### INDIAN HOUSING BLOCK GRANT

**HISTORY & TIMELINE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1000s - 1790s</td>
<td>Tribal nations self-governed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1790s - 1850s</td>
<td>Tribal nations ceded lands to U.S. government</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1850s - 1920s</td>
<td>Indian Reorganization Act of 1934 established a single federal block grant for tribes and Tribally Designated Housing Entities to provide housing assistance to their tribal members. This shift recognized Native rights to self-determination and self-governance, and it formalized the mechanisms by which Indian nations could leverage federal funds to address local needs.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### INDIENOUS HOUSING in METRO-AREAS

Leveraging Federal Block Grants for Urban Housing

The Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (NAHASDA) established a flexible federal block grant for tribes and Tribally Designated Housing Entities to provide housing assistance to their tribal members. This shift recognized Native rights to self-determination and self-governance, and it formalized the mechanisms by which Indian nations could leverage federal funds to address local needs. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development currently administers the Indian Housing Block Grant (IHBG) annually, with funds specifically prioritized to housing on reservation or in tribal areas. In Oregon, a majority of funds go to the ongoing operation and maintenance of 1937 Housing Act units.

The population of Indigenous people living in metropolitan areas is growing, and while urban areas may include reservations or Alaska Native villages, most centers less than 1% of designated tribal lands. In Portland, the Nesika Illahee development is part-funded by an IHBG grant awarded to the Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indians of Oregon. It is a case study in financing multi-family housing in urban areas with units prioritized for Indigenous families. 82 percent of the 510 enrolled members of the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians live within the state of Oregon, but fewer than a third live on or near a reservation. An IHBG recipient, the State has the flexibility to leverage their federal dollars to access other sources of funds. In partnership with private developers and culturally-specific community service organizations, Nesika Illahee will provide 25 housing to families earning 60 percent or less of Portland’s Area Median Income.

The Nesika Illahee development is the first time a partnership of private developers, a tribal entity, and community service organizations has built affordable housing for Native families in Portland. The funding strategy utilized local, state, and federal funds to address different members of the diverse partnership. In conjunction with the IHBG, the project received state public funds for multifamily housing that prioritizes low-income families and incorporates access to mental health services.

Portland’s 2019 Point in Count indicates that people of color are disproportionately homeless, and people identifying as American Indian or Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, and Black or African American are in particular, are overrepresented in the region's homeless population. Oregon Health and Community Services ensured that the layered funding model allows for public dollars reserved for enrolled members of federally recognized tribes, while still complying with fair housing laws.

Nationally, IHBG funds allocations have not kept pace with inflation, with funding decreasing by 37% since 2003, while both the need and scope of serving the need have increased. As a result, sponsors' case studies provide a framework for prioritizing these funds with local and state financing opportunities.

---

### 2019 Statewide Impact

**DISPERESEMENT OF THE IHBG IN OREGON**

The graphic expands the Indian Reorganization Act (and acquisition of housing by Oregon’s nine federally-recognized tribes) funded through the IHBG. With data from the Indian Housing Plan submitted annually to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, funding priorities were converted into new construction or acquisition of housing units, maintenance and operation of current housing stock, and housing services and programs.

![Homeless Research & Action Collaborative](http://www.portlandstate.edu/~act)