



June 27, 2025

Ms. Diane Cullo, Assistant Administrator
Office of Native American Affairs
U.S. Small Business Administration
409 3rd Street, SW
Washington, DC 20416
via email: diane.cullo@sba.gov

Re: SBA Tribal Consultation on 8(a) Business Development Program and Mentor-Protégé Program Issues and Best Practices

Dear Assistant Administrator Cullo:

On behalf of the undersigned Tribal organization members of the Coalition for Tribal Sovereignty (CTS),¹ we write to acknowledge the Small Business Administration's (SBA) effort to engage in Tribal consultation on issues and best practices associated with the 8(a) Business Development Program and the Mentor-Protégé Program. However, we note that SBA is holding only one session, which is taking place in Alaska on June 13th. Given the importance of these programs, recent equal protection litigation related to the 8(a) Program that does not apply to Tribal Nations or Native owned businesses, and the critical role SBA plays in Indian Country more generally, we respectfully request that SBA schedule additional Tribal consultation sessions in several regional locations in the lower 48 states on these topics. We also ask that SBA hold Tribal consultations on the Entrepreneurial Development and Capital Access Programs. We are confident that additional government-to-government dialogue on these matters will be beneficial to the continued partnership between SBA and Indian Country, including Tribal Nations, Tribal citizens and communities, and Native owned businesses. SBA's programs are integral to the ongoing economic development in Indian Country.

Thank you for your consideration of this request, and we look forward to additional opportunities for dialogue in the near future.

Sincerely,

Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians (ATNI)
California Tribal Chairpersons' Association (CTCA)
Great Plains Tribal Chairmen's Association (GPTCA)
Indian Gaming Association (IGA)
National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development (NCAIED)
National Congress of American Indians (NCAI)
Native American Contractors Association (NACA)

¹ The Coalition for Tribal Sovereignty (CTS) includes more than 35 Tribal organization members. Information about CTS can be found on its [website](#) and in its [briefing paper](#) on its foundation and message.



Native American Finance Officers Association (NAFOA)

Rocky Mountain Tribal Leaders Council (RMTLC)

United South & Eastern Tribes Sovereignty Protection Fund (USET SPF)