ECONOMETRICA, INC.

IHBG Competitive Grant Evaluation



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER – Fall 2026

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Status Update

The study team has scheduled eight site visits for case studies and completed seven. In the fall, the team will work on the "project descriptions" report, based on the case studies.

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

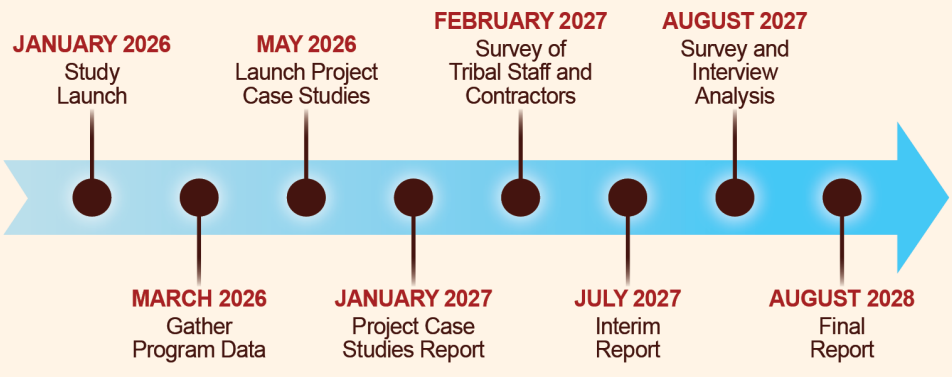
By Jennifer Stoloff, Ph.D., Project Director, Econometrica, Inc.

Since July, the research team has visited seven of the eight Tribes that agreed to participate in case studies of their Indian Housing Block Grant Competitive Program (IHBG-Comp) grant. The last visit is scheduled for October. The research team has learned a great deal from our visits. We appreciate the warm welcome we received and the time staff spent with us. The case studies will provide useful information for Tribes and Tribally Designated Housing Entities (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. The team learned that many Tribes had challenges because of COVID-19, but most were able to complete all or most of the work proposed under their comp grants. The site visits have also highlighted innovative approaches that Tribes used to address cost increases and other obstacles.

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 drafted survey instruments to allow us to collect information directly from Tribal and TDHE staff. The data collection instruments have been reviewed by HUD, the Tribal Intergovernmental Advisory Committee (TIAC) and our two expert panels. All Tribes will have an opportunity to provide feedback on the IHBG-Comp via the survey that will be circulated next year.

Project Timeline



Updates:

Project Case Studies

Eight Tribes agreed to participate in case studies, which are intended to uncover facilitators and barriers to building with the IHBG-Comp and to identify actions that HUD could take to make it easier to carry out a project using a competitive grant.

Technical Expert and Resident Expert Panels

The research team has recruited members for two expert panels. The panels met in August to review the Research Design and Data Collection and Analysis Plan, including the data collection instruments.

IHBG Administrative Data

HUD has provided APRs and other data for the evaluation. The team is working closely with HUD staff to get IHBG-Comp application data. All data will be kept confidential and only used in summary form in the study reports.

ACS and Census Data

The team is working to 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 IHBG formula and IHBG-Comp 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 unexpected 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@EconometricaInc.com
(240) 204-5159