



NCAI Analysis of the President's FY2015 Budget Request

Administration Releases FY 2015 Budget

This broadcast provides a preliminary analysis of the President's fiscal year (FY) 2015 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 continue holding hearings on the proposals. In January of this year, NCAI released its [FY 2015 tribal budget recommendations](#), which can be compared to the Administration's budget proposals.

Overall Budget Request: The President released his [FY 2015 budget](#) on March 4, 2014. It proposes \$3.9 trillion in outlays for FY 2015, a \$250 billion increase over the \$3.6 trillion estimated for FY 2014. The President's budget adheres to the discretionary spending caps set under the December budget deal (PL 113-67), requesting \$1.014 billion next year in base discretionary spending compared to the \$1.012 billion that Congress enacted in the recent FY 2014 omnibus (PL 113-76). The Administration also requests an additional \$56 billion, the "Opportunity, Growth and Security Initiative," as a kind of supplemental, split between defense and domestic accounts and funds programs such as education and infrastructure. The \$56 billion in spending would be offset with spending cuts, such as reducing federal crop insurance subsidies, reallocating spectrum, and reducing the tax benefits for multi-million-dollar retirement accounts. The White House plan also would replace the sequester cuts starting in FY 2016 to discretionary spending and states that the caps set under the Budget Control Act do not allow enough investment in the country's future needs.

Highlights of Proposed Funding for Tribal Programs: Many tribal programs fall into the category of domestic discretionary funding. In preparation for the President's budget, some agencies have consulted with tribes about programs in the budget. Some recommendations from Indian Country are included in the FY 2015 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.

Significant proposals in the President's FY 2015 Budget include:

- **Full funding for Indian Affairs (BIA) and Indian Health Service (IHS) contract support costs (CSC):** BIA CSC would receive \$251 million, including funding for the Indian Self-Determination Fund, an increase of \$4 million above the FY 2014 enacted level. IHS CSC would be funded at \$617 million, an increase of \$30 million above FY 2014.
- **The BIA proposes 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 initiative would provide about a \$5 million increase for Social Services and \$4.7 million increase for ICWA, \$550,000 for BIA Job Placement and Training, and a pilot program for providing alternatives to incarceration and increased treatment.
- **Public Safety:** The budget would provide \$395 million for Department of Justice (DOJ) public safety initiatives in Indian Country and \$352 million for Public Safety and Justice programs funded by the BIA.
- **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"; and changes to the rules governing tax-exempt bonds for Indian tribal governments, including permanent repeal of the essential governmental function test and allowance of Indian tribal issuance of certain private activity bonds.
- **Environment:** Tribal General Assistance Grants in EPA would receive a \$31 million increase to \$96.4 million - a 47 percent increase over FY14.
- **Carciere:** Language to provide a no-cost economic development and jobs creation solution for restoring land to tribal governments impacted by the *Carciere* Supreme Court decision is again included in the Department of Interior general provisions of the President's budget.

The White House has also released a factsheet on tribal programs in the FY 2015 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.

DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR

Bureau of Indian Affairs

The FY 2015 budget request for the Operation of Indian Programs account is \$2.4 billion, an increase of \$33.8 million, or 1.4 percent, above the FY 2014 enacted level. The FY 2015 budget request for the Construction account is \$109.9 million; a decrease of \$216,000 below the FY2014 enacted level.

Major Initiatives

The **Tiwahe (Family) Initiative** would provide an additional \$11.6 million to expand Indian Affairs' capacity to address Indian child and family welfare and job training issues and implement processes to better sustain Indian families. Increases include:

- \$10 million to build on social services and Indian child welfare programs that provide culturally-appropriate services toward health promotion, family stability, and strengthening tribal communities.
- \$550,000 to expand job placement and training programs.
- BIA law enforcement would begin a pilot program to implement a strategy for alternatives to incarceration and increased treatment.
- \$1 million to develop and institutionalize a program for evaluating social service and community development needs and to inform programmatic design, evaluation, management, and budgeting.

Education increases include:

- \$500,000 for Johnson O'Malley education assistance grants to support a new student count in 2015 and provides funding for the projected increase in the number of students eligible for grants.
- \$1 million to support the ongoing evaluation of the BIE school system.
- \$2.3 million to fund site development at the Beatrice Rafferty School for which design funding was provided in the FY 2014 budget.
- \$1.7 million for fellowship and training opportunities for post-graduate study in science fields and \$250,000 for summer pre-law preparatory program scholarships.

Contract support: The budget request for contract support is \$251 million, including funding for the Indian Self-Determination Fund, an increase of \$4 million above the FY 2014 enacted level. The requested amount will fully fund estimated FY 2015 contract support costs, according to BIA based on the most recent analysis.

Tribal Priority Allocations: The FY 2015 budget proposes a total of \$922.6 million in Tribal Priority Allocations, an increase of \$19.3 million over the FY 2014 level.

The chart below shows the activity and subactivity amounts for BIA and BIE compared to FY14, FY13 post-sequester and FY13 pre-sequester.

BIA, BIE By Activity, Sub-activity (Dollars in thousands)	FY2013 w ATB, pre- seq	FY2013 Actual	FY2014 Enacted	FY2015 Request	Change – FY14	% Δ - FY14	% Δ - FY13, pre- seq
Aid To Tribal Government	29,662	28,167	25,839	24,614	-1,225	-4.7%	-17.0%
Consolidated Tribal Gov. Program	77,260	73,366	74,623	76,348	1,725	2.3%	-1.2%
Self-Governance Compacts.	157,938	149,977	152,881	158,767	5,886	3.9%	0.5%
Contract support	218,771	207,743	242,000	246,000	4,000	1.7%	12.4%

BIA, BIE By Activity, Sub-activity (Dollars in thousands)	FY2013 w ATB, pre- seq	FY2013 Actual	FY2014 Enacted	FY2015 Request	Change – FY14	% Δ - FY14	% Δ - FY13, pre- seq
Indian Self-Determination Fund	1,996	1,895	5,000	5,000	0	0.0%	150.5%
New Tribes	319	303	463	463	0	0.0%	44.9%
Small and Needy	1,943	1,845	1,845	1,845	0	0.0%	-5.0%
Road Maintenance	25,403	24,123	24,303	24,461	158	0.7%	-3.7%
Tribal Govt Pgm Oversight	8,494	8,066	8,128	8,181	53	0.7%	-3.7%
Subtotal, Tribal Government	521,786	495,485	535,082	545,679	10,597	2.0%	4.6%
Social Services	34,219	32,494	35,763	40,871	5,108	14.3%	19.4%
Welfare Assistance	74,641	70,879	74,809	74,809	0	0.0%	0.2%
Indian Child Welfare Act	10,526	9,995	10,710	15,433	4,723	44.1%	46.6%
Housing Improvement Program	12,577	11,943	8,000	8,009	9	0.1%	-36.3%
Human Services Tribal Design	436,437	414	411	407	-4	-1.0%	-6.7%
Human Services Pgm Oversight	3,216	3,054	3,085	3,105	20	0.6%	-3.5%
Subtotal, Human Services	135,615	128,779	132,778	142,634	9,856	7.4%	5.2%
Natural Resources	5,201	4,939	5,165	5,089	-76	-1.5%	-2.2%
Irrigation Ops and Maintenance	11,923	11,322	11,342	11,359	17	0.1%	-4.7%
Rights Protection Implementation	31,000	29,437	35,297	35,420	123	0.3%	14.3%
TMD Program	9,709	9,220	9,230	9,244	14	0.2%	-4.8%
Endangered Species	1,232	1,170	2,673	2,675	2	0.1%	117.1%
Coop Landscape Conservation	997	946	9,947	9,948	1	0.0%	898.0%
Integrated Resource Info Program	2,102	1,996	1,996	3,996	2,000	100.2%	90.1%
Agriculture & Range	28,953	27,494	30,558	30,494	-64	-0.2%	5.3%
Forestry	43,958	41,742	47,735	45,895	-1,840	-3.9%	4.4%
Water Resources	10,098	9,589	10,543	10,297	-246	-2.3%	2.0%
Fish, Wildlife and Parks	11,354	10,782	13,823	13,577	-246	-1.8%	19.6%
Resource Mgmt Pgm Oversight	6,002	5,700	5,986	6,018	32	0.5%	0.3%
Total, Trust-NR Management	162,529	154,337	184,295	184,012	-283	-0.2%	13.2%
Trust Services	16,044	15,235	15,303	15,150	-153	-1.0%	-5.6%
Navajo-Hopi Settlement Program	1,188	1,128	1,135	1,147	12	1.1%	-3.4%
Probate	12,602	11,966	11,989	12,043	54	0.5%	-4.4%
Land Title and Records Offices	14,309	13,588	13,732	13,891	159	1.2%	-2.9%
Real Estate Services	37,331	35,449	36,460	36,435	-25	-0.1%	-2.4%
Land Records Improvement	6,757	6,416	6,423	6,436	13	0.2%	-4.8%
Environmental Quality	16,346	15,522	15,623	15,644	21	0.1%	-4.3%
Alaskan Native Programs	1,023	971	1,002	1,010	8	0.8%	-1.2%
Rights Protection	10,796	10,252	11,781	11,803	22	0.2%	9.3%
Trust - Real Estate Services Oversight	13,938	13,235	13,310	13,443	133	1.0%	-3.5%
Total, Trust-Real Estate Services	130,334	123,762	126,758	127,002	244	0.2%	-2.6%
Law Enforcement	319,454	303,351	325,696	327,296	1,600	0.5%	2.5%
Tribal Courts	24,646	23,404	23,241	23,280	39	0.2%	-5.5%
Fire Protection	880,713	837	1,077	1,274	197	18.3%	44.7%
Total, Public Safety and Justice	344,981	327,592	350,014	351,850	1,836	0.5%	2.0%
Job Placement and Training	11,502	10,922	10,920	11,463	543	5.0%	-0.3%
Economic Development	2,367	2,247	1,713	1,706	-7	-0.4%	-27.9%
Minerals and Mining	18,545	17,610	20,464	20,612	148	0.7%	11.1%
Community Development	2,309	2,193	2,203	2,215	12	0.5%	-4.1%

BIA, BIE By Activity, Sub-activity (Dollars in thousands)	FY2013 w ATB, pre- seq	FY2013 Actual	FY2014 Enacted	FY2015 Request	Change – FY14	% Δ - FY14	% Δ - FY13, pre- seq
Oversight							
Total, Community/Economic Dev	34,722	32,972	35,300	35,996	696	2.0%	3.7%
Exec Dir and Admin Services.	238,944	226,900	225,782	229,755	3,973	1.8%	-3.8%
BIE							
Elem & Sec Programs (fwd)	519,908	493,701	518,318	520,755	2,437	0.5%	0.2%
Elementary and Sec Programs	122,501	116,326	118,402	119,195	793	0.7%	-2.7%
Post Sec Programs (fwd)	68,394	64,947	69,793	69,793	0	0.0%	2.0%
Post Secondary Programs	61,955	58,832	61,887	64,182	2,295	3.7%	3.6%
Education Management	21,334	20,258	20,354	20,464	110	0.5%	-4.1%
Subtotal, Indian Education	794,092	754,064	788,754	794,389	5,635	0.7%	0.0%
TOTAL OIP Appropriation	2,363,002	2,243,891	2,378,763	2,412,596	33,833	1.4%	2.1%
CONSTRUCTION							
Education Construction	52,779	52,779	55,285	55,533	248	0.4%	5.2%
Public Safety and Justice	11,283	11,283	11,306	11,306	0	0.0%	0.2%
Resources Mgmt Construction	32,657	32,657	32,759	34,427	1,668	5.1%	5.4%
Other Program Construction	8,979	8,979	10,774	8,642	-2,132	-19.8%	-3.7%
TOTAL, Construction	105,698	105,698	110,124	109,908	-216	-0.2%	4.0%

For more information, visit: <http://www.doi.gov/budget/appropriations/2015/highlights/index.cfm>

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Indian Health Service

The FY 2015 Budget includes an increase of \$200 million to support and expand the provision of health care services for American Indians and Alaska Natives. The FY 2015 budget includes an increased investment for the Purchased/Referred Care Program to cover increases in health care services costs due to medical inflation, provides funding to support the purchase of services for newly restored, reaffirmed, and federally recognized tribes, and provides funding for staffing and operating costs for new and replacement tribal and IHS health care facilities.

Purchased and Referred Care: The Budget includes \$929 million, an increase of \$50 million or 5 percent over FY 2014, for the purchase of medical care from outside the IHS system.

Construction: The Budget includes \$85 million for Health Care Facilities Construction to begin and complete construction on the Fort Yuma Health Center in Winterhaven, California, to continue construction of the Gila River Southeast Health Center in Chandler, Arizona, and to complete construction of both the Kayenta Health Center in Kayenta, Arizona and the Northern California Regional Youth Treatment Center in Davis, California.

Contract Support: The Budget fully funds the estimated need for Contract Support Costs (CSC) at \$617 million, an increase of \$30 million above FY 2014. The estimated increase includes funding for new and expanded contracts and compacts.

IHS (dollars in millions)	2013	2014	2015	15 +/- 14
Clinical Services:	3,987	4,271	4,440	169
Purchased/Referred Care (non-add)	801	879	929	50
Medicaid (non-add)	720	828	850	22
Preventive Health	143	148	156	8
Contract Support Costs	448	587	617	30
Tribal Management/Self-Governance	8	8	8	2
Urban Health	41	41	41	1
Indian Health Professions	38	33	38	5
Direct Operations	68	68	68	0
Diabetes Grants	147	147	150	3
Subtotal	4,880	5,302	5,519	217
Health Care Facilities Construction	77	85	85	0
Sanitation Facilities Construction	75	79	79	0
Facilities and Environmental Health Support	194	211	221	10
Maintenance and Improvement	59	62	62	0
Medical Equipment	21	23	23	1
subtotal, facilities	427	460	470	10
Less funds from other sources				
Health Insurance Collections	-1,021	-1,172	-1,197	-25
Rental of Staff Quarters	-8	-8	-8	0
Diabetes Grants	-147	-147	-150	-3
Total budget authority	4,131	4,435	4,634	200

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)

Preventing Suicide: The budget provides \$55 million to prevent suicide. This investment includes \$5 million to continue support for competitive grants to tribal entities to promote mental health and address substance abuse among American Indian and Alaska Native young people.

Children's Health Insurance Program

Enrollment and Retention Outreach: The Affordable Care Act also increased funding originally provided in CHIPRA for grants and a national campaign to improve outreach and enrollment from \$100 million to \$140 million and extended its availability through FY 2015. Of this amount, 10 percent is set aside for a national enrollment campaign, and an additional 10 percent is set aside to increase enrollment of American Indians and Alaska Natives. In FY 2011, \$40 million in grants were awarded with a renewed focus on advancing coverage among the hardest to reach children, and in FY 2013 an additional \$32 million was awarded. In FY 2014, CMS plans to award an additional \$4 million in grants to continue outreach efforts to children who are American Indian/Alaska Native, following up on \$10 million in grants awarded for outreach and enrollment of American Indians/Alaska Natives in FY 2009.

Administration for Community Living (ACL)

(Dollars in millions)	FY2013	FY2014	FY2015	change
Health and Independence				
Native American Nutrition & Supportive Services	26	26	26	--
Caregiver Services				
Native American Caregiver Support Services	6	6	6	--

Administration for Children and Families (ACF)

Early Head Start: The Budget requests \$650 million, an increase of \$150 million above FY 2014, to support and expand Early Head Start - Child Care Partnerships. This funding will assist communities in increasing access to early learning programs that meet the highest standards of quality for infants and toddlers. Building off of initial funding provided in FY 2014, funds will be competitively awarded to new and existing Early Head Start programs that partner with child care providers that serve lower-income children, especially those receiving federal child care subsidies. Early Head Start programs and child care providers will work together to provide high quality full day services that offer comprehensive supports to meet the needs of working families, and prepare children for preschool, in a variety of settings.

Head Start: The FY 2015 request includes an additional \$120 million to strengthen services for children by Head Start.

(Dollars in millions)	2013	2014	2015	Change from 2014
Head Start	7,573	8,598	8,868	270
Child Care & Development Block Grant (discretionary)	2,206	2,360	2,417	57
Child Welfare Programs	335	345	345	--
Chafee Education & Training for Foster Youth	42	43	43	--
Family Violence Prevention	124	138	140	1
Adoption Incentives	37	38	38	--
Runaway and Homeless Youth Programs	108	114	116	2
Child Abuse Prevention	88	94	94	--
Promoting Safe and Stable Families (discretionary)	60	60	60	--
LIHEAP	3,255	3,425	2,550	-875
LIHEAP Contingency Fund	--	--	200	200
Energy Burden Reduction Grants	--	--	50	50
ANA	45	47	47	--

For more information on the HHS budget request, visit <http://www.hhs.gov/budget/fy2015/fy-2015-budget-in-brief.pdf>.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

The President's FY 2015 Budget requests \$395.4 million for the Department of Justice (DOJ) public safety initiatives in Indian Country (including \$375.4 million in discretionary funds and \$20 million from the Crime Victims Fund, a mandatory account). This is a \$5.9 million increase compared to the President's FY 2014 DOJ request, and it demonstrates the Administration's continued commitment to improving the criminal justice system on tribal lands.

The Crime Victims Fund, administered by the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) within DOJ's Office of Justice Programs (OJP) includes the **\$20 million set-aside for tribal victim assistance** within the **Crime Victims Fund**, which was initiated in FY 2014. The Crime Victims Fund was initially established to address the need for victim services programs, and to assist tribal, state, and local governments in providing appropriate services to their communities. The Fund is financed by collections of fines, penalty assessments, and bond forfeitures from defendants convicted of federal crimes, but until last year, tribes have only been eligible to receive a very small portion of the discretionary funding from the Fund. The tribal funding is requested as part of OVC's Vision 21 Initiative, a strategic planning initiative based on an 18-month national assessment by OJP that systematically engaged the crime victim advocacy field and other stakeholder groups in assessing current and emerging challenges and opportunities facing the field. The initiative focuses on supplemental victims services and other victim-related programs and initiatives in areas like research, legal services, capacity building, national and international victim assistance, and—of course—tribal assistance.

Similar to the President's 2013 and 2014 requests, the Department again proposes bill language for a **7 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 2015 request, the 7 percent set-aside totals approximately **\$102.8 million**—a slight increase from last year's request.

The President's DOJ budget requests \$423 million for the **Office on Violence Against Women (OVW)**, **\$46.1 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. Of these funds, about \$35.7 million is requested for disbursement through the VAWA Grants to Indian Tribal Governments Program, while \$6.2 million would be funneled to tribal coalitions through the VAWA Tribal Coalitions Grants Program and \$2.7 million would go to tribes under VAWA's Sexual Assault Services Program. Also within these OVW funds, the President has requested that \$500,000 be available for an Indian Country Sexual Assault Clearinghouse that offers a one-stop shop for tribes to request free on-site training and technical assistance.

This year's DOJ budget also requests a total of **\$1.6 million** for the **Office of Tribal Justice (OTJ)** to, amongst other things, help fund a total of six attorney positions in FY 2015. This request is identical to FY 2014. The request for additional staffing resources was made in recognition of the increased workload and duties of OTJ staff in recent years, particularly since the Tribal Law & Order Act of 2010 established OTJ as a permanent component of the Department. Hundreds of federal cases, in addition to other conflicts needing resolution are generated in Indian country each year, and OTJ serves as the primary point of contact between all 566 federally recognized tribes and DOJ on these matters. Additionally, with the special domestic violence criminal jurisdiction (SDVCJ) tribal provisions of the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013, OTJ plays an important role in implementation. OTJ coordinates these complex matters, the underlying policy, and emerging legislation between more than a dozen DOJ components active in Indian country. As such, it is imperative that OTJ has the necessary resources to sufficiently fulfill all of these obligations.

Additionally, the FY 2015 budget request for tribes under the **Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS)** program to fund tribal law enforcement expenses is **\$35 million**, an increase of \$15 million from the FY 2014 requested amount. This program provides funding and resources to meet the public safety needs of law enforcement and advance community policing on tribal lands. The President's FY 2015 increase brings the amount closer to his request in FY 2012 (which was closer to \$42 million). These funds are critical for the hiring and retention of tribal law enforcement officers.

DOJ's FY 2015 Budget Request for Indian Country programs is an increase over its FY 2014 numbers, which is particularly encouraging given the current budget climate in Washington, DC. Moreover, 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.

More generally, the President's DOJ FY 2015 Budget Request: improves law enforcement's ability to implement and enforce gun safety measures; promotes cybersecurity initiatives; preserves national

security and counters the threat of terrorism; maintains safe and secure prison capacity; sustains drug enforcement efforts and targets transnational organized crime; combats financial fraud, promotes innovation, and protects civil rights; enhances reentry and recidivism initiatives; addresses the immigration case backlog; promotes smart crimes strategies that protect the public and reduce incarceration; prioritizes evidence-based practices; expands gun safety initiatives and works to prevent mass casualty violence; renews efforts to promote juvenile justice and fight youth violence; promotes community policing; and continues efforts to combat violence against women.

For more information, and copies of the various DOJ Budget Request Fact Sheets, visit <http://www.justice.gov/jmd/2015factsheets/>.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

The President's total FY 2015 education budget request is \$68.6 billion—an increase of \$1.3 billion, or 1.9 percent—over the FY 2014 level. The budget request focuses on six priorities:

1. Increasing equity and opportunity for all students.
2. Strengthening support for teachers and school leaders.
3. Expanding high-quality preschool programs.
4. Affordability and quality in postsecondary education.
5. Promoting educational innovation and improvement.
6. Improving school safety and climate.

Specific Proposals and Initiatives

The President's FY 2015 education budget request includes a number of proposals to address the above priorities. As you will see below, most of these priorities are state-focused. NCAI urges the Administration to ensure that tribes, Native students, and tribal colleges and universities are equitably included in all initiatives.

\$1.3 billion in 2015 and \$75 billion over 10 years in mandatory funding for Preschool for All to support the implementation of high-quality preschool programs that are aligned with elementary and secondary education systems and help ensure that all children arrive in kindergarten ready to learn. The proposal is based on a cost-sharing model that would help states serve all children from low-and moderate-income families, create an incentive for states to expand access to high-quality preschool for additional middle-class families, and promote access to full-day kindergarten.

\$500 million for competitively awarded Preschool Development Grants to help build state and local capacity to implement high-quality pre-school programs and to enhance or expand existing programs. An additional \$250 million request is proposed as part of the President's Opportunity, Growth, and Security Initiative, for a total discretionary investment of \$750 million.

\$100.4 million for formula grants to school districts and Indian tribes to address the unique educational and culturally related academic needs of Indian students through activities such as after-school programs, tutoring, and dropout prevention. These funds support enrichment programs that benefit more than 475,000 Indian students nationwide. Under the Administration's proposal to reauthorize No Child Left Behind, more tribes would be able to access these funds and grantees would have greater flexibility to carry out Native language restoration and Native language immersion programs.

\$18 million for competitive grants to improve school quality to Indian tribes and organization, states, school districts, and institutions of higher education to improve school readiness and college preparation for Indian students; to increase the number of Native American teachers, school leaders, and administrators by supporting tribal post-secondary institutions and recruiting heavily among Native American paraprofessionals; and to improve the skills those individuals have through pre-service training and pre-administrator training.

\$5.76 million for national activities to support Native American schools, including research into effective practices for improving outcomes of Indian students, data collection on the educational status of Indian students, technical assistance on implementing successful programs, and support for the Department's tribal consultations to ensure that tribes continue to have a voice in the development of policies that impact Native Americans.

\$200 million for a new ConnectEducators initiative that would help educators transition to using technology and data to personalize learning and improve CCR instruction and assessment. Funds would provide support for educators in creating and using high-quality open digital learning resources and content aligned to CCR standards; using mobile devices and digital tools to personalize learning and implement new assessments; analyzing real-time data to understand and improve student outcomes; using technology to personalize student learning and to increase student engagement; and providing remote access to effective educators, such as master teachers, to assist with hard-to-staff schools and subjects.

\$170 million in new funding for a comprehensive STEM Innovation proposal is to improve the delivery and impact of federal investments in science and technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education.

\$50 million for School Climate Transformation Grants to help create positive school climates that support effective education for all students. Funds would support the use of multi-tiered decision-making frameworks, which research shows can be effective in reducing problem behaviors, decreasing bullying and peer victimization, improving organizational health and perceptions of school as a safe setting, and increasing academic performance in reading and math.

\$150 million for a new High School Redesign program to support the transformation, of the high school experience by funding competitive grants to school districts for their partners to redesign high schools in innovative ways that better prepare students for college and career success so that all students graduate from high school with college credit and career-related experiences or competencies, obtained through project or problem-based learning, real-world challenges, and organized internships and mentorships.

\$100 million for a First in the World fund, under the Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education, that would make competitive awards to support innovative strategies and practices shown to be effective in improving educational outcomes, including on-time completion rates, and making college more affordable for students and families, particularly for low-income students.

\$75 million for College Success Grants to Minority-Serving Institutions that would provide competitive awards to minority-serving institutions designated under Title III and Title V of the Higher Education Act. Grants would support implementation of sustainable strategies, processes and tools (including technology) to reduce costs and improve outcomes for students. Funding would be used to implement evidence-based approaches and systems, as well as for evaluation and continuous improvement.

\$14.4 billion for Title I College- and Career-Ready Students and \$11.6 for Special Education Grants to States to maintain support for students from low-income families attending high-poverty schools and students with disabilities. The 2015 request also continues to protect other key formula programs that target high-need populations, including \$723 million for English Learner Education, \$375 million for Migrant Students, \$48 million for Neglected and Delinquent Children and Youth Education, \$65 million for Homeless Children and Youth Education, **\$124 million for Indian Student Education, \$32 million for Native Hawaiian Student Education, \$31 million for Alaska Native Student Education**, and \$170 million for Rural Education programs.

\$300 million for a new Race to the Top - Equity and Opportunity (RTT-Opportunity) competition centered on improving the academic and performance of students in the Nation's highest poverty schools. This proposal would create incentives for States and school districts to make comprehensive changes in how they identify and close opportunity and achievement gaps.

Indian Education Programs

As the below table shows, the Department of Education has requested level funding for all Indian education programs except Impact Aid:

Department Education (Dollars in millions)	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015 Request	Change
Impact Aid	1224	1289	1222	-67
Indian Student Education (Title VII)	124	124	124	-
<i>Grants to Local Education Agencies</i>	100	100	100	-
<i>Special Programs for Indian Children</i>	18	18	18	-
<i>National Activities</i>	6	6	6	-
Native Hawaiian Student Education	32	32	32	-
Alaska Native Education Equity Assistance Program	31	31	31	-
Strengthening AN/NH-Serving Inst (mandatory)	14	14	15	+1
Strengthening AN/NH-Serving Institutions	12	13	13	-
Strengthening TCUs (mandatory)	28	28	30	+2
Strengthening Tribal Colleges and Universities	24	25	25	-
Tribally Controlled Posts and Technical Institutions	8	8	8	-
Strengthening NA-Serving Non-tribal Inst (Man)	5	5	5	-
Strengthening NA -Serving Nontribal Institutions	3	3	3	-
Voc Rehab State Grants (Indian Set Aside)	37	37	40	+3

Impact Aid

The \$67 million-5 percent-cut in Impact Aid eliminates the line item for Payments for Federal Property. The Department of Education's justification for this elimination is that the line item payments are made to local education agencies without regard to the presence of federally connected children and do not necessarily provide for educational services for such children. This cut will likely not have an effect on Indian Country.

Indian Student Education: Title VII, National Activities

The Administration's Title VII, National Activities line item request for \$2 million continues grants to tribal educational agencies for the State Tribal Education Partnership (STEP) pilot program. 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.

For more information on Indian education funding in the President's FY 2015 budget request, please see the Department of Education's "Strengthening the Commitment to Native American Communities" fact sheet at:

<http://www2.ed.gov/about/overview/budget/budget15/crosscuttingissues/nativeamerican.pdf>

Additional Department of Education Budget Resources

- [Department of Education FY 2015 Budget Overview](#)
- [FY 2015 Education Budget Summary and Background Information](#)
- [FY 2015 Justifications of Education Appropriations Estimates to Congress](#)

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

The President's total FY 2015 request for the Department of Agriculture is \$140 billion - a decrease of \$6 billion from the FY 2014 requested level - and consists of about \$116 billion associated with mandatory programs that provide services as required by law and \$24 billion in discretionary programs, including: Women, Infant, and Children (WIC) nutrition program, food safety, rural development loans, and other services. Over 76 percent of the FY 2015 budget goes to nutrition assistance.

Among the highlights of the FY2015 Agriculture budget:

- It proposes \$878 million to support the creation and expansion of rural businesses;
- Adds 23 million acres to conservation efforts, including 10 million acres into the Conservation Stewardship Program. An additional 25 million acres will be protected under the Conservation Reserve Program ;
- Requests \$325 million for competitive grants under the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI); and
- Asks for \$13 million in loans to support healthy foods in underserved areas.

Specific Proposals and Initiatives

Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs)

As the below table 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 2013 Enacted	FY 2014 Actual	FY 2015 Request	FY14 to FY15
Federally Recognized Tribes Extension Program (FRTEP)	3	3	3	-
1994 Institutions Research Program	1.8	1.8	1.8	-
1994 Institutions Educational Equity Grants	3.3	3.3	3.3	-
Native American Endowment Account	12	12	12	-
Essential Community Facilities Program	3	4	4	-
1994 Institutions Extension Program	4	4	4	-

USDA maintained the FY 2014 funding increase in FY 2015 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

While the funding for the Office of Tribal Relations increased by a small amount, and the Rural Development Rural Housing and Community Facilities request is also down a fraction, restructuring of direct and guaranteed loans throughout Rural Development.

Department of Agriculture (Dollars in millions)	FY 2013 Enacted	FY 2014 Actual	FY 2015 Request	FY14 to FY15
Office of Tribal Relations	.498	.498	.502	.004
Rural Utilities Service	9,325	8,196	7,317	(879)
Rural Housing and Community Facilities	28,684	29,093	28,394	(699)
Water and Waste Disposal Program	1,421	1,742	1,504	(238)
Fractionated Land Loans	9	10	10	-
Indian Land Acquisition Loan Program	2	2	2	-

Office of Tribal Relations

The budget proposes \$502,000 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 makes OTR a permanent installation under the Office of Secretary.

Rural Utility Service

The Rural Utilities Service FY 2015 budget request is \$879 million less than appropriated in FY 2014, and is over \$1 billion below the FY 2013 enacted funding, continuing the steady funding decline that began in 2012. However, the 2015 Budget does provide \$5 billion for electric loans. Of this amount, up to \$1 billion will be available to support environmental upgrades to existing fossil fuel electric generation facilities to significantly reduce carbon emissions. Of the remaining funds, not less than \$4 billion will be used for generation, transmission, and distribution of renewable energy. Loan funds can also be used to purchase or construct peaking units at electric generating plants in conjunction with an electric generating plant that produces electricity from solar, wind, or other intermittent source of energy. Funding can also be used to support the transformation from fossil fuels to cleaner technologies.

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. The 2015 Budget provides \$304 million in budget authority for grants for the water and waste disposal program.

Economic Development

While all funding through USDA affects and supports economic development, we focus below on a few 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 2013 Enacted	FY 2014 Actual	FY 2015 Request	FY14 to FY15
Rural Business and Industry Guaranteed Loan Program	890	958	591	(367)
Foreign Agriculture Service, Market Access Program	196	186	200	14
Rural Business Opportunity Grants (RBOG)	2	2	2	-
Rural Business Enterprise Grants (RBEG)	23	24	24	-
Rural Business and Cooperative Grants [new]	-	0	58	58
Telecommunications Programs - Direct Loans	690	690	345	345
Distance Learning and Telemedicine - Grants	23	24	25	1
Broadband Programs				
<i>Direct Loans</i>	39	35	44	9
<i>Grants</i>	9	10	0	(10)

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. Funding for MAP was extended by Congress for 2013 at a \$200 million program level. MAP was extended in the 2014 Farm Bill and includes a \$200 million program level for MAP.

Program Consolidation

The 2015 Budget includes \$55 million for a new economic development grant program designed to target small and emerging private businesses and cooperatives in rural areas with populations of 50,000 or less. This new program, started in FY 2014 but not funded, will award funding to grantees that meet or exceed minimum performance targets, and that agree to be tracked against those performance targets. The following grants programs are part of the consolidation: Rural Business Opportunity, Rural Business Enterprise, Rural Microenterprise Investment, Rural Cooperative Development, Grants to Assist Minority Producers, and Rural Community Development Initiative.

Telecommunications

The 2015 Budget also supports \$345 million in telecommunications loans for the improvement and construction of telecommunication facilities that meet broadband standards, although they are not meant to be used for all broadband purposes. The reduction in FY 2015 loan authority is directly attributed to lower obligations resulting from uncertainty in the telecommunications industry as revisions are underway to the Universal Service Fund fee structure.

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 2013 Enacted	FY 2014 Actual	FY 2015 Request	FY14 to FY15
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)	84,104*	88,829*	84,246	(4,583)
Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infant, Children (WIC)	6,522	6,716	6,823	107
Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR)	100	104	120	16
<i>Purchase of Traditional and Locally-Grown Food</i>			5	5

* - Increased funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act

WIC

The Budget proposes \$6.8 billion, an increase of \$107 million from FY 2014, for the WIC Program, continuing the Administration’s commitment to serve all eligible individuals seeking WIC benefits which it estimates to be 8.66 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 ITOs and 5 state agencies. The

Budget requests additional funding for FDPIR and \$5 million for the purchase of traditional and locally-grown food.

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 2013 Enacted	FY 2014 Actual	FY 2015 Request	FY14 to FY15
Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP)*	64	3	0	(3)
Watershed Rehabilitation Program	14	12	0	(12)
Small Watershed Rehabilitation Program	0	250**	0	(250)
Environmental Quality Incentives Program	1,374	1,350	1,350	-
Conservation Security Program	159	125	35	-
Conservation Stewardship Program	883	1,079	1,449	370

* - Repealed by the 2014 Farm Bill

** - Funds from the 2014 Farm Bill

Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP)

The program provides financial and technical assistance to develop habitats for upland and wetland wildlife, threatened and endangered species, fish, and other types of wildlife. With this funding, it is expected fish and wildlife habitat will improve on approximately 600,000 acres of non-federal land in 2014.

Watershed Rehabilitation Program

This program provides financial and technical assistance to communities for planning and financing the rehabilitation of Federally-constructed flood prevention dams that have reached the end of their design lives. This program is ending because the continued maintenance of the dams, although constructed initially with federal assistance, is the responsibility of local and state governments.

Small Watershed Rehabilitation Program

The 2014 Farm provided \$250 million to the Small Watershed Rehabilitation Program. This program provided technical and financial assistance to communities for the rehabilitation of federally constructed flood prevention dams that are at the end of their designed lives.

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 Security Program

The Conservation Security Program was established in the 2002 Farm Bill and is a voluntary program that provides financial and technical assistance on tribal and private agricultural working lands to support ongoing conservation stewardship. The 2015 Budget includes \$35 million for the Conservation Security Program to service existing contracts.

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 expects 10 million acres to be enrolled in FY 2015.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Although the President’s FY 2015 Budget request for EPA is \$7.89 billion, \$310 million or nearly 4 percent below FY 2014 enacted funding of \$8.2 billion, many of the tribal set asides received increased funding. 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 over 38 percent. Further, tribes received a substantial increase of approximately \$31 million over FY 2014 enacted appropriations to the Tribal General Assistance Program. These additional funds will assist tribes in capacity building and promote protections for the environment and human health.

The EPA and the President have made a substantial funding commitment to climate change in the FY 2015 requested budget, \$1.1 billion, \$76 million more than the FY14 enacted level, is requested for categorical grants to tribes and states--\$31 million of which is to help build tribal capacity under the President’s Climate Action Plan.

However, the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds, which provides low-interest loans to tribes and states for new infrastructure improvements projects for drinking water and public treatment systems saw a reduction in requested funding by \$581 million from the FY 2014 enacted budget to \$1.775 billion—\$1.018 billion for Clean Water and \$757 million for Drinking Water.

EPA (\$ in millions)	FY2013 Actual	FY2014 Enacted	FY2015 Request	FY15 - FY14
Alaska Native Villages	9.5	10	10	0
Tribal Air Quality Management	12.3	12.8	12.8	0
Tribal General Assistance Grants	66.4	65.4	96.4	31
State and Tribal Assistance Grants	3,392	3,535	3,055	(530)
Clean Water State Revolving Fund	1,422	1,923*	1,018	(905)
<i>Tribal Resources</i>	18.6	29	30	1
Drinking Water State Revolving Fund	927	1,002*	757	(245)
<i>Tribal Resources</i>	14.3	18.1	20	1.9
Climate Change/Air Quality	955.6	985	1,031	46.1

* - 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 Country.

State and Tribal Assistance Grants (STAG)

While the overall funding for STAG was reduced by \$530 million, it still remains as the largest percentage of EPA’s overall budget request at over \$3.055 billion.

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

(Dollars in thousands)	FY13 Current	FY14 Enacted	FY15 Request	FY15 vs. FY14
Office Of Indian Energy Policy and Programs				
Office of Indian Energy Policy and Programs (IE)	0	0	2,510	2,510
Office of Indian Energy Policy and Programs (DA) (non-add)	1,928	2,506	0	N/A
Tribal Energy Program (IE)	0	0	13,490	13,490
Tribal Energy Program (EE) (non-add)	9,421	6,996	0	N/A
Total, Office of Indian Energy Policy and Programs	0	0	16,000	16,000

In FY 2015, the Office of Indian Energy Policy and Programs (IE) would move out of the Departmental Administration (DA) account and be established as a new stand-alone office, with a separate appropriation under Energy Programs. NCAI has been advocating for this and was pleased to see that it may come to fruition. 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.

There are two new initiatives for the Office of Indian Energy, Policy and Programs; the financial and technical assistance for micro-grid projects and electrification infrastructure projects; and climate mitigation and adaption for clean energy systems in Indian Country.

Additional resources are being directed into technical assistance and competitive grant programs for tribes. 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, but not limited to, 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. NCAI has consistently advocated consolidating programs under the Office of Indian Energy pursuant to the Energy Policy Act of 2005's Title V.

The Office of Indian Energy Policy & Programs would receive \$2.5 million for FY 2015 and the Tribal Energy Programs would receive \$13.5 million for FY 2015, for a total of \$16 million for the Office of Indian Energy Policy & Programs.

For more information, visit: <http://www.energy.gov/sites/prod/files/2014/03/f8/15Highlights.pdf>

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

The President's FY 2015 Budget request for the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Native American Housing Block Grant is at same level as enacted appropriations level for FY 2013 at \$650 million. The Department continues to recognize tribal communities are most in need of housing infrastructure even under current budget constraints. In addition, the HUD's budget for FY 2015 for Native American Housing Block Grants has proposed to withhold funding from any grantee that on January 1, 2015, if any grantee has a total undisbursed balance greater than three times the funding allocation it would receive in 2015. This proposal does not include grantees who receive less than \$5 million and any funds that are withheld will be allocated to other grantees in accordance to the need component of the formula. Lastly, the HUD's budget includes legislative reforms for Native American Housing Block Grants that will be given to Congress in the Spring of 2014, the following legislative reforms are:

1. To end of the formula homeownership units developed under the U.S. Housing Act of 1937;
2. To ensure the lawful expenditure of Native American Housing Block Grants, HUD is proposing to Congress to strengthen HUD's authority to temporary suspend recipient's access to these funding grants when not expended; and
3. To interpret HUD's authority to reclaim distributed funds based on inaccurate information.

(Dollars in millions)	FY 2012 Enacted	FY 2013 Enacted	FY 2014 Estimates	Requested FY 2015
Native American Housing Block Grant	650	650	675	650
Title VI Loans Program Account	2	2	3	3
Indian Housing Loan Guarantee Fund (Section 184)	6	6	6	8
Indian Community Development Block Grant	60	58	69	70

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

(Dollars in thousands)	FY 2013 Enacted	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Request
WIA: Indian and Native American Program	45,082	46,082	46,082
WIA: Youth Activities (Tribes receive up to 1.5% of funding)	781,375	820,430	820,430

Workforce Investment Act (WIA): Indian and Native American Program

The President's FY 2015 Budget requests level funding of \$46,082,000 for the Indian and Native American Program (INAP), which is authorized by Section 166 of the Workforce Investment Act (WIA). The program is statutorily authorized for a minimum of \$55,000,000, but has consistently been funded at lower levels. At the requested funding level, the program expects to serve 38,000 unemployed, under-employed, and under-skilled Native American adults - not including those served by grantees that incorporate this funding into their PL 102-477 programs, in accordance with the Indian Employment and Training and Related Services Demonstration Act of 1992. The INAP serves the employment and training needs of American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians through a network of 175 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.

WIA: Youth Activities

The President's FY 2015 Budget requests level funding of \$820,430,000 for the WIA "Youth Program." 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 \$12.3 million. 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.

For more information visit: <http://www.dol.gov/dol/budget/2015/PDF/FY2015BIB.pdf>

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

The Small Business Administration (SBA) requests \$710 million for its FY 2015 budget. The SBA assists America's 28 million small business owners through increasing access to capital, federal contracting, entrepreneurship, and disaster assistance. The SBA also requests an additional \$154.6 million to support Stafford Act disaster loan as well as \$2 million for Native American Outreach.

To read the full 'Budget in Brief' please visit:

http://www.sba.gov/sites/default/files/files/SBA_FY15_Budget%20Highlights.pdf.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

For FY 2015, the President requested a total of \$90.9 billion for Department of Transportation (DOT). Included in DOT's budget is the President's proposal for a four-year surface transportation reauthorization totaling \$302 billion. The President's proposal provides improvement to surface transportation programs, implementing new reforms with will improve the way DOT operates; and to advance jobs and build America's economy. The President's budget for FY 2015 is requesting an increase of \$507 million for Tribal Transportation Program (TTP) to improve repair and construct existing infrastructure. In addition, \$150 million new initiative called "Fix-it-First", which 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.

(Dollars in millions)	FY 2012 Enacted	FY 2013 Enacted	FY 2014 Enacted	Requested FY 2015
Federal Highway Administration				
<i>Federal -Aid Highway-Federal Lands and Tribal Transportation Program</i>				
Tribal Transportation Program	--*	450	450	507
Federal Transit Administration				
Tribal Transit Grant Program	14	30	30	30
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration				
Highway Traffic Safety Grant (Section 402)- Indian Highway Safety Program (<i>Administered by Bureau of Indian Affairs</i>)	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.822

*The enactment of the current transportation authorization, Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21) established the Tribal Transportation Program (*formerly Indian Reservation Roads Program*)

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

The Department of Commerce provides essential funding and tools needed for U.S. business development and job creation. On March 4, 2014, the Department of Commerce released a partial budget request that focused on trade, technology, and research. Additional information regarding budget specifics will be released at a later date from the Department of Commerce.

Highlights of FY 2015 Budget Request

(Dollars in millions)	FY 2014 (Enacted/Omnibus)	FY 2015 Request	Change: 2014 - 2015 Request
International Trade Administration	470 (Omnibus)	497	+27
National Telecom & Information Admin	46 (Omnibus)	51	+5

National Telecommunications & Information Administration (NTIA)

An increase of \$5 million from the FY 2014 Omnibus Appropriation is requested by NTIA to increase efforts for commercial access to spectrum. The Administration estimates that efforts to free up 500 MHz of spectrum will reduce the national deficit by \$20 billion over the next 10 years and spur commercial telecommunications investment.

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

The President's FY 2015 budget requests \$13.8 billion for the Department of the Treasury's (Treasury) budget, which is an increase of 9.2 percent over 2014 enacted levels. This increase of \$1.2 billion will receive partial funding from a proposed program integrity cap adjustment, and will provide key investments in Treasury's essential functions to implement reforms for the nation's healthcare and financial systems.

(Dollars in thousands)	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Request	<i>Change</i>
Community Development Financial Institutions Fund	226,000	224,900	-1,100
Native American CDFI Assistance Program	15,000	15,000	--
Healthy Food Financing Initiative	22,000	35,000	+13,000
Pay For Success Program	-	300,000	+300,000

Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFI) Fund Program

The CDFI program provides investments for low-income individuals and communities that lack access to financial products and services. Financial assistance provided through the CDFI program furthers economic development, affordable housing, and availability of financial services in distressed communities. The FY 2015 Budget Request proposes a decrease in funding for the Community Development Financial Institutions Fund to \$224.9 million, which is \$1.1 million decrease from 2014 enacted levels. The FY 2015 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. Other budget requests include:

- Native American CDFI Assistance (NACA) Program: a request of \$15 million is proposed for the NACA program to support Native CDFI's serving Native communities. Awards from this program provide technical and financial assistance to Native CDFI's for capacity building and creation of financial education materials and development of asset building programs. These programs are designed to benefit American Indian, Native Hawaiian, and Alaska Native communities.
- Healthy Food Financing Initiative: a request of \$35 million to provide financial and technical assistance to CDFIs with an expressed interest in increasing the availability of healthy food options in distressed communities.

Pay for Success Program: One-Time Mandatory Appropriation

A \$300 million one-time mandatory appropriation for a new Pay for Success (PFS) program is requested by the Department of the Treasury. These funds will support non-profits, and state and local governments that finance preventative social programs and reduce government costs of such programs.

Additional Proposals Offered by Treasury

A number of additional proposals were offered by the Treasury Department's "[General Explanations of the Administrations FY 2015 Revenue Proposals \(Green Book\)](#)". Highlighted recommendations include:

- 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
- Numerous 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 in project location for those financed by Tribal Economic Development Bonds.
- Proposals to designate 20 **Promise Zones**, inclusive of those already designated in 2014. 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.

THE INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE

The President's FY 2015 Budget Request proposes about \$12.973 billion to support the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). The FY 2015 request is an increase of \$1.185 billion over FY 2014 enacted levels. The IRS collects over 90 percent of all federal tax receipts every year, and the lack of sufficient funding for the agency has resulted in services offered to the American taxpayer. An increase to the agency's budget is requests to effectively enforce tax laws, improve IT systems, and assist in implementation of the Affordable Care Act.

(Dollars in thousands)	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Request	Change 2014 Enacted - 2015 Request
Investigations	613,417	662,606	+49,189
Exam and Collections	4,257,836	4,538,881	+281,045
Regulatory	150,925	170,339	+19,414

To view the full IRS Budget in Brief please visit: http://www.treasury.gov/about/budget-performance/budget-in-brief/Documents/Treasury_FY_2015_BIB.pdf.

VETERANS AFFAIRS

The President's FY 2015 Budget request for the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is increased by 3 percent over FY 2014, proposing \$68.4 billion in discretionary funds. In total, the FY 2015 Budget includes \$163.0 billion for VA in 2015.

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
- Eliminate the disability Claims Backlog in 2015
- End Rescue Phase of Veteran Homelessness in 2015

\$45 million for the Veterans Cemetery Grants Program to assist states, territories and federally recognized tribal governments in providing gravesites for Veterans in those areas where VA's national cemeteries cannot fully satisfy their burial needs.

\$2.5 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.

\$500 million for Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF), an increase of 67 percent from FY 2014. Under the SSVF program, VA awards grants to private non-profit organizations and consumer cooperatives who can provide supportive services to very low-income Veteran families living in or transitioning to permanent housing. Grantees provide eligible Veteran families with outreach, case management, and assistance in obtaining VA and other benefits, which may include: health care services, daily living services, personal financial planning services, transportation services, fiduciary and payee services, legal services, child care services, and housing counseling services. In addition, grantees may also provide time-limited payments to third parties (e.g., landlords, utility companies, moving companies, and licensed child care providers) if these payments help Veteran families stay in or acquire permanent housing on a sustainable basis.

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 2015 Budget estimates reimbursements from the Department of Veterans Affairs to the Indian Health Service totaling 39 million. The estimates have been revised to \$36 million for FY 2014 and \$39 million for FY 2015, respectively.

(Dollars in millions)	FY 2013 Estimate	FY 2014 Estimate (Adjusted)	FY 2015 Estimate
Indian Health Service (P.L. 111-148)	52	36	39

For more information on the Department of Veterans Affairs FY 2015 Budget Request visit:

<http://www4.va.gov/budget/products.asp>

<http://www4.va.gov/budget/docs/summary/Fy2015-BudgetRollout.pdf>

<http://www.va.gov/tribalgovernment/>

For more information, contact NCAI Budget and Policy Analyst, Amber Ebarb at aebarb@ncai.org.