



THE WHITE HOUSE TRIBAL NATIONS SUMMIT PROGRESS REPORT

NOVEMBER 15-16, 2021

PREPARED BY THE DOMESTIC POLICY COUNCIL



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON



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President Biden’s relationship with Native Americans is built on respect for Tribal sovereignty and self-governance, honoring federal trust and treaty responsibilities, and conducting regular, meaningful, and robust consultation with Tribal Nations. Since taking office in January 2021, the Biden-Harris Administration has already taken a number of historic steps to bolster the Nation-to-Nation relationship and invest in Tribal communities.

Strengthening the Nation-to-Nation Relationship

White House Council on Native American Affairs. President Biden reinstated the White House Council on Native American Affairs (WHCNAA) in his first 100 days in office, hired an Executive Director, and formed six interagency committees focused on Health; Education; Climate Change, Homelands and Treaties; Energy, Infrastructure, and Economic Development; Public Safety and Justice; and International Indigenous Issues. The WHCNAA was originally formed by President Obama in June 2013 through an Executive Order to “improve coordination of federal programs and the use of resources available to Tribal communities.” In 2022, the WHCNAA will host at least three Tribal leader engagement sessions to seek input and discuss the work of the Council. This is in addition to the engagement with Tribal leaders through the White House Tribal Nations Summit. The Secretary of the Interior will preside over these meetings and will be joined by other cabinet members and administration officials, when appropriate, depending on topic area. The WHCNAA created a website in November 2021, which serves as a center for information on the WHCNAA workstream and deliverables, the WHCNAA Committees, announcements, and offers a dedicated email for correspondence with the WHCNAA team (whcnaa@bia.gov).

White House Tribal Nations Summit. The President is committed to hosting an annual White House Tribal Nations Summit. The first summit in November 2021 is an opportunity for the President and senior leaders from his Administration to meet with Tribal leaders and engage in Nation-to-Nation dialogue on critical issues in Indian Country.

Memorandum on Tribal Consultation and Strengthening Nation-to-Nation Relationships. On January 26, 2021, only six days into office, the President issued a memorandum on Tribal Consultation and Strengthening Nation-to-Nation Relationships. The memorandum underscores the Biden-Harris Administration’s respect for Tribal sovereignty and self-governance, dedication to fulfilling federal trust and treaty responsibilities to Tribal Nations, and commitment to engaging in regular, meaningful, and robust consultation with Tribal Nations. This memorandum also reaffirmed this Administration’s commitment to previous Presidential directives that have guided the Nation-to-Nation relationship, including Executive Order 13175 of November 6, 2000, “Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments,” and the Presidential Memorandum of November 5, 2009, “Tribal Consultation.”

Conducting Robust Tribal Consultations. Federal agencies conducted approximately 90 consultation sessions in February, March, and April, and 80 federal agencies used those conversations to create or strengthen their Tribal consultation plans, ensuring strong communication and fostering constructive relationships. Many agencies, including the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), consulted with Tribal Nations for the first time in history.



Creation of the First-Ever Secretary of the Interior's Tribal Advisory Committee. The Department of the Interior has created the first-ever Secretary's Tribal Advisory Committee (STAC), a foundational step toward modernizing the Department's Tribal consultation plan and making permanent, long-lasting change to prioritize the Nation-to-Nation relationship. The STAC will facilitate intergovernmental discussions, serve as a forum for open dialogue between high-level DOI leadership and bureau officials with elected Tribal representatives.

Indigenous Peoples' Day Proclamation. President Biden issued a proclamation declaring October 11th Indigenous Peoples' Day, becoming the first president in history to do so. In the proclamation, the President honored America's first inhabitants and the Tribal Nations and encouraged everyone to celebrate and recognize the many Indigenous communities and cultures that enliven our Nation.

Native American Heritage Month Proclamation. In November 2021, President Biden issued a presidential proclamation declaring the month of November as Native American Heritage Month.

Native Americans in the Administration

The Biden-Harris Administration has made it a priority to appoint Native Americans to the highest levels of the federal government.

Native Americans Hold Leadership Positions. The Biden-Harris Administration includes a historic number of Native Americans in Senate-confirmed positions, including: Secretary Deb Haaland (the first Native to serve as Secretary of the Interior), Bryan Newland (Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs at the Department of the Interior), Janie Hipp (the first Native to serve as General Counsel of the Department of Agriculture), Robert Anderson (Solicitor at the Department of the Interior), and Michael Connor (the first Native to serve as Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works). In addition, Charles F. Sams (who will be the first enrolled Native American to serve as Director of the National Park Service) has been nominated and awaits confirmation.

Appointing Native Americans Across the Federal Government. President Biden has appointed 52 Native Americans to positions across the federal government, a historic feat, including 1 in 5 Natives in appointments at the Department of the Interior. Crucially, President Biden ensured he has Native staff in the White House by appointing Libby Washburn as his Special Assistant for Native Affairs on the Domestic Policy Council and PaaWee Rivera as his Director of Tribal Affairs in the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs.

Nominating Federal Judges Who Understand Federal Indian Law. The President committed to nominating federal judges who understand Indian law and respect Tribal sovereignty. In October, Lauren King was confirmed as a judge on the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Washington. She is the first confirmed judge of the Biden-Harris Administration who is an enrolled member of a Tribal Nation and the first Native American judge ever to serve in Washington State—a state with 29 federally-recognized Native American Tribes in it. With King's confirmation, there are now four sitting federal judges who identify as Native American.



Appointing Native Americans to Serve on Federal Boards and Commissions. The Biden-Harris Administration has nominated several Native Americans to serve on federal boards and commissions. This list includes Shelly Lowe, nominated as Chairperson for the National Endowment for the Humanities, and Alvin Warren, nominated to the Board of Directors for AmeriCorps.

Senior Administration Officials Visit Indian Country

Thirteen high-ranking officials from the Biden-Harris Administration have already visited Indian Country in 2021: First Lady Jill Biden, Second Gentleman Douglas Emhoff, Secretary Deb Haaland, Secretary Miguel Cardona, Secretary Xavier Becerra, Secretary Pete Buttigieg, Secretary Tom Vilsack, Secretary Marty Walsh, Secretary Jennifer Granholm, and Secretary Marcia Fudge, Administrator Michael Regan and Administrator Deanne Criswell, and Chair Brenda Mallory. During these visits, Tribal officials have educated federal officials and federal officials have communicated the Administration's commitment to equity and the value of the Nation-to-Nation relationship. The Administration will continue to prioritize visits to Indian Country in 2022.

Financial Investments in Native Communities and the Build Back Better Plan

The Biden-Harris Administration's financial investments in Indian Country are unprecedented.

American Rescue Plan Act. On March 11, 2021, the President signed the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act, which made the largest single federal investment in Native communities in history. Passed in the opening weeks of the Biden-Harris Administration, the ARP is helping the country recover from a world-altering pandemic with \$1.9 trillion in investments, including more \$32 billion specifically for Tribal communities and Native people. This included \$20 billion in emergency funding quickly distributed directly to Tribal governments to stabilize economies devastated by the pandemic. These resources will help redress long-standing economic needs, and provide new resources that will allow Tribal Nations to create sustainable economies, equipping them to be more resilient in facing future pandemics and disasters. The funding is described in further detail below.

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. In November, President Biden signed the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, investing more than \$13 billion directly into Tribal communities across the country, in addition to hundreds of billions of dollars in other investments which Tribal communities are eligible to access. These funds will improve access to broadband, clean drinking water, and good-paying jobs for Native communities.



The Build Back Better Plan. President Biden’s Build Back Better Plan will invest billions of dollars into Native programs and services, including in child care, preschool, Tribal Colleges and Universities, housing, nutrition, and rural community partnerships. It includes unprecedented support in education and childcare that will make life better for countless Native Americans, containing a strong focus on cradleboard to college for Native American children.

“The persistent inequity, this persistent injustice is not right, and the pandemic has only made it worse,” **said Vice President Kamala Harris.** “Our infrastructure and jobs act and our Build Back Better agenda represent the largest investment in Indian Country in our history. More than a point of pride, this is a sign of our Administration’s respect for our nation-to-nation relationship.”

FY 2022 Budget Request. In May 2021, President Biden submitted the President’s FY 2022 discretionary budget. The budget included \$28.8 billion for Indian programs, a 14 percent increase over the enacted FY 2021 level and one of the largest budget requests ever for Indian programs.

OMB Will Implement Native American Budget Crosscut Improvements. After issuing the discretionary budget, every year OMB releases a crosscut of investments in Native American communities and people detailing how much funding in each agency addresses Native Americans and Alaska Natives. Over the past decade, and in recent Tribal consultations with OMB, numerous Tribes have sought greater specificity in the OMB crosscut to clarify how much funding is actually reaching Tribal programs. OMB has announced it will revise the crosscut to better align with feedback received during its consultation process. OMB will also work with agencies, including the Departments of the Interior and Health and Human Services, on assessing how best to meet future Tribal funding needs, including consideration of mandatory funding for some Tribal programs now funded through discretionary appropriations. OMB and the agencies will consider feedback from Tribal consultations.



Health Care and Health Disparities

Investing in Health Services for American Indians and Alaska Natives. The Biden-Harris Administration is committed to promoting health equity by investing significantly in services for American Indians and Alaska Natives. The President's FY 2022 budget request seeks to begin redressing long-standing health inequities experienced by Native Americans by significantly increasing funding for the Indian Health Service. The FY 2022 Budget requests \$8.5 billion in discretionary funding for IHS, an increase of \$2.2 billion from FY 2021 enacted funding levels. To ensure a more equitable funding stream for IHS, for the first time, the budget includes a request for an unprecedented \$9 billion advance appropriation for IHS in FY 2023 to support Administration and Tribal priorities. The Administration is also committed to a robust consultative process with Tribes and Tribal organizations, holding the first-ever OMB Tribal consultation in September 2021, to evaluate options, including mandatory funding, to provide adequate, stable, and predictable funding for IHS in the future.

Responding to the COVID-19 Pandemic in Indian Country

In the height of the pandemic, per capita COVID-19 infection rates for American Indians and Alaska Natives were three times higher than for all Americans. These disparities also produced higher mortality rates. To address these disparities, with the assistance of Tribal Nations, Urban Indian Organization health facilities, and Alaska Native health corporations, the Administration through the Department of Health and Human Services and Indian Health Service, implemented an effective COVID-19 plan in Indian Country and succeeded in making Native Americans the most vaccinated group in the United States.

Investing ARP Funds to Combat COVID-19 in Indian Country. Through the ARP, the Biden-Harris Administration is investing historic funding to combat COVID-19 in Indian Country and to stabilize Tribal community safety-net programs. This includes \$6 billion in new resources for the IHS to support critical response activities, including:

- \$2 billion for Tribal health systems due to lost reimbursements for care during the pandemic
- \$1 billion to detect, diagnose, trace, monitor, and mitigate COVID-19 infections (including contact tracing and drive-through testing sites)
- \$600 million to increase COVID-19 vaccination (including mobile efforts in rural or hard to reach areas)
- \$500 million to support overall health care services in Indian Country
- \$140 million for health information technology and telehealth services
- \$84 million for Urban Indian Organizations.

Improving Health Care Delivery for Native Americans Through the ARP. In addition to providing substantial funding for Indian Country, the ARP also provided solutions to improve health outcomes for Native Americans. For example, the ARP required the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid to provide a 100 percent federal Medicaid match to Urban Indian Health



Programs, rather than limiting them to receiving the regular Medicaid match rate for the state in which they are located. Increasing the match rate provides increased financial support to health care providers serving Native American Medicaid beneficiaries. The ARP also ensured that Social Security Insurance and Social Security Disability Insurance payment eligibility would not be impacted by COVID-19 relief payments, protecting the most vulnerable among us. And, the ARP provided funds to expand access to mental health services to address the disproportionate burden of trauma and mental health barriers for Native communities.

“The investment from the American Rescue Plan will strengthen the public health workforce in Indian Country, support mental health and substance abuse prevention and treatment, continue efforts to detect and treat COVID-19, and meet facility and equipment needs related to the COVID-19 pandemic,” said **Acting IHS Director Elizabeth Fowler**. “Investing in our workforce and providing our team with the facilities, equipment, supplies, and funds they needs is absolutely critical to ensuring our ability to fulfill the IHS mission of raising the physical, mental, social, and spiritual health of American Indians and Alaska Natives to the highest level.”

Providing Access to the Strategic National Stockpile. President Biden signed Executive Order 14001, “A Sustainable Public Health Supply Chain,” allowing access to the Strategic National Stockpile for Tribal governments, IHS healthcare providers, and Urban Indian Organizations. The Secretary of Health and Human Services consulted with Tribal authorities and facilitated previously unavailable access to the Strategic National Stockpile, a large stock of medicines and supplies designed to support public health agencies during a public health emergency. This step ensured that Tribal health providers were equipped to handle the unprecedented COVID-19 emergency and provided assurance that local supplies would not run dry.

Vaccine Distribution in Indian Country. Working with Tribal communities and Urban Indian Organization health facilities, the IHS has administered more than 1.7 million doses to patients, health care employees, essential workers, and others in Native communities since the vaccines started arriving in mid-December. This includes providing 260,000 supplemental vaccine doses in February 2021 (more than tripling the doses during a two-week period) provided by the Administration to assist Tribes in getting ahead of the curve. The IHS continues to take down barriers to COVID-19 vaccination in Native American communities by increasing availability of convenient and accessible vaccination sites, increasing clinical and community-based workforce for outreach, education, and vaccination, and accelerating COVID-19 vaccine distribution and administration.

Return to School Planning for Bureau Indian of Education Operated Schools. The Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) hosted weekly collaborative meetings with the IHS and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) during the summer and fall to prepare for students, faculty and staff to return to campus. The CDC conducted site visits and assessments of mitigation strategies for reduction of transmission in BIE Schools. IHS supported BIE with access to COVID-19 testing supplies, ensuring communication channels were open with local IHS vaccine points of contact, and coordination of vaccination events at the local level. The BIE hosted a joint education forum in early October for parents, faculty, and staff with IHS, CDC and BIE providing critical information about testing, vaccinations, and ongoing preparations for return to school.



Native Youth Vaccination Joint Campaign with the National Congress of American Indians. The Biden-Harris Administration helped to orchestrate a collaboration between IHS, the BIE, and the National Congress of American Indians on a COVID-19 Native Youth Vaccination Toolkit to help Tribal Nations and communities address vaccine hesitancy and promote vaccination among Tribal youth.

Federal Emergency Management Agency and Tribal Nations. The President signed two major disaster declarations for Tribal Nations, allowing for direct financial assistance during the pandemic. While the Trump Administration required that FEMA Public Assistance be provided at a 75 percent federal/25 percent non-federal cost share, on January 21, 2021, President eliminated the Tribal cost share for all FEMA funding during the pandemic.

Nation-2-Nation Dialogue on COVID-19. The Department of Health and Human Services, in collaboration with other federal departments and agencies, engaged in a Nation-2-Nation dialogue in October 2021 with Tribes and Tribal Health Organizations on the ongoing COVID-19 response. This dialogue, which Tribes requested, brought together representatives from the White House COVID Team, HHS, the Department of Justice, the Department of Transportation, the Department of Homeland Security, and the Department of the Interior to hear Tribes' perspectives on strengths, challenges, and strategies to improve their response; prepare for future public health emergencies; and discuss how the federal government can improve coordination and streamline resources.

The Build Back Better Plan

The Build Back Better Plan. The President's Build Back Better Plan will deliver a fairer and more equitable America for Native Americans and will support Native families by cutting taxes, lowering costs for working families, and investing in our children's education from cradleboard to college. More than 15 percent of Native Americans were uninsured in 2019 before President Biden took office. Even with the Affordable Care Act's premium subsidies, coverage under the ACA was too expensive for many families. The Build Back Better Plan closes the Medicaid coverage gap while also lowering health care costs for those buying coverage through the ACA by extending the ARP's lower premiums, which will save American people an average of \$50 per person per month. The plan also adds hearing coverage for Native Americans with Medicare.

Strong Focus on the Maternal Mortality Rate for Native American Women. The Biden Administration is working to reduce the unacceptably high maternal mortality rate, which disproportionately impacts Native mothers, who die from complications related to pregnancy at over two times the rate of white women. The President's Build Back Better Plan requests billions to address the maternal health crisis, particularly the longstanding disparities that have persisted for too many women, including Native mothers.



Other

Initiative on Ending the HIV Epidemic. The President's FY 2022 budget request includes \$27 million to support HIV prevention, care, and treatment services to help accelerate and strengthen the HIV response in Indian Country. HIV disproportionately affects American Indian and Alaska Native Men who have sex with Men (MSM). In 2018, 67 percent of diagnoses among American Indian and Alaska Native people were among MSM. The proposed increase for the IHS will support HIV care teams located in geographic areas of the U.S. serviced by IHS, Tribal, and Urban Indian Organization (I/T/U) facilities. Funds will scale-up clinical support programs designed to increase HIV prevention medication uptake and to meet viral suppression goals for primary antiretroviral therapy programs served by I/T/U facilities in Indian Country.



Tribal Lands, Treaty Rights, Climate Change, and Natural and Cultural Resources

Climate change poses particular threats to Tribal Nations and Indigenous communities, from those that have to relocate because of erosion and rising sea levels on the coasts, to those across the entire country experiencing serious droughts, fires, and pollution. The Biden-Harris Administration is identifying and responding to the risks of climate change on Tribal lands, restoring the use of science in planning for and adapting to climate change, and supporting Tribal efforts to shift to clean energy production and use.

Protecting Tribal Treaty Rights

The Biden Administration is committed to supporting Tribal treaty rights in a comprehensive manner.

Tribal Treaty Rights Memorandum of Understanding. The Departments of the Interior, Agriculture, Justice, Defense, Commerce, Education, Energy, Homeland Security, Housing and Urban Development, Labor, State, Transportation, Veterans Affairs and the Environmental Protection Agency, Council on Environmental Quality, Office of Personnel Management, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation signed a Tribal Treaty Rights MOU. The MOU provides that the 17 agencies will determine how they can best protect Tribal treaty rights in their policymaking and regulatory processes, and gives signatories 180 days to report back to the WHCNAA on their progress.

Tribal Treaty Rights Database. Tribal treaties are not readily accessible to federal employees. Yet, provisions of various treaties are often referenced and needed for specific work on Tribal issues. To remedy this problem and ensure ready access for implementation of the Tribal Treaty MOU, the Departments of Agriculture and the Interior have contracted with Oklahoma State University (OSU) to develop a publicly available, searchable, and indexed database of all the Tribal treaties. This new database will allow federal employees and the general public to search through American Indian Treaties. The first phase of the project will digitize a set of treaties compiled by Charles Kappler, the former clerk of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, widely considered the most comprehensive collection of treaties with Indian Tribes. Both the digitized treaties and the indexing in the database can be expanded in future phases. OSU has hired Indian law experts to advise on this indexing process.

Treaty Rights Guidance. The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation has issued guidance related to the consideration of treaty rights in the National Historic Preservation Act's review process (managed by the ACHP). This guidance clarifies that federal agencies and applicants for federal approvals or funding should determine early in project planning if there are Tribal treaty rights or other reserved rights within a proposed project area and engage in prompt consultation.

Subsistence Policy. The Departments of Agriculture and the Interior will host consultations on federal subsistence policy in Alaska. Consultation input will be reviewed and recommendations finalized within four months after the White House Tribal Nations Summit.



Tribal Homelands Actions

Tribal Homelands Joint Secretarial Order. In recognition of the importance of Tribal homelands under federal stewardship, the Departments of Agriculture and the Interior have launched the “Tribal Homelands Initiative” through a joint Secretarial Order. The Order commits the two Departments to increase opportunities for Tribal participation in federal lands management as well as co-stewardship agreements and other Tribal stewardship opportunities.

Co-Management in Alaska. In implementing the joint Secretarial Order on Tribal Homelands, and building upon the Southeast Alaska Sustainability Strategy, the Departments of Agriculture and the Interior will launch a series of listening sessions in Alaska to understand how federal land managers can better partner with local Tribal communities and Alaska Native Corporations on issues of access, subsistence use, and co-stewardship. The Department will aim to complete listening sessions and review within nine months after the White House Tribal Nations Summit.

Sacred Sites Memorandum of Understanding. The Department of the Interior, the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Energy, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, the Council on Environmental Quality, and the Tennessee Valley Authority entered into an MOU that creates a framework through which the agencies can protect Tribal sacred sites. The MOU identifies opportunities for considering Tribal sacred sites early in the federal decision-making processes that may result in regulatory and policy outcomes; adds a commitment to incorporate Indigenous knowledge, referred to as Traditional Ecological Knowledge, when assessing impacts of federal actions on sacred sites; and provides clear direction on developing best practices for collaborative stewardship and co-management when working with Tribal Nations. The MOU also requires each agency to hold consultations with Tribal Nations when an action it may take could affect a Tribal sacred site. The MOU requires the signatories to submit an annual report to the White House Council on Native American Affairs.

Tribal Homeland Stewardship. Following through on a campaign promise, the Biden-Harris Administration has announced several land transfers to restore Tribal homeland stewardship and uphold trust responsibilities. In June 2021, the Department of the Interior transferred all lands comprising the National Bison Range, almost 19,000 acres, to be held in trust for the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Reservation in Montana. In June 2021, the Departments of the Interior and Commerce announced the transfer of surplus federal land to the Hawaiian Home Lands Trust, land with the potential to provide up to 400 new homesteads for Native Hawaiian families.

Department of the Interior Improves Fee-to-Trust and Rights-of-Way Policies for Tribes. In April 2021, the Department of the Interior announced three changes to federal policy intended to help Tribes restore their lands, centered on the process of the federal government taking land into trust status on behalf of Tribes. Opinion M-37069 restored DOI’s ability to take land into trust for Native Villages in Alaska. Opinion M-37070 withdrew confusing and complicated processes for determining whether a Tribe was under federal jurisdiction, and reinstated a simpler process. Finally, Secretarial Order 3400 delegated review and approval authority for fee-to-trust applications to the Bureau of Indian Affairs Regional Offices, empowering local decision making and relieving the significant bottleneck. The Bureau of Indian Affairs also issued a memorandum establishing a policy for the efficient and effective processing of Rights-of-Way applications for telecommunications projects across Tribal trust lands.



Memorandum of Understanding with Interior and the Intertribal Timber Council. The Department of the Interior entered into an MOU with the Intertribal Timber Council, a nonprofit nation-wide consortium of Indian Tribes, Alaska Native Corporations, and individuals dedicated to improving the management of natural resources of importance to Native communities. As climate change fuels larger, costlier, and more complex wildfires, this agreement emphasizes the importance of collaborating on wildland fire management across departmental and Tribal lands.

Repatriation Efforts

International Repatriation Working Group. The Departments of State, the Interior, Justice and Homeland Security have formed an International Repatriation Working Group with the goal of countering the international trafficking of Native American sacred objects and ancestral remains and facilitating the return of such items to Tribes. The Working Group will engage with Tribes, international museums, and foreign governments prior to setting short and long-term goals, making recommendations, and announcing joint commitments to counter trafficking of these sacred objects and ancestral remains.

Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act Regulations. Following a 2010 Government Accountability Office Report focused on federal agencies and proposed regulatory changes, the Department of the Interior has received regular and repeated requests for revisions to the regulations implementing the Native American Graves Repatriation Act (NAGPRA). After the completion of an extensive Tribal consultation process through the summer, the Department will propose revisions to the regulations to eliminate unnecessary burdens to the repatriation process and allow Tribal Nations and Native Hawaiian Organizations (NHOs) greater access to their ancestors' remains and cultural items. Under the current regulations, less than half of the Native American human remains reported under NAGPRA have completed the regulatory process. After finalizing the revised regulations, DOI estimates that nearly all the human remains will complete the process within three years, allowing Tribal Nations and NHOs to request repatriation of their ancestors and funerary objects quickly and easily.

Tackling Climate Change Threats to Native Communities on Day One

On President Biden's first day in office, he signed Executive Order 13990, Protecting Public Health and the Environment and Restoring Science to Tackle the Climate Crisis. This included several key climate provisions directly impacting Native communities.

Suspended Drilling Leases in Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Executive Order 13990 placed a temporary moratorium on all oil and gas leasing activities in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. On June 1, 2021, the Biden-Harris Administration suspended all activities related to the oil and gas leasing program in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge until the Department of the Interior could conduct a comprehensive environmental analysis and legal review. These actions halted the previous administration's repeated assaults on one of America's greatest natural treasures. Once the review is complete, the Department will then decide whether the existing leases should be "reaffirmed, voided, or subject to additional mitigation measures."



Revoked Keystone XL Pipeline Permit. Executive Order 13990 also revoked the Keystone XL pipeline permit, stating that the pipeline undermines the U.S. national interest in addressing the climate crisis and is not consistent with the Administration’s economic and climate imperatives. The pipeline project was cancelled shortly thereafter, and will no longer cross Tribal treaty and ancestral homelands.

Key Climate Commitments. Still in his first week in office, President Biden also signed Executive Order 14008, “Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad,” directing federal agencies to focus on environmental justice, climate change mitigation and resilience, and renewable energy projects, and to seek input from Tribal Nations in all aspects of these efforts. The Order set a goal to conserve 30 percent of America’s lands and waters by 2030, focusing on the most ecologically important lands and waters in partnership with Tribal Nations.

Climate Crisis Engagement with Tribal Leaders. The Department of the Interior, Environmental Protection Agency, Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and Council on Environmental Quality will conduct an inventory of federal climate adaptation plans that were developed in response to President Biden’s Executive Order 14008 on Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad. The inventory will help identify Tribal equities in the climate adaptation plans. Following that inventory, EPA, ACHP, DOI, and CEQ plan to share best practices for federal agencies to use in developing their climate adaptation and implementation plans.

Restoring Environmental Protections

Grand Staircase-Escalante and Bears Ears National Monuments Review and Designation. In 2017, the previous administration cut the boundaries of Grand Staircase-Escalante and Bears Ears National Monuments by 50 percent and 85 percent, respectively, undermining protections for Native sacred lands. On Day One, the Biden-Harris Administration announced a reassessment of the boundaries and protections for these two monuments in southern Utah. The Administration, led by Secretary Haaland, conducted Tribal consultation to determine whether restoration of the monument boundaries and conditions would be appropriate. Secretary Haaland, in coordination with the Secretaries of Agriculture and Commerce as well as the Chair of CEQ, submitted a report to the President in June that recommended restoration of the monuments to their original form. On October 8, 2021, President Biden signed proclamations to restore the boundaries and protections to both the Bears Ears and Grand Staircase Escalante National Monuments.

“I am proud to stand with President Biden in restoring these monuments and fulfilling his commitment to the American people,” said **Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland**. “On my visit to Utah, I had the distinct honor to speak with many people who care deeply about this land. The historical connection between Indigenous peoples and Bears Ears is undeniable; our Native American ancestors sustained themselves on the landscape since time immemorial and evidence of their rich lives is everywhere one looks. This living landscape must be protected so that all Americans have the profound opportunity to learn and cherish our history.”

Greater Chaco Landscape Mineral Withdrawal. Located in Northwestern New Mexico, the Greater Chaco Landscape is a region of great cultural, spiritual, and historical significance to



many Pueblos and Indian Tribes and containing thousands of artifacts that date back more than one thousand years. Chaco cultural sites were listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1987 and are one of only 24 such sites in the United States. For the past decade, Pueblos and Tribes in Arizona and New Mexico have raised concerns about encroaching oil and gas development threatening sacred and cultural sites, and Congress has passed a series of actions to temporarily defer new leasing. In the coming weeks, the Department of the Interior will initiate consideration of a 20-year withdrawal of federal lands within a 10-mile radius around Chaco Culture National Historical Park, protecting the area from new federal oil and gas leasing and development. The proposed withdrawal will not apply to Individual Indian Allotments or to minerals within the area owned by private, state, and Tribal entities. The action will also not impose restrictions on other developments, such as roads, water lines, transmission lines, or buildings. To support conservation of the area, the State of New Mexico Land Office has implemented a moratorium on new state mineral leases within a 10-mile radius of Chaco Culture National Historical Park.

Indigenous Knowledge Statement and Establishment of Interagency Working Group on Indigenous Traditional Ecological Knowledge. The Biden-Harris Administration issued a memorandum recognizing Indigenous Traditional Ecological Knowledge as one of the important bodies of knowledge that contributes to the scientific, technical, social, and economic advancements of our nation. With Tribal consultation and input from knowledge holders and practitioners, the Administration will develop a guidance document for federal agencies on how the collection and application of such knowledge can be mutually beneficial to Tribes, Native communities, and federal agencies and can strengthen evidence-based analysis and informed decision-making across the federal government. An Interagency Working Group on Indigenous Traditional Ecological Knowledge will gather input from Tribal and Native communities and prepare the guidance document for planned release in 2022.

America the Beautiful Initiative. The Biden-Harris Administration has outlined a bold vision for how the United States can work collaboratively to conserve and restore the lands, waters, and wildlife that sustain the Nation, releasing the America the Beautiful Initiative Report in May. The report outlines recommendations for achieving the goal to conserve 30 percent of U.S. lands and waters by 2030, calling for a decade-long effort to support locally led and voluntary conservation and restoration efforts across public, private, and Tribal lands and waters in order to create jobs and strengthen the economy's foundation; tackle the climate and nature crises; and address inequitable access to the outdoors. The White House Council on Environmental Quality held two Tribal consultations on the Initiative to better align priorities with Tribal Nations.

Tribal Engagement in International Climate Change Dialogue. Special Presidential Envoy for Climate (SPEC) John Kerry held a roundtable with Tribal leaders to discuss international climate change policy and how Tribes can play a role in support of international climate agreements. At the UN's annual global climate summit (COP26) in Glasgow, UK from October 31 to November 12, SPEC Kerry ensured Tribal involvement in international climate work by including several Native Americans in the U.S. Delegation.

Reaffirmation of the Environmental Protection Agency's 1984 Indian Policy. On September 30, at the National Tribal Operations Committee meeting, EPA Administrator Michael Regan formally reaffirmed the EPA Policy for the Administration of Environmental Programs on Indian Reservations (1984 Indian Policy). His reaffirmation confirmed EPA's recognition that the United States has a unique legal relationship with Tribal governments, recognized the right of the Tribes as sovereign governments to self-determination and acknowledged the federal



government's trust responsibility to Tribes. EPA works with Tribes on a Nation-to-Nation basis to protect the land, air, and water of Tribes consistent with the federal trust responsibility.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Reversal of Memorandum Prohibiting Tribal Consultation on Waters of the United States Jurisdictional Determinations. Acting Assistant Army Secretary for Civil Works Jamie Pinkham rescinded the previous administration's policy that precluded the Army Corps of Engineers from consulting with Tribes regarding whether streams and wetlands were covered under the Clean Water Act as "waters of the United States." The Biden-Harris Administration has called on all government agencies to engage in regular, meaningful, and robust consultation with Tribal Nations.

Ensuring Environmental Impact Statement for any Replacement Line 5. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers announced it would conduct an environmental impact statement for the Enbridge Energy Limited Partnership Line 5 permit application, a tunnel under the bed of the Straits of Mackinac in Michigan to replace the current Line 5 pipeline, and committed to ensuring that meaningful and robust consultation with Tribal Nations occurs during the Corps' review.

Restoring Environmental Protections in Alaska. The Department of Agriculture announced its intent to restore protections to the 9.3 million acres of inventoried roadless areas on the Tongass National Forest, returning stability and certainty to the conservation of the world's largest intact temperate old growth rainforest. The Department will propose to repeal the action taken by the previous administration to exempt the Tongass from the 2001 Roadless Rule, a cornerstone in conserving the unique natural and cultural resources that are critical to Alaskans. USDA also announced the Southeast Alaska Sustainability Strategy, through which the USDA will end large-scale old growth timber harvest on the Tongass, and focus economic development on opportunities that directly support local Alaskans in forest restoration, recreation, tourism, fisheries, and wildlife habit and watershed improvement. The USDA will also work with Tribes and Alaska Native corporations in the area to develop sustainable opportunities for economic growth. Separately, the Environmental Protection Agency announced it would restart the science-based process to determine if it should use its powers under the Clean Water Act to ensure that the area's waters are not contaminated. This is the first step to restore protections for Bristol Bay and stop a proposed mining operation from threatening one of the world's largest salmon runs. Additionally, the Departments of Agriculture and Interior will co-chair the launch of a federal task force to implement the Bering Sea Climate Resilience Areas Executive Order in coordination with Alaska Native Tribal Leaders.

Protection of the Watershed of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. In October 2021, the Departments of Agriculture and the Interior announced actions to protect the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness and surrounding watershed in northeastern Minnesota. In response to broad concerns about the potential impacts of mining on the Wilderness area's waters, fish, wildlife, Tribal trust and treaty rights, and the nearly \$100 million annual local recreation economy, the Administration is considering a 20-year mineral withdrawal of 225,378 acres of National Forest lands. This action will temporarily prohibit the issuance of new prospecting permits and mineral leases in the area to allow the Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest Service to rigorously evaluate a withdrawal and seek public comment and conduct a science-based environmental analysis to evaluate the potential impacts of mining on the important natural and cultural resources of the Rainy River Watershed.



Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary. In November 2021, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) proposed the creation of the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary to help conserve a 7,000 square mile area off the central California coast, adjacent to San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara Counties. The area proposed for sanctuary designation would recognize Chumash Tribal history in the area and protect an internationally-significant ecological transition zone, where temperate waters from the north meet the subtropics, providing a haven for marine mammals, invertebrates, sea birds, and fish. To help inform the boundaries, management, and final designation of the sanctuary, NOAA will consult with Tribal Nations and gather input local communities and the public on how to best manage the area to conserve its cultural and natural resources.

Climate Provisions in the Build Back Better Plan

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. Tribal lands are significantly at risk from the effects of climate change and Alaska Natives Tribes and Villages are particularly vulnerable, as they face multiple climate impacts. The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act includes several key investments in strengthening the climate resilience of Native communities, including a new Tribal transition and relocation assistance program with approximately \$216 million in funding to support planning and voluntary, community-led transitions for those Tribal communities that are most vulnerable to accelerating, climate-driven disasters. It provides billions of dollars in critical investments in water conveyance, storage, and recycling infrastructure, to upgrade wastewater treatment facilities, and to expand water efficiency projects. The deal invests more than \$21 billion in environmental remediation, making the largest investment in addressing the legacy pollution that harms the public health of communities and neighborhoods, including Tribal communities. The Act makes a roughly \$60 billion investment in electrifying America's power infrastructure, the single largest investment in clean energy transmission in American history. Tribal communities will be key partners in many of these initiatives.

The Build Back Better Plan. The Build Back Better Plan will create good-paying, union jobs, advance environmental justice, and enlist a new, diverse Civilian Climate Corps that will put Americans to work deploying climate solutions in communities across the country. The plan will also expand and extend clean energy and electric vehicle tax credits to reduce electricity bills and make electric vehicles more affordable for middle class families. And, the plan will make critical investments to clean up pollution and monitor and improve air and water quality, while ensuring community engagement and input on infrastructure projects. The Build Back Better Plan would also restore American manufacturing with R&D investments at Tribal Colleges and Universities — including critical investments to compete on clean energy. The Build Back Better Plan would fund Tribal climate resilience and adaptation programs to continue the long history that Tribal communities have as stewards of their homelands.



Other

Electric Vehicle (EV) Toolkit. To ensure Tribes have ample opportunity to develop and implement EV charging stations, the Department of Transportation Rural Opportunities to Use Transportation for Economic Success (ROUTES) team developed a toolkit designed as a one-stop shop for rural entities looking to plan, fund, and implement EV charging infrastructure.

NEPA Regulatory Review and Guidance. The Council on Environmental Quality is reviewing its National Environmental Policy Act regulations and climate change guidance to identify revisions it will pursue in the coming year. CEQ will develop and implement a robust Tribal consultation plan to ensure consideration of the needs of Tribal Nations in its NEPA rulemakings and guidance updates.

Justice40. In January 2021, President Biden signed an Executive Order charging the Director of OMB, the Chair of the Council on Environmental Quality, and the National Climate Advisor with providing recommendations on how certain federal investments might be made so that 40 percent of the benefits of those investments would go to disadvantaged communities. This is the goal of the Justice40 Initiative, a whole-of-government effort focused on the benefits from investments in climate; clean energy and energy efficiency; transportation; affordable and sustainable housing; training and workforce development; remediation and reduction of legacy pollution; and critical clean water infrastructure. In July 2021, the Administration issued guidance to all relevant agencies to begin reviewing programs in support of Justice40 and initiated a pilot of 21 diverse programs at nine federal agencies. The Administration is also working on a Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool that will provide additional information to agencies about disadvantaged communities and help inform their work on the Initiative.

Department of Energy's Tribal Energy Loan Guarantee Program. In support of the Administration's Justice40 Initiative, the Department of Energy's Loan Program Office has added dedicated staff with extensive backgrounds in Tribal energy project development and financing to help Tribes leverage the Tribal Energy Loan Guarantee Program (TELGP) for economic and energy development. The Loan Program Office is also revising and streamlining the application process for the TELGP program to make it easier for Tribes to apply.



Agriculture and Rural Prosperity

USDA Actions for Tribal Communities

Supplying Rural Healthcare and Fighting COVID-19. The Biden Administration is expanding rural hospitals and providers' access to COVID-19 vaccines, testing, and supplies, while helping rural health care providers stay financially solvent in the long-term. The Department of Agriculture is using \$500 million in ARP funding to create the Emergency Rural Health Care Grant Program. The program will provide at least \$350 million to help rural hospitals and local communities, including Native communities, increase access to COVID-19 vaccines and testing, medical supplies, telehealth, and food assistance, and support construction or renovation of rural health care facilities. Applicants can also apply for recovery funds that compensate for lost revenue or staffing expenses due to COVID-19. In addition, the program will provide up to \$125 million in grants to plan and implement models that help improve the long-term viability of rural health care providers, including health care networks that allow rural providers to collectively address community challenges and develop innovative solutions.

Rural Economic and Community Development in the Build Back Better Plan. The Plan would create a new Rural Partnership Program administered by the Rural Development Agency at the Department of Agriculture to help rural regions, including Tribal Nations, build on their unique assets and create economic opportunity by supporting locally-led planning and implementation and providing flexible funding to meet critical needs.

Established the U.S. Department of Agriculture Hall of Tribal Nations. The USDA Office of Tribal Relations opened the USDA Hall of Tribal Nations in November 2021 to better reflect the diplomatic nature of the federal government's Nation-to-Nation relationship with Tribal Nations. The Hall includes flags from Tribal Nations, dozens of significant works from a range of local- and nationally-known Native artists, and a USDA Indigenous Food Sovereignty table to host Indigenous foods to promote education on available Indigenous food items. USDA will also create a website highlighting the Hall of Tribal Nations, including the flags, artists, and foods showcased in the new space.

Commitment to Expanding Self-Determination. Secretary Vilsack made an historic commitment to pursuing the expansion of self-determination policies at USDA. USDA has already brought on a staff member from the Department of the Interior to focus on the Tribal Self Determination Initiative. The agency has also launched an internal working group.

Indigenous Food Sovereignty Initiative. In November 2021, USDA announced the Indigenous Food Sovereignty Initiative, acknowledging the history of how federal policies have affected Indian food and agriculture, and recommitting USDA to strengthening Indigenous food systems. This initiative includes the publication of a USDA Food Sovereignty Resource Guide, the purchase of shelf-stable Tribal foods for USDA's new Hall of Tribal Nations, and several Food Sovereignty Cooperative Agreements



Ensuring Safety and Preventing Violence against Native Women, Children and the Elderly

Strengthening Public Safety and Criminal Justice for Native Americans and Protecting Missing and Murdered Indigenous People and Native Women and Girls

Executive Order on Improving Public Safety and Criminal Justice for Native Americans and Addressing the Crisis of Missing or Murdered Indigenous People. On November 15, 2021, President Biden issued an executive order directing the Departments of Justice, Interior, Homeland Security and Health and Human Services to create a strategy to improve public safety and justice for Native Americans and to address the epidemic of missing or murdered Indigenous peoples. Pursuant to the Executive Order, the Departments of Justice, the Interior and Homeland Security will address specific law enforcement issues and provide support for Tribal Nations to implement Tribally-centered responses. The President also directed the Department of Health and Human Services to develop a plan for prevention and survivor support initiatives.

Administration Actions on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons. In April 2021, the Department of the Interior established the Missing and Murdered Unit to pursue justice for missing or murdered American Indians and Alaska Natives. The new MMU unit helps to investigate these cases and marshal law enforcement resources across federal agencies and throughout Indian country. The White House, along with the Department of Justice, has hosted a number of listening sessions and formal consultation sessions with Tribal leaders to lay a deep foundation of understanding for the critical work needed to address this distressing trend.

“Everyone deserves to feel safe in their communities, but the missing and murdered Indigenous peoples crisis is one that Native communities have faced since the dawn of colonization for too long,” said **Secretary Deb Haaland**. “For too long, this issue has been swept under the rug with a lack of urgency, attention, and funding...Now, in partnership with the Justice Department, and along with extensive engagement with Tribes and other stakeholders, Interior is marshalling our resources to implement these laws, to finally address the crisis of violence against Indigenous people.”

Implementation of the Not Invisible Act Commission. The Not Invisible Act Commission is a multi-agency effort that will include law enforcement, Tribal leaders, federal partners, service providers, and survivors. The Commission will make recommendations to the Department of the Interior and the Department of Justice to improve intergovernmental coordination and establish best practices to address the disproportionately high number of missing Indigenous people, increase coordination to investigate and resolve these cases and ensure accountability, and address the underlying causes behind those numbers. The DOI and DOJ will soon appoint the



full joint Commission. A forthcoming announcement of final appointees will be made in November.

Proclamation on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons Awareness Day. On May 4, 2021, the White House issued a Proclamation on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons Awareness Day to remember the Indigenous people we have lost to murder and those who remain missing, and to express the Biden-Harris Administration’s commitment to working with Tribal Nations to ensure any instance of missing or murdered persons is met with swift and effective action.

Investing ARP Funds to Combat Gender-Based Violence. The ARP allocated \$800 million to the Department of Health and Human Services for federal programs that protect survivors of gender-based violence. Indigenous women and girls endure alarmingly high rates of violence, exploitation, abuse, and disappearance.

Trilateral Working Group on Violence Against Indigenous Women and Girls. The White House Gender Policy Council and Domestic Policy Council will host a virtual summit of the Trilateral Working Group on Violence Against Indigenous Women and Girls in 2022. The purpose of this summit between the United States, Canada, and Mexico is to address the high rates of violence against women and girls from Indigenous communities as a cross boundary concern.

Expanding Tribal Special Criminal Jurisdiction in the Violence Against Women Act. The VAWA Reauthorization Act of 2021, which passed the House of Representatives in March with bipartisan support, would build on the successes of the 2013 VAWA reauthorization by reaffirming inherent Tribal authority to prosecute certain non-Indian offenders — extending the same protections from domestic violence and dating violence to Native American victims of sexual violence, stalking, trafficking, child abuse, elder abuse, and assault against law enforcement or justice personnel when crimes are committed on Tribal territory. The Administration is supporting efforts to secure passage of VAWA legislation in the Senate, and in October 2021, the Deputy Attorney General testified before Congress urging it to pass these provisions and others to increase protections for all survivors.

Supporting Tribal Law Enforcement

National Tribal Law Enforcement Summit. The Departments of the Interior and Justice will host a National Tribal Law Enforcement Summit in early 2022 that will identify best practices in Tribal law enforcement, including information-sharing practices among Tribal and non-Tribal law enforcement entities, cooperative agreements among law enforcement offices, training, and infrastructure. The summit will include Tribal, federal, and state-level participants.

Recruitment and Retention Initiative for Indian Country Law Enforcement. The Bureau of Indian Affairs, Office of Personnel Management, and Department of Justice are identifying ways to maximize and better use existing statutory and regulatory authorities related to recruitment and retention of law enforcement officers in Indian Country.



Creation of the First-Ever Department of Homeland Security Tribal Homeland Security Advisory Council. DHS will establish the first-ever DHS Tribal advisory body. It will be made up of Tribal Nation leaders and subject matter experts (including Tribal organization subject matter experts), to inform the Department on a broad range of intergovernmental relations and homeland security interests of Tribal Nations.



Economic Opportunity and Community Development in Native Communities

The Build Back Better Plan

The American Rescue Plan. The ARP includes several key programs benefitting the economic wellbeing of Native communities. The ARP included Economic Impact Payments (\$1,400 per single individual), the Child Tax Credit (\$3,000 per year for each child 6-17 and \$3,600 for each child 5 and under), and an extension of the Earned Income Tax Credit to help families and workers, including Native Americans, who have been hard hit financially by the crisis. The ARP also increased Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits by 15 percent, and provided \$35 billion in rental, mortgage, and homeless assistance, helping Native American families who are more likely to be rent-burdened and live in overcrowded housing. And, the ARP provided a temporary discount on broadband bills and computers, extended unemployment benefits and provided grants to small businesses, and invested \$35 million in Tribal public transit programs, ensuring that Native students, workers, and businesses could continue to thrive despite the global health emergency.

Treasury-Sponsored Roundtable and Information Sessions. This fall, the Treasury Department started an Economic Recovery Roundtable Series with Tribal Leaders and an Information Session Series for the \$30 billion in Tribal set-asides in Treasury Office of Recovery Programs.

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act invests \$13 billion directly in Tribal communities across the country, in addition to hundreds of billions of dollars in other investments to which Tribal communities are eligible. It supports investments for Tribal Governments, advancing key regional development and capacity-building efforts that will help Tribal communities unlock the full potential of this historic funding. This includes building and repairing roads, highways, and bridges in Indian Country; expanding broadband or wireless broadband to Native American households; ensuring clean, safe drinking water and water infrastructure in Indian Country; and cleaning up and protecting local economies from the impacts of resource extraction.

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act includes several key programs directly benefitting Native communities, including the largest investment in clean drinking water in American history, with an investment of \$6 billion dollars to support water and sanitation infrastructure in Tribal communities. The Act will also invest \$2 billion in long-overdue expansion of broadband access on Tribal lands and provide more than \$4 billion in funding for urgently needed resources for often underdeveloped, unsafe, and poorly-maintained road networks, and hundreds of bridges in need of repair in Indian Country.

The Build Back Better Plan. The President's Build Back Better Plan will deliver a fairer and more equitable America for Native Americans and will support Native families by cutting taxes and lowering costs for working families. Right now, 23 percent of Native Americans fall below the poverty line, struggling to pay expenses like food, rent, health care, child care and transportation for their families. President Biden's plan will extend the Child Tax Credit



expansion in the ARP, lowering taxes for middle class families by providing the families of more than 66 million kids and in the U.S. with a major tax cut – and cutting the Native American poverty rate. In addition, the President’s agenda permanently extends the ARP’s increase to the Earned-Income Tax Credit from \$543 to \$1,502. This will benefit roughly 17 million low-wage workers, including cashiers, cooks, delivery drivers, food preparation workers, and child care providers.

Supporting Small Businesses and Jobs

Grants for Entrepreneurship Training and Business Development. The Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA) at the Department of Commerce has awarded grants to 13 entities to support entrepreneurship training and business development curricula and promote entrepreneurship and business development among Native communities. The primary recipients are non-profit organizations and Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs). To ensure the success of the grant recipients, MBDA will collaborate with other federal departments and agencies to fill gaps with supplemental awards or funding sources and identify funded programs which could be adapted across agencies.

Economic Development Administration Funding and Master Plans for Indigenous Communities. The Economic Development Administration at the Department of Commerce will distribute \$100 million in grants to Native communities for economic development activities. In conjunction with the \$100 million distribution, the Commerce Department will promote the creation of Tribal economic development master plans, approaching economic development through a comprehensive lens. Master plans can be utilized and leveraged by Tribes for outside philanthropic organizations and additional federal funding sources.

Including Tribal Government Owned Corporations in Economic Development Administration Grant Program. In October, the Department of Commerce announced it would include entities owned by Tribal governments in its grant programming under the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965. This rule change has long been advocated for by Tribes, and occurred after extensive Tribal consultation. This move will complement the Indigenous Communities Challenge, and contribute to a robust set of economic opportunities for Tribal businesses.

Promoting Buy Indian Act Authority in Federal Procurement Activities. Amendments made in 2020 to the Buy Indian Act expanded the scope of authority of the Departments of Health and Human Services and Interior to give preferences for Indian labor and industry. HHS is in the final stages of review before publishing a final rule on implementation of the Buy Indian Act and DOI will consult with Tribes and Alaska Native Corporations on a proposed rule in early December.



Enforcing the Indian Arts and Crafts Act. Arts and crafts are a key economic driver for Native American communities, and too many businesses devalue the livelihood of Native American artists by selling fake Native American art. President Biden has underscored the importance of the Indian Arts and Crafts Act, a federal truth-in-advertising law that prohibits the marketing and sale of products that are inaccurately marked as an Indian product or Native-produced. DOJ, with support from the Department of Fish and Wildlife’s Office of Enforcement and assistance from the Indian Arts and Crafts Board, brought a case against a California man accused of selling multiple pieces of fake Native American jewelry online. The accused man pled guilty in federal court in October 2021.

Equity in Federal Procurement. Recognizing that the federal government spends more than \$650 billion each year in consuming goods and services, President Biden directed agencies to use federal purchasing power to grow federal contracting with small disadvantaged businesses, including Native-owned businesses, by 50 percent, translating to a projected additional \$100 billion over five years, and helping more Americans realize their entrepreneurial dreams.

Providing Community Development Support

Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program. In June 2021, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration announced the availability of nearly \$1 billion in grants to expand broadband access and adoption on Tribal Land. NTIA received more than 300 applications for the Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program totaling almost \$6 billion in funding requests. The volume of requests demonstrates the significant need to expand access to and adoption of broadband services on Tribal lands. Some smaller Tribal Broadband Connectivity grants will be awarded by the end of the year and others will start to be awarded in early 2022.

National Tribal Broadband Summit. The Department of the Interior and the Institute of Museum and Library Services partnered with the Department of Agriculture’s Rural Development Service, the Department of Commerce’s National Telecommunication and Information Administration, the Department of Transportation, and the Federal Communications Commission for the 2021 National Tribal Broadband Summit in September 2021. The Summit offered a platform for leaders across the broadband development ecosystem to share best practices, new ideas, and lessons learned from their real-world experience of bringing high-speed internet to Tribal businesses, governments, and homes.

“These investments will help many Native American, Alaskan Native and Native Hawaiian communities gain long overdue access to life-saving technologies, economic opportunities, remote learning and countless other benefits,” said **Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo**. “This funding is an important step forward, but we cannot stop here. Access to broadband is as essential as electricity to our everyday life. Under President Biden’s American Jobs Plan, we will have the resources to deploy high-quality broadband infrastructure to every Tribal community.”

Revising the 477 Memorandum of Agreement. Public Law 102-477 (usually referred to simply as “477”) is the Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Demonstration Act. The law is unique among federal legislation because it allows federally-recognized Tribes and Alaska Native entities to combine formula-funded federal grants that are employment and training-related into a single plan with a single budget and a single reporting system. In October



2021, the Biden-Harris Administration announced it is reopening an interagency memorandum of agreement related to the 477 Program. The interagency process will be used to determine which federal grants that are employment and training-related will be eligible to include into a single plan with a single budget and a single reporting system.

Tribal Transportation Self-Governance Program. The Department of Transportation (DOT)'s Tribal Transportation Self-Governance Program (TTSGP) will designate its first Tribal Nation recipient of the program in 2021. The TTSGP provides federally recognized Tribes and Tribal organizations with greater control, flexibility, and decision-making authority over federal funds used to carry out Tribal transportation programs, functions, services, and activities in Tribal communities.

National Tribal Aviation Symposium. In January 2022, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and Department of Transportation will host the first-ever Tribal Aviation Symposium for all Tribes. The Bureau of Indian Affairs, National Park Service, Small Business Administration, and Economic Development Administration and other agencies will be invited to participate. The symposium will provide Tribal Airport Managers an opportunity to discuss the challenges that they face. FAA will provide an overview of their grant programs; the Department of Transportation will present on technical assistance and proposed updates to its Tribal Policy and Tribal Consultation efforts; Tribes will have the opportunity to meet and provide feedback with Department leadership; and Tribal Airport managers will take part in roundtable discussions on topics such as drone usage.

Use of Tribal ID for Air Travel. The Department of Homeland Security's Transportation Security Administration (TSA) is developing a library of sample Tribal ID photo identification cards to provide greater awareness of Tribal IDs that can be presented for air travel. TSA is engaging with each federally-recognized Tribal Nation to gather Tribal IDs as they work to complete this library in 2022. TSA is conducting awareness training for employees on acceptance of these Tribal IDs. TSA plans to develop a webinar for the TSA screening workforce, in consultation with Tribal Nations, on the acceptance of Tribal IDs, along with greater awareness of cultural and sacred items and regalia that Tribal members carry or wear through TSA checkpoints.

Access to Safe, Affordable Housing

Creation of First-Ever Housing and Urban Development Tribal Intergovernmental Advisory Committee. The Department of Housing and Urban Development will establish its first-ever Tribal advisory committee, the HUD Tribal Intergovernmental Advisory Committee (TIAC). TIAC will allow Tribes to provide direct input on HUD priorities and policies.

Housing Program Investments. The ARP invested more than \$1.2 billion for Tribal and Native Hawaiian housing programs. HUD allocated \$450 million in Indian Housing Block Grant funding for Indian Tribes across the country to respond to COVID-19, helping Tribes carry out affordable housing activities to protect the safety and health of their Tribal members and communities. HUD published an implementation notice which provided an additional \$280 million in Indian Community Development Block Grant ARP funding to help Tribes address infrastructure, housing, and economic development needs in their communities and provide public services, including emergency rental, mortgage, and utility assistance. An historic \$500



million was provided to the Department of the Treasury's new Homeowner Assistance Fund to provide mortgage assistance and relief to Native American homeowners impacted by COVID-19. The Build Back Better Plan also includes \$1 billion for Native housing.

“With the enactment of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, President Biden is making a clear statement that the federal government is committed to ensuring equitable access to communities hardest hit by the pandemic,” **said Housing and Urban Development Secretary Marcia L. Fudge.** “HUD understands the significance of our responsibility to serve American Indian and Alaska Native families, and the Department is dedicated to working in a government-to-government manner with Tribes to quickly bring much-needed relief to Tribal communities.”

House America. HUD launched House America, a multi-faceted initiative led by Secretary Fudge to address homelessness. The Cherokee Nation participated in the launch of the program and is working to recruit additional Tribes to join the effort. The initiative is designed to encourage state, Tribes, county, and city leaders to use ARP resources to address the crisis of homelessness through a Housing First approach, focusing on two areas: Re-Housing to assist individuals experiencing homelessness by placing them into stable housing, and Unit Creation to increase the number of new, affordable housing units in the development pipeline.

Ending Homelessness Among Native American Veterans. The Biden-Harris Administration is committed to ensuring that no Native American that has served the nation's military experiences homelessness. To address the disproportionate rate of Native veteran homelessness, the White House Council on Native American Affairs is collaborating on an initiative with the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness and the Departments of Housing and Urban Development, Defense, Veterans Affairs, the Interior, and Health and Human Services that will support Tribal Nations and communities to ensure that all Native veterans experiencing or at-risk of homelessness are identified and provided with stable housing. An initial focus of this effort will be to improve the identification and data collection of Native American veterans on and off Tribal Nations who are experiencing homelessness and housing instability.

Property Appraisal and Valuation Equity (PAVE) Interagency Task Force. In June, President Biden directed the launch of a first-of-its-kind interagency effort to address inequity in home appraisals. The effort, led by Housing and Urban Development Secretary Fudge and Domestic Policy Advisor Susan Rice, is developing a set of policy recommendations and actions to redress racial bias in home appraisals, which has long held back Native families and other families of color from properly benefiting from home appreciation and thereby contributing to the already severe racial wealth gap.

Tribal Leader Roundtables with Housing and Urban Development. On September 21, 2021, Secretary Fudge and Deputy Secretary Todman hosted a roundtable comprised of Tribal Leaders from around the country. The roundtable focused on homelessness and infrastructure, and Tribal Leaders shared their experiences using ARP funding and focused on different ways to spend the historic funding in ARP. This roundtable was followed by a series of six regional Tribal roundtables through the fall chaired by the Deputy Secretary that represent the six regions overseen by HUD's Office of Native American Programs. These roundtables are a cornerstone of HUD's effort to strengthen the Nation-to-Nation relationship with Tribes.



Education and Youth Engagement

Executive Order on Native American Education. President Biden issued an Executive Order on October 11, 2021, establishing the White House Initiative on Advancing Educational Equity, Excellence, and Economic Opportunity for Native Americans and Strengthening Tribal Colleges and Universities. In the Executive Order, the President pledged to help expand opportunities for Native American students to learn their Native languages, histories, and cultural practices; promote Indigenous learning through the use of traditional ecological knowledge; and promote education opportunities that prepare Native American students for college, careers, and productive and satisfying lives. This includes supporting educational opportunities for students attending Tribal Colleges and Universities.

Early Childhood

Funding Early Childhood Services in Indian Country. The Department of Health and Human Service's Office of Child Care (OCC) awarded \$1.2 billion in ARP funds to Tribes, including a permanent increase of \$42 million, to support child care providers and child care access in Indian Country. OCC also hosted trainings and technical assistance webinars on ARP Stabilization Funds, Tribal Construction, and Tribal Child Count. As of August 6, 2021, the OCC had approved 107 program and fiscal temporary waivers for Tribes and approved 90 Tribal Construction requests for FY 2021. The Office of Head Start (OHS) also facilitated four Tribal consultations on areas of discussion including income eligibility, returning to approved program options and center-based services, facilities, funding, and transportation, and awarded approximately \$25.8 million to Tribal Head Start and Early Head Start programs through ARP. HHS also awarded \$3.7 million in ARP funds to 23 existing grantees, and the Office of Early Childhood Development (ECD) began a webinar series to assist Tribes with early childhood program implementation and coordination. OCC, OHS, and ECD leadership are continuing to meet regularly with Tribal representatives about Tribal early childhood programs.

Tribal Early Childhood Webinar Series. The Department of Health and Human Services, in partnership with the Departments of Education and the Interior, is hosting a series of webinars on topics related to Tribal early childhood programs. The series is intended to provide participants with an overview of key issues and to highlight innovations and promising practices in the effective delivery of high-quality early childhood education programs being implemented in Tribal communities across the country. Five webinars will be held by the end of November and an additional five will be held through Spring 2022. Recordings and resources from the webinar series will be collected in a resource library, and HHS will release a summary report featuring highlights and themes from the series.

K-12 Education

Federal Indian Boarding School Initiative. On June 22, 2021, Secretary of the Interior Haaland announced a Federal Indian Boarding School Initiative, a comprehensive review of the troubled legacy of federal boarding school policies. The initiative is investigating the loss of human life and the lasting consequences of residential Indian boarding schools on Native people



and communities. The primary goal will be to identify boarding school facilities and sites; the location of known and possible student burial sites located at or near school facilities; and the identities and Tribal affiliations of children interred at such locations. The Department of Health and Human Services is working to bolster mental health resources in response to the effect of generational trauma endured by these failed federal policies.

Increasing the Number of Qualified Mental Health Service Providers that Provide School-Based Mental Health Services to Students. Recognizing the enhanced need for mental health services and additional service providers due to COVID-19, the Department of Education, in coordination with the WHCNA Education Committee, has made supporting the mental health needs of all students a priority. The Department of Education will establish listening sessions and Tribal consultations to inform Tribes of available competitive preference points for rural applicants in the competitive grants for School-Based Mental Health Services with the goal of increasing the number of qualified school-based mental health service providers in local educational agencies. Tribes are eligible to apply for the Rural Applicants priority for these grants.

Collaborative Improvement and Innovation Networks Project (CoIIN). The National Center for School Mental Health and the School-Based Health Alliance invited the Bureau of Indian Education and the Indian Health Service to participate in a new cohort initiative called the Collaborative Improvement and Innovation Network, which is focused on making measurable improvements in the health and mental health of students during the 2021-22 school year. In this cohort, BIE and IHS are working collaboratively with their peers to advance their school health and/or mental health quality. They are receiving expert technical assistance and coaching, exchanging best practices and lessons learned, and tracking progress toward key benchmarks and improvement goals.

Higher Education

Higher Education Emergency Relief Funds for Tribal Colleges and Universities. The ARP included \$190 million in Higher Education Emergency Relief funds for Tribal Colleges and Universities to provide emergency financial aid to millions of students and ensure learning continues during the COVID-19 national emergency.

Converting Tribal Education Leaders to Senior Executive Service. In June 2021, the Department of the Interior announced the conversion of leadership positions from career to senior executive service at the Bureau of Indian Education's Haskell Indian Nations University and Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute.

Supporting Native Student Loan Borrowers. American Indians and Alaska Natives struggle with student loan payments and 2 out of 5 Native borrowers default on their loans. The Administration is committed to alleviating this burden. President Biden has already provided \$11.5 billion in relief to 580,000 borrowers and extended the pandemic student loan pause through the end of January 2022, ensuring no one has to choose between student loan payments and making ends meet during a global pandemic.



The Build Back Better Plan

The Build Back Better Plan. The President’s Build Back Better Plan will deliver a fairer and more equitable America for Native Americans by investing in our children’s education from cradleboard to college. The Build Back Better Plan includes several key education provisions benefitting Native communities, including free, universal preschool; expanded child care; and expanded child nutrition programs.

Preserving Indigenous Languages

ARP Funds for Native Languages. Tribal governments and Native communities recognized early on that elders and language speakers were some of the most vulnerable to the pandemic. In response, many governments and community organizations quickly implemented efforts to check on the health and welfare of their elderly populations through the delivery of food, and some Tribes prioritized language speakers to receive COVID-19 vaccination to help protect them from the deadly virus. However, despite closing borders, issuing mask mandates, and instating curfews, many elders and language speakers succumbed to the virus. For some communities, these losses have put their Native languages on the precipice of extinction. The Administration for Children and Families and Administration for Native Americans (ANA) announced the availability of \$19 million in supplemental grant funding through the ARP to go to communities whose urgent work to save Indigenous languages had been greatly impacted due to the dire effects of the pandemic. This funding will assist Tribes and organizations as they seek to ensure the survival and continued vitality of Native American languages.

“To be able to more than double our funding for Native Language preservation and revitalization is a huge relief,” **said Acting Commissioner Michelle Sauve.** “When a language dies, we don’t just lose the language as a form of communication. We also lose the scientific, ecological, traditional, ceremonial, and cultural knowledge developed over millennia within each community. ANA stands ready to support our nation’s Native communities in their fight for the survival of their language.”

Native Language Memorandum of Agreement. In November 2021, the Departments of Education, Health and Human Service, and the Interior entered into a MOA that promotes the protection of Native languages through the establishment of a Native Language Working Group. Other participating agencies include the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Transportation, the Council on Environmental Quality, the Institute of Museum and Library Sciences, the Library of Congress, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the National Endowment for the Humanities. The MOA promotes collaboration on programming, resource development, and policy related to Native languages.

Additional Support for the Preservation of Native Languages. The Department of Education, along with the Departments of Health and Human Services and the Interior, and other federal agencies, will hold the National Native Languages Summit on November 18-19, 2021. Tribes, organizations and others will share best practices, discuss challenges and barriers, and identify necessary resources to support language and culture in Native communities. The information gathered at this summit will be used to strengthen education policies and technical assistance, and foster improved coordination and improve language sustainability.



Meeting Obligations to Urban Native Americans

According to the US Census Bureau, over 70 percent of Native Americans live in urban cities away from Tribal lands. President Biden is ensuring that the Administration supports and is giving a voice to the urban Indian population. The Administration has included Urban Indian Organizations in Tribal listening sessions on topics and issues such as health care, education, funding, housing, maternal care and voting rights, to name a few. It has also ensured that Urban Indian Health Organizations (UIHOs) receive 100 percent Federal Medical Assistance Percentages (FMAP) for Medicaid and included urban Indian issues within the context of public safety and justice. President Biden has also ensured that payments from Tribal governments to Tribal members from the CARES Act and the ARP do not count as income for purposes of Social Security Income benefits and included budget increases that will go directly to UIHO's to provide much needed health care to the urban Indian population. And the Build Back Better Plan will provide families, especially children, with the much needed support for early childhood education and child tax credits for families – which will positively impact the urban Indian population.

Serving Native Veterans

Memorandum of Understanding Between the Veterans Health Administration and Indian Health Service. Veterans' health care requires strong coordination between both the Veterans Health Administration and the Indian Health Service. VHA and IHS have entered into an MOU to promote strong collaboration, cooperation, and resource sharing between the agencies to strengthen health services in Indian Country.

New Veterans Health Administration Native Affairs Office. In order to ensure effective delivery of veterans' services, the Veterans Health Administration has established a new office to coordinate issues related to Native veterans' health. This includes allocating budget resources for staff, with the goal to commence hiring to have the office staffed by March 2022.

Creation of the First-Ever Veterans Affairs Tribal Advisory Committee. In October 2021, the Department of Veterans Affairs created a Tribal Advisory Committee to ensure that the federal government is collaborating on veterans' issues with Tribal Nations.

Tribal Representation Expansion Project. The Secretary of Veterans Affairs recently announced that the VA will facilitate access to culturally competent representation for Native American veterans by using the discretionary authority afforded to VA by Congress to authorize certain individuals – in this case, Tribal Veteran Service Officers – to prepare, present, and prosecute veterans benefit claims before VA.

Finalized Alaska Native Veterans Land Allotment Program. The Department of the Interior finalized a program for Alaska Native veterans from the Vietnam War era to apply for up to 160 acres of federally managed land, an effort to ensure Native veterans have ample opportunity to claim land that was made available while they were serving in the war.



Native American Right to Vote

Native Voting Rights Steering Group. On March 7, 2021, President Biden signed an Executive Order on Promoting Access to Voting, leveraging the resources of the federal government to expand citizens' opportunities to register to vote, learn about, and participate in, the electoral process. The order created a Native Voting Rights Steering Group and directed the group to engage in meaningful and robust consultation with Tribal Nations and Native leaders to inform a report on the status of Native voting rights. As it begins to draft a framework a final report and recommendations, the steering group has held six consultations across the country with Tribal leaders and Tribal voting rights advocates, and an additional listening session with Native Hawaiians.

Language Access to Critical Information on Registration and Voting. Another part of the Executive Order directed the General Services Administration to modernize and improve vote.gov to become a user-friendly portal for Americans to find the information they need most to register and vote, and make it easier to register to vote and confirm voters' registration status. Vote.gov information will be translated into Native American languages, providing access not only to communities sufficiently sizable to receive the language protections of the Voting Rights Act, but also members of those communities wherever they may live.

Other Agency Commitments to Improve Voting Access. As part of the all-of-government effort to foster nonpartisan opportunities for Americans to participate in the political process, each federal agency has made commitments within its own authorities, many of which specifically benefit underserved populations like Tribal communities. For example, the Indian Health Service has committed to offer patients access to assistance with voter registration. And the Department of the Interior will disseminate information on registering and voting, including through on-site events, at schools operated by the Bureau of Indian Education and Tribal Colleges and Universities — and where possible, will offer those Tribal College and University campuses for designation by states as voter registration agencies under the National Voter Registration Act.

Voting Rights Engagement with Tribal Leaders. On Tuesday, July 27, Vice President Kamala Harris and Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland hosted a voting rights conversation with Tribal leaders and Tribal voting rights advocates. One in three Native Americans who are eligible to vote are not yet registered, largely due to the lack of access to adequate resources and facilities. The event focused on addressing voter suppression tactics negatively affecting Native American and Alaskan Native Tribal members' rights to vote as well as the proposed John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act and the For the People Act, which would expand voting rights.



Additional Actions by the Administration

Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government. On his first day in office, President Biden signed an Executive Order directing federal agencies to identify concrete and comprehensive opportunities to advance more equitable outcomes for underserved communities, such as Native American communities, including through grants and lending, staffing, data, and federal contracting, as well as through standing up a new equitable data working group. In June, the President signed an Executive Order to advance diversity, equity, inclusion, and access within the federal government, establishing the policy to cultivate a workforce that draws from the full diversity of the nation.

Senior Administration Officials Visit Indian Country

Thirteen high ranking officials from the Biden-Harris Administration visited Indian Country in 2021.

First Lady Jill Biden. Dr. Biden traveled to New Mexico and spent two days with Navajo Nation, discussing topics including the COVID-19 pandemic and Tribal access to running water. She also visited the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium at the Alaska Native Medical Campus in Anchorage, promoting the vaccination campaign against COVID-19. Dr. Biden and Surgeon General Dr. Vivek Murthy visited the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe in Michigan to highlight Project AWARE, a program supported by a Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) grant that helps expand state and local governments' coordination to increase awareness of mental health issues among school-aged Native youth.

Second Gentleman Doug Emhoff. Mr. Emhoff visited Kewa Pueblo in New Mexico and visited the Yakama Nation in Washington. Both visits focused on vaccination efforts and economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Interior Secretary Deb Haaland. Secretary Haaland has visited Tribes across the United States, including the Pueblo Governors in New Mexico; Navajo Nation, Ute Mountain Ute, Ute Indian Tribe, Hopi Tribe, Pueblo of Zuni in Utah; Penobscot Nation in Maine; the Rosebud Sioux Tribe in Pennsylvania; Southern Ute Indian Tribe and the Ute Mountain Ute in Colorado; the Quinault Tribe in Washington; the Northern Arapaho Tribe and Eastern Shoshone Tribe in Wyoming; and the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians, Wiyot Tribe, and Yurok Tribe in California.

Education Secretary Miguel Cardona. Secretary Cardona visited the Tohono O'odham Tribe in Arizona to meet with students and educators at the Tohono O'odham Community College and the Saginaw Chippewa Tribe in Michigan at Saginaw Chippewa Tribal College as part of the Department of Education's Midwest Return to School Bus Tour.

Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra. Secretary Becerra traveled to Oklahoma to announce the implementation of Medicaid expansion in the state and visited the Cherokee Nation to discuss efforts to improve the health of Cherokees, tour the Cherokee Nation Health System health centers, and highlight COVID-19 vaccination efforts and new drug treatment facilities.



Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg. Secretary Buttigieg visited the Gila River Indian Community, Ak-Chin Indian Community, and Navajo Nation in Arizona to discuss topics including roads across Tribal communities in need of major improvements and safety concerns at dangerous intersections.

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack. Secretary Vilsack visited the Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo in New Mexico where he toured a wastewater treatment facility and announced that the USDA would issue up to \$307 million in grants and low-interest loans to modernize rural water infrastructure. The Pueblo received a \$610,000 loan and a \$1.6 million grant to improve the wastewater treatment center.

Labor Secretary Marty Walsh. Secretary Walsh visited Jemez Pueblo in New Mexico to discuss how the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act will support Tribal communities by expanding broadband, rebuilding roads and bridges, eliminating lead pipes, and building resilience to climate change.

Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm. Secretary Granholm traveled to New Mexico to hold a roundtable on energy transition at Four Corners Power Plant with Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez. The Secretary also visited Navajo Nation to learn about the Tribe's renewable energy initiatives.

Housing and Urban Development Secretary Marcia Fudge. Secretary Fudge traveled to South Carolina to visit Catawba Nation and stress the Administration's commitment to dedicating more resources to the housing needs of Catawba Nation and Tribes across the United States.

EPA Administrator Michael Regan. Administrator Regan visited the Fort Berthold Reservation and MHA Nation in North Dakota, where he learned about the history and culture of the Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara people, and discussed environmental protections, oil and gas production, and school construction. He also visited an abandoned uranium mine site on the homelands of the Navajo Nation.

FEMA Administrator Deanne Criswell. Administrator Criswell traveled to Oregon to discuss disaster preparedness with the Confederated Tribes of Grande Ronde, including the Cow Creek, Warm Springs, Coquille, Burns Paiute, and Siletz Tribes.

Council on Environmental Quality Chair Brenda Mallory. Chair Mallory traveled to Toppenish in Washington state to speak with Yakama Nation about the health of the Columbia River, including the impacts of climate change and water pollution to the local salmon population.

White House Engagement with Tribal Leaders

The Domestic Policy Council hosted a variety of briefings and listening sessions with Tribal leaders on the following topics:

- **Infrastructure:** Critical Water Infrastructure; Clean Water Access in Indian Country; Regulatory Hurdles for Roads, Broadband, and Water; American Jobs Plan; and Supply Chain Problems in Indian Country.



- **Community Development:** Traditional Food, Subsistence, and Community Level Food and Feeding Programs; the National American Housing; Urban Indian Issues; Buy Indian Act; and Native Language Immersion Schools and Language Preservation.
- **Natural Resources:** Commercial Agriculture and Economic Development; Co-Management of Federal Lands; Tribal Climate Change; and International Climate Change.
- **Health:** Tribal COVID-19 Briefings; the National Indian Health Board, Maternal Health, Disability and Access Issues in Indian Country; and Urban Health Policy Issues (FMAP Funding).
- **Children, Youth, and Students:** Native Youth; the Child Tax Credit; Indian Education; and the Executive Order on Indian Education.
- **Gender:** Violence Against Women Act; VAWA Reimbursement Program; Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples (MMIP); Native American/Indigenous Girls; and the National Gender Strategy.
- **Budget and General Policy:** Week One Executive Orders; ARP Implementation, FY 2022 Budget; and Native Voting Rights.