

IHBG Competitive Grant Evaluation

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER – Summer 2026



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Status Update

The study team has scheduled five out of six site visits for case studies; the first site visits will be in July. The study team is also beginning to analyze census data in July.

Why This Research Matters

Congress funded the evaluation of the IHBG Competitive Grant program to learn whether 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

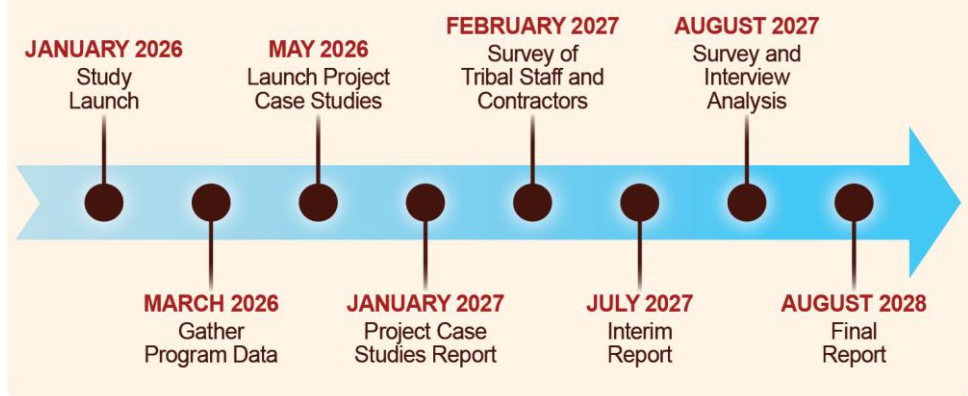
By Jennifer Stoloff, Ph.D., Project Director, Econometrica, Inc.

The research team is currently planning visits to Tribes who agreed to participate in the case studies. The case studies are intended to uncover facilitators and barriers to building with the Indian Housing Block Grant Competitive Program (IHBG-Comp) grants and to identify actions that the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) could take to make it easier to carry out a project using an IHBG competitive grant. Case studies are very labor intensive, and we are only able to include a limited number in the evaluation. All Tribes will have an opportunity to provide feedback on the competitive program via the survey that will be circulated next year.

The research team is developing a database using the competitive program Annual Performance Reports (APRs). These data will allow the team to document the program outcomes and look at changes over time.

The team has developed draft survey instruments to allow us to collect information directly from Tribal and Tribally Designated Housing Entity (TDHE) staff. These data collection instruments are currently under review by HUD and will also be reviewed by our two expert panels.

Project Timeline



Updates:

Project Case Studies

Six Tribes have agreed to participate in case studies. The case studies will provide useful knowledge for all Tribes and TDHEs that are interested in applying for a competitive grant, and HUD will learn about actions HUD could take to make the program easier to implement.

Technical Expert and Resident Expert Panels

The research team has recruited members for two panels. The panels will review the interim materials and reports and provide feedback and guidance to the team.

IHBG Administrative Data

HUD has provided APRs and other data for the evaluation. The team is working closely with HUD staff to get more data.

ACS and Census Data

The team will gather American Community Survey (ACS)/Census data to learn about the housing conditions and needs of American Indian and Alaska Native people nationwide.

Survey of Tribal/TDHE Staff

The survey will gather information about Tribal housing and allow the research team to compare experiences of recipients of formula and competitive funding and of successful and unsuccessful IHBG-Comp applicants. The survey will take place in 2027.

Interviews with Tribal Staff and Contractors

Interviews will explore selected topics encountered during the case studies in greater depth and seek clarification for puzzling survey results. The interviews will allow the research team to capture more firsthand experiences with IHBG-Comp.

Questions? Please contact:

Jennifer Stoloff, Ph.D.

JStoloff@Econometricalnc.com

(240) 204-5159