Great Smoky Mountains: View from inside Eastern Band of Cherokee Indian Reservation

35 Tribal Nations

Aroostook Band of Micmacs (ME) Catawba Indian Nation (SC) Cayuga Nation (NY) Chickahominy Indian Tribe (VA) Chitimacha Tribe of Louisiana (LA) Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana (LA) Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (NC) Eastern Chickahominy Indian Tribe (VA) Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians (ME) Jena Band of Choctaw Indians (LA) Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation (MA) Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe (MA) Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida (FL) Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians (MS) Mohegan Tribe of Connecticut (CT) Monacan Indian Tribe (VA) Nansemond Indian Tribe (VA) Narragansett Indian Tribe (RI) Oneida Indian Nation (NY) Onondaga Nation (NY) Pamunkey Indian Tribe (VA)

Passamaquoddy Indian Township (ME) Passamaquoddy Pleasant Point (ME) Penobscot Indian Nation (ME) Poarch Band of Creek Indians (AL) Rappahannock Tribe, Inc. (VA) Seminole Tribe of Florida (FL) Seneca Nation of Indians (NY) Shinnecock Indian Nation (NY) Saint Regis Band of Mohawk Indians (NY) Tonawanda Band of Seneca Indians (NY) Tunica-Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana (LA) Tuscarora Nation (NY) Upper Mattaponi Tribe (VA) Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head Aquinnah (MA)

BIA Eastern Region Demographics

- Tribal Nations span from the Canadian Border in Maine and New York, along the east coast to Florida and west into Mississippi.
- Total Square Miles = 933,020.5 Largest of all BIA Regions (from BOGS, a Division of Land Title Records)
- Population = 87,957
- P.L.93-638 Contracts = 293

Priority No.	FA Activity	Contracted Program
1	A0H90	Social Services
2	A0H92	Indian Child Welfare Act
3	A0T90	Aid to Tribal Government
4	A0J90	Tribal Courts
5	A0E93	Scholarships & Adult Education
6	A0T96	Road Maintenance
7	A0J30	Criminal Investigations & Police Services
8	A0H93	Housing Improvement Program
9	A0J91	Fire Protection
10	A0C90	Job Placement & Training

BIA Eastern Region FY 2020 Budget Priorities

						2020	
	Indian Affairs	2015	2016	2017	5% Change	Total Budget Request	Region Priority
		Actual	Actual	Actual	(from 2017)	5%	2020
A0H90	Social Services	1,290,158	1,594,184	1,959,235	352,038	2,311,273	1
A0H92	Indian Child Welfare Act	748,983	791,672	929,887	452,620	1,382,507	2
A0T90	Aid to Tribal Government	926,023	677,585	1,675,571	234,692	1,910,263	3

BIA Eastern Region FY 2020 Budget Priorities

						2020	
	Indian Affairs	2015	2016	2017	% Change	Budget Request	Region
		Actual	Actual	Actual	(from 2017)	5%	Priority
						Total	2020
A0J90	Tribal Courts	1,080,381	1,080,980	962,247	234,692	1,196,939	4
A0E93	Scholarships & Adult Education	917,358	852,463	806,793	150,873	957,666	5
A0T96	Road Maintenance	1,249,969	1,211,874	1,413,604	150,873	1,564,477	6

BIA Eastern Region FY 2020 Budget Priorities

						2020	
	Indian Affairs	2015	2016	2017	% Change	Budget Request	Region
		Actual	Actual	Actual	(from 2017)	5%	Priority
						Total	2020
A0J30	Criminal Investigations & Police Services	177,820	177,820	47,000	134,110	181,110	7
A0H93	Housing Improvement Program	0	0	64,814	67,055	131,869	8
A0J91	Fire Protection	464,036	470,593	471,190	67,055	538,245	9
A0C90	Job Placement & Training	119,097	253,887	224,296	67,055	291,351	10

Eastern	Enacted	Enacted	Enacted
Program	2015	2016	2017
Social Services	1,088,702	1,102,298	1,102,069

A0H90 Social Services

Average Funding Level per Tribal Nation in the BIA ERO = \$64,827

Average Salary of one Social Worker = \$43,619

Tasks of Average Social Worker:

Transportation services to and from courthouses, police departments, and treatment facilities

Supervised visitation programs

 Specialized services designed to protect and rehabilitate abused women and children

 Tasks designed to dig deeper into underlying issues like drug addiction, poverty, and violence

Eastern	Enacted	Enacted	Enacted
Program	2015	2016	2017
ICWA	636,275	644,905	644,630

A0H92 Indian Child Welfare Act

Average Funding Level per Tribal Nation in the BIA ERO = \$33,928 Average Salary of a Caseworker = \$31,208

- Since the passage of ICWA in 1978, Indian children are still being removed from their homes and communities, more than any other nationality within the United States.
- Today, some Tribal Nations have a rate as high as 75% of their enrolled children placed in non-enrolled/non-American Indian homes, with an approximate 3-year reunification rate with their families.

Eastern	Enacted	Enacted	Enacted
Program	2015	2016	2017
Aid to Tribal Government	1,210,945	1,238,792	1,241,059

A0T90 Aid to Tribal Government

Average Salary of an Office Administrator= \$35,646 Cornerstones for success:

- Economic Development
- Tribal workforce employment/development
 - Infrastructure planning
 - Grant writing/management

Eastern	Enacted	Enacted	Enacted
Program	2015	2016	2017
Tribal Courts	975,785	986,480	986,480

A0J90 Tribal Courts

5 Tribal Courts, averaging \$197,296/Court per Tribal Nation in the BIA ERO

Average Salary of a Federal Judge = \$174,000

Tribal Nations have authority to provide a wide array of protection and services under various laws and provisions

- Indian Child Welfare Act
- Child Support Enforcement
- Temporary Assistance to Needy Families
- State/Tribal Criminal Codes, etc.

Yet, are unable to do so without strong judicial systems

Eastern	Enacted	Enacted	Enacted
Program	2015	2016	2017
Scholarships & Adult Education	804,881	570,679	811,328

A0E93 Scholarships & Adult Education

Average cost of tuition and fees for the 2017–2018 school year

- \$34,740 at private colleges*
- \$9,970 for state residents at public colleges*
- \$25,620 for out-of-state residents attending public universities*

In the fall of 2017, tuition increased for colleges in the Southeast anywhere between 2% and 4%.

* These averages are for the entire US, not the Eastern Region

Eastern	Enacted	Enacted	Enacted
Program	2015	2016	2017
Road Maintenance	1,273,724	1,283,774	1,283,775

A0T96 Road Maintenance

Tribal Road Maintenance programs maintain roadways that are essential to the health, wellbeing, and prosperity of our communities and Tribal members.

Left unchecked & uncared for - access to Food, Law Enforcement, and Medical Attention, as well as Tourism Dollars are impeded and diminished.

Eastern	Enacted	Enacted	Enacted
Program	2015	2016	2017
Criminal Investigations & Police Services	8,478,604	8,561,935	8,676,305

A0J30 Criminal Investigations & Police Services

Criminal Investigation programs on Tribal lands provide protective services that foster a safer living environment for Tribal members.

Funding will ensure more effective public safety measures can be taken to provide a safer environment for those living on and visiting Tribal lands.

With BIA Funding, Tribal Nations have been able to

- Seize drugs from "grow houses"
- Charge individuals for intent to distribute drugs

In some cases where drug charges were made, the apprehension allowed for additional information to surface which resulted in more charges.

Eastern	Enacted	Enacted	Enacted
Program	2015	2016	2017
Housing Improvement Program	113,462	40,511	64,814

A0H93 Housing Improvement Program

Median Price to Build a House = \$137,644 (from Homeadvisor.com)

Average Price / sq ft to build a house = \$111 - \$127 (from Thelendersnetwork.com)

Historically, this funding program has provided a safety net for the neediest of needy - private homeowners who are living at the bottom of the federal poverty guidelines.

Most vulnerable segment of homeowners (usually elderly, handicapped) are being left behind.

Eastern	Enacted	Enacted	Actual
Program	2015	2016	2017
Fire Protection	850,626	836,567	836,567

A0J91 Fire Protection

Fire Protection initiatives are a vital contributor towards reducing property loss and loss of life due to fire related incidents.

With BIA funds it has been possible for Tribal Nations to purchase new equipment such as helmets, fire hoses, bunker gear, fire foam, and CPR mannequins.

Eastern	Enacted	Enacted	Enacted
Program	2015	2016	2017
Job Placement & Training	299,644	300,341	300,341

A0C90 Job Placement & Training

Imperative for our Eastern Region Tribal Nations while trying to ensure both economic and personal growth and success.

BIA funds have supported training opportunities, purchasing of uniforms, work attire, and other related materials needed for Tribal members to start new jobs.

U.S. Commission on Civil Rights/"A Quiet Crisis: Federal Funding & Unmet Need in Indian Country, 2003":

The Commission finds that significant disparities in federal funding exist between Native Americans and other groups in our nation, as well as the general population. The federal government, through laws, treaties, and policies established over hundreds of years, is obligated to ensure that funding is adequate to meet these needs. Moreover, the government must work diligently to elevate the standard of living among Native Americans to that of other Americans by ensuring that federal agencies create attainable resource-driven goals toward this end.

The trust responsibility consists of the highest moral obligations that the United States must meet to ensure the protection of Tribal and individual Indian lands, assets, resources, and treaty and similarly recognized rights (reaffirmed in Sec. Order 3335).

Fulfillment of Indian Country funding is a trust and treaty obligation. As such, it should not be viewed as social welfare/addressing unmet needs. It would be most appropriate for the United States to handle its obligations via mandatory federal funding.