



October 1, 2025

Contact:  
Blythe McWhirter  
Federal Affairs Associate  
National American Indian Housing Council (NAIHC)  
bmcwhirter@naihc.net | (202) 344-9231

### **Statement from NAIHC Executive Director Rudy Soto on Government Shutdown and Potential Impacts to Tribal Housing Programs**

**Washington, D.C.** - The National American Indian Housing Council (NAIHC), the nation's leading advocacy organization for Tribal housing, today warned that the federal government shutdown will disrupt critical Tribal housing programs and place Native families at greater risk.

“Tribal Nations are sovereign governments with a unique political and legal relationship with the United States. When the government shuts down, it is not just another budget fight—it is a direct failure to uphold trust and treaty obligations, which were prepaid with our lands and resources,” said Rudy Soto, NAIHC’s Executive Director.

While some Tribes can draw down existing funds or rely on reserves, many do not have that cushion. For those programs, delayed disbursements or the absence of U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) employees to provide technical assistance, process requests, or oversee competitive grant programs could halt critical housing services and construction projects.

The shutdown timing is particularly disruptive as HUD’s Office of Native American Programs has active competitive funding opportunities, including the Indian Housing Block Grant Competitive and Indian Community Development Block Grant programs. If HUD staff are unavailable to manage deadlines or awards, Tribal communities depending on these funds will suffer.

“Tribal housing programs are not optional. They are mandated by law and grounded in solemn trust and treaty commitments,” Soto said. “Every day they are disrupted is another day Native families are denied the housing stability they deserve.”

Bipartisan support for Tribal housing remains strong. “This year the House and Senate have both demonstrated that Tribal housing funding is a priority worth protecting. We call on lawmakers to bring the same commitment to ending this shutdown so that Indian Country can continue meeting urgent housing needs,” Soto concluded.



122 C Street NW, Suite 505  
Washington, DC 20001



(202) 789-1754

[www.naihc.net](http://www.naihc.net)

Ahead of the shutdown, NAIHC joined 26 organizations from the Coalition for Tribal Sovereignty (CTS) in delivering a letter to the White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Director, Russell Vought. The letter calls for an immediate directive to exempt all federal employees serving Tribal Nations, Tribal citizens, and Tribal communities from any shutdown-related furloughs or reductions in force, citing federal trust and treaty obligations, as well as the critical need to preserve essential public safety, housing, and health services in Indian Country.

##

---

### **About NAIHC**

The National American Indian Housing Council (NAIHC), established in 1974, is the only national, nonprofit organization representing Tribal housing programs and Tribally Designated Housing Entities (TDHEs) across Indian Country. NAIHC provides training, technical assistance, advocacy, and resources to support safe, affordable, and culturally appropriate housing for Native people.



122 C Street NW, Suite 505  
Washington, DC 20001



(202) 789-1754

[www.naihc.net](http://www.naihc.net)