

IHBG Competitive Grant Evaluation

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER – Spring 2026

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Status Update

The study started in January, and the team is developing an outreach strategy for the case studies.

Why This Research Matters

Congress funded the evaluation of the IHBG competitive grant program to learn if it is spurring new construction that meets Tribal needs for affordable housing and to identify opportunities to improve the program.

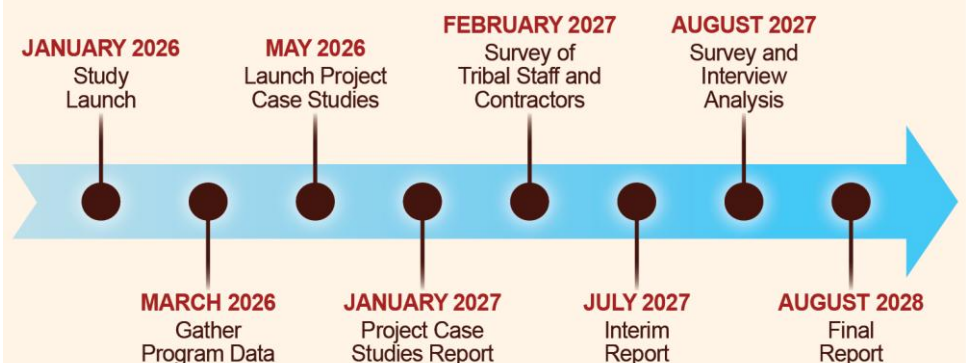
Notes from the Research Team

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The research team is currently working to select IHBG-Comp projects to participate in case studies for the first phase of the project. We are working with Area ONAP Administrators to learn about specific projects that may be eligible to participate. The purpose of the case studies is to learn about different experiences with the competitive grant. We want to learn from both projects that were successfully completed or those that are stalled. We will gather information that is actionable by HUD about the factors that make it challenging to carry out a competitive grant project. The team will also learn about things that are going well that can facilitate grant success.

The study has many research elements. After the case studies, the team will analyze the American Community Survey (ACS)/Census data, conduct a representative survey of all Tribes that participate in the IHBG, do a comparison of formula and competitive grant outcomes, do a thorough analysis of all the competitive grants to understand outcomes and how the competition works, finally, in-depth interviews with 30 Tribal Staff and Contractors will be conducted to help further understand the survey results and other quantitative findings.

Project Timeline



Updates:

Construction Project Case Studies

The case studies will provide useful knowledge for all Tribes and TDHEs that are interested in applying for a competitive grant or would just like to have more ideas about how to manage their projects successfully. HUD will learn about actions they can take to make the program easier to implement.

IHBG Administrative Data

The team is currently working with HUD staff to gather Annual Performance Reports and possibly other data to help understand the IHBG-Comp program. Part of the study will compare the Formula and Grant programs.

ACS and Census Data

The team will gather ACS/Census data to learn about the housing needs of AIAN people nationwide. This work will start after the next data release by the Census Bureau in June 2026.

Survey of Tribal/TDHE Staff

The survey will address larger issues that affect all Tribes related to housing issues. It will also allow for a comparison of the experiences of recipients of both formula and competitive funding as well as of successful and unsuccessful IHBG-COMP applicants.

Interviews with Tribal Staff and Contractors

Interviews will explore in more depth issues encountered during the case study process and any survey results that need further clarification. The interviews will allow for more of the firsthand experiences with the IHBG-Comp to inform the study.

Questions? Please contact:

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