



**CARES Act Funding: Overview of Eligible Digital Inclusion  
Activities  
October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020**



# Agenda: Panelist Section Name

## 1. The Office of Public and Indian Housing (PIH)

Todd Thomas , Director of the Office of Public Housing Programs

## 2. The Office of Native American Programs (ONAP)

Michelle Tinnin, Native American Programs Specialist

## 3. The Office of Community Development Block Grant Assistance (CDBG)

James Höemann, Director, Entitlement Communities Division

## 4. Q&A

[Agenda](#)

PIH

ONAP

CDBG

Q&A

**Todd Thomas, Director**  
**Office of Public Housing Programs**  
**U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development**



# Public Housing Program

- Authorized through the U.S. Housing Act of 1937
- Provides place-based housing to low-income families (those with incomes below 80% of AMI)
- Properties are owned and operated by Public Housing Agencies (PHAs), subject to a grant agreement with HUD
- PHAs are entities of local/state government
- Nearly 1 million units located in all 50 states, DC, and other territories

# Public Housing Funding

- PHAs receive two separate funding streams to pay for operating and capital expenses, both determined by formula
- Historically, Congress has appropriated sufficient or near-sufficient funding for public housing operations
- Capital funding has been catastrophically insufficient
- Current estimates of the public housing capital needs backlog exceed \$30 billion, and new capital needs accrue at a rate that far exceeds annual appropriations
- HUD focus on repositioning as the primary strategy for long-term sustainability

# Resident Total Tenant Payment

- Families residing in public housing are required to pay no more than 30 percent of their adjusted gross income for housing costs, commonly referred to as the TTP
- If the PHA pays for utilities at the property, the family's entire TTP is paid to the PHA for monthly rental costs
- If the family is required to obtain utility service for one or more utilities directly from the provider, the PHA adjusts the rental payment by a reasonable utility allowance
- Utility allowances are for heating source, electricity, water/sewer, etc.

# PHA Costs Related to Broadband

- PHAs are not currently permitted to pay directly for or provide for a utility allowance for cable tv or internet services
- PHAs are generally not permitted to pay for broadband services for resident uses in individual units
- PHAs may use public housing funding to pay for internet service, devices, etc., for community use in community spaces like computer labs or community centers

# The CARES Act – Supplemental Operating Funds

## The CARES Act:

- Provides supplemental funding of **\$685 million** for Public Housing Operating Funds to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus
- Also provides special flexibilities:
  - Permits PHAs to use previously appropriated Public Housing Capital and Operating Funds for the same purpose to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus;
  - Provides full flexibility to use supplemental funding, and previously appropriated Capital and Operating funds for any eligible public housing purpose included in Sections 9(d) and 9(e) of the U.S. Housing Act of 1937;
  - Permits the Secretary to define other eligible public housing expenses related to preventing, preparing for, and responding to coronavirus.

# Eligible Uses and Period of Impact

**Eligible Uses for CARES Act Operating Funds, previously appropriated Operating Funds, previously appropriated Capital Funds, and all public housing program income:**

- Operating Fund Activities listed under 9(e) of the 1937 Act
- Capital Fund Activities listed under 9(d) of the 1937 Act
- New Coronavirus-related activities as defined by the Secretary
  - including activities to support or maintain the health and safety of assisted individuals and families, and to support education and childcare costs for impacted families.
- **Period of impact to expend CARES Act Operating Funds and full flexibility provision is December 31, 2021.**
  - HUD has authority to extend deadline for the period of impact for expenditure of funding and full flexibility provisions beyond this date.

# Preparing for COVID-19

- **Preparing for:** may be used prior to a local coronavirus outbreak to develop processes and procedures, and begin to take actions designed to help keep people healthy, reduce exposure to coronavirus, and slow the spread of the disease, including but not limited to:
  - Creation or update of infectious disease outbreak plan;
  - Sourcing and purchasing personal protective equipment for PHA staff;
  - Coordination with providers of services needed to support residents as a result of coronavirus, including cost of delivery of goods, supplies, and equipment;
  - Coordination with local health service providers for activities, including: the development or provision of guidance to staff or residents, travel for testing, or other reasons related to coronavirus;
  - Childcare costs for residents so that they can continue to work, and childcare costs for staff performing essential functions (as defined at the state/local), to the extent they would not have incurred otherwise; and.
  - Other reasonable expenses related to preparing for the coronavirus.

# Preventing COVID-19

- **Preventing:** PHAs may use funds to prevent the spread of the virus to staff and residents, including but not limited to:
  - Costs related to maintaining adequate social distancing, including modifying or limiting access to communal spaces, increasing service hours to prevent crowding in waiting areas, or any other costs incurred to ensure adequate distance among staff and residents;
  - Costs of delivering supplies so that staff or residents can shelter in place, thereby reducing exposure to the greatest number of people;
  - Direct costs related to limiting the spread of the coronavirus, including: travel costs for testing, or other preventative health measures related to coronavirus;

## Preventing COVID-19 (Cont'd)

- Expenses of isolating people suspected of being exposed or those at high-risk of serious complications if infected (e.g., elderly residents, and residents with underlying conditions);
- Costs of protecting residents (particularly high-risk residents) from exposure from interaction with PHA staff and vice versa;
- Payment of salaries of PHA staff unable to work because of the coronavirus public health restrictions (e.g., office management staff who cannot go into the office and cannot perform work remotely or payment of full salaries of PHA staff forced to work part-time because of lack of childcare); and
- Other reasonable expenses related to preventing the coronavirus.

# Responding to COVID-19

**Responding to:** PHAs may use funds to care for those who have become infected and limiting the exposure and spread of the virus. Funds may continue to be used after the local outbreak on any continuing expenses incurred due to the spread of coronavirus, including but not limited to:

- Expenses of caring for PHA staff and residents who have tested positive, but do not require immediate hospitalization, including:
  - Payment for increases of sick leave allowances for PHA staff;
  - Physical, personnel, or security costs incurred to limit movement;
  - Costs to safely transport residents that tested positive to a quarantine facility; and
  - Costs of supporting residents in quarantine such as health-related supplies (e.g. masks and cleaning supplies).
- Expenses to safely transport residents/staff who need medical attention;

## Responding to COVID-19 (Cont'd)

- Expenses incurred because of coronavirus restrictions impacting PHA operations (e.g., paying for transportation expenses for PHA staff who rely on public transit that is no longer available);
- Costs to facilitate and coordinate with local schools and local governments receiving funds from the Department of Education for the education for students in public housing households:
  - Internet connection infrastructure; and
  - Tablets or other low-cost computers for students.
- Other reasonable expenses incurred while responding to the coronavirus.

# CARES Act Flexibility for Internet and Computer Costs

- CARES Act specifically authorizes the use of supplemental funding to support distance learning efforts during the pandemic
- Through FAQs, HUD has clarified that PHAs may use funds to pay for:
  - devices to support families with school-aged children
  - devices to support telehealth needs of high-risk families
  - internet services for these populations
  - shared devices to support job-seeking individuals



## Michelle Tinnin, Native American Program Specialist Southern Plains Office of Native American Programs



# Office of Native American Programs (ONAP)

- ONAP works with tribal and other governments, Federal agencies, community organizations, and the private sector to provide a coordinated and comprehensive response to Indian Country's housing and community development needs.
- ONAP has five programs dedicated to Native American communities and two programs dedicated to Native Hawaiians.
- 3 programs can fund broadband activities



Confederate Tribes of Umatilla  
Indian Reservation

# Office of Native American Programs (ONAP) (Cont'd)

**ONAP serves almost 574 Tribes and organizations**

**Headquarters:** Washington, D.C.

## **Area Offices:**

- Anchorage, Alaska
- Chicago, Illinois
- Denver, Colorado
- Honolulu, Hawaii
- Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
- Phoenix, Arizona
- Seattle, Washington



# Office of Native American Programs (ONAP) (Cont'd)

Program	Goal
<b>Indian Housing Block Grant (IHBG) Formula &amp; Competitive</b>	The single largest source of housing assistance to Native Americans. It is a formula grant that is distributed annually and funds a range of affordable housing activities in Indian Country.
<b>Indian Housing Loan Guarantee Fund (Section 184)</b>	The program guarantees loans made by private banks to Native Americans to accelerate housing development in Indian Country.
<b>Indian Community Development Block Grant (ICDBG)</b>	It is a competitive grant that is distributed annually and funds projects that focus on affordable housing rehabilitation, and construction of community buildings and infrastructure.
<b>Title VI</b>	This program guarantees loans made by IHBG recipients who want to finance additional grant-eligible construction and development.
<b>Tribal HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (Tribal HUD-VASH)</b>	This program provides rental assistance and supportive services to Native American Veterans who are – or at risk of becoming – homeless in Indian Country.
<b>Native Hawaiian Housing Block Grant</b>	It is a grant that funds a range of affordable housing activities on Hawaiian Home Lands.
<b>Native Hawaiian Housing Loan Guarantee Fund (Section 184A)</b>	This program guarantees loans made to Native Hawaiians who reside on Hawaiian Home Lands.

# Office of Native American Programs (ONAP) (Cont'd)

## Why is broadband important?

- It can enhance the lives of tribal members
- It can enhance the delivery of services, such as:
  - Telemedicine
  - Online banking
  - Education

## What programs are available to help with broadband?

- Indian Housing Block Grant (IHBG)
- Title VI
- Indian Community Development Block Grant (ICDBG)



# Office of Native American Programs (ONAP) CARES Act Funding

<b>Funding Source</b>	<b>Funds Available Nationwide</b>
Indian Housing Block Grant	\$200 Million
Indian Community Development Block Grant – Immanent Threat	\$100 Million



**All funds must be used to prevent,  
prepare for and/or respond to COVID-19**

# Office of Native American Programs (ONAP): Indian Housing Block Grant CARES Act (IHBG- CARES)

- All of the eligible activates under NAHASDA are available to grantees with their CARES Act funding
- Tribes/Tribally Designated Housing Entities submitted abbreviated plans to HUD
- Allocated through formula
  - Grants range from \$15,455 - \$22,333,177

# Office of Native American Programs (ONAP): Broadband Activities – IHBG & IHBG-CARES

- ONAP Program Guidance 2016-01 (R) issued on February 24, 2016
  - Pinpoints HUD opportunities to fund broadband development
    - Native American Housing and Self-Determination Act (NAHASDA)/Indian Housing Block Grant (IHBG)
    - Title VI of NAHASDA
    - Indian Community Development Block Grant (ICDBG)
  - Identifies other broadband resources

# Office of Native American Programs (ONAP): Broadband Activities – IHBG & IHBG-CARES (Cont'd)

- Development or acquisition of new housing
  - Include the infrastructure during the construction process
- Rehabilitation or modernization of affordable housing
  - Connect to a fiber network or network wiring in units
- Infrastructure to support new housing
  - Includes installation of fiber or network cable in development of site
  - Installation of permanent dishes to develop a point-to-point system in development



# Office of Native American Programs (ONAP)

- Housing Services/Assistance
  - Development and delivery of training courses
    - Self-sufficiency
    - Financial education
    - Job placement/Training
  - Self-sufficiency Initiatives
  - Utility Assistance



# Office of Native American Programs (ONAP): Examples of IHBG-CARES Broadband Initiatives

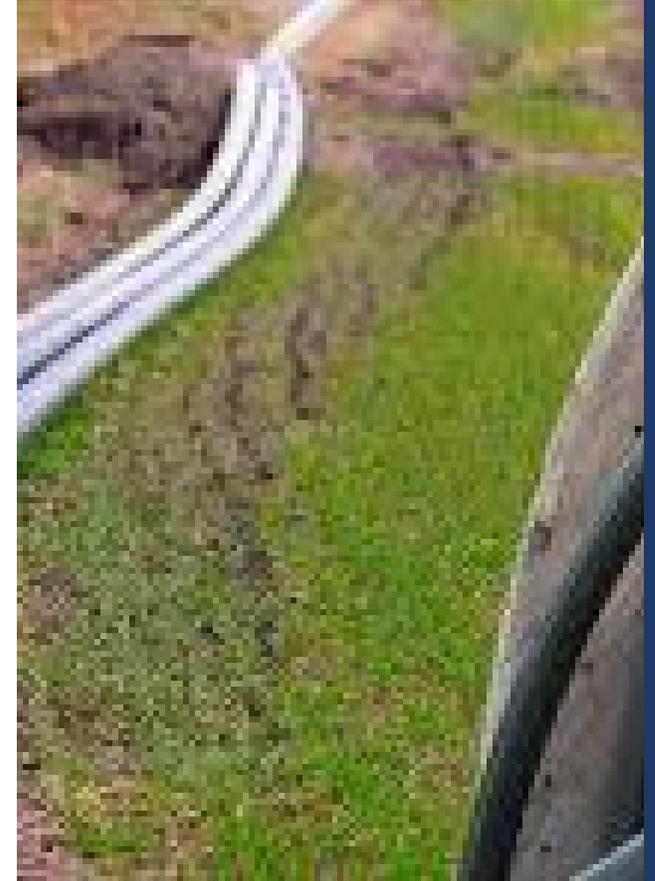
- **Chickasaw Nation – Ada, Oklahoma**
- Purchasing a radio tower to communicate with their membership during a time when obtaining up-to-date information is vital. Bringing this station online and to full power will provide coverage for citizens in these areas to receive public affairs programming, public safety, and community information, thereby reducing the imminent threat to the health and safety of community members in these areas.

## Office of Native American Programs (ONAP): Examples of IHBG-CARES Broadband Initiatives (Cont'd)

- **Spokane Indian Housing Authority (WA)** – Temporary Internet Services for 159 Residents via microwave method. Provide devices to residents for telehealth, education and to facilitate continued employment.
- **Lummi Nation Housing Authority (WA)** – Increase broadband and Wi-Fi access on reservation and purchase hot spots.
- **Seminole Nation Housing Authority (OK)** – Upgrade office equipment to allow for teleworking. Provide internet service for families who do not currently have internet.

# Office of Native American Programs (ONAP): Indian Community Development Block Grant Program (ICDBG)

- **Purpose:** Develop viable Indian and Alaska Native communities, including the creation of decent housing, suitable living environments and economic opportunities for persons with low and moderate income.



# Office of Native American Programs (ONAP): ICDBG-CARES

- **WAIVERS**

- Rental Assistance, **Utility Assistance**, Food, Clothing and Other Emergency Assistance
  - Broadband is considered a utility –
    - Assistance can be provided for up to 6 months
    - Payments have to be made directly to service providers

# Office of Native American Programs (ONAP): ICDBG-CARES (Cont'd)

- **ICDBG CARES ACT ACTIVITIES**
  - **Broadband Infrastructure**
    - Cell Towers, Fiber development that support telehealth strategies, allow students to participate in distance learning, provide other community services (must be carried out expeditiously)
  - **PUBLIC SERVICE**
    - **Utility Assistance** – Waiver allows for 6 months of assistance
      - Limited to low and moderate income families
      - Internet access to allow children to engage in distance learning

# Office of Native American Programs (ONAP): ICDBG-CARES – Broadband Examples

- **Northern Ponca Housing Authority (NE)** – Purchased Hot Spots with CARES Act Funds. Provided tablets to all tribal members to access remote medical care; employment assistance; other community services.
- **San Felipe Pueblo Housing Authority (NM)** – Purchased 650 computers for tribal households for: educational activities, telemedicine, and communication with the tribe. Strengthened wireless communication on reservation.



**Michelle Tinnin**

Native American Program Specialist

Southern Plains Office of Native American Programs

(405) 609-8532

Michelle.K.Tinnin@hud.gov

**Office of Native American Programs**

homepage: [www.hud.gov/codetalk](http://www.hud.gov/codetalk)

Mailbox: [Codetalk@hud.gov](mailto:Codetalk@hud.gov)





**Community Development Block Grant  
7 October 2020**



**James Höemann, Director**  
Entitlement Communities Division  
**CPD - Office of Block Grant Assistance**



# Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)

- Consolidated Annual Action Plan
- Citizen and Stakeholder Input
- Identify Local Needs
- Activities must:
  - Meet eligibility requirements
  - Meet a Statutory National Objective

# CDBG Broadband Activities

- Activity and National Objective Must Match – Coupling Activities
- Public Services Activity Examples
- Economic Development Examples
- Public Facilities Activity Examples
- Residential Rehabilitation
- New Construction Not Allowed

# CARES Act: CDBG-CV

- Additional Requirements:
  - Activities – Prepare for, Prevent, or Respond to a Coronavirus Outbreak
  - Period of Performance – 80% expended in 3 years; 6 years total
  - What should be focused on?



Q & A

