



**Honoring Government-to-Government Relationships with Tribal Nations from the
Lens of Non-Native Leaders in State Government**

Cathy ten Broeke, Assistant Commissioner

July 1, 2025

Land Acknowledgment

Today as we gather it is of utmost importance that we all recognize the land we are living and working on is stolen land from our Native American relatives. We must seek to understand our place within that history and use that understanding to work towards justice.

Overview: Minnesota Interagency Council on Homelessness

The Council is led by Lt. Governor Flanagan, Co-Chaired by Commissioner of Human Services and Commission of Housing, and includes the following agencies:

- Department of Administration
- Department of Children, Youth and Families
- Department of Corrections
- Department of Education
- Department of Employment and Economic Development
- Department of Health
- Department of Human Services
- Department of Public Safety
- Department of Revenue
- Department of Transportation
- Department of Veterans Affairs
- Metropolitan Council
- Minnesota Housing
- Minnesota Management and Budget
- Office of Higher Education

Minnesota Interagency Council on Homelessness

We serve three primary purposes:

- **Coordinate across agencies** and with community partners to build pathways to housing, racial and health justice for people facing homelessness
- **Provide expertise** to partners through technical assistance, public testimony, and raising awareness around the solutions to homelessness
- **Create interagency Housing Stability Budget package** for the Governor



Crossroads to Justice Plan

- On January 1, 2024 the Interagency Council on Homelessness began implementation of the Crossroads to Justice Strategic Plan.
- The plan was co-developed with 10 paid consultants with lived experience of homelessness. It is now being implemented with 14 paid implementation consultants with lived expertise.
- It focuses strategies and actions the state can take, in partnership with community, to achieve five bold results.



Learn more at
<https://mich.mn.gov/crossroads-justice-strategic-plan>

11 Tribal Nations in Minnesota



Ojibwe Nations (North of Twin Cities Metro)

- Red Lake Nation
- Bois Forte Band of Chippewa
- Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa
- White Earth Nation
- Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe
- Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa
- Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe

Dakota Nations (Twin Cities Metro and South)

- Upper Sioux Community
- Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community
- Lower Sioux Indian Community
- Prairie Island Indian Community

Minnesota Tribal Collaborative to Prevent and End Homelessness

A collaborative of 10 tribes from across Minnesota combining sovereignty, collaboration, and data to successfully pursue policy changes and fundraising goals aimed at preventing and ending homelessness in tribal communities.



"To build relationships it is always good to invest in activities that strengthen the relationship, such as timely invites to events, ensure that all partners are aligned on shared goals and objectives, and joint problem-solving. Be willing to adapt to changing needs and circumstances and implement changes and adjustments as needed. Establish clear and consistent communication channels, including regular check-ins, feedback loops, and open dialogue."

-Tammy Moreland

Minnesota Tribal Collaborative to Prevent and End Homelessness Chairperson

Minnesota's Commitment: Strengthening Tribal and State Government Relationships

In 2019 Governor Walz issued Executive Order 19-24 and in 2022 established it in statute, [Minnesota Statute 10.65](#):

- Affirms that the State of Minnesota recognizes and supports the unique status of the Minnesota Tribal Nations and their right to existence, to self-govern, and to possess self-determination.
- Directs state agencies to recognize the unique legal relationship between the State of Minnesota and the Minnesota Tribal Nations and respect the fundamental principles that establish and maintain this relationship.
- Requires all state agencies to designate Tribal Liaisons that will be able to directly and regularly meet and communicate with the Agency's Commissioner and Deputy and Assistant Commissioners to appropriately conduct government-to-government conversations.
- Mandates tribal-relations training for all state leaders and other employees whose work may impact Tribes.

Tribal-State Relations Training

- Minnesota conducts a Tribal-State Relations Training (TSRT) to State leadership and employees 11 times a year and is hosted by each Tribal Nation.
- Over 8,000 State employees trained
- Lower Sioux Indian Community TSRT July 2025
- Learn more at: <https://www.dot.state.mn.us/tribaltraining/>

Examples of Strategies in Minnesota

- Working in partnership with members of the Metropolitan Urban Indian Directors (MUID), Hennepin County, and City of Minneapolis to focus collective efforts to reduce unsheltered homelessness and opioid use and overdoses for native relatives in South Minneapolis.
- Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS) provided \$1.5 million in direct funding to MUID for member organizations to respond to critical health and safety needs for unsheltered relatives.
- DHS provided directly allocated funds from the Emergency Services Program (ESP) to Tribal Nations, which can fund outreach and shelter services for people experiencing homelessness.
- DHS advanced legislative changes to provide direct funding to Tribes for traditional health and some critical behavioral health services. Direct funding streamlines access to resources for Tribal governments to develop culturally appropriate services.



Examples of Strategies in Minnesota

- Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) partnering with Tribal Nations to expand connections with local career force centers and exploring building career centers on Tribal Nations.
- Minnesota Housing working with each Tribal Nation to develop clearer processes for signing contracts and managing disbursements of funds.
- Minnesota Statute 2023, Chapter 37, Article 4, Section 4, subd 4 - all Federally recognized Indian Tribes in Minnesota or their associated Tribally Designated Housing Entity eligible for all Minnesota Housing Programs and funding
- Metropolitan Council set aside 10% of their waitlist openings for Housing Choice Vouchers for Native American households.
- Department of Revenue Tribal Nation Aid provides direct allocations to Tribal Nations to support general operations. Learn more at: <https://www.revenue.state.mn.us/tribal-nation-aid>



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Miigwech!
Pidamaya ye/do!
Thank you!

OREGON HOUSING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

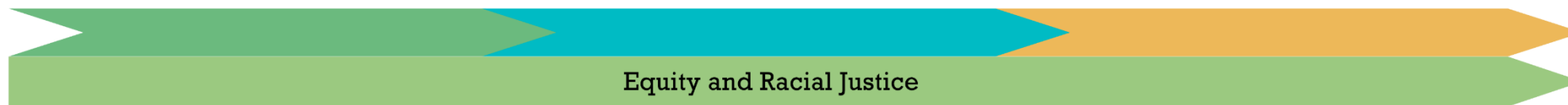
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July 1, 2025

Judy Hui-Pasquini, Senior Local and Tribal Policy Analyst
Housing Stabilization Division

Serving Oregonians Across the Housing Continuum



Equity and Racial Justice

Housing Stabilization

Homeless Services Programs

Housing Retention Programs

Oregon Multifamily Energy Program

Energy Assistance

Weatherization Programs

Affordable Rental Housing

Predevelopment Loan Program

Land Acquisition Program

Low-Income Housing Tax Credits

Oregon Affordable Housing Tax Credit

Agricultural Workforce Housing Tax Credit

Local Innovation & Fast Track (LIFT) Rental

General Housing Account Program

HOME Investment Partnerships

HOME American Rescue Plan

National Housing Trust Fund

Permanent Supportive Housing

Moderate Income Revolving Loan Program

Housing Choice Voucher Program

Homeownership

Down Payment Assistance

Homeownership Centers

LIFT Homeownership

Homeownership Development

Incubator Program

Flex Lending

Manufactured and Marina

Communities Resource Center

Manufactured Home Replacement Program

Restore Health & Safety

Foreclosure Avoidance Counseling

Homeowner Assistance

Fund (sunsets March '25)



Historical Barriers to State Housing Funding

- **Infringement on tribal sovereignty**
 - Language in contract that tribes must waive sovereignty to accept funding
 - Not honoring Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreements (NICRAs)
- **Lack of OHCS Gov-to-Gov Relationship with Tribal Nations**
 - Tribal Nations did not regularly engage with OHCS and OHCS had limited engagement with tribal nations.
 - Understanding of tribal governmental structures and processes
- **Complex, competitive, expensive and time-consuming applications**
 - Building programs for tribes without tribal input or understanding of limitations to funding
 - OHCS previously did not offer tribal set aside funding and preference points are not enough to make a difference in an application



By and For Initiative – Native American Tribes of Oregon (BAFI-NATO)

- **Intent: Create and support local programs designed to prevent and reduce homelessness and housing instability in Tribal communities across Oregon.**
 - Development of our first Tribal set aside for homelessness response and prevention funding (December 2021).
- **Consultation and Engagement Series with the Tribes of Oregon**
- **First time in over 30 years that all nine Tribal Nations participated in one OHCS housing program**
- **We successfully removed barriers to participation to funding:**
 - Removed infringements on sovereignty,
 - honored tribal NICRAs,
 - used consensus decision making
 - funding was non-competitive.



BAFI-NATO Program Eligibility & Activities

Program Activities:

Homelessness prevention	Operations for emergency shelter/transitional
Rental assistance	Operations of supportive housing sites
Street outreach	Capacity building
Development, rehabilitation and conversion of emergency shelter/transitional housing sites	Data collection

Participant Eligibility: Based on housing status without income limitations. Tribal Nations can choose their service area (within state) and who they choose to serve (can be enrolled tribal members or others within their communities).

Data: From December 2022 to November 2024, 1,340 tribal members (de-duplicated) in Oregon are receiving or have received BAFI NATO services



Project Turnkey 2.0 (PTK 2)

- Oregon Legislature allocated \$50 million for 2nd round of Project Turnkey in 2022. Administered by Oregon Community Foundation (OCF) through a competitive grant application, with the goal of providing award funds as a strategic investment to support communities with short-term emergency shelter that can be converted to permanent housing in the long term.
- Initially, OCF did not receive any applications from Tribal entities and reached out to OHCS to discussed how to better work with the tribal nations. **OHCS advocated for changes to the application process and successfully facilitated discussions between OCF and Tribal Nations which resulted in three tribal applications for PTK2.**
- Funding through BAFI- NATO supports capacity building, including technical assistance and operations support for other eligible projects. This presents an opportunity for braiding funds.



Homeownership Development (HOD)



- **Burns Paiute Tribe** has issued first downpayment assistance, working with 2nd homebuyer to prep for purchase and closing. Will fund 4 homebuyers purchasing homes recently constructed on Burns Paiute land
- **Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua & Siuslaw** has spent \$75,000 on needed home repairs for tribal members.
- **Coquille Indian Housing Authority** launched a First Time Homebuyer Assistance Program in August 2024; will support three tribal households with down payment assistance.
- **Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde** will build six homes within tipsu-ili'i (grass land). They will build 20 new single-family homes for tribal members within a larger 52-unit project. Three homes have sold, and the other three homes have buyers waiting to close escrow
- Nixyáawii Community Financial Services (NFCS) & **Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation** is about 20% through building 21 two- and three-bedroom homes.
- **HDIP 23-25 biennium had a \$5M competitive set aside for Tribal Nations**

Affordable Rental Housing (ARH)

- ARH launched ORCA in spring of 2024. Prior to full launch, a “soft launch” with a set of projects that had previously applied for funding but not been awarded through the prior Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) competitive process.
- This set of projects allowed OHCS to test the new ORCA system. The soft launch involved five projects, including a tribal rental housing development with **Confederated Tribes of Umatilla Indians**.
- **In the 23-25 Biennium: \$30M in tribal set asides for affordable rental housing projects**



Braiding State Housing Funds: Examples of Recent Tribal Developments



(Left) Klamath Tribes: Former Melita's Hotel & Restaurant property blended BAFI-NATO funding and Project Turnkey 2.0 funding to create 26 Supportive Housing units for tribal elders

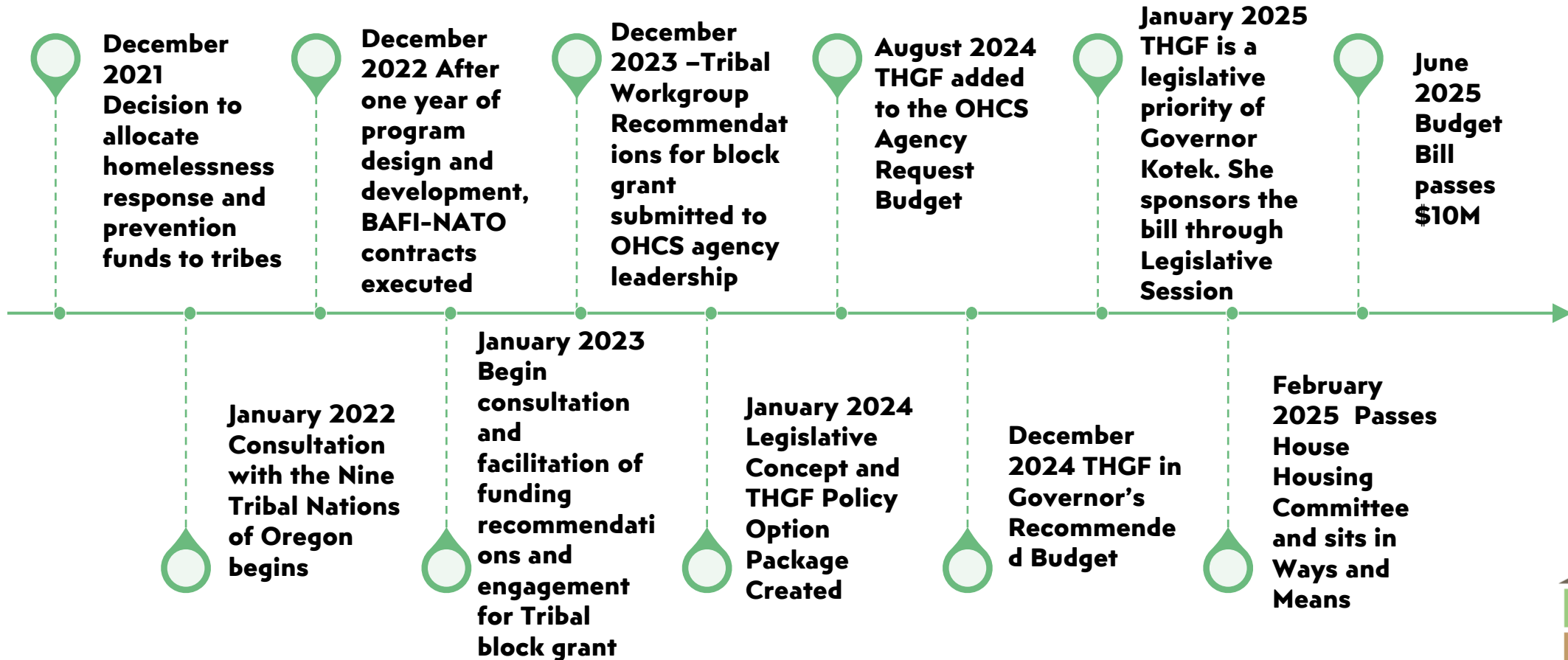
(Right) Warm Springs Tribe completes 10-unit Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) project

Tribal Housing Grant Fund (THGF): State Funded Housing Block Grant

- Funding recommendation came from a year long workgroup - 2023
- Included tribal housing leaders, health and human services leaders, and tribal council members
- Facilitation of a tribally-led funding recommendation, calling for dedicated, ongoing, flexible fund for tribes.
 - Topics for designing this program with Tribal input: overall vision, funding formulas and allocation, scope of activities/expenditures, contracting and procurement, reporting, data sovereignty, monitoring and technical assistance



Development Timeline of the Tribal Housing Grant Fund (Block Grant)



Tribal Engagement & Consultation

- OHCS 1-on-1 meetings with Tribes
- OHCS Consultation for program and planning design
- T & TA providers tribally run firms or consultants with a demonstrated history of working with tribal nations
- Meeting Spaces
 - Tribal Housing Work Group – monthly subgroup of Legislative Commission on Indian Services (LCIS)
 - OHCS Office Hours (BAFI-NATO)
 - LCIS and its cluster meetings
 - Health and Human Services meetings
 - Economic Development meetings
- **OHCS has a Full-time Tribal Liaison dedicated to the work**



Lessons Learned and Still Learning

Develop gov-to-gov relationships with Tribal Nations and key persons within their governmental structure that is built on **trust**.

Consult early in the process of designing programs that include Tribal Nations

- **Flexibility:** Be willing to think and do things differently. Challenge your own worldview.
- Incorporate feedback into your design framework. Create a feedback loop.
- Policy changes should happen **prior** to or **concurrently** with program design

Education

- Understand the history and current relationships to the Federal government for tribes in your state
- Learn about the governmental structures within each tribal nation and educate other agency staff



Questions?

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