

## **Request for Tribal Input on the President’s Memorandum on Administrative Flexibility, Lower Costs, and Better Results for State, Local, and Tribal Governments**

In February of this year, the President issued a [Memorandum](#) to Federal agencies entitled “Administrative Flexibility, Lower Costs, and Better Results for State, Local, and Tribal Governments.” This memorandum instructed Federal agencies to work with tribal governments—as well as States and localities—to reduce unnecessary administrative burdens and focus available resources to achieve better program outcomes. Based on comments and input from tribes and Native American business leaders, the Domestic Policy Council (DPC) and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) convened five interagency working groups, comprised of senior program managers, to focus on areas that Indian Country identified as priorities. The five working groups are:

- I. Housing,
- II. Loans and Credit,
- III. Training and Employment,
- IV. Broadband Service, and
- V. Workforce Development.

Participating agencies include the Departments of Interior, Housing and Urban Development, Veterans Affairs, Treasury, Commerce, Education, Labor, Energy, Agriculture, Health and Human Services, Small Business Administration and Federal Communications Commission.

The working groups have been meeting regularly to discuss how best to coordinate administrative resources to increase visibility and access to Federal programs available to Tribes, while coordinating agency activities, such as training and the sharing of data. As they move forward, the working groups seek to engage with Tribes to provide transparency around ongoing Federal efforts and to ensure that these efforts benefit from tribal input. **Specifically, the work groups are requesting input on opportunities to:**

- Accomplish better and more cost-effective results by consolidating, streamlining, or eliminating data and administrative requirements in the five areas identified;
- Improve and better coordinate training and technical assistance for Tribes across program areas;
- Improve application, documentation and approval processes (e.g., housing, loan applications) to clarify and streamline access to Federal programs.

Information on each work group is provided below. **In addition, tribal views and recommendations on any aspect of the President’s Memorandum and related work group activities are welcome. Please provide input and recommendations via email to [FN-WHO-DPCNativeAmericanAffairs@who.eop.gov](mailto:FN-WHO-DPCNativeAmericanAffairs@who.eop.gov) no later than January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2012.**

Each of the five interagency working groups may also provide additional opportunities to provide input through in-person or conference call meetings in early 2012 .

This paper is designed only to provide background information and to frame issues for tribal input. This paper is not itself intended to be, nor should it be construed as, a statement of Administration policy.

## **Work Group Background**

- I. **Housing**. This group is developing a matrix of Federal housing, community, and economic development programs across the various agencies to increase the visibility of available resources and determine how to make these programs more accessible.
- II. **Loans and Credit**. The goal of this group is to ensure that Federal loan and credit programs are deployed to tribal economies through: improved flexibility under existing loan and credit program authority; improved and innovative deployment, oversight and accountability of loan programs in Indian Country; reduction in inefficiencies or disconnections between existing programs; and improvement in knowledge of programs through better training and technical assistance. The group has gathered information on federal loan programs and related applications and is beginning an analysis of each loan program across a common set of variables, such as eligibility criteria, type of loan, and maximum and minimum amount of loans available.
- III. **Training and Employment**. This group is re-examining the current requirements applicable to the Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Demonstration Act of 1992 (P.L. 102-477) workforce development funds. As part of this process, the agencies are reviewing which programs offer services that may be relevant to flexibility provided under P.L. 102-477.
- IV. **Broadband**. This group is focused on coordination across agencies to achieve timely completion of the unique opportunities to build out infrastructure provided through the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program and Broadband Initiatives Program under the Recovery Act.
- V. **Workforce Development**. This group is pursuing three policy areas, including (1) the Workforce Innovation Fund solicitation for grant applications; (2) the creation of a comprehensive waiver database to increase transparency around waiver requests; and (3) the Department of Labor Grant Program Information System. Representatives from the Department of Labor met with their Native American Employment and Training Council in October to brief them on the Workforce Innovation Fund solicitation for grant applications that is expected to open in the near future. The waiver portal page, which includes the waiver database, was posted to the DOL-ETA website at [http://www.doleta.gov/waivers/eta\\_default.cfm](http://www.doleta.gov/waivers/eta_default.cfm) in October 2011. The DOL Grant Application and Award Database, which contains information on competitive grants awarded after September 1, 2011, is available on-line at <http://www.dol.gov/dol/grants/grant-app-database.htm>.

### **Additional Background Information**

The President's Memorandum can be accessed at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2011/02/28/presidential-memorandum-administrative-flexibility>.

OMB guidance on implementing the President's Memorandum can be found at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/omb/memoranda/2011/m11-21.pdf>.