

Strengthening Tribal Nations



Today is about continuing a meaningful Nation-to-Nation dialogue that furthers the march of progress happening in Indian Country.

*Ken Salazar, Secretary of the Interior
December 2, 2011*

The Strengthening Tribal Nations initiative is a comprehensive multi-year effort to advance the President's commitments to American Indians and Alaska Natives to improve conditions throughout Indian Country. Informed by consultation with the Tribes and reflective of tribal priorities, Interior's 2013 budget continues the initiative with a focus on improving self-determination for Tribal Nations, the safety of Indian communities, trust resource management, and post-secondary Indian education.

The 2013 budget request for Indian Affairs is \$2.5 billion, \$4.6 million below the 2012 enacted level. Included within this amount are increases for fixed costs and key programmatic priorities that are offset by reductions reflecting a commitment to improved operations and efficiency savings.

There is a programmatic increase of \$43.8 million in the budget request for the Strengthening Tribal Nations initiative including:

- Contract support to strengthen Nation-to-Nation relationships.
- Public safety programs to apply lessons learned from successful law enforcement pilot programs.
- Rights protection and natural resource programs to improve land and resource management.
- Increased funds for tribal colleges and universities due to increasing enrollment.

INDIAN AFFAIRS (dollars in millions)

TOTAL INDIAN AFFAIRS FUNDING

2012	2,531.3
2013	2,526.6
Change.....	-4.6

CHANGES

Strengthening Tribal Nations	+43.8
Advance Nation-to-Nation Relationships...	+12.3
Protect Indian Country.....	+11.0
Improve Trust Land Management.....	+15.4
Advance Indian Education.....	+5.2
Achieving Better Results at Lower Costs ...	-65.3
Consolidations.....	-19.7
Administrative Savings.....	-13.8
Transfer of Indian Arts and Crafts Board	+1.3
Program Reductions	-33.1
Fixed Costs/Transfers	+16.8

ADVANCING NATION-TO-NATION RELATIONSHIPS

It's impossible not to be optimistic about the future of Indian Country. Obviously, we face tough times. But you still believe that tomorrow can be better than today. You're out there making your communities better places to live. What you expect – and what you deserve – is a Federal government that helps, not hinders, your efforts. You deserve leaders in Washington who fight for you every single day.

*President Barack Obama
December 2, 2011*



In December 2011, President Obama hosted the third White House Tribal Nations Conference at the Department of the Interior. The President and key cabinet officials met with representatives of 565 federally recognized Tribes to discuss a wide range of issues. Topics at the conference included:

- Creating Jobs and Growing Tribal Economies.
- Promoting Safe and Strong Tribal Communities.
- Protecting Natural Resources and Respect for Cultural Rights.

- Improving Access to Healthcare, Education, Housing, Infrastructure, and Other Federal Services.
- Strengthening the Government-to-Government Relationship.

The White House Tribal Nations Conferences have led to many successful achievements including the launch of a formal consultation process in December 2011 by Secretary Salazar. The process is governed by a new consultation policy created through cooperative work with tribal representatives implementing the President's direction in a November 2009 Executive Order requiring all Federal agencies to commit themselves to regular and meaningful consultation. Interior has a long history of consultation with Tribes, but this new policy establishes requirements and guidelines that apply to all Interior officials and managers to promulgate best practices and achieve effective consultation with Tribes.



The Department conducts extensive consultation with Indian Tribes in order to gain insight into the alignment of the budget with tribal priorities. The 2013 budget reflects those priorities.

Contract Support – The 2013 request for Contract Support is \$228.0 million, an increase of \$8.8 million above the 2012 enacted level, and the estimated full need based on the most recent analysis. The Tribes, through the 2013 budget discussions with the Tribal Interior Budget Council, identified funding for contract support as their top priority. This funding is a key factor in the decisions made by Tribes to assume responsibilities for operating a broad array of Federal programs. Increased funding for tribal contract support will reduce the need for Tribes to use program funds or their own funds to fulfill

administrative requirements. Adequate funding for contract support ensures Tribes have sufficient resources to oversee program implementation and allows Tribes to deliver services more effectively. The budget also includes funding for the Indian Self-Determination Fund to pay start-up and initial contract support costs, the primary barrier for Tribes that want to assume responsibility for operation of programs through contracts and compacts.

PROTECTING INDIAN COUNTRY

We know that safer Indian communities mean stronger Indian communities.

*Ken Salazar, Secretary of the Interior
December 2, 2011*

Improving public safety and promoting safer Indian communities is a top priority for the President and tribal leaders. The 2013 budget includes increased resources to build on recent successes achieved through targeted efforts to reduce crime in Indian Country. The Department's successes at four reservations are captured in the President's Priority Goal.

The goal was established in 2009 and set expectations for 2010 and 2011 to achieve a significant reduction in violent criminal offenses of at least five percent within 24 months on four targeted tribal reservations—Mescalero Apache in New Mexico, Rocky Boys in Montana, Standing Rock in North Dakota, and Wind River in Wyoming. The BIA strategy included community policing, tactical deployment, and critical interagency and intergovernmental partnerships. Significant law enforcement staff and resources were deployed in these four communities, including more officers on the street, training of tribal law enforcement officers, modern equipment, afterschool and community engagement programs, and extensive monitoring to understand the source of crime and the successful program strategies. Through an adaptive management approach, law enforcement and community policing strategies were reevaluated for effectiveness and modified to reduce crime. Measurements of specific crime trends and sharing of best practices through community partnerships and with other law enforcement entities were used to gauge progress and strengthen the initiative.

At the end of the 24-month goal period on September 30, 2011, the BIA Office of Justice Service recorded an average 35 percent decrease in violent crime

OPERATION ALLIANCE

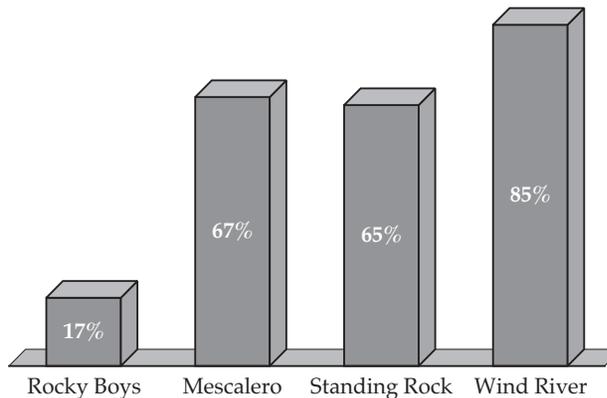


In 2010, the National Park Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, and Bureau of Land Management sent law enforcement officers to the Wind River, Rocky Boys, Standing Rock, and Mescalero reservations to support the BIA law enforcement initiative to reduce crime. In particular, NPS began deploying officers to Standing Rock in North Dakota and saw how the deployed officers became a presence in the community. Officers not only helped with community policing but became mentors through at-risk youth programs, reading programs, physical education programs, and other after school activities. After their detail, the deployed officers started a coat and cold weather gear drive for the Standing Rock community; hundreds of coats, gloves, and other cold weather apparel were shipped to the reservation in response to the donation drive.

across the four reservations. These efforts were the result of concerted and coordinated efforts by BIA resources in law enforcement, corrections, and courts working closely with tribal leadership and with community engagement.

Specifically, the initiative resulted in a 68 percent decrease in violent crime at Mescalero, a 40 percent reduction in violent crime at Rocky Boys, and a 27 percent reduction in violent crime at Standing Rock. At Wind River there was a seven percent increase in violent crime over the two year period. Even though comparable strategies were deployed at this site, the expected reductions in crime were delayed. This is attributable to multiple factors, including increased reporting of crimes – in the other com-

PERCENT CHANGE IN LAW ENFORCEMENT STAFFING 2009 TO 2011



munities that are part of this initiative, there was an initial increase in reported crimes caused by the increased law enforcement presence before the crime rate began to decline. Other factors are at work as well, including the need for community outreach and communications to increase the public’s trust for

LAW ENFORCEMENT AWARD



In 2011, BIA, Department of Justice, and tribal law enforcement personnel were honored by the U.S. Attorney General “for their collaborative work on the Wind River Indian Reservation. The team worked diligently to solve a violent murder on the reservation in April 2010. The team worked to apprehend and arrest two suspects who later pled guilty and were convicted in January 2011. The team was also honored with a National Native American Law Enforcement Association Strength Award for outstanding investigative work involving multiple law enforcement agencies.

BIA and law enforcement. Wind River’s large land base provides challenges to effective deployment of law enforcement resources. These resources have to be spread over a larger geographic area, increasing response times and delaying immediate help.

Based on the demonstrated effectiveness of this initiative, BIA is expanding the program to two additional reservations beginning in 2012 and continuing through 2013. The two reservations are the San Carlos Apache Tribe in Arizona and the Rosebud Tribe in South Dakota. The law enforcement programs, including police services, corrections, and court services on each of these reservations are tribally run. The BIA allocated increased funds



within 2012 to these two locations to address staffing shortfalls, training, equipment, and other needs. At both locations, the Tribes are in the process of hiring police officers, creating strategies for effective community policing, and garnering collaboration from community members.

The BIA completed a community assessment at both locations and is working with the Tribes to conduct an initial analysis of crime data to identify current and historic crime trends, determine criminal relationships between suspects and locations, patterns, and possible points of origin for criminal activity. Once this is accomplished, the analysis will provide an accurate portrait of the base crime rate or “crime rate profile” for each location so the program can develop a crime reduction plan. Once developed, the plan will provide the necessary information for management personnel to quickly prioritize their law enforcement response, to begin reducing the crime rate at each location most effectively. The BIA will continue to support the efforts of all six programs with funding, technical assistance, monitoring, and feedback.

Law Enforcement Operations – The President’s 2013 budget request builds on increases from previous years with a \$3.5 million program increase from 2012, for a total of \$189.7 million, for Criminal Investigations and Police Services. The BIA continues to improve upon an updated recruiting process for law enforcement officers, conducting nationwide recruitments that reach a broader audience, promoting hiring of veterans, and working collaboratively with Tribes to seek qualified employees for detention center staffing. For example, from 2009 to 2011 the sworn officer staff at Wind River Indian Reservation increased by 85 percent and at Standing Rock by 65 percent. The 2013 budget includes a program decrease of \$2.6 million for Law Enforcement Special Initiatives. The BIA will realign funding to priority needs within law enforcement operations and maintain high priority operations.

Detention Center Operations – The 2013 budget includes \$88.2 million for detention center operations at tribal and bureau operated facilities, a program increase of \$6.5 million. The funding will be used for staffing, training, and equipment to increase capacity. Sufficient capacity to hold and process detainees is necessary for law enforcement to help ensure communities can support efforts to combat crime in Indian Country. This increase will also be used to fund operations at newly constructed detention facilities opening in 2012 and 2013.



PRESCRIPTION DRUG TAKE-BACK DAY

Unattended or outdated prescription drugs are often found in home medicine cabinets and create a public health hazard because they are highly susceptible to diversion, misuse, and abuse. Two and one-half times more people currently abuse prescription drugs than the number of those using cocaine, heroin, hallucinogens, and inhalants combined, according to the recently released 2010 National Survey on Drug Use and Health. The same study shows a majority of abused prescription drugs are obtained from family and friends, including from the home medicine cabinet.

The Drug Enforcement Administration, partnering with national, State, local, and tribal law enforcement officials, and community coalition groups held a third National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day on Saturday, October 29, 2011. This one-day event made it convenient for the public to rid their homes of potentially dangerous prescription drugs. A total of 1,432 pounds of prescriptions were taken back in communities throughout Indian Country. At the two previous National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day events, communities nationwide turned in more than 309 tons of pills.

Tribal Courts – The Tribal Law and Order Act of 2010 addresses inequities in the ability of Tribes and tribal courts to support adequate crime control in Indian Country. The Act allows tribal courts to impose greater sentences and fines to individuals who commit crimes within tribal jurisdictions. The Act also gives tribal courts greater discretion

TRIBAL JUSTICE TRAINING

In 2011, the Office of Justice Services announced it had created a training program for tribal court judges, prosecutors, clerks, and administrators to improve tribal law enforcement in Indian Country. The training program was developed in coordination with the University of New Mexico School of Law’s Institute of Public Law, the Southwest Indian Law Clinic, and the American Indian Law Center. The training expands the breadth of knowledge related to the Indian Civil Rights Act and the Tribal Law and Order Act of 2010. Prosecutors who complete the training will enhance their criminal and civil procedure skills and court administrators who complete training will improve their knowledge of record development, case management and budgeting.

when administering tribal justice and encourages the courts to hear more cases because sentencing will have a greater impact on violators. In support of the enhanced capabilities given to tribal courts in the Tribal Law and Order Act, the 2013 budget includes \$24.6 million, a program increase of \$1.0 million above the 2012 enacted level, for the Tribal Courts program. The 2013 funding will be used for judges, prosecutors, public defenders, court clerks, probation officers, juvenile officers, other court support staff, training and related operations, and administrative costs for tribal justice systems and Courts of Indian Offenses.

IMPROVING TRUST LAND MANAGEMENT

President Obama is committed to making government work better to fulfill our trust management duties, support tribal self-determination and empower American Indian and Alaska Natives to unlock the economic potential of Indian communities.

*Ken Salazar, Secretary of the Interior
December 2, 2011*

The BIA's trust programs assist Tribes in the management, development, and protection of Indian trust land and natural resources on 56 million surface acres and 57 million acres of subsurface mineral estates. These programs assist tribal landowners to optimize resource use, providing many benefits such as revenue, jobs, and the protection of cultural, spiritual, and traditional resources. The estimated economic impact of these activities is \$14.4 billion which supports over 136,000 jobs.



In November 2011, Secretary Salazar and Assistant Secretary Echo Hawk announced the reform of Federal surface leasing regulations for American Indian lands that will streamline the approval process for home ownership, expedite economic development, and jump start renewable energy development in Indian Country. The proposed rules create enforceable timelines for BIA to review leases including a 30-day limit for residential leases and a 60-day limit for commercial or industrial development. The BIA has conducted several consultation meetings on the rule and gathered over 2,300 comments from over 70 Tribes and Federal agencies and is working to publish the final rule in 2012.

The 2013 budget request includes a program increase of \$14.8 million for trust natural resources and trust real estate programs. Within this program increase, is an increase of \$800,000 to support greater BIA participation in Departmental Cooperative Landscape Conservation activities. The total funding for this program in 2013 is \$1.0 million.

Trust - Natural Resources Management – The primary function of the Trust - Natural Resources Management program is to assist Tribes in the management, development, and protection of Indian trust land and natural resource assets. The 2013 budget includes \$162.1 million, a program increase of \$7.8 million for these programs, primarily managed by Tribes.

Rights Protection Implementation – This program supports the implementation of Federal court orders resulting from decisions in off-reservation treaty rights litigation. The program assists Tribes to develop conservation management plans and codes governing off-reservation conservation enforcement. It also assists Tribes in areas including harvest management, population assessment, habitat protection, stock enhancement, and public information – areas where technical assistance is needed to implement treaty rights. The budget request includes a program increase of \$3.5 million for implementation of off-reservation rights protection.

Tribal Management Development Program – The primary purpose of this program is the management of tribal fish and game programs on Indian reservations. The budget includes a program increase of \$2.0 million to support this economically and culturally significant program. Many reservations and Indian communities are being impacted by cutbacks in State and other sources of funding that assist with game

TRUST NATURAL RESOURCES IN ACTION



The Nez Perce Tribe is working actively with Idaho State fish and game offices to restore fisheries by stocking spawning grounds on the Clearwater, Grande Ronde, and Snake rivers with young hatchery fish. The Tribe is implementing a hatchery supplementation plan by releasing hatchery fish into spawning areas such as ponds along river tributaries. In recent years, the Nez Perce Tribe has cultivated approximately 1.4 million fall chinook annually. The supplementation plan has yielded highly successful results for the area including increasing the wild fish population.

and hatchery programs. These economic realities combined with increased effects of fish and wildlife populations caused by overuse, climate change, and increased development are impacting tribal resources. This program is primarily contracted to Tribes and all management objectives are set by the respective tribal governments.

Invasive Species – Tribal and BIA land managers, like all land managers, face a rising spread of invasive species and the detrimental impact of these species to the natural landscape. The budget includes a program increase of \$500,000 to support tribal programs that control, manage, and eradicate harmful plant and animal species from reservations. Increased emphasis will be placed on cooperation with adjacent land owners and operators and on long-term pest management strategies.

Forestry Program – The Forestry Program undertakes forest land management activities on Indian forest land to develop, maintain, and enhance the forest resources in accordance with the principles of sustained yield and with the standards and objectives set forth in forest management plans. Indian forests cover over 18 million acres of land, with a commercial timber volume of 42 billion board feet and an annual allowable harvest of 700 million board feet. The value of this timber equals approximately \$41 million with an estimated economic impact of \$714 million and 2,600 jobs. Indian forests are located on 298 reservations in 26 States. The 2013 budget includes a program increase of \$1.0 million for BIA forestry programs, which will be used to expand a broad range of activities to benefit Tribes such as forest protection, watershed restoration, and timber harvest management.



Trust-Real Estate Services – The Real Estate Services activity supports BIA responsibilities in the areas of trust services, probate, and land titles and records. Trust management also incorporates programs that coordinate and support the Department's trust reform improvement efforts. The budget request is \$127.8 million, which includes a program increase of \$7.0 million to support these programs.

Trust Services – The Klamath Basin Restoration Agreement was signed in February 2010 and is intended to enable the recovery of salmon and other species that have been threatened by low river flows, poor water quality, and pollution. Although the legislation necessary to implement the agreement has not yet been enacted into law, there are activities to prepare for eventual enactment and implementation. The budget request for Trust Services includes a program increase of \$5.5 million to support the objectives of the agreement including grants for economic development.

NATIONAL COMMISSION ON TRUST ADMINISTRATION AND REFORM

Our trust administration must be more transparent, responsive, customer-friendly, and accountable in managing these substantial funds and assets. Building upon the progress made with the historic Cobell Settlement, this commission will help usher in a new era of trust administration.

*David Hayes, Deputy Secretary of the Interior
November 30, 2011*

On November 30, 2011, Secretary Salazar named five prominent American Indians to a national commission that will undertake a forward looking, comprehensive evaluation of Interior's trust management. Secretary Salazar established the framework for the National Commission on Trust Administration and Reform in a 2009 Secretarial Order, which addressed the Department's future responsibilities for trust management in light of the Cobell Settlement agreement. The Cobell Settlement sets forth resolution of a class action lawsuit regarding the Federal government's trust management and accounting of individual Native American trust accounts and resources. Implementation of the Cobell Settlement will begin when all appeals are resolved.

Interior selected the members of the Commission after a public solicitation for nominations and, in consultation with trust beneficiaries, evaluated the candidates on the basis of their expertise and experience in government, trust, financial, and asset and natural resource management. Members were selected in accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act, and they will serve without compensation. By 2014, the Commission is expected to complete a comprehensive evaluation of Interior's management and administration of trust assets and offer recommendations for improvements.

The members of the Commission are:

- **Fawn R. Sharp** is the current President of the Quinault Indian Nation, the current President of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, and a former administrative law judge for the State of Washington and Governor of the Washington State Bar Association. She will serve as the Chair of the Commission.
- **Dr. Peterson Zah** is an established leader in Native American government and education circles, was the last Chairman of the Navajo Tribal Council, and the first elected President of the Navajo Nation.
- **Stacy Leeds** is a citizen of the Cherokee Nation, Dean and Professor of Law at the University of Arkansas School of Law, and former Director of the Tribal Law and Government Center at the University of Kansas School of Law.
- **Tex G. Hall** is the current Chairman of the Three Affiliated Tribes, past President of the National Congress of American Indians, currently serving as Chairman of the Inter Tribal Economic Alliance, and the Chairman of the Great Plains Tribal Chairmen's Association.
- **Bob Anderson** is an enrolled member of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe (Bois Forte Band) and has six years of experience working at Interior as Associate Solicitor for Indian Affairs and as Counselor to the Secretary of the Interior on Indian law and natural resources issues. He is currently a Professor of Law and Director of the Native American Law Center at the University of Washington, and holds a long-term appointment as the Oneida Nation Visiting Professor of Law at Harvard Law School.

The Commission is expected to meet in March 2012 to begin the evaluation and review process.

Litigation Support/Attorney Fees – The 2013 request includes a program increase of \$1.5 million for Litigation Support/Attorney Fees. Litigation Support provides funding to Tribes involved in litigation, negotiation, or administrative proceedings to protect, defend, or establish their rights and protect tribal trust resources guaranteed through treaty, court order, statute, executive order, or other legal authorities. Assistance is provided for a broad range of issues, including environmental matters pertaining to the protection and restoration of tribal trust resources, boundary disputes, and treaty rights, such as hunting, fishing, or gathering rights.

ADVANCING INDIAN EDUCATION

We're going to find ways to reduce the dropout rate. We're going to help students who've already dropped out re-enter the education system. And we're going to strengthen our Tribal Colleges and Universities. They are cornerstones of their community and they deserve our support.

*President Barack Obama
December 2, 2011*



The 2013 budget request advances the Department's continuing commitment to American Indian education at 183 schools and dormitories funded by the Bureau of Indian Education. The Secretary's initiative to advance American Indian education recognizes the strategic role of education in the long-term health and vitality of Native American communities, and is a vital component of the broader initiative to strengthen tribal communities. The Advancing Indian Education initiative addresses the full spectrum of educational needs in Indian Country

from elementary through post-secondary and adult education. One critical component is an education reform effort aimed at increasing the academic achievement of students in bureau-funded schools, which currently achieve at significantly lower levels in reading and math than the national norms.

The BIE elementary and secondary school system, located on 64 reservations in 23 States, educates or provides residential facilities for approximately 41,000 students in 183 academic or resident-only facilities. Total funding for school operations from

SCHOOL ACHIEVEMENTS



The BIE's schools have realized success in improving academic achievement by using the Northwest Evaluation Association's Measures of Academic Progress. Over 75 percent of BIE academic facilities are currently using this measurement tool. MAP is an assessment tool that helps schools to determine their students' level of academic achievement prior to taking the end of the year assessment used for determining Adequate Yearly Progress. Use of the computer-based MAP allows schools to address instructional weaknesses to improve student achievement.

The New Mexico Navajo North Education Line Office is currently using the MAP and seven of eight schools have exceeded growth expectations or outperformed other students with similar beginning scores in Reading and Math. Since the Department of Education is now offering flexibility in which tools are used to determine student achievement, BIE is investigating the possibility of having all of its schools use MAP to determine AYP.

Federal sources for BIE-funded schools was about \$1 billion in 2011, including \$737.6 million from BIE and \$204.9 million from the Department of Education. Many of the communities served by BIE schools are characterized by below-average literacy rates, low incomes, and high unemployment. Elementary and secondary schools range in size from 11 to more than 1,000 students, representing over 250 Tribes with different cultural backgrounds.

Learning beyond high school is also critical to a successful life and career; 80 percent of new jobs in the competitive global economy require post-secondary education such as a college degree or vocational training. To address this need, BIE operates two post-secondary schools, administers operating grants to 27 tribal colleges and universities and two tribal technical colleges, and promotes post-secondary opportunities with scholarships to approximately 32,000 students.

Investments in recent years have improved the instructional environment with new schools and updated facilities, improved operations and transportation, and implemented new programs focused on student achievement. The 2013 budget continues investments in these areas, with \$796.1 million in 2013, an increase of \$653,000 above the 2012 enacted level.

Tribal Grant Support Costs – The BIE 2013 budget request includes \$48.3 million, a \$2.0 million program increase for the Tribal Grant Support Costs program. The BIE currently funds 125 tribally controlled schools and residential facilities. Grant support funding helps to cover administrative and indirect costs incurred by Tribes that are operating contract and grant schools. Expenses typically include fiscal audits, personnel, property and procurement management, office services and record keeping, insurance, security, and legal services.

Tribal Colleges and Universities – The 2013 budget provides \$69.8 million, a program increase of \$2.5 million for Tribal Colleges and Universities to assist in the economic development of tribal communities and as a result of increasing enrollment. Economic development is important to improve the quality of life in native communities. Significant economic



improvement can occur when community members have the requisite skills and knowledge required to support economic expansion. Tribal Colleges and Universities address the needs of some of the most economically depressed regions in Indian Country and are successfully overcoming long-standing barriers to Indian higher education. They provide local communities with the resources and facilities to teach community members the skills they need to be successful, and to support tribal plans for development. Tribal college faculty and administrators often serve as mentors and community role models that contribute to development in a myriad of areas unique to each community.

Scholarships – The 2013 budget includes program increases of \$610,000 for Scholarships and Adult Education and \$100,000 for Special Higher Education Scholarships. The Scholarships and Adult Education program enables Tribes to design educational programs that fit the needs of their specific communities. The Adult Education program supports adults in their efforts to obtain a GED and provides basic skills training needed to acquire job placement. Scholarship grants are awarded by Tribes to provide financial aid to eligible American Indians and Alaska Native students attending accredited post-secondary institutions. The Special Higher Education Scholarships program provides supplemental financial assistance to Indian students for graduate level study. Emphasis is placed on students pursuing education in professional areas of need to tribal communities such as law, education, medicine, natural resources, engineering, business administration, and social work.

EXPANDING EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR AMERICAN INDIAN AND ALASKA NATIVE STUDENTS

On December 2, 2011, President Obama signed Executive Order 13592 - *Improving American Indian and Alaska Native Educational Opportunities and Strengthening Tribal Colleges and Universities*. The Order establishes the White House Initiative on American Indian and Alaska Native Education and creates a permanent partnership between the Departments of Education and the Interior. Both will jointly lead the Initiative that will seek to:

- Expand educational opportunities for all American Indian and Alaska Native students to learn their Native languages, cultures, and histories.
- Increase the number of American Indian and Alaska Native children who enter kindergarten ready for success through early learning programs, including Native language immersion and pre-school programs for children from birth through age five.
- Increase the number of American Indian and Alaska Native students who have access to excellent teachers and school leaders, in part by supporting efforts to improve the recruitment, development, and retention of effective American Indian and Alaska Native teachers, other teachers, and school leaders, particularly through the BIE-funded post-secondary schools and Tribal Colleges and Universities.
- Reduce the American Indian and Alaska Native student dropout rate and prepare a greater number of those students who stay in high school for college and careers by graduation and college completion.
- Provide pathways to enable those who have dropped out to reenter educational or training programs to acquire degrees, certificates, or industry recognized credentials and obtain quality jobs by supporting adult, career, and technical education.
- Increase college access and completion for American Indian and Alaska Native students by strengthening the capacity of post-secondary institutions, particularly TCUs.

The Initiative also formalizes tribal consultation and participation to expand education programs including designing programs, recruitment of teachers, and language immersion. In 2012, BIE will work collaboratively with the Department of Education to develop a Memorandum of Understanding that leverages both agencies' expertise and resources to expand educational opportunities within Indian Country.

ACHIEVING BETTER RESULTS AT A LOWER COST

In February 2011, the President issued a Memorandum to Federal agencies entitled “Administrative Flexibility, Lower Costs, and Better Results for State, Local, and Tribal Governments.” The Presidential Memorandum instructed Federal agencies to work with tribal governments—as well as States and localities—to reduce unnecessary administrative burdens and focus available resources to achieve better program outcomes. Based on comments and input from Tribes and Native American business leaders, five interagency working groups, comprised of senior program managers, have been convened to focus on areas that Indian Country identified as priorities to enhance business development and infrastructure in Indian Country. The five working groups are: Housing, Loans and Credit, Training and Employment, Broadband Service, and Workforce Development.



The Department of the Interior has representatives on all of the working groups except for Workforce Development, which is focused on efforts to make Department of Labor grant competitions more accessible to Tribes. Other participating agencies include the Departments of Housing and Urban Development, Veterans Affairs, Treasury, Commerce, Education, Labor, Energy, Agriculture, Health and Human Services, Small Business Administration, and the Federal Communications Commission. The working groups have been meeting regularly to discuss how best to coordinate administrative resources to increase visibility and access to Federal programs available to Tribes, while coordinating agency activities, such as training and the sharing of data. The five groups are working with Tribes

to provide transparency around ongoing Federal efforts and to ensure these efforts benefit from tribal input. Specifically, the work groups are looking at opportunities to:

- Accomplish better and more cost-effective results by consolidating, streamlining, or eliminating data and administrative requirements in the five areas identified.
- Improve and better coordinate training and technical assistance for Tribes across program areas.
- Improve application, documentation, and approval processes like housing and loan applications to clarify and streamline access to Federal programs.

Improved Management—Indian Affairs has already begun to take steps to significantly reduce the administrative costs associated with the wide range of services delivered through its programs. In addition to cost-saving measures such as information technology standardization and infrastructure consolidation, Indian Affairs will identify opportunities to reduce costs and improve efficiency through streamlining consolidations. The 2013 budget request includes a reduction of \$19.7 million to reflect anticipated cost cutting. Inherent in any consolidation is the need to identify and eliminate duplicative or overlapping functions and processes, identify more efficient ways to conduct business, and reduce the associated positions. In 2013, Indian Affairs will explore the use of early retirement and voluntary separations to manage full time employment reductions along with other position management techniques. Such an ambitious undertaking can only be successful with the full support and participation of the Tribes. To this end, Indian Affairs will engage in extensive consultation with the Tribes to identify strategies to ensure tribal needs and priorities are addressed. Following consultation, Indian Affairs will construct an implementation plan for a more streamlined, cost-effective organization.

In addition to savings from consolidations, the 2013 budget includes reductions of \$13.8 million including savings of \$1.0 million in anticipated management efficiencies for non-self-determination contracts, \$1.2 million from improved fleet management, \$2.1 million from employee performance awards, and \$9.5 million from travel reductions.



Transfer – The budget also proposes realignments for Indian programs within the Department. The 2013 Indian Affairs budget includes an increase of \$1.3 million to reflect the transfer of the Indian Arts and Crafts Board from the Office of the Secretary to Indian Affairs. This will allow Indian Affairs to oversee the implementation of the Indian Arts and Crafts Act of 1990, as amended. The Act contains both criminal and civil provisions to combat coun-

terfeit activity in the Indian arts and crafts market. The Board also manages three museums in the Plains Region dedicated to the promotion, integrity, and preservation of authentic Indian art and culture. Consolidation of the Indian Arts and Crafts Board within Indian Affairs provides opportunities to improve the oversight and execution of Indian cultural activities.

Program Reductions – The 2013 budget request includes \$33.1 million in program decreases. Included is a reduction of \$2.6 million for Law Enforcement Special Initiatives reflecting decreased participation in activities such as intelligence sharing. In administrative related activities, the budget reduces \$6.1 million for Information Resources Technology as standardization occurs. In education related activities, the request includes a decrease of \$4.5 million for the Indian Student Equalization Program to reflect a slight decline in student population. In the Construction account, the request includes a decrease of \$17.8 million for Replacement School Construction as the program will focus on addressing the building conditions of existing school facilities. The budget also includes a \$2.1 million reduction for the Indian Guaranteed Loan Program while the program undergoes a program evaluation and seeks to improve its performance.

LET'S MOVE! IN INDIAN COUNTRY

Let's Move! in Indian Country is an initiative dedicated to ending childhood obesity among Indian youth, a group which is twice as likely to be overweight when compared to the general U.S. population. The initiative was developed by First Lady Michelle Obama and has four main goals:

- Create a healthy start in life for children.
- Create healthy learning communities.
- Ensure families have access to healthy, affordable, and traditional foods.
- Increase opportunities for physical activity.

As part of the initiative, on July 11, 2011, the First Lady hosted the first ever lacrosse clinic on the South Lawn of the White House featuring some of the Nation's best lacrosse players, including representatives from the Iroquois Nationals Team, Major League Lacrosse, National Lacrosse League, Metro Lacrosse, and representatives from New Balance. The event was hosted to introduce local and Indian youth to the sport and its cultural traditions.

The Iroquois Confederacy is well known for its cultural ties to lacrosse and the ceremonial roots involving healing. It is wonderful to have Iroquois representatives demonstrate the continuity and diversity behind the secular sport of lacrosse and its sacred historical relationship to many American Indians.

Larry Echo Hawk
Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs
July 11, 2011

