

The INTER-TRIBAL COUNCIL of the FIVE CIVILIZED TRIBES

A Resolution Urging the Administration and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to Ensure the Housing Needs of Tribal Citizens are Met Through an Equitable Allocation of Federal Funding in the Upcoming Budget

Resolution No. 24-13



Chuck Hoskin Jr.
Principal Chief



Bill Anoatubby
Governor



Gary Bolton
Chief



David W. Hill
Principal Chief



Lewis J. Johnson
Principal Chief

WHEREAS, the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes (ITC) is an organization that unites the tribal governments of the Cherokee, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Muscogee (Creek) and Seminole Nation, representing approximately 815,000 Indian people throughout the United States; and

WHEREAS, federal Indian Housing program funding has been diminished, causing major concern among housing authorities and experts within our tribes; and

WHEREAS, the construction of new affordable housing is essential to addressing the housing shortage, but the maintenance and operations of existing units are equally vital (including required insurance coverage), as rent paid by low-income tenants does not cover the costs associated with maintenance and operations; and

WHEREAS, with nearly stagnant block grants eroded by inflation over 20 years, Tribes and Tribally Designated Housing Entities (TDHEs) are required to ensure their existing units are safe, decent, and affordable, which means capital construction is often the last consideration, exacerbating the shortage of affordable housing; and

WHEREAS, diminished forms of federal funding would pose significant challenges to many essential services provided by the housing authorities of our tribes, funds which are instrumental in bridging gaps that local resources alone cannot fill, allowing for comprehensive housing solutions that address both immediate needs and long-term sustainability; and

WHEREAS, the President's FY 2025 budget proposes a significant cut to Indian Housing, which would severely undermine the progress made in recent years to address the financial disparities between public and Indian housing; and

WHEREAS, the budget requests for the Indian Housing Block Grant (IHBG) in both FY 2024 and FY 2025 are nearly identical, proposing no increase for Indian Housing programs, while public housing programs receive successive budget increases, contributing to 20 years of underfunding for Indian housing; and

The INTER-TRIBAL COUNCIL of the FIVE CIVILIZED TRIBES

WHEREAS, in 1998, the Office of Native American Programs (ONAP) received 2.5% of HUD's budget, but this has since decreased to only 1%, reflecting a significant reduction in the proportion of funds allocated to Indian housing programs despite growing needs; and

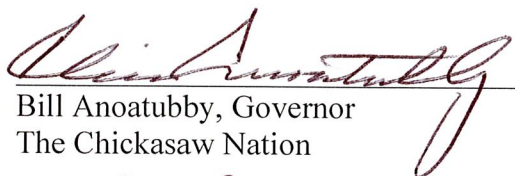
WHEREAS, our request of HUD, the President, and the Office of Management and Budget is simple: to advocate for the equity of our nation's Tribal families, elders, and children, ensuring that the IHBG remains adequately adjusted for inflation and that future funding requests provide equity for Tribal programs, and should meet or exceed the U.S. House proposed budget; when funding increases and decreases are considered.

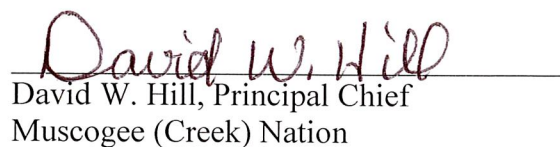
NOW THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT, that the Inter Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes urgently calls upon the Administration and HUD to ensure the housing needs of tribal citizens are met through an equitable allocation of federal funding in the upcoming budget; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Inter Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes requests the Administration to be a partner in advocating for equity for Tribal families, elders, and children, ensuring that the Indian Housing Block Grant remains adequately adjusted for inflation and that future funding requests provide equity for Tribal programs when funding increases and decreases are considered.

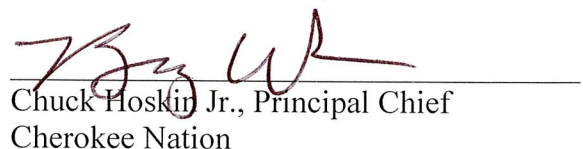
CERTIFICATION

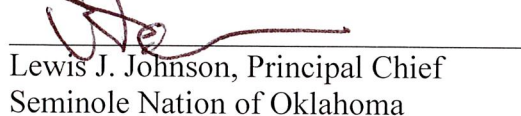
The foregoing resolution was adopted by the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes meeting in Catoosa, Oklahoma on this 12 day of July, 2024, by a vote of 22 for 0 against and 0 abstentions.


Bill Anoatubby, Governor
The Chickasaw Nation


David W. Hill, Principal Chief
Muscogee (Creek) Nation


Gary Bolton, Chief
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma


Chuck Hoskie Jr., Principal Chief
Cherokee Nation


Lewis J. Johnson, Principal Chief
Seminole Nation of Oklahoma