



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
Washington, DC 20240

OCT 20 2014

Dear Tribal Leader:

The President's 2015 Budget request to Congress includes approximately \$8 Million for the Housing Improvement Program (HIP). If appropriated, funds will be available to federally recognized tribes and tribal organizations for use in providing program services to American Indian and Alaska Native applicants who meet the HIP eligibility criteria in 25 CFR Part 256, amended April 1, 2009.

The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Regional Offices should have already contacted tribes in their servicing area to provide a notice of the possibility of funds and request the collection of HIP data. The collection of HIP applications is an ongoing process throughout the year. The application data is due to the BIA Regional Offices by close of business January 31, 2015. Tribes are permitted to include Fiscal Year (FY) 2014, applicant data in their FY 2015, summary of eligibility but must update the applicant eligibility criteria requirements pursuant to 25 CFR § 256.14(d)(2). The eligibility requirement for HIP funding is 125% of the Department of Health and Human Services, Federal Poverty Income Guidelines, as published in the Federal Register on January 22, 2014.

Pertinent forms for FY 2015 (Tribal HIP Annual Performance Report Forms and the BIA Housing Assistance Application Form 6407) are available by contacting the BIA Regional Office or by downloading the reporting forms from the BIA website at:

<http://www.bia.gov/WhoWeAre/BIA/OIS/HumanServices/HousingImprovementProgram/index.htm>

Tribes should contact their local BIA Agency, Regional Office, or Self-Governance representative for more information. If you have any additional questions or concerns, please contact Mr. Les Jensen, Housing Officer, at (907) 586-7397 for assistance.

Sincerely,



Michael S. Black
Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs