasury and VA [announced](#) that VA benefit recipients across the Nation will automatically receive \$1,200 in Economic Impact Payments provided for under the CARES Act.

- On April 3, the VA announced a number of actions to provide Native American and all Veterans across the Nation with financial, benefits and claims help as part of the VA's COVID-19 response. The financial relief actions include – until further notice – (i) suspending all actions on Veteran debts under the jurisdiction of the Treasury Department and (ii) suspending collection action or extending repayment terms on preexisting VA debts, as the Veteran prefers. More [here](#).

- **U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS)**

- The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) is assisting Tribes with their planning and response efforts to COVID-19 by providing direct technical assistance and response for emergency communications. This support included the development of 911 communication and practice standard guides for Tribal emergency communications dispatch and the development of communications guidance for alternate care sites and facilities. More [here](#).
- On March 16, CISA updated [critical infrastructure guidance](#) in response to the COVID-19 emergency. The guidance is intended to help State, local, and Tribal officials to protect their communities, while ensuring continuity of functions critical to public health and safety, as well as economic and national security. DHS/CISA continues to engage stakeholders on the guidance and issue revised/updated versions.
- The Homeland Security Information Network (HSIN) is supporting Tribal communities by providing information sharing solutions to support the virtual emergency operations center for COVID-19 situational awareness, planning and coordination among five Tribal nations in the Greater Duluth area (Bois Forte Band of Chippewa, Fond du Lac Band of Chippewa, Grand Portage Band of Chippewa, Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe, Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe).

- **U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)**

- On April 3, HUD [announced](#) grants to more than 500 Tribes of \$200 M in supplemental Indian House Block Grants (IHBG-CARES). The funding primarily benefits low income American Indian families and is for Tribes and Tribally Designated Housing Entities (TDHEs) to carry out activities to protect the safety and health of their Tribal members and communities. Tribes and TDHEs in accordance with the [implementation notice](#).
- HUD will soon begin accepting applications for \$100 M in supplemental CARES Act funding for the Indian Community Development Block Grant (ICDBG-CARES) program. This funding provides support to Tribes and Tribal organizations across the country to respond to imminent threats related to COVID-19.
- HUD has issued multiple [waivers and alternative requirements](#) of statutory and regulatory provisions to facilitate and expedite the use of funds under both the IHBG-CARES and ICDBG-CARES programs to help address COVID-19 in Tribal communities.
- HUD has also taken many steps to protect Native American homeowners impacted by the COVID-19 emergency to allow them to stay stably housed in their homes. This includes imposing an initial 60-day foreclosure moratorium and a 120-day eviction moratorium under the Department's Section 184 Indian Home Loan Guarantee Program. HUD is developing guidance that will be issued very soon allowing borrowers to seek forbearance relief under their mortgage loans for up to 360 days, consistent with Section 4022 under the CARES Act, and much more.
- Additional resources and guidance from HUD's Office of Native American Programs can be found [here](#)

U.S. Department of Energy (DOE)

- DOE's Cybersecurity Energy Security and Emergency Response (CESER) continues to coordinate with State, local, and Tribal governments on energy security, preparedness, and response and provide COVID-19 response updates. On April 17, CESER held a briefing call for Tribal leadership.
- DOE's Energy Emergency Assurance Coordinators (EEAC) Program is communicating broadly with State, local, and Tribal governments and sharing access to information on energy supply, demand, pricing, and infrastructure.