

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

Notes from the Conference Call on Thursday, March 12, 2020

Future calls to be held monthly on the second Thursday of the month from 10 a.m.-11 a.m. PT
(Call-In #: 302-202-1110; Access Code: 167644)

Next Call: April 10, 2020; 10:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m.

Call Participants:

Iris Friday, HUD NWONAP

Kirsten Franklin-Temple, HUD NWONAP

Ann Jagger, Jamestown S'Klallam Housing Authority

Linda Brenner, Jamestown S'Klallam Housing Authority

Patricia Allen, Coalition to End Urban Indigenous Homelessness

Toni Jo Allen, The Native Project

Jody Olney, Seattle Indian Services Commission

Nancy Pindus, Urban Institute

Lonny Macy, Akana

Kevin Klingbeil, Big Water Consulting

Harry Maher, Big Water Consulting

Background and History of the Project

Jody Olney of the Seattle Indian Services Commission (SISC) explained that complaints had been made that the statewide housing needs assessment conducted by the Washington Department of Commerce in 2015 (and updated in 2018) did not specifically include an assessment of the housing needs of the Native community or farmworkers in Washington. State funds were identified and split between two needs studies, one addressing farmworker housing and one addressing housing for the Native community. The WA Department of Commerce worked with SISC and other Native organizations to develop the RFP for the Native housing needs assessment and select the consultant to develop and conduct the study.

1. Development of Stakeholder and Advisory Group Member Lists for the Study

- a. **The success of this project will be entirely dependent on the active participation of and input from the providers of housing to the Native community in Washington State and the organizations and agencies that support them.**
- b. Lists of Stakeholders and Advisory Group members for this study will be treated as “opt out” and “opt in”: a list of presumptive initial stakeholders will be posted on the “Assessment of Native American Housing Needs in Washington State” project page (<http://nativehousingwa.org>)
 - i. Those currently on the lists who wish to be removed can request to “opt out,” and those who wish to be added to the lists can “opt in,” by contacting Big Water Consulting at kevin@bigwaterconsulting.net or using the submission form on the project webpage (<http://nativehousingwa.org>) to request addition or removal. Members can also suggest/request addition of other organizations to the list, but please provide contact information for the new organization.

2. Scope and Inclusiveness of Project

- a. The coordinators of this project seek to ensure that the perspectives and barriers/opportunities/needs of all providers of housing to the Native community are included, appropriately discussed, and properly described in the information gathering and reporting stages of this project.
 - i. A few examples of the different perspectives are: housing providers within tribal lands vs. urban Indian housing providers (incl. funding sources, ability to rent only to Native tenants, land costs and development regulations, opportunities to leverage funds and involve partners, etc.), rural vs. urban housing providers, tribes with significant gaming and other sources of revenue vs. tribes without significant external revenue sources, tribes in each of the three primary regions (coastal, Puget Sound, eastern Washington/Columbia River), and organizations supporting Native Hawaiians and Alaska Natives as well as tribal and other Native housing providers.

3. Information Gathering and Review

- a. Project coordinators are beginning the literature review stage (incl. the national HUD study coordinated by a partner on this project, Nancy Pindus of Urban Institute, and the Seattle Indian Service Commission’s King County AIAN Housing Needs Assessment, which was conducted by SISC in partnership with Big Water Consulting)
- b. Big Water Consulting is submitting a FOIA request to HUD to obtain the IHPs and APRs for the TDHEs in WA in order to gather information regarding recent housing development and planned development (lowering burden on tribes to individually provide this data)

- c. Project coordinators will share draft survey content with stakeholders and advisory group members within 2-3 weeks in order to receive feedback before releasing the final survey instrument

4. Upcoming Convening of Stakeholders and Advisory Group Members

- a. **NWIHA quarterly meeting** (Grand Ronde Casino, April 7-9) and **NAIHC Annual Convention** (Seattle Westin Hotel, May 5-7): Kevin will contact Charles Anderson (NWIHA) and Tony Walters (NAIHC) to see if events will still be held
 - i. Planned Activities:
 - 1. NWIHA:
 - a. Brief update to all NWIHA members
 - b. Meeting with WA TDHEs and other Native housing providers in WA to 1) discuss content of surveys (one for housing providers, and another for agency staff, lenders, funders and developers), 2) plan for regional focus groups with community members, and 3) address process for gathering existing housing data from tribes and TDHEs
 - 2. NAIHC:
 - a. Breakout session presentation to attendees showcasing the state study as a needs assessment case study
 - b. Roundtable meeting with WA TDHEs and other Native housing providers in WA to: 1) list and discuss specific housing issues in greater detail, and 2) address specific roles played by and relationships developed between urban, rural and tribal providers of housing for Native community in WA

5. Highlighted Housing and Housing Needs Issues in Washington

- a. Point-in-Time Counts: The report for the project will include an assessment of which tribes participate in the annual statewide count and address the underlying reasons for varying levels of participation. The Coalition to End Urban Indigenous Homelessness is planning to engage tribes statewide in advance of the next count.
- b. Tribal HUD-VASH: Three tribes in WA currently participate but current legislative initiatives are underway to make the pilot program permanent and expand tribal participation; this study will include an assessment of the success of the program for tribes in WA.
- c. Relocation of Coastal Tribes from Tsunami-prone Areas: Coastal tribes need to build new housing in areas that will be safe and sustainable in the long-term.
- d. Village Development Planning Process on the Columbia River Involving Four Tribes (incl. Yakama Nation in WA and three tribes in OR) and the Army Corps of Engineers