



Minnesota Housing Finance Agency Government-to-Government Tribal Nations Consultation Policy

Approved by Minnesota Housing Board 2/27/14

Introduction

On August 8, 2013, Governor Mark Dayton issued Executive Order 13-10 affirming the government-to-government relationship between the state of Minnesota and the eleven federally recognized Minnesota tribal nations. Among other things, the Executive Order directs agencies to do the following:

- Consult with tribes to develop and implement tribal consultation policies;
- Consult with each tribe to identify priority issues for consultation;
- Consult with tribes prior to undertaking actions or policies related to the list of priority issues identified;
- Consider the input generated from tribal consultation into the agency's decision-making process, with the goal of achieving mutually beneficial solutions;
- Designate a staff member to assume responsibility for implementing the tribal consultation policy and to serve as the principal point of contact for the tribes; and
- Provide training for designated staff who work with the tribes.

Policy Statement

Minnesota Housing will continue its long-standing positive government-to-government relationship and consultation with the tribal nations of Minnesota in order to provide affordable housing to the American Indian citizens of the state.

Minnesota will fully comply with the Executive Order and will also employ the following principles when conducting its business activities:

- Acknowledgement of the unique relationship between the federal government, state government and tribal nations;
- Commitment to a government-to-government relationship with all federally recognized tribes within Minnesota;
- Recognition of individual tribal nations as the appropriate party for making tribal nation housing policy decisions and managing housing programs on tribal land;
- Maintaining effective partnerships with tribal nations on affordable housing development; and
- Being aware of the effect of Agency policies and programs on affordable housing on tribal lands.

Minnesota Housing Responsibilities

The Commissioner is authorized to implement this policy and to delegate, as necessary, responsibilities to Minnesota Housing staff. The Commissioner shall serve as the lead responsible official for the implementation of this policy, and shall designate an employee to be the Minnesota Housing Indian Housing Liaison who will serve as the principal point of contact for consultation with tribal nations. The Commissioner shall form an Intra-Agency Advisory Team to advise the Commissioner and the Indian Housing Liaison on issues relative to this policy. At a minimum, the Intra-Agency Advisory Team shall

consist of staff from the Single Family, Multifamily, and Policy and Community Development divisions and shall meet quarterly, or more often as needed. Minnesota Housing shall provide training for designated staff who work with the tribal nations.

Implementation Guidelines

Based on a government-to-government relationship and in recognition of the uniqueness of each of the eleven tribal nations within Minnesota, the primary focus for consultation activities will be with individual tribal nations. The Commissioner may also encourage the creation of, and participation in, regional tribal committees and organizations to more informally discuss issues regarding existing and new housing development on tribal lands. A tribal nation or combination of tribal nations may at any time request consultation with Minnesota Housing.

As part of its ongoing consultation and information sharing objectives, Minnesota Housing shall perform the following activities:

- One or more Minnesota Housing staff shall annually visit a select number of tribal nations to view the housing on tribal land and to discuss current and future housing partnerships; and
- The Indian Housing Liaison shall, at a minimum, visit and consult with each tribal nation on a quarterly basis in person and/or via electronic communication regarding affordable housing issues.