



# NCAI Analysis of the President's FY2016 Budget Request

## Administration Releases FY 2016 Budget

This broadcast provides a preliminary analysis of the President's fiscal year (FY) 2016 budget request, highlighting impacts on funding for Indian programs. In the coming weeks, the President's budget will be reviewed by Congress, and appropriations committees will begin holding hearings on the proposals. Overall, tribes have a significant opportunity to increase appropriations for Indian programs this year, and we urge tribal leaders to support tribal budget requests with direct communication to the Appropriations Committee and Subcommittee leadership and members in both the House and Senate. While the Interior Appropriations Subcommittees remain important, we encourage tribes to send testimony on the Department of Justice budget, which is handled by the Commerce-Justice-Science and Related Agencies subcommittees in both chambers, the Health and Human Services (HHS) budget handled by the Labor-HHS-Education appropriations subcommittee, Housing and Urban Development budget in the Transportation-Housing subcommittees, and energy programs in the Energy-Water subcommittees, for instance. The Native American Programs [hearing](#) deadline to request to testify before the House Interior Appropriations Subcommittee is February 13, 2015. Look up deadlines to submit testimony on the House side at <http://appropriations.house.gov/>. The Senate will announce deadlines soon as well at <http://www.appropriations.senate.gov/>. Contact Amber Ebarb ([aebarb@ncai.org](mailto:aebarb@ncai.org) or 202-466-7767) at NCAI if you have questions about this analysis.

**Overall Budget Request:** The President released his FY 2016 budget on February 2, 2015. The Administration proposes to do away with the sequester established under the 2011 deficit law (PL 112-25) by reducing the deficit \$1.8 trillion over the next 10 years, a request similar to ones made in previous budgets. The President's budget would increase discretionary spending in FY 2016 by seven percent, or \$75 billion, split evenly between defense and non-defense programs; yet, adjusted for inflation, non-defense appropriations would be 11 percent below their FY 2010 level overall. The sequester will remain in effect for FY 2016 if Congress does not adhere to the defense and nondefense spending caps or pass a law to adjust the across-the-board cuts. The Administration's sequester replacement would cut mandatory and discretionary programs by \$600 billion over 10 years, with about 70 percent of the savings coming from health overhaul proposals. Nearly \$640 billion in new tax revenue would pay for the sequester replacement plan, including reducing benefits for high-income households and implementing the Buffett Rule, which would require that millionaires pay no less than 30 percent of income in taxes after accounting for charitable contributions.

**Highlights of Proposed Funding for Tribal Programs:** In preparation for the President's budget, some agencies consulted with tribes about programs in the budget, and many recommendations from Indian Country are included in the FY 2016 proposal. Below are a few highlights from NCAI's initial analysis of the President's budget. Additional department summaries are addressed below, as well as links to many of the agency budget documents for even more in-depth analysis. In January of this year, NCAI released its [FY 2016 tribal budget recommendations](#), which can be compared to the Administration's budget proposals.

### Significant proposals in the President's FY 2016 Budget include:

- **Mandatory Contract Support Costs:** The FY2016 budget includes a legislative proposal to reclassify contract support costs as permanent funding beginning in FY 2017. NCAI and tribes have called for this in [resolutions](#) across Indian Country and in NCAI's tribal budget requests. The FY 2016 request also will fully fund contract support costs, based on the most recent BIA and IHS analysis.
- **Generation Indigenus** is an initiative in the budget to address Native youth Issues. The Generation Indigenus, or "Gen-I", initiative takes a comprehensive approach to help improve the lives of and opportunities for Native youth. The initiative crosses multiple agencies, including the Departments of the Interior, Education (ED), Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Health and Human Services (HHS), Agriculture (USDA), Labor (DOL) and Justice (DOJ). Increases include: (1) \$34.2 million at DOI to extend broadband internet and computer access to all BIE-funded schools

and dormitories; (2) \$10 million at HUD and \$8 million at DOI to address teacher housing needs; (3) \$50 million at HHS to provide youth-focused behavioral, mental health, and substance abuse services; and (4) \$53 million for Native Youth Community Projects at ED to support comprehensive strategies to improve college and career-readiness of Native youth.

- **Significant Increases:** the budget proposes an overall increase of **12 percent for BIA** over the FY 2015 enacted level, the largest increase in more than a decade (excluding Recovery Act funding). The **Indian Health Service** would receive a **nine percent increase**.
- Acknowledging the important role BIA plays as a broad provider of Federal services, the President’s budget proposes \$4.0 million to establish the **One-Stop Tribal Support Center** to support Tribes in accessing hundreds of services across the Federal government.
- The FY 2016 budget includes \$4.5 million to establish an **Indian Energy Service Center** to facilitate vital energy development in Indian Country.
- In the BIA, a **data initiative** of \$12.0 million is proposed to establish an Office of Indian Affairs Policy, Program Evaluation, and Data which will help the Interior Department collect, analyze, and use evidence to support effective policy making and program implementation. The funds also will assist the Department in working with Tribes to improve Interior and BIA data quality and availability and will support efforts with the Census Bureau to identify and address data gaps in Indian Country.
- The BIA budget builds on the **Tiwahe (Family) Initiative:** a comprehensive and integrated approach to address the inter-related problems of poverty, violence, and substance abuse faced by Indian communities. The FY16 budget would provide \$15 million to expand the Tiwahe Initiative, \$6 million more for Social Services, \$4 million more for law enforcement for alternatives to incarceration, and \$5 million more for aid to tribal family courts.
- **Public Safety:** The budget includes \$417.4 million for the Department of Justice (DOJ) public safety initiatives in Indian Country, which is a \$102 million increase compared to the FY 2015 DOJ enacted total for Indian Country.
- **Tax provisions:** Treasury includes a proposal to exclude from income **student loan forgiveness and certain scholarship amounts** for participation in the IHS health professions program; a modification of the **adoption tax credit** to allow Indian Tribal Governments to make a status determination of a “child with special needs”; modifications of **Tax Exempt Bonds for Indian Tribal Governments** that include the repeal of the “essential government function” for tax exempt bond financing, and new flexibility for Tribal Economic Development Bonds.
- **Carcieri:** Language to address the *Carcieri* Supreme Court decision is again included in the Department of Interior general provisions of the President’s budget. ([Interior Appendix](#), Budget of the United States Government, Fiscal Year 2016, p. 716)

The White House has also released a fact sheet on tribal programs in the FY 2016 budget, “[Standing With Indian Country](#).” NCAI will work to ensure that the federal programs that fulfill the trust responsibility to tribes receive bipartisan support in the appropriations process.

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## DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR

### Bureau of Indian Affairs

The FY 2016 budget for the Operation of Indian Programs (OIP) account is \$2.7 billion, an increase of \$231.4 million above the FY2015 level, an increase of about 9 percent. The FY 2016 budget request for Construction is \$189.0 million, an increase of \$60.1 million (or about 46.6 percent) above the FY2015 level. The increase of 12 percent in BIA overall is higher than the overall percentage increase for the entire Interior budget, nearly 8 percent over the FY2015 enacted level.

#### Significant Changes and Increases

**Contract support:** In addition to fully funding estimated required FY 2016 Contract Support Costs (CSC), the FY 2016 budget includes a legislative proposal to reclassify CSC as permanent funding beginning in FY 2017 to stabilize long-term funding and address programmatic concerns. If enacted, permanent funding for Contract Support Costs will help stabilize this vital funding as called for in tribal consultation over many years.

**Tiwahe (Family) Initiative:** The FY16 budget would provide \$15 million to expand the Tiwahe Initiative, \$6 million more for Social Services (under BIA Human Services), \$4 million more for law enforcement for alternatives to incarceration and \$5 million more for aid to tribal family courts.

**Education** would see an increase of \$138.4 million for BIE activities and construction. Increases include:

- \$45.5 million for **Elementary and Secondary Education**
- \$12.9 million to fully fund **Tribal Grant Support Costs**
- \$10 million for the **Education Program Enhancement** program for incentive funding
- \$20 million for **BIE maintenance and operations**
- \$34.2 million for **education information technology** to enhance broadband and digital access
- \$4.6 million for **scholarship and adult education** and an increase of \$250,000 for Special Higher Education Scholarships
- \$2.6 million for **Johnson O'Malley**

The FY2016 budget proposes appropriations language enabling the Secretary to activate the **National Foundation for American Indian Education** to foster public-private partnerships for BIE-funded schools. The proposed bill language will initiate a foundation focused on fundraising to create opportunities for Indian students in and out of the classroom.

**Education Construction** would receive a \$58.7 million increase (79 percent higher than the FY2015 level), for a total of \$133.2 million. The increase includes \$25.3 million for replacement school construction to complete construction on the final two schools on the 2004 replacement school priority list.

**BIA Natural Resources** would receive a 26 percent increase, \$48 million over FY 2015, for sustainable resource management and preparing and responding to the impacts of climate change, such as drought, wildfires, changes to plants and animals important to subsistence and culture, rights protection, coastal erosion and rising sea levels. Increases will also support Alaska Native Villages in the Arctic to evaluate options for the long-term resilience of their communities.

**Tribal Priority Allocations:** The FY 2016 budget proposes a total of \$982.7 million in Tribal Priority Allocations, an increase of \$56.2 million (or 6 percent) over the FY 2015 level. The chart below shows the activity and sub-activity amounts compared to FY14 and FY15 levels.

	FY2014 Actual	FY2015 Enacted	FY2016 Request	Change	%
<b>Tribal Government</b>					
Aid To Tribal Government	25,839	24,614	24,833	219	0.9%
CTPG	74,623	76,348	77,088	740	1.0%
Self-Governance Compacts	152,881	158,767	162,321	3,554	2.2%
Contract Support	242,000	246,000	272,000	26,000	10.6%

	FY2014 Actual	FY2015 Enacted	FY2016 Request	Change	%
Indian Self-Determination Fund	5,000	5,000	5,000	0	0.0%
New Tribes	463	463	464	1	0.2%
Small and Needy Tribes	1,845	1,845	3,095	1,250	67.8%
Road Maintenance	24,303	26,461	26,693	232	0.9%
Tribal Govt Program Oversight	8,128	8,181	12,273	4,092	50.0%
<b>Subtotal, Tribal Government</b>	<b>535,082</b>	<b>547,679</b>	<b>583,767</b>	<b>36,088</b>	<b>6.6%</b>
<b>Human Services</b>					
Social Services	35,763	40,871	47,179	6,308	15.4%
Welfare Assistance	74,809	74,809	74,791	-18	0.0%
Indian Child Welfare Act	10,710	15,433	15,641	208	1.3%
Housing Program	8,000	8,009	8,021	12	0.1%
Human Services Tribal Design	411	407	246	-161	-39.6%
Human Services Program Oversight	3,085	3,105	3,126	21	0.7%
<b>Subtotal, Human Services</b>	<b>132,778</b>	<b>142,634</b>	<b>149,004</b>	<b>6,370</b>	<b>4.5%</b>
<b>Trust - Natural Resources Management</b>					
Natural Resources, General	5,165	5,089	8,168	3,079	60.5%
Irrigation Ops and Maintenance	11,342	11,359	12,898	1,539	13.5%
Rights Protection Implementation	35,297	35,420	40,138	4,718	13.3%
Tribal Mgmt/Development Program	9,230	9,244	14,263	5,019	54.3%
Endangered Species	2,673	2,675	3,684	1,009	37.7%
Tribal Climate Resilience	9,947	9,948	30,355	20,407	205.1%
Integrated Resource Info Program	1,996	2,996	3,996	1,000	33.4%
Agriculture and Range	30,558	30,494	30,751	257	0.8%
Forestry	47,735	47,735	51,914	4,179	8.8%
Water Resources	10,543	10,297	14,917	4,620	44.9%
Fish, Wildlife, and Parks	13,823	13,577	15,646	2,069	15.2%
Resource Mgmt Program Oversight	5,986	6,018	6,066	48	0.8%
<b>Subtotal, Trust - NR Management</b>	<b>184,295</b>	<b>184,852</b>	<b>232,796</b>	<b>47,944</b>	<b>25.9%</b>
<b>Trust - Real Estate Services</b>					
Trust Services, General	15,303	15,150	15,043	-107	-0.7%
Navajo-Hopi Settlement Program	1,135	1,147	1,160	13	1.1%
Probate	11,989	12,043	12,928	885	7.3%
Land Title and Records Offices	13,732	13,891	15,905	2,014	14.5%
Real Estate Services	36,460	36,435	36,837	402	1.1%
Land Records Improvement	6,423	6,436	8,289	1,853	28.8%
Environmental Quality	15,623	15,644	15,792	148	0.9%
Alaskan Native Programs	1,002	1,010	1,017	7	0.7%
Rights Protection	11,781	11,803	21,195	9,392	79.6%
Real Estate Services Oversight	13,310	13,443	15,520	2,077	15.5%
<b>Subtotal, Trust - Real Estate Services</b>	<b>126,758</b>	<b>127,002</b>	<b>143,686</b>	<b>16,684</b>	<b>13.1%</b>
<b>Public Safety and Justice</b>					
Law Enforcement	325,696	328,296	334,976	6,680	2.0%
Tribal Courts	23,241	23,280	28,173	4,893	21.0%
Fire Protection	1,077	1,274	1,274	0	0.0%
<b>Subtotal, Public Safety and Justice</b>	<b>350,014</b>	<b>352,850</b>	<b>364,423</b>	<b>11,573</b>	<b>3.3%</b>
<b>Community and Economic Development</b>					
Job Placement and Training	10,920	11,463	11,445	-18	-0.2%
Economic Development	1,713	1,706	1,794	88	5.2%
Minerals and Mining	20,464	20,612	25,153	4,541	22.0%
Community Development Oversight	2,203	2,215	2,227	12	0.5%
<b>Subtotal, Comm and Econ Dev</b>	<b>35,300</b>	<b>35,996</b>	<b>40,619</b>	<b>4,623</b>	<b>12.8%</b>
<b>Executive Direction and Admin Services</b>	<b>225,782</b>	<b>227,692</b>	<b>241,832</b>	<b>14,140</b>	<b>6.2%</b>
<b>Bureau of Indian Education</b>					
Elementary/Sec. Programs (fw funded)	518,318	536,897	565,517	28,620	5.3%
Elementary and Secondary Programs	118,402	119,195	142,361	23,166	19.4%
Post-Secondary Programs (fw funded)	69,793	69,793	69,793	0	0.0%
Post-Secondary Programs	61,887	64,182	69,412	5,230	8.1%
Education Management	20,354	20,464	57,381	36,917	180.4%
<b>Subtotal, Bureau of Indian Education</b>	<b>788,754</b>	<b>810,531</b>	<b>904,464</b>	<b>93,933</b>	<b>11.6%</b>
<b>TOTAL APPROPRIATION</b>	<b>2,378,763</b>	<b>2,429,236</b>	<b>2,660,591</b>	<b>231,355</b>	<b>9.5%</b>

## BIA Construction

	FY2014 Actual	FY2015 Enacted	FY2016 Request	Change	%
Education Construction	55,285	74,501	133,245	58,744	78.8%
Public Safety and Justice Construction	11,306	11,306	11,306	0	0.0%
Resources Management Construction	32,759	34,427	34,488	61	0.2%
Other Program Construction	10,774	8,642	9,934	1,292	15.0%
<b>TOTAL APPROPRIATION</b>	<b>110,124</b>	<b>128,876</b>	<b>188,973</b>	<b>60,097</b>	<b>46.6%</b>

For more information, visit: <http://www.doi.gov/budget/appropriations/2016/index.cfm>

## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

### Indian Health Service

The Indian Health Service budget (IHS) request for FY 2016 of \$5.103 billion in budget authority is an increase of \$460.6 million (9.9 percent) above the FY 2015 enacted level. Including IHS mandatory and collections, the FY 2016 Budget requests \$6.4 billion for the IHS, an increase of \$486 million (8 percent) above FY 2015 and 49 percent above FY 2008. The FY 2016 budget includes an increased investment for the Purchased/Referred Care Program to cover increases in health care services costs due to medical inflation, population growth, and pay costs; provides funding for staffing and operating costs for new and replacement tribal and IHS health care facilities; proposes significant investments in IHS health care facilities; includes an increase for Health Information Technology to help modernize IHS systems; and includes funding to help improve collections from public and private insurance at IHS and tribally operated facilities.

The funding increases include **Current Services**: +\$147.3 million to fully fund medical inflation, pay raises and partially fund population growth.

- **Medical Inflation**: +\$71.2 million
- **Population Growth**: +\$56.7 million
- **Pay Costs**: +\$19.4 million

**Program Increases**: +\$313.3 million to fund priority programs.

- **Staffing/Operating Costs** for Newly-Constructed Healthcare Facilities and Youth Regional Treatment Centers: +\$17.8 million
- **Purchased/Referred Care (PRC)**: +\$25.5 million, in addition to \$43.6 million in PRC medical inflation and \$1.2 million for staffing/operating costs (total PRC increase of \$70.3 million)
- **Hospital & Health Clinics**
  - Improvements in Third Party Collections: +\$10.0 million
  - Health Information Technology (under H&HC): +\$10.0 million
- **Tribal Behavioral Health** for Native Youth as part of the **Generation Indigenous** (under Alcohol/Substance Abuse): +\$25 million
- **Contract Support Costs**: +\$55.0 million to fund the estimated CSC need for new and expanded contracts and compacts.
- **Maintenance and Improvement**: +\$35.0 million to address critical maintenance backlog of approximately \$467 million.
- **Sanitation Facilities Construction**: +\$35.0 million to address sanitation deficiencies and construct sanitation projects; provide sanitation facilities to approximately 7,200 Indian homes and reduce the backlog of sanitation deficiencies of feasible projects totaling \$1.93 billion.
- **Health Care Facilities Construction**: +\$100.0 million for a total funding level of \$185 million.
  - Gila River Southeast Health Center, Chandler, AZ to complete construction.
  - Salt River Northeast Health Center, Scottsdale, AZ to design and begin construction.
  - Rapid City Health Center, Rapid City, SD to design and begin construction.
  - New Dilkon Alternative Rural Health Center, Dilkon, AZ to design and construct the infrastructure.

**Contract Support Costs:** The Budget fully funds the estimated need for Contract Support Costs (CSC) at \$718 million, an increase of \$55 million above FY 2015. The estimated increase includes funding for new and expanded contracts and compacts. The Budget also requests that CSC be reclassified to a mandatory appropriation beginning in FY 2017.

IHS (Dollars in thousands)	FY14 Enacted	FY15 Enacted	FY16 Pres. Bud	16-'15
<b>Services</b>				
Hospitals & Health Clinics	1,773,931	1,836,789	1,936,323	99,534
Dental Services	165,260	173,982	181,459	7,477
Mental Health	77,980	81,145	84,485	3,340
Alcohol & Substance Abuse	186,378	190,981	227,062	36,081
Purchased/Referred Care	878,575	914,139	984,475	70,336
Total, Clinical Services	3,082,124	3,197,036	3,413,804	216,768
Public Health Nursing	70,829	75,640	79,576	3,936
Health Education	16,926	18,026	19,136	1,110
Community Health Representatives	57,895	58,469	62,363	3,894
Immunization AK	1,826	1,826	1,950	124
Total, Preventive Health	147,476	153,961	163,025	9,064
Urban Health	40,729	43,604	43,604	0
Indian Health Professions	28,466	48,342	48,342	0
Tribal Management Grants	1,442	2,442	2,442	0
Direct Operations	65,894	68,065	68,338	273
Self-Governance	4,227	5,727	5,735	8
Contract Support Costs	612,484	662,970	717,970	55,000
Total, Other Services	753,242	831,150	886,431	55,281
<b>TOTAL, SERVICES</b>	<b>3,982,842</b>	<b>4,182,147</b>	<b>4,463,260</b>	<b>281,113</b>
<b>FACILITIES</b>				
Maintenance & Improvement	53,614	53,614	89,097	35,483
Sanitation Facilities Construction	79,423	79,423	115,138	35,715
Health Care Facilities Construction	85,048	85,048	185,048	100,000
Facilities & Environmental Health Support	211,051	219,612	226,870	7,258
Equipment	22,537	22,537	23,572	1,035
TOTAL, FACILITIES <sup>1</sup>	451,673	460,234	639,725	179,491
<b>TOTAL, BUDGET AUTHORITY</b>	<b>4,434,515</b>	<b>4,642,381</b>	<b>5,102,985</b>	<b>460,604</b>
<b>Collections/Mandatory</b>				
Medicare	225,165	226,338	226,338	0
Medicaid	737,744	771,179	781,179	10,000
Subtotal, M / M	962,909	997,517	1,007,517	10,000
Private Insurance	90,246	90,303	95,303	5,000
VA Reimbursement <sup>2</sup>	6,622	18,244	28,062	9,818
Total, M / M / PI	1,059,777	1,106,064	1,130,882	24,818
Quarters	8,000	8,000	8,500	500
<b>TOTAL, COLLECTIONS</b>	<b>1,067,777</b>	<b>1,114,064</b>	<b>1,139,382</b>	<b>25,318</b>
Special Diabetes Program for Indians	147,000	150,000	150,000	0
<b>TOTAL, MANDATORY</b>	<b>147,000</b>	<b>150,000</b>	<b>150,000</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>TOTAL, PROGRAM LEVEL</b>	<b>5,649,292</b>	<b>5,906,445</b>	<b>6,392,367</b>	<b>485,922</b>

<sup>1</sup> The facilities scheduled to be constructed in FY 2016 include the Gila River Southeast Health Center, Salt River Northeast Health Center, Rapid City Health Center, and Dilkon Alternative Rural Health Center, depending on the availability of funding and construction schedules.

<sup>2</sup> Estimates are revised from the FY 2015 PB.

<sup>3</sup> P.L. 113-235, Continuing and Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2015 signed December 16, 2014.

For more information, see the IHS Congressional Justification at <http://www.ihs.gov/budgetformulation/includes/themes/newihstheme/documents/FY2016CongressionalJustification.pdf>

## Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)

The FY 2016 Budget Request includes a new braided program, **Tribal Behavioral Health Grants**, which draw on funds from the Mental Health and Substance Abuse Prevention appropriations. As a braided program, SAMHSA will track this activity through the distinct appropriations and any amounts spent or awarded and will only be used for purposes consistent with legislative direction and intent of the appropriation.

### Tribal Behavioral Health Grants (increase of \$25.0 million)

The FY 2016 Budget Request for the Tribal Behavioral Health Grant (TBHG) program is \$30 million, including \$15 million in the Mental Health appropriation and \$15 million in the Substance Abuse Prevention appropriation. The request provides an increase over the FY 2015 enacted level of \$10 million in the Mental Health appropriation and \$15 million for a newly established line in the Substance Abuse Prevention appropriation. This funding is part of **Generation Indigenous**. This funding will allow SAMHSA to expand activities that are critical to preventing substance abuse and promoting mental health and resiliency among youth in tribal communities. The additional funding will expand these activities to approximately 103 additional tribes and tribal entities. With the expansion of the TBHG program, SAMHSA aims to reduce substance use and the incidence of suicide attempts among Native youth and to address behavioral health conditions which impact learning in Bureau of Indian Education-funded schools. The TBHG program will support mental health promotion and substance use prevention activities for high-risk Native youth and their families, enhance early detection of mental and substance use disorders among Native youth, and increase referral to treatment.

In FY 2014, Congress appropriated \$5 million in the Mental Health appropriation to SAMHSA to address the high incidence of substance abuse and suicide among AI/AN populations. The Appropriations Committee recommended that HHS award 20 competitive grants to tribal entities with the highest rates of suicide for effective and promising strategies that address substance abuse and suicide and promote mental health among AI/AN young people.

### Programs of Regional and National Significance

(Dollars in millions)	FY2014	FY2015	FY2016	Change from 2015
<b>Suicide Prevention</b>				
<b>Mental Health Appropriation</b>				
AI/AN Suicide Prevention Initiative	2.9	2.9	2.9	0
Tribal Behavioral Health Grants	4.9	4.9	15	10
<b>Substance Abuse Prevention Appropriation</b>				
Tribal Behavioral Health Grants	--	--	15	15

For more information on the SAMHSA budget, visit <http://www.samhsa.gov/sites/default/files/samhsa-fy2016-congressional-justification.pdf>

### Administration for Community Living

(Dollars in millions)	FY2014	FY2015	FY2016	Change from 2015
<b>Health and Independence</b>				
Native American Nutrition & Supportive Services	26	26	29	+3
<b>Caregiver Services</b>				
Native American Caregiver Support Services	6	6	7	+1

For more information, visit [http://acl.gov/About\\_ACL/Budget/docs/FY\\_2016\\_ACL\\_CJ.pdf](http://acl.gov/About_ACL/Budget/docs/FY_2016_ACL_CJ.pdf)



## Administration for Children and Families (ACF)

Within HHS, ACF provides the largest amount of funding to American Indians/Alaska Natives outside of the funds provided by the Indian Health Service. Out of a budget of \$50 billion, ACF awards on the average \$647 million to Native Americans from the following programs: Head Start, Child Care, TANF, LIHEAP, Child Support and the Administration for Native Americans, to name a few. NCAI's recommendations on many of these programs are available in the [Human Services](#) section of the NCAI FY16 budget request.

(Dollars in millions)	FY2014	FY2015	FY2016	'16-'15
Head Start, Total Resources	8,097.8	8,098.0	9,467.7	1,369.6
Head Start, Indian Tribes	222.7	222.7	230.8	8.1
Early Head Start	500.0	500.0	650.0	150.0
Child Care & Development Block Grant, Formula Grants	2,358.2	2,435.0	2,805.1	370.1
CCDBG, Tribes	47.2	60.8	67.6	6.7
Child Welfare Services, Formula Grants	268.7	268.7	268.7	0
Child Welfare Services, Tribes	6.3	6.3	6.3	0
Community Services Block Grant, Formula Grants	667.9	674.0	674.0	0
CSBG, Tribes	5.2	5.5	5.4	-0.1
Family Violence Prevention & Services, Formula Grants	133.3	135.0	150.0	15.0
FVPS, Tribes	13.3	13.5	14.5	1.0
Title IV-E, Foster Care Formula Grants	4,749.1	4,583.7	5,205.5	621.7
Title IV-E, Foster Care, Tribes	3.1	16.7	51.6	34.9
Promoting Safe and Stable Families, Formula Grants	389.2	379.5	449.7	70.1
PSSF, Tribes	10.2	10.2	31.8	21.5
LIHEAP, Formula Grants	3,390	3,390	3,190	-200
LIHEAP, Tribes	38.7	36.7	36.2	-0.5
Administration for Native Americans	46.5	46.5	50.0	3.5

For more information on the HHS budget request, visit <http://www.hhs.gov/budget/fy2016/fy-2016-budget-in-brief.pdf>.

## DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

The President's FY 2016 Budget request for the Department of Justice is \$28.7 billion, which is \$1.3 billion more than the comparable FY 2015 enacted level. This includes \$417.4 million for the Department of Justice (DOJ) public safety initiatives in Indian Country, which is a \$102 million increase compared to the FY 2015 DOJ enacted total for Indian Country. DOJ's request provides tribes with more flexibility in how they spend their DOJ grant dollars, demonstrating the Justice Department's continued commitment to tribal self-determination and the improved administration of justice on Indian lands. DOJ Appropriations are handled by the Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Subcommittees in the [House](#) and [Senate](#), and we urge direct communications with the subcommittee leadership and staff.

More generally, the President's DOJ FY 2016 Budget Request seeks to implement reforms to address the disparate impact of the criminal justice system on the most vulnerable populations. Some of its initiatives include: combating the ongoing threat of human trafficking, hate crimes, and campus sexual assault; relieving historical tension and building trust between law enforcement and community groups; promoting alternatives to incarceration for low-level, non-violent offenders; and preventing recidivism by expanding re-entry programs.

In addition to the tribal-specific requests discussed in more detail below, Indian Country will benefit from many of the general increases proposed in the DOJ budget. For example, the President has requested \$217 million in additional funding for Prisons and Detention. More than half of this funding request increase will be used to support and expand reentry programs, including vocational training, and mental health and substance abuse treatment. Given American Indians and Alaska Natives are disproportionately represented in the federal criminal system, this increased funding for re-entry programs should directly help Indian offenders successfully transition after release and rejoin their communities and families.



## Specific Proposals and Initiatives

### Office of Justice Programs

Similar to the President's 2014 and 2015 requests, the Department again proposes bill language for a seven percent tribal set-aside from all discretionary Office of Justice Programs to address Indian Country public safety and tribal criminal justice needs. Under the FY 2016 request, the seven percent set-aside totals approximately \$114.4 million – a slight increase from last year's request. The FY2016 request also includes **\$20 million for tribal victim assistance** from the **Crime Victims Fund**, which is administered by OJP's Office for Victims of Crime.

### Office on Violence Against Women

The President's FY 2016 budget requests **\$473.5 million** for the **Office on Violence Against Women (OVW)** **\$51.8 million** of which will be aimed at addressing the high victimization rates of American Indian and Alaska Native women for the crimes of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking on tribal lands. This includes:

- \$36.4 million for disbursement through the VAWA Grants to Indian Tribal Governments Program
- \$6.2 million for the VAWA Tribal Coalitions Grants Program,
- \$2.7 million for VAWA's Tribal Sexual Assault Services Program
- \$500,000 for an Indian Country Sexual Assault Clearinghouse
- \$1 million for Analysis and Research on Violence Against Indian Women.

Additionally, there is a \$5 million request for a new Tribal Domestic Violence Criminal Jurisdiction program, which was authorized by Congress in the 2013 Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act (VAWA). This grant program would support tribal governments exercising special domestic violence criminal jurisdiction over non-Indian offenders who commit crimes of domestic violence, dating violence, or violations of protective orders, against Indian victims on tribal lands. This funding is critical for supporting a number of criminal justice improvements in Indian Country, including updating tribal criminal codes, providing counsel to indigent defendants, and supporting victims.

The OVW funding request also includes language that would allow Tribal Coalitions Program funding to be used to support a broader range of services for victims. It also proposes language that would authorize the Attorney General to transfer unobligated funds appropriated for tribal registries in order to improve tribal access to federal criminal history databases.

### Office of Tribal Justice

This year's DOJ budget also requests a **\$240,000** increase for the **Office of Tribal Justice (OTJ)** to fund an additional attorney position in FY 2016.

### Community Oriented Policing Services

Additionally, the FY 2016 budget request for tribes under the **Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS)** program to fund tribal law enforcement expenses is **\$35 million**, a slight increase of \$2 million from the FY 2015 request. Of this amount, \$20 million will be used to support tribal law enforcement, including hiring and training officers and purchasing new equipment, technology, and vehicles. The remaining \$15 million will fund the Tribal Resources Grants Program.

### Environment and Natural Resources Division

The FY 2016 funding request includes \$3 million and the addition of four attorneys in DOJ's **Environment and Natural Resources Division** in order to improve environmental enforcement in Indian Country. These additional resources are necessary to protect human health and the environment given the rapid expansion of oil and gas extraction on Indian lands has impacted civil and criminal enforcement, the Department is requesting additional resources for ENRD to improve its capacity to litigate cases addressing environmental violations in Indian Country. ENRD also notes its increased work in addressing violations of the Indian Child Welfare Act.

DOJ Component	FY 2015 Enacted			FY 2016 Budget		
	Pos	Agents/ Attys	Amount	Pos	Agents/ Attys	Amount
Bureau of Prisons	883	442	\$118,839	883	442	\$121,439
Civil Division	3	1	274	3	1	284
COPS*	0	0	33,000	0	0	35,000
Community Relations Service	0	0	75	0	0	92
Criminal Division	3	2	679	3	2	724
Environment/Natural Resources Div.	42	38	11,042	46	42	15,288
Federal Bureau of Investigation	203	125	34,028	203	125	34,813
Office of Justice Programs*	0	0	47,500**	0	0	114,352
Office of Justice Programs, Crime Victims Fund***	0	0	0	0	0	20,000
Office of Tribal Justice	7	5	1,390	8	6	1,630
Office on Violence Against Women*	0	0	46,757	0	0	51,791
United States Attorneys	124	91	21,775	124	91	21,964
Total Resources	1,265	704	\$315,359	1,270	709	\$417,377

\* In FY 2015 and the FY 2016 President's Budget request, OJP, COPS, and OVW salaries and expenses are derived from within grant program funding. Therefore, the actual amount provided for grants to Indian Country will be slightly less than the amounts displayed.

\*\* Note: OJP's final FY 2015 enacted number will likely be higher than \$47.5 million. Funding amounts for OJP's Children's Justice Act and Victim Assistance in Indian Country programs are still being finalized, and thus are not currently included in the OJP total.

\*\*\* The 20 million dollars is proposed to be funded from the Crime Victims Fund, a mandatory account.

For more information, visit the DOJ Indian Country Factsheet at:

[http://www.justice.gov/sites/default/files/jmd/pages/attachments/2015/01/30/8\\_indian\\_country\\_act\\_sheet.pdf](http://www.justice.gov/sites/default/files/jmd/pages/attachments/2015/01/30/8_indian_country_act_sheet.pdf)

## DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

The Department of Homeland Security is proposing the National Preparedness Grant Program (NPGP) that would push all grants into a process through the State Administrative Agency process. Eligible tribes can continue to submit direct applications for the Tribal Homeland Security Grant Program (THSGP). The 2016 NPGP request is level as FY 2015 at \$1,043,200,000, but the amount that will be available for tribes will not be provided until later in the budget process according to DHS. Tribes will continue to have to prepare a Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment which is burdensome and an added cost which some tribes view as making THSGP not worth seeking. Operation Stone Garden also is included in the NPGP for states and tribes located on international boundaries or sea coasts although tribes have to seek this grant through the state via State Administrative Agencies. The DHS Federal Emergency Management Agency Disaster Relief Fund request is \$7,850,693,000 to provide assistance to individuals and communities stricken by disaster which tribal governments are eligible. There is a base allocation for states but NCAI and tribes have sought a base allocation as part of the DHS trust responsibility to tribes, emphasizing that no trust duty is owed to states. It is unclear how the NPGP process will impact tribal sub-grantees. Tribal sub-grantees have not fared well in the amounts they receive when going through the states. The NCAI and tribes have long opposed NPGP implementation.

## DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

The President's total FY 2016 education budget request is \$70.7 billion—an increase of \$3.6 billion, or 5.4 percent—over the FY 2015 level, with \$145 billion in new mandatory funding for the U.S. Department of Education. The budget request focuses on four priorities:

1. Increasing equity;
2. expanding access to high-quality early learning;
3. increasing support for teachers; and
4. expanding college opportunity and quality.

### Specific Proposals and Initiatives

The President's FY 2016 education budget request includes a number of proposals to address the above priorities as well as new **Special Programs for Indian Children** as part of the Administration's renewed commitment to Indian Country's children. As you will see below, most of these priorities are state-focused, with new opportunities afforded to tribal communities as part of the Special Programs for Indian Children. NCAI continues to urge the Administration to ensure that tribes, Native students, and tribal colleges and universities are equitably included in all initiatives.

**\$52.9 million for Native Youth Community Projects**, a \$50 million increase to support community-driven strategies to improve the college- and career-readiness of Native youth by focusing on the unique educational needs of American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) children. This program is a centerpiece among Administration investments across multiple agencies designed to support a new and integrated approach to addressing barriers to success for Native youth.

**\$15.4 billion for Title I Grants to Local Educational Agencies**, a \$1 billion increase, to maintain support for students from low-income families attending high-poverty schools and students with disabilities. The 2016 request also continues to protect other key formula programs that target high-need populations, including \$773 million for English Learner Education, \$375 million for Migrant Students, \$48 million for Neglected and Delinquent Children and Youth Education, \$72 million for Homeless Children and Youth Education, **\$174 million for Indian Student Education, \$33 million for Native Hawaiian Student Education, \$33 million for Alaska Native Student Education, and \$170 million for Rural Education programs.**

### **Special Programs for Indian Children:**

1. \$52.9 million for new and continuing **Native Youth Community Project** awards to ensure the college- and career-readiness of Indian students by supporting projects that implement culturally relevant and coordinated strategies that are informed by evidence and data and address the greatest in- and out-of-school barriers facing students,
2. \$8 million for new and continuing grant awards to support projects in the areas of early childhood and secondary-to-postsecondary-education transition, and
3. \$6.4 million to continue competitive grants for the American Indian Teacher Corps and the American Indian Administrator Corps to support training of Indians to become teachers and administrators in schools that serve concentrations of Indian children.

### **Indian Student Education: Title VII, National Activities**

The Administration's Title VII, National Activities line item request for \$5.6 million continues to fund State-Tribal Partnership (STEP) grants to tribal educational agencies (TEAs), and research, evaluation, and data collection designed to fill gaps in understanding the educational status and needs of Indians and to identify educational practices that are effective with Indian students. First authorized in the FY 2012 appropriations act, the STEP pilot program provides grants to tribal educational agencies in order to build their capacity to administer federal education programs in public schools on Indian lands.

*In addition to the Native education provisions, the following are additional highlights from this year's Budget Request:*

**\$555.8 million for School Improvement Grants (SIG)**, a \$50 million increase that would be targeted to States that demonstrate a strong commitment to using SIG funds for evidence-based interventions, with new funds being used only for subgrants to LEAs that propose to implement proven interventions or school closures.

**\$150 million for Promise Neighborhoods**, a \$93 million increase, to support new awards to local partnerships to develop and implement comprehensive, neighborhood-based plans for meeting the cradle-to-career educational, health, and social service needs of children and families in high-poverty communities.

**\$1.3 billion in 2016 and \$75 billion over 10 years in mandatory funding for Preschool for All** to reach low-and moderate-income students.

**\$750 million for the Preschool Development Grants**, a \$500 million increase to build on the successful launch of this program in 2014 with awards to 18 states. This additional funding would support new awards to nearly every state that submits a high-quality application, helping to build state and local capacity to implement and expand high-quality preschool programs in an estimated total of 40 States.

**\$2.3 billion for Improving Teacher Quality State Grants**, that would support ongoing state and local efforts to improve teacher and principal effectiveness and help ensure that all students have equitable access to effective and highly effective teachers and principals, particularly in high-need LEAs, schools, fields, and subjects. The request would also expand the current 2.3 percent reservation for the Supporting Effective Educator Development (SEED) program to 5 percent of the total appropriation for Improving Teacher Quality State Grants.

**\$200 million for an improved Educational Technology State Grants program** to help high-need districts take advantage of basic technology infrastructure, much of which is provided through President Obama's ConnectED initiative funded by the Federal Communications Commission's E-Rate program, to implement exemplary models for using technology to help teachers and school leaders improve instruction and personalize learning. A portion of the request also would be used to build state capacity to provide technical assistance to help school districts use technology to improve instruction and to build evidence and replicate effective local practices.

**\$1.36 billion in 2016 for America's College Promise, a \$60.3 billion investment over 10 years**, which creates a new partnership with states to help them eliminate tuition and fees in high-quality programs for responsible students, while promoting key reforms to help more students complete at least 2 years of college.

**\$860 million for the Federal TRIO programs**, a \$20 million increase, to enable the Department to maintain funding for approximately 2,800 TRIO projects serving middle school, high school, and college students and adults, while also supporting a new TRIO Demonstration initiative designed to give existing grantees the opportunity to compete for increased funding to implement and evaluate additional, evidence-based, college access and success strategies and support dissemination of strategies that prove to be effective at scale to all TRIO grantees.

**\$200 million for the First in the World program, under the Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education**, a \$140 million increase, for competitive awards to support scaling up of innovation, promising, and evidence-based strategies to improve post-secondary completion rates and rigorous evaluation to test the effectiveness of these strategies when implemented in varied settings and when delivered to a wide range of students. The Administration plans to set aside up to 30 percent of the funds available (approximately \$60 million at the requested level) for the competition to support the implementation of projects at Minority Serving Institutions.

**\$589 million for Adult Education to assist adults without a high school diploma**, or the equivalent, to become literate and obtain the knowledge and skills necessary for post-secondary education, employment, and economic self-sufficiency. The Adult Education and Family Literacy Act, authorized

as Title II of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, promotes better alignment of the Adult Education program with Federal job-training programs and the post-secondary education system.

### Indian Education Programs

As the below table shows, the Department of Education has requested mostly level funding for all Indian education programs, including Impact Aid from prior appropriations:

Department Education (Dollars in millions)	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016 Request	Change
Impact Aid	1288.6	1288.6	1288.6	-
Indian Student Education (Title VII)	123.9	123.9	173.9	+50.0
<i>Grants to Local Education Agencies</i>	100.4	100.4	100.4	-
<i>Special Programs for Indian Children</i>	17.9	17.9	67.9	+50.0
<i>National Activities</i>	5.6	5.6	5.6	-
Native Hawaiian Student Education	32.4	32.4	33.4	+1
Alaska Native Education Equity Assistance Program	31.4	31.4	32.4	+1
Strengthening AN/NH-Serving Inst (mandatory)	13.9	13.9	15	+1.1
Strengthening AN/NH-Serving Inst (discretionary)	12.6	12.8	12.8	-
Strengthening TCUs (mandatory)	27.8	27.8	30	+2.2
Strengthening TCUs (discretionary)	25.2	25.6	25.6	-
Tribally Controlled Posts and Technical Institutions	7.7	7.7	7.7	-
Strengthening NA-Serving Non-tribal Inst (Mand.)	4.6	4.6	5	+0.4
Strengthening NA-Serving Nontribal Inst (Disc.)	3.0	3.1	3.1	-
Voc Rehab State Grants (Indian Set-Aside)	37.2	39.2	41.2	+2

#### Impact Aid

Impact Aid Basic Support Payments compensate local educational agencies (LEAs) for the expense of educating federally connected children. In communities across the country, the presence of Federal activities can both increase the number of students and decrease the local property tax base, which is the major source of revenue for education in most LEAs. Basic Support Payments go into the general funds of these LEAs, which use them for such expenses as teacher salaries, computers, curricular materials, regular and special instruction programs, and utilities.

#### Additional Department of Education Budget Resources

- [Department of Education FY 2016 Budget Fact Sheet](#)
- [FY 2016 Education Budget Summary and Background Information](#)
- [FY 2016 Justifications of Education Appropriations Estimates to Congress](#)

### DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

The President's total FY 2016 request for the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is \$148 billion—an increase of \$6 billion from the FY 2014 requested level—with about \$123 billion associated with mandatory programs that provide services as required by law and \$25 billion in discretionary programs, including: Women, Infant, and Children (WIC) nutrition program, food safety, rural development loans, and other services. Over 73 percent of the total FY 2016 budget request goes to nutrition assistance.

Among the highlights of the FY 2016 USDA budget:

- Provides \$20 million for a Rural Child Poverty initiative that will support demonstration projects aimed at developing innovative strategies to combat rural child poverty.
- Provides \$6 billion in direct loans to support clean and renewable energy generation, transmission and distribution activities across rural America. This level of funding will provide 5.5 million rural residents with new or improved electric service.

- Doubles the amount of funding available for broadband grants and loans to remote rural areas that will be used to pay for hardware and connections for essential emergency services and computers at local libraries or community centers.
- Asks for \$13 million in loans to support healthy foods in underserved areas.

### Specific Proposals and Initiatives

#### Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs)

As the table below shows, the Department of Agriculture has requested level funding for all TCU programs operated through the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture except the Essential Community Facilities Program, administered by USDA Rural Development:

Department of Agriculture (Dollars in millions)	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Actual	FY 2016 Request
Federally Recognized Tribes Extension Program (FRTEP)	3	3	3
1994 Institutions Research Program	1.9	1.9	1.9
Native American Endowment Account	12	12	12
Essential Community Facilities Program	3	3	4
1994 Institutions Extension Program	4	4	5

USDA requested a funding increase in FY 2016 for the Essential Community Facilities Program, which continues to recognize the need for building or improving the tribal colleges and universities in our communities. Grant funds can be used to construct, enlarge, or improve community facilities for tribal colleges and universities, as well as health care, public safety, and community and public services. Uses may include the purchase of equipment required for a facility's operation.

#### **Agriculture**

Department of Agriculture (Dollars in millions)	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Actual	FY 2016 Request
Office of Tribal Relations	.498	.498	.507
Rural Utilities Service	535	536	573
Rural Housing and Community Facilities (Grants & Loans)	33	30	62
Water and Waste Disposal Program	452	455	483
Fractionated Land Loans	10	10	10
Indian Land Acquisition Loan Program	2	2	2

#### Office of Tribal Relations

The budget proposes a slight increase of \$507,000 to fund the Office of Tribal Relations (OTR) to support communication and consultation activities with federally recognized tribes, as well as other requirements established by law. The 2014 Farm Bill made OTR a permanent installation under the Office of Secretary.

#### Highly Fractionated Indian Land Loan Program

While the funding level for the Highly Fractionated Indian Land Loan Program remains the same as the past two fiscal years, the program is being adjusted to an intermediary re-lending program instead of a direct loan program as required by the 2014 Farm Bill.

#### Rural Utility Service

The Rural Utilities Service FY 2015 budget request for discretionary programs is \$573 million, a slight increase over \$535 million and \$536 million appropriated in FY 2014 and FY 2015, respectfully. Specifically, the 2016 Budget requests \$6 billion for electric loans, with up to \$3 billion available to support environmental upgrades to existing fossil fuel electric generation facilities to significantly reduce carbon emissions. The remaining funds will be used for generation, transmission, and distribution of renewable energy.

### Rural Housing and Community Facilities

Through its Rural Housing and Community Facilities programs, USDA supports single family and multi-family housing acquisition through loan guarantees and direct loans. Combined with home repair funds and farm labor housing financing, these programs are designed to support very-low and low-income borrowers. The USDA is changing the amount of funding for loan guarantees and direct loans in each category to promote those products that bear lower administrative costs for lower administrative costs for USDA. The same is true of the Community Facilities Programs that provide funding for a wide range of essential community facilities, with priority given to health and public safety facilities and education facilities.

### Water and Waste Disposal Program

The Water and Waste Disposal Program provides financing for rural communities of 10,000 or less to establish, expand or modernize water treatment and waste disposal facilities. These facilities provide safe drinking water and sanitary waste disposal for residential users, and help communities thrive by attracting new business. Priority is given to public entities serving areas with a population of less than 5,500 that are applying for loans to restore a deteriorating water system or to improve, enlarge or modify an inadequate waste facility.

### **Economic Development**

While all funding through USDA affects and supports economic development, we focus below on a few programs that enable tribes to build resources that improve the ability of businesses and communities to succeed and to create jobs.

Department of Agriculture (Dollars in millions)	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Actual	FY 2016 Request
Rural Business and Industry Guaranteed Loan Program	67	47	31
Foreign Agriculture Service, Market Access Program	184	201	191
Rural Business Development Grants (RBDG)	-	24	30
Rural Business and Cooperative Grants [new]	6	6	6
Telecommunications Programs - Direct Loans	690	690	345
Telecommunications Programs - Direct Loans	-	-	345
Distance Learning and Telemedicine - Grants	24	22	25
Broadband Programs			
<i>Direct Loans</i>	35	24	44
<i>Grants</i>	10	10	0

### Rural Business and Industry Guaranteed Loan Program

This program provides protection against loan losses so that lenders are willing to extend credit to establish, expand, or modernize rural businesses. Funding for the B&I program will focus on supporting high-priority areas of the Administration such as supporting access to capital markets in rural areas, local and regional food systems, bio-based businesses, and renewable energy development. USDA is shrinking its loan guarantee offerings, often in favor of direct loans, due to the cost of the programs.

### Market Access Program

Under the Market Access Program (MAP), funds are used to reimburse participating organizations for a portion of the cost of carrying out overseas marketing and promotional activities, such as consumer promotions. MAP has a brand promotion component that provides export promotion funding to 600-800 small companies annually. MAP was extended in the 2014 Farm Bill.

### Rural Business Development Grants

The Rural Business Development Grants (RBDG) program was created by the 2014 Farm Bill to consolidate the Rural Business Opportunity Grants and the Rural Business Enterprise Grants programs.

### Telecommunications

The FY 2016 Budget requests \$345 million in direct and \$345 million in guaranteed loans through the Federal Financing Bank for telecommunications projects for the improvement and construction of telecommunication facilities that meet broadband standards, although they are not meant to be used for all broadband purposes.



### Broadband, Distance Learning and Telemedicine

The broadband program provides financing to support new or improved broadband access across rural America. The Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grant Program is designed specifically to assist rural communities that would otherwise be without access to learning and medical services over the Internet.

### **Nutrition**

The funding for the Food Nutrition and Consumer Services programs includes both WIC and the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR). Both are important programs for the services they provide, the people they feed and the jobs they bring to our communities.

Department of Agriculture (Dollars in millions)	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Actual	FY 2016 Request
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)	87,959*	81,829	83,692
Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infant, Children (WIC)	6,716	6,623	6,823
Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR)	79	104	104

\* Increased funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act

### WIC

The Budget proposes \$6.8 billion, an increase of \$200 million from FY 2015, for the WIC Program, continuing the Administration's commitment to serve all eligible individuals seeking WIC benefits which it estimates to be 8.5 million people.

### Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR)

FDPIR provides USDA Foods to low-income households living on Indian reservations, and to American Indian households residing in approved areas near reservations or in Oklahoma. Currently, there are approximately 276 tribes receiving benefits under FDPIR through 100 Indian Tribal Organizations (ITOs) and 5 state agencies.

### Natural Resources and Environment

The increase and redirection of the budgets for the programs in this area focus on conservation practices as well as a restoration to create habitat and restore environments for wildlife and land management.

Department of Agriculture (Dollars in millions)	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Actual	FY 2016 Request
Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)	1,350	1,347	1,350
Regional Conservation Partnership Program	96	93	100
Agricultural Conservation Easement Program	366	394	450
Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP)*	8	0	0
Watershed Rehabilitation Program	12	12	0
Small Watershed Rehabilitation Program	250**	73	0
Environmental Quality Incentives Program	1,350	1,347	1,350
Conservation Security Program	125	28	5
Conservation Stewardship Program	1,079	1,158	1,457

\* Repealed by the 2014 Farm Bill \*\* Funds from the 2014 Farm Bill

### Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

The purpose of EQIP is to provide assistance to landowners who face serious natural resource challenges that impact soil, water and related natural resources, including grazing lands, wetlands, and wildlife habitat.

### Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

The Conservation Stewardship Program encourages participants to undertake new conservation activities in addition to maintaining and managing existing conservation activities. With the increase in the funding, USDA enrolled 10 million acres of land into the program in FY 2015.

For more information, visit <http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?navid=BUDGET>

## ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

The President's FY 2016 Budget request for EPA increased to \$8.6 billion, which would be an increase of nearly \$452 million from the FY 2015 enacted funding level of \$8.2 billion. While pervasive throughout the President's FY 2016 budget request, the EPA budget prioritizes climate change by dedicating 13 percent, or \$1.113 billion, to addressing climate change and improving air quality.

Recognizing tribes and states as the primary implementers of environmental programs, the EPA continued funding its State and Tribal Assistance Grants program, which accounts for the largest percentage of the EPA's budget request at 42 percent, or \$3.6 billion. Further, for the second year in a row, EPA is requests an increase of \$31 million for the Tribal General Assistance Program. These additional funds will assist tribes in capacity building and promote protections for the environment and human health.

However, the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds, which provide low-interest loans to tribes and states for new infrastructure improvements projects for drinking water and public treatment systems, saw a continued reduction in requested funding by \$332 million from the FY 2015 enacted budget to \$1.116 billion. EPA has requested a tribal set-aside of \$30 million or 2 percent, whichever is greater.

EPA (\$ in millions)	FY 2014 Actual	FY 2015 Enacted	FY 2016 Request
Alaska Native Villages	10	10	10
Tribal Air Quality Management	12.4	12.8	12.8
Tribal General Assistance Grants	68.2	65.4	96.4
State and Tribal Assistance Grants	3,535	3,545	3,599
Clean Water State Revolving Fund	2,021*	1,448	1,116
<i>Tribal Resources</i>	16.7	29	30
Drinking Water State Revolving Fund	987.9*	906.9	1,186
<i>Tribal Resources</i>	10.1	18.1	23.7
Climate Change	189.5	190.7	279.5
Air Quality	744.4	751.5	777.2

\* Includes additional funds from the Disaster Relief Appropriations Act of 2013

### Tribal General Assistance Program (GAP) Grants

This reflects an increase in base funding available for GAP grants, which will: (1) increase the average size of grants made to eligible tribes while providing tribes with a stronger foundation to build tribal capacity; and (2) further the EPA's partnership and collaboration with tribes to address a wider set of program responsibilities and challenges. As the largest single source of the EPA's funding to tribes, the Tribal GAP grants assist tribes to establish the capacity to implement programs to address environmental and public health issues in Indian County.

For more information, visit <http://www2.epa.gov/planandbudget/fy2016>

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

(Dollars in thousands)	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Current	FY 2016 Request
Office of Indian Energy Policy and Programs (IE)	0	0	3,510
Tribal Energy Program (IE)	0	0	16,480
Office of Indian Energy Policy and Programs (DA)	2,506	16,000	0
Tribal Indian Energy Loan Guarantee Program	0	0	11,000

In FY 2016, the Department of Energy again requests that Office of Indian Energy Policy and Programs (IE) be moved out of the Departmental Administration (DA) account and be established as a new stand-alone office with a separate appropriation under Energy Programs. The Energy Efficiency and

Renewable Energy’s Tribal Energy Program and the DA’s Office of Indian Energy Policy and Programs would be consolidated under the new IE appropriation to promote alignment of the Department’s Indian energy policies and financial assistance programs. Consolidation will result in more efficient and effective administration and management of Tribal activities and programs via a single program office.

Additional resources are being directed into technical assistance and competitive grant programs for tribes, including the Strategic Technical Assistance Response Team (START) program which provides education and training for project development and project finance, tribal leader forums on energy development issues, transmission analysis and support, and other hands-on technical assistance on tribal projects. Technical and financial assistance is necessary to help support clean energy development, energy efficiency improvements, electrification projects, and other greenhouse gas emission mitigation technologies for tribes, including fossil fuel electric-generating plants or peaking units that utilize carbon sequestration systems, and/or operate in conjunction with solar, wind, or other sources of renewable energy.

Further, the DOE requests \$11 million for the Tribal Indian Energy Loan Guarantee Program which is authorized under Section 2602(c) of the Energy Policy Act of 2005. This program would provide or expand electricity services on Indian lands.

For FY 2016, the Office of Indian Energy Policy & Programs would receive \$3.5 million and the Tribal Energy Programs would receive \$16.48 million, for a total of \$20 million for the Office of Indian Energy Policy & Programs.

### DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

The President’s FY 2016 Budget request for the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) includes a \$10 million increase for Native American Housing Block Grant enacted appropriations level for FY 2015 at \$660 million. The Department continues to recognize tribal communities are most in need of housing infrastructure even under current budget constraints and includes a request for the Indian Community Development Block Grant is \$80 million, an increase of \$14 million from enacted FY 2015.

Indian Community Development Block Grant: HUD is proposing up to \$10 million to be set-aside to assist tribes in providing much-needed housing for teachers in Indian country. The needs of Native American youth are a top priority of the Administration. Currently there is lack of adequate housing for teachers in many tribal areas, which in turn limits the educational resources for tribal youth. With this additional resource, tribes will be able to rehab, acquire and construct new homes to attract and retain teachers in tribal areas. In order to make sure that tribes are able to use this money effectively, the appropriations language allows tribes receiving the set-aside to construct new housing regardless of their status as a Community-Based Development Organization.

In addition, HUD has increased funding for the TenantBased Rental Assistance program by providing a new competitive grant funding for rental voucher assistances for families, veterans, and Native Americans in the amount of \$177.5 million for FY 2016, which is approximately 23,000 vouchers.

(\$ in millions)	FY 2013 Enacted	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Enacted	<i>Requested FY 2016</i>
Native American Housing Block Grant	\$650	\$650	\$650	\$660
Title VI Loans Program Account	\$2	\$2	\$2	\$2
Tenant Base Rental Assistance- Rental Voucher Assistance for use by Families, Veterans, and Native Americans**	-	-	-	\$177.5
Indian Housing Loan Guarantee Fund (Section 184)	\$12	\$6	\$7	\$8
Indian Community Development Block Grant	\$57	\$70	\$66	\$80

\*\* New funding for this program

## DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

(Dollars in thousands)	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Enacted	FY 2016 Request
WIOA: Indian and Native American Program	46,082	46,082	50,000
WIOA: Youth Activities (Tribes receive up to 1.5% of funding)	781,375	820,430	873,416

### Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA): Indian and Native American Program

The President's FY 2016 Budget requests level funding of \$50,000,000 for the Indian and Native American (INA) Program, which was reauthorized by Section 166 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act in 2014 (formerly WIA). The program is statutorily authorized at a minimum of \$49,641,000 for fiscal year 2016 with incremental increases each year through FY 2020 up to \$54,137,000. To address the urgent employment and training needs that Indians and Native Americans face, the 9 percent increase will focus on training leading to industry-recognized credentials in in-demand jobs that provide the best opportunity for employment and good wages. The INAP serves the employment and training needs of American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians through a network of over 170 grantees through the Comprehensive Service Program (Adult) and Supplemental Youth Service Program (Youth), and the Indian Employment and Training and Related Services Demonstration Act of 1992 - Public Law 102-477.

### WIOA: Youth Activities

Title I of the WIOA authorizes a minimum of \$883,800,000 for fiscal year 2016 with incremental increases each year through FY 2020 up to \$963,837,000 for Youth Workforce Investment Activities. The program is aimed at providing services that prepare low-income youth with barriers to employment, the knowledge and skills required for employment and post-secondary education. WIOA authorizes services to low-income youth ages 14 through 21 for in-school youth and 16 to 24 for out-of school youth with barriers to employment.

The President's FY 2016 Budget requests level funding of \$873,416,000 for the WIOA Youth Activities. Up to 1.5 percent of the total amount of funding allocated for this program is made available for youth activities under Section 166 (INAP), which equals approximately \$13.1 million.

For more information visit: <http://www.dol.gov/dol/budget/2016/PDF/FY2016BIB.pdf>

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

The President requested for U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) FY 2016 a \$478 billion budget for a 6-year surface transportation reauthorization proposal. The proposal would address critical transportation infrastructure needs, safety, and create jobs. This proposal further develops the President's proposal called the Generating Renewal, Opportunity, and Work with Accelerated Mobility, Efficiency, and Rebuilding of Infrastructure and Communities throughout America (GROW AMERICA), which was submitted to Congress last year and will be submitted again.

In the President's request in the GROW AMERICA proposal includes funding of \$507 million for Tribal Transportation Program (TTP), an increase of \$57 million from enacted FY 2015 funding level; and request for the Public Transportation on Indian Reservations (Tribal Transit Grant Program) of \$35 million, an increase of \$5 million from enacted FY 2105 funding level.

Other proposals included in the GROW AMERICA for tribal transportation related programs:

- A seven percent set-aside of Tribal High Priority Programs. This program was eliminated from receiving from funding from the Highway Trust Fund and moved to General Treasury Fund, which Congress had not funded.

- Reserves up to six percent set-aside for administration of the program, which will help provide funding for the seven Tribal Transportation Technical Assistance Program (TTAP); management and maintenances of TTP Inventory; funding for the Coordinated Technology Improvement; funding for the TTP Coordinating Committee; and stewardship and oversight of the program.
- Increase set-aside for transportation planning and data collection for road and bridge inventory; and increase to three percent for condition reporting.
- Up to two percent set-aside of TTP to address safety projects using a national grant process for tribes to apply annually.

In addition, \$150 million a new initiative called “Fix-it-First” is included in the President’s proposal for surface transportation for Federal Lands and Tribal Programs. This new initiative will support construction or reconstruction of large, nationally significant transportation infrastructure within the Federal Lands and Tribal Programs. In particular, this funding initiative will give tribes the ability to use the funding to construct and engineer multi-modal access to basic community services for tribal communities.

(\$ in millions)	FY 2013 Enacted	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Enacted	Requested FY 2016
<b>Federal Highway Administration</b>				
<i>Federal-Aid Highway-Federal Lands and Tribal Transportation Program</i>				
Tribal Transportation Program	\$450	\$450	\$450	\$507
Fix-it-First Program **	-	-	-	\$150
<b>Federal Transit Administration</b>				
Section 5311 (c) Public Transportation on Indian Reservations (Tribal Transit Grant Program)	\$30	\$30	\$30	\$35
<b>National Highway Traffic Safety Administration</b>				
Highway Traffic Safety Grant (Section 402)- Indian Highway Safety Program (Administered by Bureau of Indian Affairs)	\$4.7	\$4.7	\$4.7	\$4.82

\*\*New funding for this program

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

The Department of Commerce provides essential funding and tools needed for U.S. business development and job creation to increase U.S. competitiveness abroad. Additionally, the Department of Commerce provides technical assistance and financial investments to advance research, science, and technology.

### Highlights of FY 2015 Budget Request

(Dollars in millions)	FY 2015 (Omnibus)	FY 2016 Request	Change: 2015 - 2016 Request
International Trade Administration	462	496.7	+34.7
National Telecom & Information Admin	38.2	49.2	+11
National Oceanic & Atmospheric Admin	5,448	5,981	+533

#### National Telecommunications & Information Administration (NTIA)

An increase of \$11 million from the FY 2015 Omnibus Appropriation is requested by NTIA to advance policies that increase spectrum allocations to the commercial wireless market. Through these efforts, NTIA will also provide support to fully fund FirstNet at \$7 billion from spectrum auction proceeds set to take place in late FY 2015. The FY 2016 budget request will allow NTIA to assist FirstNet in issuing RFPs (requests for proposals) for deployment of the FirstNet nationwide public safety broadband network. The requested appropriation will also support NTIA efforts in research and testing capabilities to increase spectrum sharing between agencies and industry.

NTIA is also planning to expand its BroadbandUSA initiative to provide technical assistance and highlight solutions to overcome barriers in expanding communications infrastructure. This initiative will also be used by NTIA as part of the President's budget request of \$34.2 million to the Department of Interior to expand broadband internet and computer access to all BIE funded schools and dormitories.

#### National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

The National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) proposed an increase of \$533 million in its FY 2016 budget request. These budget increases were requested to expand the Operations, Research and Facilities (ORF) and Procurement, Acquisition and Construction (PAC) fields. The proposed budget increase will enable NOAA to prepare for higher-intensity coastal storms, changing sea levels, and improve weather-forecasting efforts.

### DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

The FY 2016 Budget Request proposes an increase in funding for the Native American Community Development Financial Institutions Fund to \$16 million, which is a \$1 million increase from 2015 enacted levels. The FY 2016 President's Budget Request also proposes a permanent extension of the New Markets Tax Credit Program to allow up to \$5 billion in qualifying investments by Community Development Entities.

#### Tax Proposals Offered by Treasury

A number of additional proposals were offered by the Treasury Department's "[General Explanations of the Administrations FY 2016 Revenue Proposals \(Green Book\)](#)." Tribal advocacy around these measures should be directed to the [House Ways and Means](#) Committee and the [Senate Finance](#) Committee.

Highlighted recommendations include:

- Numerous modifications of **Tax Exempt Bonds for Indian Tribal Governments** that include the repeal of the "essential government function" for tax exempt bond financing on par with state and local governments, and new flexibility in project location for those financed by Tribal Economic Development Bonds.
- Updates and permanent extensions of certain **employment tax credits**, including the Indian employment credit. The Indian employment credit is repeatedly up for reauthorization, which leads to uncertainty for employers seeking to take advantage of the program. The Indian employment credit is calculated off of a base year of 1993. The proposed change would make the Indian employment credit permanent and update the base year of the Indian employment credit to the average of two years prior to the current taxable year.
- Modification of the **adoption tax credit** to allow Indian Tribal Governments to make a status determination of a "child with special needs." Since tribal governments facilitate adoptions under Indian Child Welfare Act programs, similar to those adoption programs administered by state agencies, this proposal would grant tribal governments to parity state governments.
- Proposal to exclude from income **student loan forgiveness and certain scholarship amounts** for participation in the Indian Health Service health professions program.
- Proposals to designate 20 **Promise Zones**, inclusive of those already designated in 2014 and 2015. Applications to receive "Promise Zone" designations will be open to tribes, states, counties, or cities. Fourteen of these zones are to be designated in urban areas and 6 in rural areas. Two tax incentives will be available to awardees, which include an employment credit for businesses employing Promise Zone residents, and an additional first-year depreciation of 100 percent of the adjusted basis of qualified property placed in said Zone.
- **Treatment of Indian tribal governments that impose alcohol, tobacco, or fuel excise or income or wage taxes as states** for purposes of information sharing. An Indian tribal government that receives federal tax return information would be required to safeguard the information according to prescribed protocols.

### NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH (NIH)

As part of the Department of Health & Human Services budget, the President requests \$31.3 billion to fund the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in FY 2016, which represents an increase of \$1 billion (or 3.3 percent) over the FY 2015 enacted level of \$30.3 billion. If funded, this request would enable NIH to contribute to two of the four HHS Strategic Objectives, which include:

- Strengthen Health Care (\$0)
- Advance Scientific Knowledge & Innovation (\$31.166 billion)
- Ensure Efficiency, Transparency, Accountability, and Effectiveness of HHS Programs (\$145 million)
- Advance the Health, Safety and Well-Being of American People (\$0)

(Dollars in millions)	FY 2015 Enacted <sup>1</sup>	FY 2016 Request	Change
<b>National Institutes of Health</b>			
Research Project Grants	\$16,333	\$17,206	5.3%
Competing Average Cost (in thousands)	\$457	\$460	0.7%
Number of Competing Awards (whole no.)	9,076	10,303	13.5%
Estimated Competing RPG Success Rate	17.2%	19.3%	12.4%
Research Centers	\$2,699	\$2,637	-2.3%
Other Research	\$1,844	\$1,882	2.1%
Training Programs	\$762	\$785	3.1%
Research & Development Contracts	\$2,899	\$3,030	-0.1%
Intramural Research	\$3,426	\$3,521	2.8%
Research Management & Support	\$1,561	\$1,580	1.3%
<i>Common Fund (non-add)</i>	\$546	\$566	3.7%
Buildings and Facilities Appropriation	\$129	\$129	0.0%
Other Mechanisms <sup>2</sup>	\$659	\$676	2.6%
<b>Total, Program Level<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>\$30,860</b>	<b>\$31,331</b>	<b>3.3%</b>

1 Excludes Ebola-related funding.

2 Includes Office of the Director-Other, building repair & improvement (R&I) funds allocated for the NCI-Frederick facility, and Superfund Research activities funded from the Interior appropriation.

3 Includes discretionary budget authority received from Labor/HHS appropriations (ICs) and the Interior appropriation (Superfund). Also includes mandatory budget authority derived from the Special Type I Diabetes account, and Program Evaluation Financing.

In particular, NIH proposes to improve the health of Americans and maintain US leadership in the biomedical sciences by emphasizing the following four priorities:

#### Unraveling Life's Mysteries through Basic Research

Investments in basic science in brain research, cell biology and cellular imaging, and epigenomics may lead to advances in understanding and healing diseases like Alzheimer's, autism, depression, schizophrenia, and addiction.

#### Translating Discovery into Health

Investments in clinical networks and unique collaborations may advance the extent to which discoveries made in the laboratory reach patients' bedsides—or are translated into applied and useful approaches. Priorities include precision medicine; Ebola Virus, influenza, and HIV research and vaccine development to prevent and address public health emergencies; stem cell research; antimicrobial resistance research; accelerating medicine partnership; Alzheimer's Disease research

#### Harnessing Data and Technology to Improve Health

This approach aims to expand technological capabilities to ensure biomedical innovation and to manage large and complex datasets to harness information for improving health. Investments will center on utilizing technology to combat cancer, increasing understanding of the microbes and their role in health and disease, analyzing Big Data for knowledge, advancing bioelectronics medicine to combine electronics and biology to treat disease, strengthening patient-centered clinical research networks.

#### Preparing a Diverse and Talented Biomedical Research Workforce

Investments in developing a diverse, well-trained, and highly creative workforce is essential to carry out innovative work. Recent efforts include the appointment of a NIH Chief Officer for Scientific



Workforce Diversity in March 2014 and the release of 10 Building Infrastructure Leading to Diversity (BUILD) Initiative

For more information on NIH funding in the President’s FY 2016 budget request, please see the Overview at: [http://officeofbudget.od.nih.gov/pdfs/FY16/Overview%20\(Volume%20I\).pdf](http://officeofbudget.od.nih.gov/pdfs/FY16/Overview%20(Volume%20I).pdf).

### NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION (NSF)

For FY 2016, the President requests \$7.7 billion for the National Science Foundation, which represents a \$400 million (or 4.5 percent) increase over the FY 2015 enacted level of \$7.3 billion.

(Dollars in millions)	FY 2015 Estimate	FY 2016 Request	Change
<b>National Science Foundation</b>			
Research and Related Activities	\$5,934	\$6,186	4.3%
Education and Human Resources	\$866	\$963	11.2%
Major Research Equipment and Facilities Construction	\$201	\$200	-0.2%
Agency Operations and Award Management	\$325	\$355	9.2%
National Science Board	\$4	\$4	--
Office of Inspector General	\$14	\$15	5.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$7,344</b>	<b>\$7,724</b>	<b>5.2%</b>

This funding request includes investments in the following:

- Advancing Our Understanding of the Brain (\$144 million)
- Supporting Innovations at the Nexus of Food, Energy, and Water Systems (\$75 million)
- Investing in Disaster Resilience (\$58 million)
- Providing Leading Edge Capabilities and Infrastructure for Research and Education (\$143 million)
- Investing in the Long-Term Competitiveness of American Manufacturing (\$257 million)
- Accelerating the Commercialization of University Research (\$30 million)
- Supporting the Long-Term Development of a Clean Energy Economy (\$377 million)
- Educating a Globally Competitive American Workforce and Promoting Advanced Education for the Jobs of Tomorrow (\$1.2 billion for STEM education activities)

For more information on NSF funding in the President’s FY 2016 budget request, please see the Overview at: <http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2015/nsf15032/nsf15032.pdf>.

### VETERANS AFFAIRS

The President’s FY 2016 Budget request for the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is increased by \$5.2 billion - 7.5 percent - over FY 2015, proposing \$73.5 billion in discretionary funds. In total, the FY 2016 Budget includes \$169 billion for VA in 2016. Also included is the recently-enacted 2014 Veterans Choice Act (“Choice Act”) - which was signed into law on August 7, 2014. The Choice Act provides vital resources to the VA to immediately increase access to care for Veterans while building infrastructure at the same time to ensure VA has the staff, facilities, and necessary support for a strong VA healthcare system. The Choice Act provided \$5 billion in mandatory funding for VA to hire physicians and other medical personnel to improve VA’s physical infrastructure. The Choice Act also provided \$10 billion in mandatory funding to establish a temporary program (“Veterans Choice Program”) improving Veterans’ access to health care by allowing eligible Veterans who meet certain wait-time or distance standards to use health care providers outside of the VA system.

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has outlined this year’s top priorities to achieve their Agency’s Priority Goals (APGs):

- Expand Access to Benefits and Services
- Improving the Efficiency of Claims Processing (Backlog)
- Eliminating Veterans Homelessness

National Cemetery Administration (NCA)

\$45 million for the Veterans Cemetery Grants Program to assist States and tribal organization in establishing, expanding, or improving veterans cemeteries in areas where VA’s national cemeteries cannot fully satisfy their burial needs. These grants play a crucial role in achieving the National Cemetery Administration’s (NCA) strategic target of providing 96 percent of Veterans with reasonable access to a burial option within 75 miles of their home.

Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA)

\$2.7 billion for the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA), allowing for continued support for the **Native American Direct Loan (NADL)** Program which helps Native American Veterans finance the purchase, construction, or improvement of homes on Federal Trust Land, or to reduce the interest rate on such a VA loan. In addition to the NADL Program, two grant programs exist that Native veterans with certain permanent and total service-connected disabilities to help purchase or construct an adapted home, or modify an existing home to accommodate a disability are eligible for: The **Specially Adapted Housing (SAH)** grant and the **Special Housing Adaptation (SHA)** grant.

Veterans Health Administration (VHA)

VA-IHS National Reimbursement Agreement

In December 2012, the VA and the IHS signed the VA-IHS National Reimbursement Agreement, which facilitates reimbursement by VA to IHS for direct health care services provided to eligible American Indian and Alaska Native Veterans in IHS facilities. The FY 2016 Budget estimates reimbursements from the Department of Veterans Affairs to the Indian Health Service totaling \$28 million. In addition, the National Agreement paves the way for future agreements negotiated between VA and tribal health programs, in addition to those already in existence. Each interested tribe can initiate contact with VHA and VHA Chief Business Office in turn will provide the necessary paper work and guidance for the tribe to pursue the agreement. Agreements with tribes will reimburse them for direct care provided to eligible AI/AN Veterans. NCAI will continue advocating for tribal health programs and *purchased/referred care* provided by tribal health programs to be included in the VA-IHS National Reimbursement Agreement.

<i>(Dollars in Millions)</i>	Actual (FY14)	Budget Estimate (FY15)	Current Estimate (FY15)	Advanced Appropriations (FY16)	Revised Request (FY16)	Advanced Appropriations (FY17)
IHS (PL 111-148)						
Medical Services	\$15	\$39	\$18	\$39	\$28	\$28
Medical Care Total	\$15	\$39	\$18	\$39	\$28	\$28

For more information on the Department of Veterans Affairs FY 2016 Budget Request visit:

- [FY 2016 Department of Veterans Affairs Budget Page](#)
- [VA Budget Fact Sheet](#)
- [VA Budget Highlights](#)
- [VA Budget Rollout](#)