

# New Mexico Indian Affairs Department



# REPORT TO TRIBAL LEADERS

May 2022

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 1 Executive Summary**
- 2 Department Overview & Background**
- 3 Legislative Affairs**
- 4 Policy & Programming**
- 5 Public Relations, Communications & Outreach**
- 6 Boards, Commissions & Committees**
- 7 Programs Administered by the Administrative Services Division**
- 8 Agency Contact Information**

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

**In nearly three and a half years,** the Lujan Grisham administration has not only rebuilt state government but has delivered on its promises to New Mexico's Nations, Tribes, Pueblos and Native American citizens. The Governor understands and respects the sovereign-to-sovereign relationships with the 23 Nations, Tribes and Pueblos. Tribal leadership has a direct line to the Governor and the Cabinet.

Under the leadership of Governor Lujan Grisham, the role of the Indian Affairs Department (IAD or Department) has been elevated and enhanced. This administration recognizes the crucial role the Department plays in advocating for tribes and Native American citizens, facilitating substantive dialogue on policy and legislation and convening all cabinet-level agencies to resolve issues of importance to New Mexico's Native American communities and people.

To support the Department's role, the administration has supported budget and staffing increases. From 2019 to 2022, the Department's general fund budget (not including other transfers) grew from \$2.53 million to \$3.47 million which equates to a growth of \$941,500.00 or an increase of 73%. The Department's overall budget grew by \$1.04 million (including other transfers).

Most notable is the support of the Executive to increase the Department's staffing, which is vital as the role of the Department under this administration has grown in facilitating substantive dialogue on major policy and programs affecting the state's sovereign nations and Native American people. From 2019 to 2022, the Department's staffing increased from 15 full-time employees (FTEs) to 23 FTEs. To support the recruitment, retention and build expertise within the Department the Executive supported increases in Personal Services and Employee Benefits (200 Category). From 2019 to 2022, the Department's 200 Category budget grew from \$1.11 million to \$2.38 million which equates to a growth of \$1.27 million or an increase of 47%.

The Department's six new FTEs secured in the 2022 Legislative Session and 2022 Third Special Session will build capacity on the Office of the Secretary and the Administrative Services Division.

Lastly, this administration has done more to support appropriations that directly benefit tribal communities and people. Within the years of 2019-2021, about 391 total appropriations were funded in the amount of \$147.7 million for tribal communities. Of the total appropriations, Governor Lujan Grisham directed her portion of capital funding to fund a total of 105 appropriations in the amount of \$82 million for tribal communities.

## INDIAN AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT | 2022 REPORT TO TRIBAL LEADERS

During the 2022 legislative session, there were approximately 165 tribal capital outlay appropriations which totaled \$58.9 million in Senate Bill 212. Of the total appropriations, Governor Lujan Grisham directed her portion of capital funding to fund 46 appropriations totaling \$36.08 million. Additionally, in House Bill 153 there was a total of \$11.8 million of General Obligation Bonds of which there was \$1.8 million for tribal senior centers, \$1 million for tribal library resources and \$9 million for tribal higher education institutions.



## DEPARTMENT OVERVIEW & BACKGROUND

**The New Mexico Indian Affairs Department** leads the intergovernmental and interagency coordination of programs and matters that concern tribal governments and the State of New Mexico. The Department is one of just two cabinet-level Indian affairs agencies in the nation. This is just one example of the State's commitment to honor the government-to-government relationship with New Mexico's twenty-three (23) sovereign nations.

As a cabinet-level department, IAD is uniquely positioned to support state-tribal relations and enhance inter-governmental collaboration between the Governor's Office, state agencies, and the state's Nations, Tribes, and Pueblos on programs and issues affecting Native Americans in New Mexico. The Department's broad statutory authority in the Indian Affairs Department Act (NMSA §9-21-0 to 9-21-16) provides the IAD with the authority to:

1. Investigate, study, consider and act upon the entire subject of Indian conditions and relations within New Mexico, including areas of health, economy, education and the effect of local, state, and federal legislative, executive and judicial actions; and
2. Assist in setting the policy, and act as the clearinghouse, for all state programs affecting the Indian people of New Mexico.

The Department addresses complex issues facing the 23 sovereign nations and New Mexico's Indigenous population, administers funding and provides programming through the Office of the Secretary and the Administrative Services Division. The following are broad areas of the Department's work:

- Legislative Affairs
- Policy and Programming
- Public Relations, Communication and Outreach
- Boards, Commissions and Committees
- Capital Outlay
- Tribal Infrastructure Fund
- Special Projects Grant Program
- Tobacco Cessation & Prevention Grant Program
- Technical Assistance and Training

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The Department is guided by its core values which are: service, respect, and community. Our vision is that tribal nations and tribal communities are happy, healthy, and prosperous, where traditional ways of life are honored, valued, and respected.

The Department is committed to serving as a resource for tribal communities by:

- Advocating for tribal interests through policy and legislative advocacy.
- Supporting tribes with access to resources, technical assistance, and funding opportunities.
- Building relationships between tribes and the executive branch, state departments, and the legislature.



# LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

**Every legislative session**, the IAD's policy unit tracks legislation that is introduced and provides analysis on legislation impacting Nations, Tribes, Pueblos, and Native Americans across the state of New Mexico. Following each session, IAD compiles a report that summarizes tribally-related legislation that is of interest to tribal communities and Native Americans. Below is a summary of highlights of the 2022 Legislative Session. A full report may be found [here](#).



## **2022 Regular Legislative Session**

The 30-day legislative session took place from January 18, 2022, to February 17, 2022. The primary focus of the 30-day session was budget-related legislation. The IAD tracked more than 50 bills and provided analysis of 36 bills impacting New Mexico's Nations, Tribes, Pueblos, and urban Indian communities.

## **Tribal Infrastructure Investments**

The Lujan Grisham administration provided another historic year of tribal infrastructure investments which totaled over \$70 million.

TRIBAL INFRASTRUCTURE BY CATEGORY	Sum of FUNDED AMOUNT
Children & Family Facilities (domestic violence shelters, daycares, etc.).....	\$2,900,000
Community Facilities.....	\$6,718,000
Cultural Facilities (libraries, museums, arts, etc.).....	\$3,756,000
Health Facilities.....	\$200,000
Higher Education.....	\$13,295,000
Highways, Roads & Bridges (streets, overpasses, drainage, lights, etc.).....	\$4,583,000
Housing.....	\$4,055,000
Law Enforcement & Public Safety.....	\$3,197,037
Military & Veterans.....	\$375,000
Parks & Recreation Facilities.....	\$4,215,600
Public Buildings & Equip (gov't offices, rest areas, fair facility, etc.).....	\$5,218,000
Schools (education facilities other than higher education).....	\$7,729,017
Senior Citizens.....	\$2,636,237
Telecommunications.....	\$300,000
Transportation (airports, railroads, buses, vehicles, etc.).....	\$182,000
Utility & Waste (water lines, sewer, power, landfills, treatment, etc.).....	\$11,945,446
Water & Irrigation (rivers, dams, acequias, conservation, water wells).....	\$2,543,530

**Agency Specific Investments and Legislation**

Indian Affairs Department

The Department, with the support of the Executive and Legislature, increased its budget by 29.1% and included a total of four new full-time employees (FTEs) and a tribal suicide prevention program.

Missing Murdered Indigenous Women & Relatives (MMIWR)

IAD, the Department of Public Safety and the Attorney General’s (AG) Office worked collaboratively to secure funding to further the MMIWR Task Force’s work, which includes:



## INDIAN AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT | 2022 REPORT TO TRIBAL LEADERS

- SB 12 AG Office for Missing Indigenous Persons. \$1 million in funding will be administered by the AG, and an FTE was approved to support the AG on missing person cases. The bill includes a grant program to improve tribal databases and statewide collaboration on missing person cases in New Mexico.
- SB 13 Missing in New Mexico Event. This event amends the Missing Persons Information Clearinghouse statute to include hosting an annual Missing in New Mexico Day.
- SB 1 Appropriations & Expenditures. \$50,000 will support the MMIWR initiative, in addition to the recurring funds included in the IAD's FY23 budget.

### Cradle-to-Career Investments

The Early Childhood Education & Care Department (ECECD), Public Education Department (PED), and Higher Education Department (HED) secured funding through HB 2 that will benefit Native American students and families. The following is a highlight of these historic investments:

- ECECD received one FTE to assist with grants and support grants management and development within tribal communities.
- ECECD secured first-time tribal investment funds from the Early Childhood Trust Fund in the amount of \$1,575,000.
- PED secured additional funding for the Indian Education Fund in the amount of \$15 million to support Indian Education Act priorities.
- \$2 million was appropriated to PED for Tribal libraries for planning and design.
- Additional funding allocations for school districts and charter schools to address the Yazzie/Martinez ruling:
  - \$5.1 million for Indigenous, multilingual, multicultural, and special education programs.
  - \$15 million for at-risk interventions for students prioritized to schools with the highest Family Income Index that provide supplemental, evidence-based services for at-risk students.
  - \$10 million for educational technology and staffing.
  - \$13.3 million for public and charter schools, including tribal charter schools, to increase community-based extended learning and time for students to engage in learning with their teachers.
  - HB 60 Native American Language Certificate Salaries was passed to provide equity towards teacher salary parity. Through HB 2 (2022), recurring appropriation of \$1.25 million was secured for FY23.
- HED advocated for the Opportunity Scholarship which covers tuition and required fees for eligible New Mexico residents pursuing career training certificates, associate degrees, and bachelor's degrees at a New Mexico public or tribal college or university.
  - SB 140 appropriated a total of \$216.6 million that includes Opportunity Scholarship, Lottery Scholarship, Teacher Loan Repayment, Teacher Preparation Affordability Scholarship and Health Professional Loan Repayment.
- \$9.89 million was secured for various higher education programs and initiatives that support Native American students and faculty.

## INDIAN AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT | 2022 REPORT TO TRIBAL LEADERS

- \$1 million was secured for a hunger relief initiative. This Governor initiative will provide services to those students on college and university campuses in New Mexico to alleviate food and hunger.
- \$2.37 million was secured for various capital projects at SIPI, Diné College, and the UNM Indigenous Planning and Design Program.
- \$150 million will fund the strengthening of essential health and education workforce initiatives through faculty endowments.
- \$15.9 million for dual-credit programs.

### New Mexico Food, Farm, and Hunger Initiative

- \$24 million will support Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham's Food, Farm, and Hunger initiative that supports funding for meal gap, NM grown, summer/afterschool nutrition support, college food security, double up food bucks, fruit & vegetable prescription program, healthy soil program and food security innovation grant program.

### Children, Youth, & Families Department (CYFD)

- The passage of HB 135 Indian Family Protection Act enables the State to protect the rights of Native American children, families and tribes by codifying and expanding the federal Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) in New Mexico law.
- \$50,000 through HB 2 for the CYFD Office of Tribal Affairs will provide training related to Indian Family Protection Act.

### The Aging & Long-Term Services Department - Office of Indian Elder Affairs

- Four new FTEs were granted to support upcoming planning for adult day care and home and community-based service programs.
- Authorizations were granted for distribution of the *Kiki Saavedra Senior Dignity Fund* (KSSDF). The funds will be used to increase access for seniors and adults with disabilities (including veterans) to specialty vehicles and specialty physical and behavioral health care.

### New Mexico Office of the State Engineer (OSE)

- \$42.6 million was secured for the Aamodt settlement.
- \$30.3 million was secured for drought mitigation projects.
- Over \$9 million was secured for litigation and litigation avoidance efforts.
- \$2.1 million was secured for surface and ground water measurement stations.
- Appropriations will support the 50-Year Water Plan, dam safety, acequia projects, and Water Data Act implementation.
- The OSE received additional appropriations in SB 1 in the Third Special Session to support the Department's efforts.

## INDIAN AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT | 2022 REPORT TO TRIBAL LEADERS

### Human Services Department (HSD) – Behavioral Health

- \$10 million from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) was secured through the Department of Finance Administration for people experiencing homelessness.
- \$270,000 was secured for the Behavioral Health Collaborative (including for the five tribal local collaboratives).
- \$2.2 million was secured for suicide prevention through *Department of Health Garret Lee Smith Grant* (for public service announcements, social media, and trainings).
- \$277,000 was secured for Native American services through the Human Services Department.
- \$3.3 million was secured for Infant Mental Health through the Children, Youth, & Families Department (where several tribal nations are participating).
- \$7.3 million was secured for crisis shelter for youth (including for two Native American crisis shelters).
- \$3.3 million was secured for domestic violence, including for the Native American Coalition.
- \$50 million was secured from ARPA to expand enrollment and graduates for Behavioral Health and Child Welfare.
- \$15 million was secured for behavioral health interventions for at-risk students through the Public Education Department.

### New Mexico Department of Agriculture (DA)

- The Department secured an estimated \$800,400 for the Southwest Border Food Protection and Emergency Preparedness Center, to expand the Marketplace and Economic Development operations, and the State Chemist Laboratory.

### New Mexico Environment Department (NMED)

- HB 164 Uranium Mines Cleanup requires the New Mexico Environment Department to work to clean up and reclaim former uranium mine and mill sites. HB 164 also creates the Uranium Mine Revolving Fund.

### **Tribal Economic Related Legislation:**

- HB 132 Interest Rates for Certain Loans caps interest rates on short-term loans. The RLD assisted HB 132 sponsors to reduce the maximum annual interest rate on installment loans from 175% to 36%.
- SB 39 Veterans and Native American Procurement Preferences allows Native American-owned businesses operating on tribal land in New Mexico eligible to receive in-state preference, helping these businesses thrive and create jobs.
- HB 167 Tribe and Pueblo Car Excise Tax Credit amends the Motor Vehicle Excise Tax Act adds another credit to Section 7-14-7 NMSA 1978 that allows vehicles purchased on a reservation or trust land within an Indian Nation, Tribe, or Pueblo, located wholly or partly in New Mexico, to have the same tax credit as vehicles purchased out-of-state. Therefore, a car purchased within an Indian Nation, Tribe, or Pueblo would not be subject to double taxation, and the state would credit the tax paid to the tribe against the taxes that are due

to the state on the same vehicle.

### **Additional Legislation of Interest:**

- HB 52 Harm Reduction Act, which includes amendments to expand supplies or devices provided to harm reduction program participants, was passed. HB 52 allows the Department of Health to distribute fentanyl test strips and sterile supplies to reduce overdose and the spread of infectious disease and enables the department to act quickly to address the lethal additives in drugs.
- HB 95 Easy Enrollment Act allows state tax agency permission to share information used to assess eligibility for low-cost or no-cost coverage with agencies that oversee health coverage programs, like Medicaid Health Insurance Marketplace, and beWellnm.com.

### **Fifty-fifth Legislature Third Special Session 2022**

The Third Special Session focused on three bills: HB 1 Feed Bill, HB 2 Tax Rebates and SB 1 Appropriations & Expenditures. SB 1 included several appropriations to support IAD's work and expand the Department's capacity. With these additions, the Department's total FY 23 Budget increased by 52.7%. SB 1 added two additional FTEs to the Department for an overall total of six new FTEs. Additional funding in SB 1 will go toward supporting the Indigenous Youth Council, Missing Murdered Indigenous Women & Relatives (MMIWR) and entrepreneur training programs.

HB 2 Tax Rebates approves rebates of \$500 for heads of household, surviving spouses, and married individuals filing joint returns for tax year 2021 with adjusted gross incomes of less than \$150,000. A \$250 rebate will be available for single filers and married individuals filing separate returns with tax year 2021 adjusted gross incomes of less than \$75,000. This legislation takes effect July 1, 2022, and Taxation and Revenue will begin issuing rebates on that date.

# POLICY & PROGRAMMING

## STRENGTHENING STATE TRIBAL RELATIONS

### Implementation of State Tribal Collaboration Act (STCA)

The Lujan Grisham administration has rebuilt trust and respect with the 23 sovereign Nations, Tribes, and Pueblos. The State Tribal Collaboration Act (STCA) guides state agencies in strengthening state tribal relationships. The Indian Affairs Department continues its work to strengthen the government-to-government relationships between this administration and the sovereign nations in the state.

- State Tribal Relations Program Coordinator. The Executive supported the Department’s FY23 budget request for one full-time employee. This position will ensure the continuity and full implementation of the mandates of the STCA. The position will oversee the following areas:
  - Assist state agencies with development and implementation of communication, collaboration, and consultation policy.
  - Develop and manage a tribal liaison program.
  - Organize annual State Tribal Leaders Summit.
  - Compile all agency reports pursuant to STCA.
  - Work in partnership with State Personnel Office (SPO) to develop and offer training to meet the mandates of the Act.
  
- State-Tribal Consultation. The Department supports consultation between the state and NM’s sovereign nations by coordinating, planning, and addressing difficult topics through consultation, meetings, and informal discussions to ensure that issues of mutual concern are addressed in a timely and constructive manner. The Department regularly advises and provides guidance and recommendations to state agencies on how to effectively address challenges with tribal leadership. The Department’s collective experience in navigating tribal politics, and the relationships that have been cultivated with tribal leadership and community leaders, allows IAD to guide the state’s approach and bridge



## INDIAN AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT | 2022 REPORT TO TRIBAL LEADERS

communication when challenges arise.

- Tribal Liaisons. Tribal liaisons are key players in state-tribal relations. They facilitate effective communication and collaboration between state agencies and tribal nations and conduct outreach. IAD continues to examine the role of tribal liaisons to see where the Department can offer more support to ensure better communication and collaboration.
  - Tribal Liaison Training: To support tribal liaisons, the IAD organizes training. A training for liaisons on consultation was held in June 2021. The half-day training covered a review of the first draft of the consultation guidebook and toolkit, tribal consultation best practices covering consultation versus consent, and an overview of key examples of federal consultations. Liaisons were also engaged in breakout room activities to reflect on informal government-to-government communications from state agencies. This exercise helped newer liaisons learn from seasoned liaisons. Additional trainings for tribal liaisons are being developed and will occur in June 2022.
  - Tribal Liaison Consultation Toolkit and Guidebook: The Department is in process of finalizing a consultation toolkit and guidebook for Tribal Liaisons and state agencies to provide consistency in tribal consultations between the state and New Mexico's 23 sovereign nations. The Department completed a first draft with the support of contractors and continues this work in 2022 to finalize the work product. An outreach plan to gather input from tribes, tribal consultation experts, advisors, and tribal liaisons is underway to complete the work product for state employee use.
- Cultural Competency Training for State Employees. Under STCA, all state employees that work directly with tribal communities are required to take cultural competency training. The training is offered through the State Personnel Office with support from IAD. The goal of the training is to support state employees by ensuring they receive a high-quality training that provides them with skills and tools they need to effectively communicate, serve, and collaborate with tribes in the state.

The Building Cultural Equity with Native Nations training is offered to state employees and other partners 12 times a year. Each of the 12 trainings are offered to new and current state employees and provide context around the current landscape of Native Nations, Pueblos, and communities in New Mexico. The trainings integrate the relevance of historical context and key understandings about Native Nations, Pueblos and communities' cultures, protocol, language, and challenges. The training builds off of the objectives of the Indian Affairs Department, feedback from previous trainings, and input from tribal community members, tribal leaders, and practitioners.

## HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

Numerous state departments collaborate to address components of holistic health. The IAD plays a vital role in many of the state's health and wellness-related initiatives in this administration and serves on existing boards, commissions and committees that touch upon these issues such as the Behavioral Health Collaborative, Behavioral Health Planning Council, and the Children's Cabinet.

Tribal Behavioral Health & Suicide Program Coordinator. The Department secured funding for one full time employee in the 2022 Legislative Session. This position will manage the growing health portfolio for the department to ensure expanded outreach, engagement and collaboration with the Nations, Tribes, Pueblos, Indigenous Peoples and stakeholders. The position will oversee the following areas:

- Behavioral Health Collaborative
- Behavioral Health Planning Council
- Native American Subcommittee
- Suicide Programming
- External Partnerships and Opportunities



### Behavioral Health

The Human Services Department houses the Behavioral Health Collaborative (BHC). The BHC serves as a vital hub for providing programmatic and funding resources from agencies across state government.

- Behavioral Health Collaborative (BHC). IAD plays an integral role in the state's BHC by participating in the open quarterly meetings, the monthly cabinet-level strategic planning meetings, and the monthly liaison working group meetings. The four goals set by the BHC are to: (1) strengthen and expand behavioral health services to ensure a coordinated system of care; (2) develop community-based mental health services for children and families; (3) effectively address substance use disorder (SUD); and (4) effectively address behavioral health needs of justice-involved individuals.
- Behavioral Health Planning Council (BHPC). IAD also participates in the BHPC which is the BHC's advisory council consisting of consumers, families, and other members with relevant expertise. All members are appointed by the Governor. The BHPC meetings are held bi-monthly, and the executive meetings occur regularly. In December 2021, Governor Lujan Grisham appointed seven tribal members to the BHPC, exponentially increasing tribal representation on the council. In February 2022, IAD assisted in planning and participated in the virtual *2022 Behavioral Health Day* where the BHPC honored Peter Madalena (Jemez Pueblo) with a Behavioral Health Star Award.
- Native American Subcommittee (NASC). IAD Cabinet Secretary Lynn Trujillo chairs the BHPC's NASC, making IAD the only state agency that serves in an official capacity in both the BHC and the BHPC. The NASC consists of community members, providers, and five Native American-specific Local Collaboratives ("LC"). The LCs include LC 14 – Acoma Pueblo, Isleta Pueblo, Jicarilla Apache Nation; Laguna Pueblo, Mescalero Apache Tribe and Zuni Pueblo; LC 15 – Navajo Nation; LC 16 – Cochiti Pueblo, Jemez Pueblo, Kewa Pueblo, Sandia Pueblo, San Felipe Pueblo, Santa Ana Pueblo, and Zia Pueblo; LC 17 – Urban Native Areas including the Albuquerque Metropolitan Area; and LC 18 – Nambe Pueblo, Ohkay Owingeh, Picuris Pueblo, Pojoaque Pueblo, San Ildefonso Pueblo, Santa Clara Pueblo, Taos Pueblo, and Tesuque Pueblo.

In the past year, the NASC met regularly to strategize, plan, and facilitate the bi-monthly NASC meetings. The NASC meetings typically include updates from IAD, the BHPC, the LCs, and the overall NASC community. These meetings also provide opportunities for keynote presentations related to behavioral health within Native American communities, and strategic planning and execution of the NASC outreach projects. IAD has also utilized these meetings to gain feedback and insight from the NASC on what is happening in tribal communities' behavioral health systems.



## INDIAN AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT | 2022 REPORT TO TRIBAL LEADERS

The NASC continues their work on COVID-19 relief efforts, including essential item distributions, and a series of community-organized behavioral health events. The NASC funds and facilitates tribal community virtual talking circles with Native Community Health Network's Becki Jones (Navajo Nation). The talking circles seek to provide a space for all tribal members to join in community and support one another. Currently, the NASC is working to partner with Nations, Tribes, and Pueblos on youth-oriented behavioral health events. Similar to last year's series, these events will include but are not limited to elder-youth programming; youth holistic wellness workshops; fun runs; and youth events focused on understanding mental health through traditional teachings.

IAD looks to expand and maximize the efficacy and reach of the NASC in the coming year to best serve New Mexico's Nations, Tribes, Pueblos, and urban Indian population.

- Inter-Agency Collaboration. Additionally, IAD participates in the Human Services Department's Native American Technical Advisory Committee (NATAC); the Department of Health's Suicide Prevention Coalition; and the Governor's Office ad hoc behavioral health workgroup, including the Native American subgroup. In these partnerships, IAD supports the DOH Suicide Prevention Coalition's Native American workgroup and the 988 national hotline initiative's tribal workgroup. The 988 national initiative is designed to build a comprehensive response for mental health, substance use, and suicidal crises that is as robust as the 911 emergency response system. The tribal workgroup meets monthly and seeks to incorporate Tribal EMS, Fire, Behavioral Health Directors and/or leadership representation.
- External Partnerships. From its participation in various behavioral health initiatives, IAD expanded its reach by collaborating with external partners, such as the Native American Tribal Behavioral Health Providers Association and Bloomberg Philanthropies.
  - **New Mexico Tribal Behavioral Health Providers Association (NMTBHPA).** In 2021, IAD collaborated and endorsed the establishment of the New Mexico Tribal Behavioral Health Providers Association (NMTBHPA) with the New Mexico Recovery Project (Program Director: Sindy Bolaños-Sacoman, MPH) and UNM's Division of Community Behavioral Health (Teresa Gomez, MA, Jennifer Nanez, MSW, LMSW). The NMTBHPA provides space for tribal behavioral health providers to address their behavioral health, workforce, billing, and capacity-building needs as well as other tribal priorities that are different from other providers.

**Bloomberg Philanthropies.** In November 2021, Bloomberg Philanthropies announced its five-year, \$120 million investment to help combat the overdose crisis in hard-hit states, including New Mexico. Over the next five years, New Mexico will receive \$10 million to scale existing efforts to combat the overdose crisis, implement new programs, and offer funding for technical assistance, direct services, and embedded staff at government

## INDIAN AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT | 2022 REPORT TO TRIBAL LEADERS

agencies and other organizations to support the state and locally led interventions. IAD, along with the Governor's Office and Cabinet, has met with the Bloomberg Philanthropies' partner, Vital Strategies, several times to identify a tribal-specific carve-out to best serve New Mexico tribal communities in combatting this crisis. IAD will continue to advocate for the inclusion of the state's Nations, Tribes, Pueblos, and the state's Native American population in this work.

### **Suicide Prevention**

Suicide impacts tribal communities in the state at alarming rates. IAD continues to advocate for providing the state's sovereign nations and Indigenous communities with the tools required to effectively respond and intervene when a tribal member attempts suicide or has suicidal ideations. IAD participates in the Native American Suicide Prevention Advisory Council (NASPAC), which is a partner with the University of New Mexico Community Behavioral Health program to develop policies, protocols, and priorities for programs under the auspices of the clearinghouse Honoring Native Life (HNL). IAD participates in the New Mexico Suicide Prevention Coalition and its Native American specific workgroup.

The Executive supported the Department's FY 23 budget request to increase the Department's role in addressing suicide impacting Indigenous People. With the support of the Governor, the IAD secured a total of \$503,200 in the 2022 Regular Legislative Session to work with tribes to build capacity for tribal suicide prevention programs, to reduce risk, and increase protective factors to prevent suicide amongst Native Americans, particularly youth. This appropriation includes funding to hire a full-time employee position dedicated to tribal suicide prevention and behavioral health efforts. IAD will work with the Governor's office, state agencies, tribal communities, and partners to develop this program.

### **Indigenous Youth Council**

The IAD formed its inaugural Indigenous Youth Council (IYC or Council) in early 2021 with the support of Governor Lujan Grisham and the Indian Affairs Department. Since the IYC's formation, the Council has hosted youth wellness summits, lent their voices to public service announcements (PSAs), advocated for the Opportunities Scholarship during the 2022 Legislative Session, and participated in meetings with state and tribal leadership. One of the main issues of focus for the Council has been mental health.

With the support of IAD, the IYC has built a partnership with Honoring Native Life (HNL) to develop and execute an annual statewide youth wellness summit. The IYC and HNL are planning the second Indigenous Youth Wellness Summit *Being A Good Relative* scheduled for June 17-18th, 2022. This year's summit will be held in person and will convene Indigenous youth aged 16-25 years old from across the state. The IYC is working with HNL to develop the events and provide recommendations for the best ways to engage youth. Building upon last year's summit, summit participants will participate in workshops aimed to speak to the holistic

## INDIAN AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT | 2022 REPORT TO TRIBAL LEADERS

view of wellness, expanding the understanding that mental wellness is influenced by all parts of being: physical, mental, social & emotional, and spiritual & cultural well-being.



In addition to the summit, the Council continues to lead their own projects with the support of the IAD. This year projects funded through the department included: a cultural winter storytelling series; a podcast introducing the Council and speaking to issues of importance to them; an entertainment series; a 5K/10K walk/run at Mescalero; and a talk show. Recordings are being released regularly through June, 2022. Announcements can be found on IAD's

## INDIAN AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT | 2022 REPORT TO TRIBAL LEADERS

Instagram and recordings can be found on IAD's Facebook, YouTube, and Spotify media platforms.

The Department remains committed to elevating the voices of Indigenous youth and providing space to share mutual experiences, collaborate on shared initiatives, and build community. The Department received an appropriation of \$50,000 to support the IYC. This appropriation will ensure that the IYC continues as the Department prepares for the next cohort of youth to participate on the Council.

### **Farm, Food, and Hunger (FFH) Initiative**

New Mexico should not be a place where hunger exists. Yet hundreds of thousands of New Mexicans, including a disproportionate number of Indigenous people, are experiencing it every day. Governor Lujan Grisham has a plan to change this. In the 2022 Legislative Session, the Executive secured more than \$24 million - the largest investment increase in food and agriculture in the state's history - to revolutionize New Mexico's food system. This targeted investment will help expand federal nutrition programs and homegrown programs that work.

The Department worked alongside the Governor's office, the Children's Cabinet, and sister agencies to collaborate on the 2022 legislative proposal. Through this Initiative, the IAD will continue to advocate for eliminating hunger that impacts New Mexico's Indigenous people.



## WATER, ENVIRONMENT, ENERGY AND CLIMATE

The Department plays a vital role in many of the state's environmental initiatives of this administration and serves on existing boards, commissions and committees that touch upon environmental issues such as: the Drought Task Force, Produced Water, and Rio Grande Trail Commission.

Tribal Environmental Program Coordinator. The Department secured funding for one full-time employee in the 2022 Third Special Session. This position will manage the new and growing environment, environmental justice and public health portfolio for the Department to ensure expanded outreach, engagement and collaboration with Nations, Tribes, Pueblos, Indigenous Peoples and stakeholders. The position will oversee the following areas:

- Climate Change Task Force
- 30 by 30
- Energy Transition Act
- 50 Year Water Plan
- Produced Water Government Advisory Board
- Represent the IAD on various environmental related board, commissions and committees



### 50 Year Water Plan

The Office of the State Engineer and Interstate Stream Commission (NMOSE/ISC) are leading the development of the State's 50 Year Water Plan. The Indian Affairs Department is a supporting agency and has assisted with creating the Tribal Water Work Group, a group designed to facilitate tribal recommendations and perspectives on the 50 Year Water Plan. The State plans to release the 50 Year Water Plan in July 2022. The 50 Year Water Plan will be a high-level summary for decision-makers that will serve as a roadmap on how to prepare for the impacts of climate change on water.

The Tribal Water Work Group (TWWG) was established on September 15, 2021, and has met monthly since then. The Tribal Water Work Group, OSE, ISC, and IAD hosted the Tribal Water Forum for tribal leaders in November 2021 to share cultural, legal, and traditional knowledge and values of water to be incorporated into the 50 Year Water Plan. The Tribal Water Work Group is composed of tribal leaders and/or their designees and tribal water experts.

The TWWG continues to provide input on the 50-Year Plan outline and process. In addition to the 50 Year Water Plan, the Tribal Water Work Group has decided to also create a stand-alone Tribal Water Report. The Tribal Water Report will highlight some of the challenges and obstacles that need to be solved to increase tribal water resilience. Recommendations and the Tribal Water Report will be shared with tribal leaders for feedback and edits prior to the report being submitted for inclusion in the 50 Year Water Plan.

### TIMEFRAME FOR THE 50 YEAR WATER PLAN

- **April 25, 2022:** Tribal leaders received drafts of the Tribal Water Recommendations and the Tribal Water Report.
- **May 4, 2022:** Interstate Stream Commission (ISC), the Office of the State Engineer (OSE), and NM Indian Affairs Department (IAD) co-hosted a virtual meeting of NM Tribal leaders. The meeting provided tribal leaders the opportunity to review the documents, comment, and decide on next steps.
- **May 2022:** Tribal feedback incorporated into the Tribal Water Recommendations and the Tribal Water Report by May 20, 2022.
- **June 2022:** Tribal Water Recommendations sent to the Office of the State Engineer and the Interstate Stream Commission by June 3, 2022.
- **July 2022:** The 50 Year Water Plan and Tribal Water Report will be released.

### 30 by 30

The Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department (EMNRD) is the lead agency responsible for the 30 by 30 committee ("committee") that serves as an advisory group to Governor Lujan Grisham. This group is comprised of seven state agencies including the Indian Affairs Department (IAD). The committee was established in 2021 by Executive Order 2021-052 (EO), Protecting New Mexico's Lands, Watersheds, Wildlife, and Natural Heritage.

Executive Order 2021-052 directs the committee to review and utilize existing programs, funding, and authorities to reach the ambitious conservation targets of conserving at least 30 percent of all lands in New Mexico by 2030, with an additional 20 percent of lands designated as climate stabilization areas. One of the committee's functions is to respond to the federal America the Beautiful initiative, which aims to conserve at least 30 percent of U.S. lands and waters by 2030. The EO further directs the committee to create a process that provides equity, robust stakeholder engagement and allows inclusion of tribal recommendations on state and federal policies related to natural resource conservation goals by 2030.

The EO does not bind Tribes, Pueblos, or Nations in any way. However, the EO may provide avenues for new opportunities to protect traditional cultural properties in New Mexico and support tribal stewardship of these lands. Additionally, there may be opportunities to improve programs and projects to the benefit of tribes related to conservation or restoration projects under existing programs. With tribal input, the committee will make recommendations on how to improve both access and program utilization to better support tribal conservation projects and initiatives.

An annual report is due to the Governor each December and the committee is spending its first year gathering information to define "conservation lands" and "climate stabilization areas."

In recognition of the government-to-government relationships between the state and sovereign nations, EMNRD, with the assistance of the IAD, began outreach in the form of three virtual listening sessions on the 30 by 30 Initiative



## INDIAN AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT | 2022 REPORT TO TRIBAL LEADERS

held from March 23-March 30, 2022, with tribal leaders and tribal environmental experts.

The goals of the listening sessions were to brief tribal leadership on the 30 by 30 Initiative and seek tribal input at the beginning of the process. The listening sessions did not constitute tribal consultation. The IAD will continue to participate in the committee to ensure that there is meaningful collaboration and communication with tribal communities regarding this initiative.

### **Energy Transition Act**

Governor Lujan Grisham signed SB 489, the Energy Transition Act (ETA), into law in March, 2019. IAD, in partnership with the Department of Workforce Solutions (DWS) and the Economic Development Department (EDD), have been working to meaningfully implement the ETA in the northwest part of the state due to the closure of the San Juan Generating Station.

The Energy Transition Act sets statewide renewable energy standards making New Mexico a leader in renewable energy. The ETA creates three funds, totaling an estimated \$20 million, to be managed by the Workforce Solutions Department, the Economic Development Department, and the Indian Affairs Department. The three departments are required to hold three community meetings in the affected community to solicit feedback on how funds should be spent. "Affected communities" is defined as "a New Mexico County located within one hundred miles of a New Mexico facility producing electricity that closes, resulting in at least forty displaced workers."

The Energy Transition Act required the three Departments to appoint three conveners. The three conveners are Jason Sandel, GloJean Todacheene, and Tom Taylor. The ETA also requires that a Community Advisory Committee be formed to decide how funds should be spent. The Community Advisory Committee includes representation from the Navajo Nation Office of the President and Vice President, the 24th Navajo Nation Council and the Jicarilla Apache Nation, as well as impacted community members.

While not required, IAD is leading a more extensive community engagement process to solicit feedback and recommendations. Prior to the pandemic, this process included visits to every Navajo chapter within the affected community. The Department's primary goal is that Native communities lead the transition, and that economic development is in line with the community's values and goals. In addition to individual chapter outreach and the community hearings, the IAD has also presented before the various agencies on the Navajo Nation, including the Northern Agency and the Eastern Agency. The IAD continues to keep NGO partners involved. Our partners at several grassroots organizations have been instrumental in sharing and distributing information on our behalf, and have helped organize forms for sharing information.

IAD, DWS, and EDD have held two community meetings and will schedule the third in 2022. The first meeting was held at the end of 2019 at San Juan College in Farmington, NM. In the process of planning the second meeting in Shiprock, the COVID-19 pandemic began, requiring it to be



## INDIAN AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT | 2022 REPORT TO TRIBAL LEADERS

shifted to a virtual meeting held in October of 2020. Provided public health orders allow, the third public meeting will be hosted in a Navajo community.

In 2021, the three state agencies initiated a process for community members to submit ideas on how the funds should be spent. Project ideas and proposals can be viewed at the link below, under “ETA RFI Proposals.” A significant number of proposals came from Indian-owned businesses and grassroots organizations. The Community Advisory Committee heard from everyone that submitted a proposal at the second ETA meeting. The proposals remain under review. Funds are expected to be available in 2022 and the state is well-positioned to make recommendations on the use of the funds generated through the Energy Transition Act. [www.dws.state.nm.us/ETA](http://www.dws.state.nm.us/ETA)

IAD and our partner agencies are required to do tribal consultation. Those consultations will occur in 2022, scheduling permitting.

IAD is grateful for the partnerships built throughout the community and with tribal leadership to ensure that the ETA is beneficial for impacted communities. The Department looks forward to continuing these partnerships and getting the ETA funds out to impacted communities.

### **Climate Change**

In January 2019, Governor Lujan Grisham issued Executive Order 2019-003, which created the state interagency Climate Change Task Force and included directives for agencies to incorporate climate mitigation and adaptation practices into their policies and operations. Since then, IAD has served as a member of the New Mexico Climate Action Task Force and its Economic Transition Climate Action Team as well as co-lead for the Cultural Heritage Climate Action Team. The Task Force’s annual reports from 2019 and 2020 can be found [here](#). The 2021 annual report is expected to be released soon.

- [Cultural Heritage Climate Action Team](#). IAD participates in this initiative with the Department of Cultural Affairs, the Department of Tourism, and the State Land Office. The action plan related to cultural heritage and climate change will be incorporated into the state’s annual Climate Change report. The action plan consists of the following goals: (1) assess and mitigate climate risks to site preservation (indoor and outdoor); (2) ensure continued access to sites; and (3) effectively and proactively incorporate tribal leadership in the state’s cultural heritage matters.



- Economic Transition Climate Action Team. IAD participates in this initiative that seeks to support communities experiencing economic hardship as a result of coal transitions and promotes economic diversification, workforce development, and education strategies to ensure job opportunities and economic growth are part of New Mexico’s clean energy transition across the state.

External Partnership with Harvard University – “Incorporating Tribal Nations in the State of New Mexico Climate Action Plan.” IAD continued its partnership with Harvard University as a client for its course “Native Americans in the 21st Century: Nation-Building II” (“NBII”). This graduate course is a field-based research course that connects current Harvard graduate students with tribal partners. The course culminates in the preparation and presentation of a comprehensive research paper based on field investigation.

In February 2022, IAD began its partnership with this year’s Harvard cohort to investigate how the state of New Mexico can best incorporate tribal communities in its climate action plan. The project “Incorporating Tribal Nations in the State of New Mexico Climate Action Plan” will rely on case studies from other states and countries and their approaches to including Indigenous populations. This project is led by Harvard students Joel Chastain (Chickasaw Nation), Chloe D’Souza (Wilman Noongar), Evan Ramsey, and Kate Wallace. The final report will be available on the IAD’s website.

## CULTURAL RESOURCES

Loss of ancestral tribal lands and the increase in growth of surrounding communities have impeded access to and threatened the protection of sacred places and cultural sites. Cultural resources and landscapes must be protected to preserve tribal culture. The Department advocates for and supports the state's Nations, Tribes, and Pueblos in preserving cultural heritage and sacred site protection.

### Cultural Patrimony & Protection of Human Remains

New Mexico Reburial Grounds Act – IAD supports the Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA) to review and revise the Reburial Grounds Act (§§ 18-6-24 through 18-6-27) and draft a final rule to support tribal nations' efforts to protect their cultural heritage. DCA and IAD reestablished the tribal state task force and held its first meeting in March 2022 with at least fifteen tribal representatives participating. Monthly meetings are planned to finalize the draft rule and address other issues related to the implementation of this Act, like identifying reburial sites, processing culturally-unidentifiable remains, and consultation with tribal leadership.



## PUBLIC SAFETY

### Missing & Murdered Indigenous Women & Relatives (MMIWR)

The Lujan Grisham administration continues to address the Missing & Murdered Indigenous Women & Relatives crisis in New Mexico. Since the establishment of the first task force in 2019, there have been countless task force and subcommittee meetings, increased media coverage on the crisis and the work of the MMIWR Task Force, the issuance of the 2020 final report and presentations to and work with the New Mexico Legislature.

With the support of the executive, state agencies, legislators, tribal leadership, and advocates, two major pieces of legislation were passed in the 2022 Legislative Session that address the MMIWR crisis in New Mexico.

Senate Bill 12 expands the authority of the Attorney General to investigate and prosecute missing person cases when there is a reasonable belief that the incident involves an Indigenous crime victim under the Missing Persons Information and Reporting Act. The legislation also creates Missing Indigenous Persons Specialists to perform various tasks in collaboration with local, state, federal, and tribal law enforcement.

Senate Bill 13 creates the Missing in New Mexico Event which centers around missing persons and family support. By centralizing public safety resources, missing person reports can be filed and families can speak to an investigator or update an existing report with new information, images, or DNA. This event will also bring communities together to receive training about missing person investigations and the various resources available to families and communities.

The MMIWR Task Force has met monthly since August 2021 to finalize a State Response Plan with strategies that state, federal, and tribal partners can implement to address this crisis across the state. The State Response Plan was



## INDIAN AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT | 2022 REPORT TO TRIBAL LEADERS

released on May 5, 2022, during the National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.

With the support of the Department, the Task Force is involved in other initiatives with external partners. The Task Force partnered with the University of Nebraska Omaha on a joint proposal to the National Institute of Justice for funding to continue collecting data in the state on MMIWR. The Second Judicial District Attorney's Office has partnered with the Task Force to oversee and advise the crime strategies unit within the District Attorney's Office. The Crime Strategies Unit has started accepting MMIWR cases, and their efforts have already led to the recovery and return of a missing young woman.

### **ECONOMIC INITIATIVES**

#### **Expanding Economic Recovery Capacity**

The IAD recently executed a memorandum of agreement with the New Mexico Economic Development Department (EDD) to transfer a portion of federal grant funds that the EDD received under the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). The funds will go toward supporting the Department's capacity to connect tribal communities and indigenous people to capital and resources to address unprecedented challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

#### **Sustainable Economy Advisory Council (SEAC)**

Senate Bill 112 tasked the Economic Development Department (EDD) with oversight of the Sustainable Economy Task Force (Task Force) and the Sustainable Economy Advisory Council (SEAC). SB 112 requires the Task Force to develop a strategic plan to transition the state economy away from reliance on natural resource extraction. The Secretary of the IAD sits on the Task Force.

The IAD nominated eight (8) members, who represent tribal governments or entities, to the Sustainable Economy Advisory Council (SEAC). The SEAC advises the Task Force on developing and achieving the goals of the strategic plan. IAD and other tribal representatives on the SEAC will ensure that tribal perspectives and voices are included in shaping this plan.

#### **Federal Funding**

IAD is committed to supporting tribes with access to federal resources and funding opportunities. IAD works with federal and state partners to gather information on funding opportunities and compiles a resource list for tribes to ensure tribes have access to and benefit from these funds. IAD staff provide periodic updates via email and on the IAD's website. The Department's Grant Specialist, Christopher Jiron, provides technical assistance to Nations, Tribes and Pueblos, and tribal organizations.

## **COVID 19: CONTINUING TO SUPPORT NEW MEXICO TRIBAL COMMUNITIES AND INDIAN PEOPLE**

As we continue to move through the pandemic, the IAD continues to serve as a hub for tribal leadership and tribal communities. The Department works with the Department of Health and other agencies to support tribal communities and Indigenous people.

## **IMPROVING DATA ANALYSIS AND REPORTING**

Part of IAD's mission is to be a clearinghouse of information. As the Department's role continues to grow, there is a need to have someone in-house who can compile the data the Department needs to track the progress the state is making to address matters impacting tribal communities and Native American people in New Mexico. Moreover, this information can be used to secure additional resources and target funding.

Data Analyst. The Department secured funding for one full-time employee in the 2022 Third Special Session. This position will:

- Collect and define various data points regarding tribal communities, such as providing statistics of Indian populations, economic factors, and other data areas to assist in policy, program and budget development.
- Define and study problems and gather data.
- Work with others in the organization to connect their work to data points and metrics for assessment and outcomes.

# PUBLIC RELATIONS, COMMUNICATIONS & OUTREACH

**The Department serves as a clearinghouse** and critical link between the 23 sovereign Nations, Tribes, and Pueblos, state, and federal government and is a reliable source of information. The Department's communications unit delivers time-sensitive, critical information to tribal communities in a relevant and culturally-appropriate way.

Highlights from 2022 include:

- Working alongside state, tribal, and native-serving organizations to advocate for critical legislation that directly impacts Indigenous communities and people via action alerts and earned media.
- Sustaining a media presence that includes features in local, national, and international media outlets.
- Expanding the reach of the Department's existing social media accounts during the past 12 months. Collectively, the Department's pages reach more than 20,000 people per month and are continuing to grow.
- Strengthening outreach by scheduling social media campaigns focused on the work of the Department and the Administration, and on issues of mutual concern of the state, sovereign nations, and Indigenous peoples.

## NM Indian Affairs Social Media Accounts:

- Facebook: 4,196 followers
- Instagram: 2,714 followers
- Twitter: 1,262 followers

## NM Indigenous Youth Council Social Media Account:

- Instagram: 694 followers



## BOARDS, COMMISSIONS & COMMITTEES

**Pursuant to legislation and executive orders**, the Department either leads or serves on twenty-seven (27) different boards, commissions, and committees. This participation is in addition to the Department's primary initiatives and programs. The Department's role on these boards, commissions, and committees is to advocate for tribal interests and bring perspectives of tribal experts to the forefront.





## PROGRAMS ADMINISTERED BY THE ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIVISION

**The Administrative Services Division (ASD)** manages all fiscal and administrative functions of the Indian Affairs Department, which includes overseeing all procurement and contractual agreements with vendors/grantees, managing all general ledger activity for the Department, completing monthly fund reconciliations, and coordinating annual financial audit and financial statement drafting. The ASD supports the Department by overseeing the following:

- Capital Outlay
- Tribal Infrastructure Fund
- Special Projects Grant Program
- Tobacco Cessation & Prevention Grant Program
- Technical Assistance, Training and System Improvements
- Special Appropriations

### INFRASTRUCTURE

Historically, there has been substantial underinvestment in infrastructure in tribal communities, evidenced by the breadth and severity of existing need. Tribal communities without infrastructure or with aging and failing infrastructure are at a greater risk for poorer public health outcomes, which was particularly apparent during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Tribal leadership meets directly with the Governor and key staff to discuss vital infrastructure needs on behalf of their respective communities. Governor Lujan Grisham has fought for and provided over \$117.6 million in direct investments in tribal communities to address chronic infrastructure needs. The Lujan Grisham administration has invested more in tribal infrastructure than the past two administrations combined.

**Increased Capacity within the Division:** Recognizing the historic investment in tribal infrastructure, the Executive supported the Department's FY 23 budget request for two FTEs to add capacity in the ASD to keep up with the increase in capital outlay and Tribal Infrastructure Fund (TIF) administration.

- Capital Outlay Manager. This position will supervise the two Financial Coordinators and Grants Administrator in the Capital Outlay Unit in ASD. The position will ensure there is strong leadership to support project management and delivery of service

to the 23 Tribes, Nations, and Pueblos.

- Financial Supervisor. This position will supervise two Accountant & Auditor Positions within ASD and work directly with the CFO to prioritize work initiatives and take the lead on financial and budget activities including data analytics and reporting.

### **Capital Outlay**

In the 2022 Legislative Session, the Lujan Grisham administration secured another historic infrastructure investment of over \$70 million for tribal governments, tribal entities, and tribal colleges. The funding will be administered by departments across the Cabinet including the Indian Affairs Department, the Aging & Long-Term Services Department, the Department of Transportation, and the Higher Education Department. The IAD will administer \$53.49 million of the total \$70 million for projects that range from public safety, to economic development, to education.

### **Tribal Infrastructure Fund (TIF)**

The Tribal Infrastructure Fund was created by the Tribal Infrastructure Act in 2005. This act recognizes that many of New Mexico's tribal communities lack basic infrastructure, including, but not limited to, water and wastewater systems, roads, and electrical power lines. Through this competitive funding, all federally-recognized Tribes, Nations and Pueblos within New Mexico have an opportunity to submit a project proposal for their community.

The TIF remains a vital funding opportunity for Nations, Tribes, and Pueblos by funding critical infrastructure projects within tribal communities. In 2021, the TIF Board funded \$26.63 million in projects focused on water (regional connections), wastewater, roads, and community infrastructure construction projects. During the Lujan Grisham administration, over \$60 million in TIF were distributed to tribal governments for vital infrastructure projects.

## **GRANTS AND GRANT SPECIALIST**

The Indian Affairs Department—ASD administers two grant programs: Special Projects and Tobacco Cessation & Prevention (TCCP). The Department recognized the need for additional capacity and the need for more direct assistance to tribal communities. The Department, with the support of the Executive and Legislature, created a new full-time Grant Specialist position.

The role and responsibility of the Department's Grant Specialist is to: (1) administer the Department's grant programs; (2) seek funding for the Department to enhance resources and capacity; and (3) assist Nations, Tribes, and Pueblos in identifying, applying for, and accessing more funding. The Department's Grant Specialist also provides weekly notifications to tribal leadership and staff on current federal and state funding grant opportunities (NOFAs).

## INDIAN AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT | 2022 REPORT TO TRIBAL LEADERS

For more information, please contact Christopher Jiron at [Christopher.Jiron@state.nm.us](mailto:Christopher.Jiron@state.nm.us).

### **Special Projects Grant Programs**

In 2022, the Department granted \$73,269.00 of general funds to support special projects in tribal communities. The Department worked with multiple grantees on projects that ranged from a community agriculture burn mitigation project to supporting direct services to adult day care.

### **Tobacco Cessation & Prevention Grant Program (TCCP)**

In 2022, the Department received \$171,000 from the Tobacco Settlement Fund to fund direct tobacco cessation and prevention campaigns in Native American communities. The Department worked with multiple grantees to build tribal capacity to implement culturally-appropriate tobacco cessation and prevention initiatives that recognize the unique ceremonial uses of tobacco while reducing the use of commercial tobacco and its harmful effects.

## **TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND TRAINING**

The ASD provides technical assistance and training to tribal grantees throughout the year. Although the COVID-19 pandemic greatly impacted the number of in-person trainings, the Department provided guidance remotely and shared recorded trainings on IAD's website.

In 2023, members of the ASD will conduct more trainings (both in person and virtually) to provide more assistance and support to grantees. Staff will resume site visits as more tribal communities welcome the Department into their communities.

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