



Homeland Security & Emergency Management

The Administration and Congress have significantly underfunded budgets for homeland security and emergency management. In addition, they have not addressed limited access to grants for tribes preventing them from adequately providing for emergency and first-responder responsibilities, extensive border security responsibilities, and law enforcement jurisdiction to deal with illegal immigration, terrorism, and smuggling. Tribes are part of the national homeland security strategy, and, in certain areas, are the only major governmental presence in many rural and isolated locations, serving as the first, and oftentimes only, law enforcement authority and emergency responders for Native and non-Native communities alike. Tribal homeland security and emergency management operations funding is an essential component of the federal government's trust responsibility.

Key Recommendations

Department of Homeland Security (DHS)

Homeland Security Appropriations Bill

Tribal Homeland Security Grant Program

- *Provide \$20 million annually in additional funding for tribal direct grants for the next five years.*

Since 2008, the Department of Homeland Security has implemented a Tribal Homeland Security Grant Program (THSGP) out of the funds appropriated for the State Homeland Security Grant Program, as authorized by the Homeland Security Act of 2002. In recent years, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has tried to eliminate the Tribal Homeland Security Grant Program, which would require tribes to compete with states for grants. Tribes have strenuously objected to this because states have access to more programs than tribes and often have greater grant writing capacity, which places tribes at a disadvantage in the competitive grant funding process. NCAI strongly urges the Congress to maintain the THSGP by creating a direct appropriation for the program and funding it at \$20 million for the next five years. This would represent a significant increase over the \$10 million that DHS has made available for tribal grants in recent years and is justified by the documented needs tribes report in their requests for assistance. In recent years, tribes have needed and requested over \$50

million for Tribal Homeland Security Grant Program. The requested appropriation will enable tribes to fulfill the crucial role as first-responders and border security officials in a broad array of key jurisdictions throughout the nation.

Department of Homeland Security

Homeland Security Appropriations Bill

Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative

- *Provide \$10 million to enable tribal governments to work cooperatively with DHS in developing tribal identification cards.*

Tribal governments are faced with the cost-prohibitive, unfunded mandate to comply with the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative for enhanced tribal identification (ID) cards. Funding for these tribal ID cards will enable tribal government officials to continue to cross borders in accordance with longstanding treaty rights and agreements and enter into federal offices where they regularly conduct business.

Department of Homeland Security (DHS)

Homeland Security Appropriations Bill

Federal Emergency Management Agency

- *Provide \$500,000 for the creation and operation of a National Tribal Advisory Council.*

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) supports the National Advisory Council (NAC), which was established by the enactment of the Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act of 2006 to ensure effective and ongoing coordination of Federal preparedness, protection, response, recovery, and mitigation for natural disasters, acts of terrorism, and other manmade disasters. The NAC advises the FEMA Administrator on all aspects of emergency management. The authorizing statute requires participation from tribal government experts, but FEMA limits participation to two tribal representatives. To ensure that diverse tribal needs are adequately represented, FEMA should set up a National Tribal Advisory Council (Tribal NAC). This is particularly important as FEMA implements the new authorities created for tribal governments in the Stafford Act. Congress should provide \$500,000 for the creation and operation of a Tribal NAC.

Department of Homeland Security (DHS)

Homeland Security Appropriations Bill

Federal Emergency Management Agency, Emergency Management Institute

- *Provide \$1 million for tribal government emergency management training.*

Implementation of tribal government amendments to the Stafford Act is not complete and emphasis should be placed on developing tribal emergency management program staffing and capability. The FEMA Emergency Management Institute (EMI) has developed several training courses for tribal officials toward enhanced tribal government emergency management capacity. The current EMI budget restricts delivery of the courses at EMI and in the field. NCAI urges the Congress to provide FEMA with budget support for delivery of tribal emergency management courses. Specifically, we request that \$1 million be included for tribal government emergency management training.