



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT
WASHINGTON, DC 20410-5000

PRINCIPAL DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY
FOR PUBLIC AND INDIAN HOUSING

November 22, 2016

Dear Tribal Leader:

On behalf of Secretary Julián Castro and the entire Department of Housing and Urban Development, we are writing you today to announce that the negotiated rulemaking committee charged with developing regulatory changes to the funding formula of the Indian Housing Block Grant (IHBG) has completed its work. A copy of the final rule is enclosed with this letter, and can also be found online at this address: <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2016-11-22/pdf/2016-27208.pdf>.

The Department is sincerely grateful to the committee members and their alternates, who performed the difficult work reviewing the IHBG allocation formula. We recognize and appreciate the many hours committee members spent attending meetings far from home, analyzing difficult issues, and negotiating solutions satisfactory to all. The committee's co-chairs, Annette Bryan and Jason Dollarhide, provided outstanding leadership and were exceedingly generous with their time and expertise. Likewise, our thanks go out to everyone who commented on the proposed rule, and to all the members of the public who participated in the negotiated rulemaking process.

We also thank you, in your role as a tribal leader, for your support of the negotiated rulemaking process, and for all your work to improve the lives of tribal members.

The new regulation will take effect for the fiscal year 2018 IHBG allocations. One of the most significant changes will be that the formula data will be drawn from the United States Decennial Census and the (U. S. Census) American Community Survey; however, there will be adjustments to minimize the volatility such change could trigger. Other changes include administrative changes to the demolition language and conveyance requirements, and an increase to the minimum grant amount.

HUD will continue its work with tribal leaders to support safe, decent, and affordable housing, and to build strong communities for American Indians and Alaska Natives.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lourdes".

Lourdes Castro Ramírez
Assistant Secretary
Public and Indian Housing

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Heidi J. Frechette".

Heidi J. Frechette
Deputy Assistant Secretary
Native American Programs

Enclosure