



Assessment of the Housing Needs of American Indians, Alaska Natives and Native Hawaiians in Washington State

Coordinated by Big Water Consulting, Nancy Pindus of Urban Institute and Akana

Funded by the Washington State Department of Commerce

In late December of 2019, following consultation and coordination with several Native organizations, the Washington State Department of Commerce selected the partnership of Big Water Consulting, Nancy Pindus of Urban Institute and Akana to conduct an assessment of the housing needs of American Indians, Alaska Natives and Native Hawaiians in Washington State. The project will extend from January 2020 until January 2021, approximately one year. The final report for this project will in part address state, federal, local and industry investments in rental and homeowner housing for Native Americans and provide policy recommendations to support the development of sufficient and safe housing for Native Americans on and outside of tribal areas and address other systemic barriers that prevent or impede access to safe and sufficient housing by Native Americans.

Currently, project coordinators are developing a **group of stakeholders** comprising the tribes, tribally-designated housing entities (TDHEs) and other rural and urban providers of housing to the Native community in Washington State. Additionally, an **advisory group** is being created, which will consist of organizations, such as government agency staff, lenders, funders, developers and others who support or facilitate the development of housing or related supportive services for the Native community. The project coordinators envision using a mixed methods approach to gather and analyze existing tribal, state, federal and other data (including Indian Housing Plans and Annual Performance Reports); conduct separate surveys of stakeholders and advisory group members; convene focus groups involving stakeholders, advisory group members, tribal members and other members of the Native community; and hold interviews with other knowledgeable sources.

In an effort to limit the burden on stakeholders and advisory group members, the project coordinators plan to convene meetings in conjunction with the meetings of regional and national tribal organizations as well as other local and state housing-related events, including meetings of the Northwest Indian Housing Association, Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, National American Indian Housing Council and the Housing Washington conference. At the outset of the project, the project coordinators will gather stakeholder input to determine the most appropriate, effective and convenient methods for engaging and collecting information from them and those they serve.



Project coordinators will share and publicly distribute the findings, final written report, and other user-friendly data visualization and graphical materials produced as a result of this project with the project sponsor, stakeholders and advisory group members in January 2021. With the help of our invaluable stakeholders and advisory group members, the outcomes and products of this project will help shape planning and funding in support of Native housing development for several years to come.

Proposed Project Timeline

January 2020:	Introduce project to stakeholders and advisory group members via brief presentations at NWIHA and ATNI events as well as meeting of urban housing providers and distribution of a project briefing sheet (this document) via email and through relevant local and regional organizations
February-April 2020:	Conduct survey of stakeholders and advisory group members and focus groups with tribal/Native community members
May 2020:	Convene stakeholders and advisory group members as a larger group and in separate focus groups to coincide with the NAIHC-AMERIND Annual Convention and Tradeshow in Seattle
September and October 2020:	Present preliminary findings to stakeholders and solicit feedback at NWIHA and ATNI meetings, the Housing Washington conference and at a meeting of urban providers of Native housing
December 2020:	Deliver draft report to Department of Commerce, stakeholders, and advisory group for review and comment
January 2021:	Present findings and final report to Department of Commerce, stakeholders and advisory group

Contact Information for Project Coordinators

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