



# **Addressing Homelessness in Tribal Areas: Homeless Housing and Services Technical Assistance for Organizations Serving American Indians and Alaska Natives (on and off Tribal lands)**

## **Invitation to Express Interest**

*The purpose of this intensive technical assistance program is to strengthen partnerships between Tribal communities, urban native communities, homeless crisis response systems, state and local partners, trade associations, and other relevant stakeholders, to decrease the number of American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) households experiencing or at risk of experiencing homelessness by increasing their access to permanent housing.*

### **We are looking for teams who have the following:**

- Demonstrated interest in and commitment to developing partnerships and systems to set a path toward ending homelessness;
- Representatives from a Federal- or State-recognized Tribe, Tribal Department of Government including: Tribal Council, Human Services/Behavioral Health, Planning Department and/or Housing Department;
- Representatives from Native American-led non-profits, Tribally Designated Housing Entity, Regional Housing Association, Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs), Community Development Corporations (CDCs), Indian Health Centers or other entities whose mission is to provide housing or supportive services to American Indians/Alaska Natives living on or off tribal lands;
- Point in Time or other studies or data generated by Tribes themselves, showing the need for housing and services addressing AI/AN homelessness;
- Existing partnerships or organizations with the capacity to coordinate on initiatives to address homelessness and housing instability;
- A designated lead entity/sponsor who has worked with American Indians and Alaska Natives experiencing or at risk of experiencing homelessness. Team lead entities/sponsors can be a Federal- or State-recognized Tribe, Tribal Department of Government, Tribally Designated Housing Entity, Regional Housing Authority, or a Native American-led non-profit.

### **Questions & Answers...**

#### **What is the goal of the Technical Assistance effort?**

The goal is to assist participating teams in developing a feasible plan for addressing homelessness in their communities. This includes:

- 1) Assisting tribes to develop and strengthen relationships with federal, state, and local governments, national organizations, and trade associations;
- 2) Providing guidance on how to navigate and optimize federal housing resources;
- 3) Developing homeless crisis response systems equipped to address the housing and service needs of American Indians and Alaska Natives experiencing or at-risk of experiencing homelessness on and off tribal lands;
- 4) Assisting communities, on and off tribal lands, to develop plans for data collection on homelessness and housing instability among American Indians and Alaska Natives; and
- 5) Building infrastructure and capacity to develop and implement permanent supportive housing (PSH)\* in tribal communities (e.g., producing PSH units, aligning health and behavioral health care with housing resources to provide a package of assistance, and developing culturally responsive assessment tools and services).

*\* **Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)** is an evidence-based practice that provides permanent housing in combination with targeted supportive services to assist homeless persons with a disability to live independently. Since PSH is a priority for this TA effort, the focus will be on this model. However, some time may be spent considering other effective interventions, such as rapid rehousing, another permanent housing option that is designed to quickly exit households from homelessness and return them to permanent housing. Emergency shelter, transitional housing, and affordable housing can also be explored.*

### **How will teams be organized?**

Each team will consist of 3-5 members including: 1) a representative of the lead entity/sponsor who has worked with American Indians and Alaska Natives experiencing or at risk of experiencing homelessness; and 2) 2-4 individuals representing partners such as: Native American-led organizations, Indian Health Centers, Tribal Department, Tribally Designated Housing Entity, Regional Housing Association and Government representatives, homeless and housing system representatives, development partners, property management entities, and/or other members who will be key decision makers in a project.

Team members are not required to have had direct experience working to address AI/AN homelessness but will lead the development and implementation of a plan to address homelessness for AI/AN populations in their community. All team members should be identified on the interest form if possible; the technical assistance team is available to assist in identifying team members from your community as necessary.

### **How long is this program?**

Each team will participate in three 2-day sessions held in one location (location and dates to be determined). Sessions will be spaced out over several months, giving teams time to develop their plans by building on the work completed during each in-person session. Team members are responsible for their own travel and lodging expenses as this is not covered by this technical assistance program.

### **What topics will be covered during the sessions?**

The sessions will focus on the following topics to assist teams in developing their plans to address homelessness:

- Identifying housing needs for households experiencing or at risk of experiencing homelessness;
- Mapping available local and federal housing and supportive services resources;
- Addressing barriers to providing homeless assistance;
- Developing plans for data collection (including needs data as well as measuring outcomes);

- Identifying opportunities to increase the availability of culturally responsive housing and supportive services within each community.

Teams will report their progress during in-person sessions and engage in group discussions for peer-to-peer learning.

Individualized technical assistance will be provided to participants and will cover culturally responsive homelessness services and housing options, including PSH, from acquisition of land/development costs and funding streams to property management, operations and service provision.

TA consultants will be present throughout the process to work with teams as they develop their plans. Various staff from federal, state, and local governments, national organizations, trade associations, development specialists, service providers, Continuum of Care (CoC)\* representatives, and funders will also be available at sessions to meet with individual teams to discuss how each community can access services and potential funding. Every attempt will be made to have representatives from Tribal Departments and Governments present for as many of the sessions as possible.

*\* A Continuum of Care is a local/regional group organized to carry out the responsibilities required under HUD's Continuum of Care Program. CoCs are composed of representatives of organizations, including nonprofit homeless providers, victim service providers, faith-based organizations, governments, businesses, advocates, public housing agencies, school districts, social service providers, mental health agencies, hospitals, universities, affordable housing developers, law enforcement, organizations that serve homeless and formerly homeless veterans, and homeless and formerly homeless persons to the extent these groups are represented within the geographic area and are available to participate.*

### **What happens in between sessions?**

Individualized technical assistance plans will be crafted once teams have committed to and begun the process with the cohort. In between each session, TA providers will engage with each team via calls/virtual meetings to ensure participants have ongoing support in developing their plans to address homelessness.

### **How will this TA program benefit our community?**

The final outcome of this technical assistance is the development of an actionable plan to address AI/AN homelessness for your community. Your community will also benefit from the opportunity to: learn about best practices (specifically in housing and supportive service delivery); develop strategies to secure local, statewide and regional funding sources; and establish partnerships, while working with other communities towards the shared goal of ending homelessness.

# Interest Form

## Project Sponsor/Team Lead Information

<b>Organization/Tribe:</b>
<b>Primary Contact:</b>
<b>Address:</b>
<b>Work Phone:</b>
<b>Cell Phone:</b>
<b>Email Address:</b>
Organization Mission:
Experience with affordable/supportive housing development, management, service provision:
What is your organization's capacity (i.e., time commitment, travel funding, staffing, etc.) to participate in the technical assistance program (three, 2-day sessions) and ongoing efforts as they relate to building/strengthening partnerships for addressing homelessness and housing instability in your community?

## Community Information

Describe the greatest needs that homeless AI/AN individuals/families face in your community.

Provide a brief overview of available data on the extent of AI/AN homelessness in your community. (For example, most recent Point in Time data, number of AI/AN individuals/families experiencing homelessness in your community, etc.)

Does your community or region have a plan in place to address homelessness? If so, please provide a link or copy of the plan.

Does your community or region currently collaborate with the local Continuum of Care? If so, please describe how you have worked together in the past.

Identify the housing in your community that is available to individuals and families experiencing homelessness:

Permanent Supportive Housing (Y/N)	Number of units available:
Rapid Re-housing (Y/N)	Number of units available:
Transitional Housing (Y/N)	Number of units available:
Emergency Shelter (Y/N)	Number of beds available:

### Team Members - Information

Names of identified organizations and individual team members:	
Team Member Name:	Organization Name:
Team Member Name:	Organization Name:
Team Member Name:	Organization Name:
Team Member Name:	Organization Name:
Team Member Name:	Organization Name:

Do you require assistance from technical assistance providers to identify additional team members from your community? (Y/N)
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### Areas of Interest

Which of the following interventions are you interested in exploring to address homelessness in your community?	
Permanent Supportive Housing (Tenant-Based) (Y/N)	Permanent Supportive Housing (Project-Based) (Y/N)
Permanent Supportive Housing (Sponsor-Based) (Y/N)	Rapid Re-housing (Tenant-Based) (Y/N)
Rapid Re-housing (Project-Based) (Y/N)	Transitional Housing (Y/N)
Emergency Shelter (Y/N)	Family Shelter (Y/N)
Population-specific Housing (youth, families, Veterans, Domestic Violence) (Y/N)	Other? (Please specify)

Are you interested in developing new housing units? (Y/N)
If so, how many new units of housing would you anticipate?
Type of housing (e.g., townhomes, apartments, etc.)?
Are you interested in rehabilitating existing housing units? (Y/N)
If so, how many rehabilitated units of housing would you anticipate?
Type of housing (e.g., townhomes, apartments, etc.)?
Describe anticipated development site:
Do you or a participating agency have site control?

**For additional information:**

If you have questions or need assistance completing the form, please contact:

LindaLee Retka, Program Director, National American Indian Housing Council  
 phone: 218-343-7662 email: lretka@naihc.net

Laura Chaath, Associate, Collaborative Solutions, Inc.  
 phone: 205-939-0411x217 email: laura@collaborative-solutions.net

**Please send completed form to:**

LindaLee Retka, Program Director National American Indian Housing Council  
 email: lretka@naihc.net



**Gimaajii-Mino-Bimaadizimin – Supportive Housing project in Duluth, MN**  
*29 units of housing, an American Indian Center, offices for tribal partners, rooftop gardens, art galleries*

