**Social Security Administration**

**Tribal Consultation Plan – 2015 Progress Report**

Since our last progress report on July 31, 2014, we had no policy, legislative, or regulatory proposals that required formal consultation. However, our Tribal Consultation Workgroup continues to monitor new proposals to see if there are any tribal implications. We continue to strengthen our relationship with Indian tribes through ongoing communication, education, and outreach activities as defined in Executive Order 13175, *Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments*.

***Maintain and Expand Ongoing Communication***

To improve access and understanding of our programs, we continue to conduct programmatic seminars with Indian tribes and tribal entities. At these seminars, we shared information on our retirement and disability programs, Supplemental Security Income, Medicare “Extra Help”, Medicare State Buy-in provisions, our online services and service delivery changes, Faces and Facts of Disability, Wounded Warriors, and the 100 percent permanent and total disability initiatives. We also helped tribal community members create [*my* Social Security](http://www.ssa.gov/signin) accounts.

Reflected below are examples of our activities to strengthen our relationship with Indian tribes. Since our last progress report we:

* Granted 21 internships totaling $170,844 to the American University’s Washington Internship for Native Students program;
* Donated excessed equipment to the Great Plains Technology Center (Lawton, Oklahoma);
* Donated excessed office chairs to the Flathead Indian tribe (Kalispell, Montana);
* Donated 270 computers to Indian tribes in Oklahoma, Texas, and New Mexico;
* Expanded our video service delivery to the Uintah and Ouray Reservation (Roosevelt, Utah); and
* Conducted outreach to 44 American Indian and Alaska Native communities in Alaska, Illinois, Indiana, Idaho, Michigan, Ohio, Oregon, Wisconsin, and Washington.

We also conducted workshops with:

* 21 employees of South Central Foundation (Anchorage, Alaska);
* 10 caseworkers of the Kenaitze Indian Tribe elder service program ( Kenai, Alaska);
* 11 board members of the Inter-Tribal Council of Alabama (Millbrook, Alabama);
* 14 benefit coordinators of the Inter-Tribal Council of Arizona (Phoenix, Arizona);
* 50 program managers of Arizona Tribal Health Program (Phoenix, Arizona);
* 15 Senior service staff members of the Havasupai Tribe (Supai, Arizona);
* 65 benefit coordinators of California Tribal Health Programs (Sacramento, CA);
* 20 staff members of the American Indian Center (Chicago, Illinois);
* 10 employees of the Sac and Fox Tribe Meskwaki Health Clinic ( Tama, Iowa);
* 50 tribal community members of the Chippewa Tribe (Cass Lake, Minnesota);
* 85 tribal community members of the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians (Dowagiac, Michigan);
* 11 administrators of the American Indian Opportunities Industrialization Center (Minneapolis, Minnesota);
* 47 tribal elders of the Bii Di Gain Dash Anwebi Housing Authority (Minneapolis, Minnesota);
* 20 community stakeholders of the Native American Community Clinic and the Urban Indian Elders Services (Minneapolis, Minnesota);
* 10 employees of the Blackfeet Reservation (Helena, Montana);
* 25 caseworkers of the Navajo Nation Program for Self Reliance (Gallup, New Mexico);
* 18 employees of the Mescalero Apache Tribe (Mescalero, New Mexico);
* 16 tribal administrators of the Eight Northern Indian Pueblos (Ohkay Owingeh, New Mexico);
* 10 social workers of the Santa Fe Indian hospital (Santa Fe, New Mexico);
* 15 social workers of the Taos Pueblo (Taos, New Mexico);
* 25 tribal elders of the Delaware Tribe (Bartlesville, Oklahoma);
* 56 tribal elders of the Choctaw Nation (Choctaw, Oklahoma);
* 6 social workers and 5 tribal leaders of the Comanche Nation (Lawton Oklahoma);
* 50 employees from the Muscogee Creek Assistance Program (Muscogee, Oklahoma);
* 50 members of the Klamath Tribe (Klamath Falls, Oregon);
* 22 employees of the Confederated Tribes of Umatilla Indians (Pendleton, Oregon);
* 12 staff members of the Confederated Tribe of the Goshutes (Salt Lake City, Utah);
* 60 elder care staff members of the Northwest Tribal Regional Council (Ferndale, Washington);
* 15 social workers of the Skokomish Tribe (Skokomish, Washington);
* 18 staff members of the South Puget Inter-Tribal Planning Agency (Tacoma, Washington); and
* 60 Fiduciary Trust Fund officers from the Bureau of Indian Affairs (Washington, DC).

We also conducted outreach with tribal communities through various media platforms, such as publishing newspaper articles and participating in radio programs with:

* KUYI Hopi Radio (Kykotsmovi, Arizona);
* KYAY San Carlos Apache Radio (San Carlos, Arizona);
* KPYT Pascua Yaqui 100.3 FM (Tucson, Arizona);
* KNNB White Mountain Apache Radio (Whiteriver, Arizona);
* KGUA Native Media Resource 88.3 FM (Gualala, California);
* KIDE Hoopa Valley 91.3 FM (Hoopa, California);
* Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians News (Dowagiac, Michigan);
* Char-Koosta News of the Flathead Indian Nation (Pablo, Montana);
* KYVA Navajo Nation 1230 AM and KYAT 94.5 FM (Gallup, New Mexico);
* St. Regis Mohawk Reservation news (Akwesasne, New York);
* Indian Country Today News (New York City, New York);
* American Indian Community House News (New York City, New York);
* Seneca Nation WGWE 105.9 FM (Salamanca, New York); and
* Potawatomi Indians News (Shawnee, Oklahoma).

***Outreach to Tribal Community Military Service Members, Veterans, and Families***

To raise awareness about our expedited disability claim initiatives for military service members and veterans, we conducted outreach at:

* Tribal Veterans Stand Down (Minneapolis, Minnesota, August 2014);
* Native American Veterans Absentee Shawnee Tribal Health Fair (Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, August 2014);
* San Juan County Stand Down for Homeless Veterans Fair (Farmington, New Mexico, October 2014);
* D-Q University Big Time Powwow Veterans Stand Down (Davis, California, November 2014);
* Shoshone Banock Tribal Veterans Stand Down (Fort Hall, Idaho, November 2014);
* Inter-Tribal Homeless Veterans Stand Down of Nevada (Las Vegas, Nevada, November 2014);
* Southern Paiute Veterans Powwow (Moapa, Nevada, November 2014);
* U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and Indian Health Services Veterans Conference (Albuquerque, New Mexico, November 2014);
* Chickasha Nation Homeless Veterans Stand Down (Chickasha, Oklahoma, November 2014);
* White Eagle Veterans Health Fair (Stillwater, Oklahoma, November 2014);
* U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs of Eastern Kansas Tribal Conference (Topeka, Kansas, January 2015);
* Haskell Indian Nations University Veterans Recruitment Conference (Lawrence, Kansas, February 2015);
* Tribal Nations Veterans Summit (Albuquerque, New Mexico, April 2015); and
* Confederated Tribes of the Grande Ronde Indians Veterans Summit (Grande Ronde, Oregon, July 2015).

***Continuing Outreach and Tribal Consultation Efforts***

We continue to enhance our outreach and consultation efforts with tribal communities by:

1. **Seeking Input from Tribes**

In support of our continued outreach to Indian tribes, we share information about our programs, service delivery changes and respond to customer service inquiries at meetings. Since our last report, we met with:

* Kaibab Band of Paiute Indians Elderly Division (Fredonia, Arizona);
* Cocopah Tribal Elder Services (Somerton, Arizona);
* Fort Bidwell Tribe (Fort Bidwell, California);
* Salt River Pima Maricopa Indian Community (Scottsdale, Arizona);
* Saginaw-Chippewa Tribe (Mount Pleasant, Michigan);
* Flathead Reservation (Pablo, Montana);
* Isleta Pueblo (Albuquerque, New Mexico);
* Acoma Pueblo (Acoma, New Mexico);
* Pojoaque Pueblo (Albuquerque, New Mexico);
* San Ildefonso Pueblo (Albuquerque, New Mexico);
* Ft. Sill Apache Tribe (Deming, New Mexico);
* Navajo Nation (Gallup, New Mexico);
* Mescalero Apache Tribe (Mescalero, New Mexico);
* Taos Pueblo (Taos, New Mexico);
* Zia Pueblo (Zia Pueblo, New Mexico);
* St. Regis Mohawk Reservation (Akwesasne, New York);
* Seneca Nation (Salamanca, New York);
* Cherokee Reservation (Cherokee, North Carolina);
* Apache Tribe (Anadarko, Oklahoma);
* Wichita and Affiliated Tribes (Anadarko, Oklahoma);
* Delaware Nation (Bartlesville, Oklahoma);
* Caddo Nation (Binger, Oklahoma);
* Kiowa Tribe (Carnegie, Oklahoma);
* Cheyenne-Arapaho (Concho, Oklahoma);
* Choctaw Nation (Durant, Oklahoma);
* Iowa Tribe (Kiowa, Oklahoma);
* Comanche Nation (Lawton, Oklahoma);
* Kickapoo Tribe (McLoud, Oklahoma);
* Muscogee Creek Nation (Muscogee, Oklahoma);
* Thlopthlocco Tribal Town Tribe (Okemah, Oklahoma);
* Pawnee Nation (Pawnee, Oklahoma);
* Otoe-Missouria Tribe (Red Rock, Oklahoma);
* Seminole Nation (Seminole, Oklahoma); and
* Citizen Potawatomie Nation (Shawnee, Oklahoma).

1. **Developing Core Consultation Issues**

We have no outstanding consultation issues; however, we will consult on issues involving program entitlement, benefit eligibility, and legislative or regulatory changes.

1. **Enhancing Staff Training and Awareness**

In November 2014, our American Indian and Alaska Native Advisory Council conducted a seminar with our employees about American Indian and Alaska Native culture.

1. **Consulting Regularly with Tribes**

While we have no new policies, regulations, or legislative changes requiring formal consultation, we will continue to strengthen our relationships with Indian tribes through ongoing communication, education, and outreach activities.

We met with Tribal Government housing authorities in Arizona, California, and Nevada to establish data exchanges to help tribal community members obtain benefit verifications for tribal services. We met with Tribal Governments in Arizona, California and Nevada to review and add Tribal ID cards to our agency’s Tribal ID database for Social Security number card applications.

**Exchanging of Information between SSA and Tribal Governments**

We published two papers related to the American Indian and Alaska Native community:

* *Financial Literacy Among American Indians and Alaska Natives Research and Statistics Note No. 2014-04*; and
* *Retirement Income Among American Indians and Alaska Natives in the American Community Survey Research and Statistics Note No. 2015-01*.

In November 2014, we met with the Accohannock Indian Tribe and the Nanticoke Indian Tribe in Salisbury, Maryland to collaborate on promoting our programs and services with tribal community members.

In June 2015, our Deputy Commissioner for Operations met with tribal leaders from the Society of American Indian Government Employees to share information about our service delivery options such as video service delivery and Social Security Express. Tribal leaders welcomed the idea of providing more options for tribal community members to access our services.

In July 2015, we met with the Chief Information Officer of the Chief Dull Knife College in Lame Deer, Montana. We discussed installing the “SSA Express” icon on public access computers in the library. The Chief Information Officer agreed to allow us to install this service delivery option to help tribal community members conduct business with our agency.

We also actively participated in various Indian tribal events, where we shared information about our programs and services, including:

* Nansemond Indian Tribal Association Powwow (Suffolk, Virginia, August 2014);
* National Indian Council on Aging Biennial Conference (Phoenix, Arizona, September 2014);
* Native American Seniors Association Conference (Phoenix, Arizona, September 2014);
* Tohono O’odham Tribal Women Health Fair (Sells, Arizona, September 2014);
* Siena Native American National Leadership Conference (Tucson, Arizona, September 2014);
* Bois Forte reservation Elder Resource Fair (Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 2014);
* National Indian Health Board Conference (Albuquerque, New Mexico, September 2014);
* Navajo Nation Health Fair (Gallup, New Mexico, September 2014);
* Lumbee Tribe Pembroke Day Conference (Lumberton, North Carolina, September 2014);
* Kanza Native American Health Fair (Newkirk, Oklahoma, September 2014);
* National Congress of American Indians Conference (Atlanta, Georgia, October 2014);
* Haskell Indian Nations University Tribal Conference (Lawrence, Kansas, October 2014);
* Native American Mental Health Conference (Cloquet, Minnesota, October 2014);
* Pawnee Tribe Harvest Wellness Fair ( Pawnee, Oklahoma, October 2014);
* Ak-Chin Indian Community Elders Day Conference (Maricopa, Arizona, November 2014);
* Southwest American Indian Rainbow LGBTQ Summit (Phoenix, Arizona, November 2014);
* Acoma Pueblo Diabetes Awareness Health Fair (Acoma, New Mexico, November 2014);
* Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (Anchorage, Alaska, December 2014);
* Arizona Indian Child & Family Conference (Scottsdale, Arizona, December 2014);
* Arizona Tribal Resource Forum (Phoenix, Arizona, January 2015);
* Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Native American Symposium (Chandler, Arizona, February 2015);
* Pascua Yaqui Tribal Senior Services Conference (Tucson, Arizona, February 2015);
* Benedictine University Winter Powwow (Woodridge, Illinois, February 2015);
* American Indian Alliance Powwow (San Jose, California, March 2015);
* Fond Du Lac Tribal College Disability Mentoring Day (Cloquet, Minnesota, March 2015);
* University of North Carolina Pembroke Career Expo (Lumberton, North Carolina, March 2015);
* Poarch Creek Indian Reservation Conference (Atmore, Alabama, April 2015);
* American Indian College Native Women Conference (Phoenix, Arizona, April 2015);
* University of California Berkeley Powwow (Berkeley, California, April 2015);
* University of California Davis Powwow (Davis, California, April 2015);
* Chumash Day Native American Powwow (Malibu, California, April 2015);
* American Indian Energy Conference (Fayetteville, North Carolina, April 2015);
* Native American Caring Conference (Florence, Oregon, April 2015);
* Muckleshoot Elders Tribal Conference (Auburn, Washington, April 2015);
* Sutter County Powwow (Marysville, California, May 2015);
* Susanville Indian Rancheria Powwow (Susanville, California, May 2015);
* CMS/ITU Tribal Outreach and Education Event (Norman, Oklahoma, May 2015);
* American Indian Opportunities Resource Fair (Minneapolis, Minnesota, May 2015);
* American Indian Wellness Fair (Minneapolis, Minnesota, May 2015);
* Lumbee Career Expo (Lumberton, North Carolina, May 2015);
* Richmond Powwow (Richmond, California, June 2015);
* Tribal Health and Urban Indian Education Conference (Denver, Colorado, June 2015);
* American Indian Center of Chicago Powwow (Grove Village, Illinois, June 2015);
* Society of American Indian Government Employees Training Conference (Welch, Minnesota, June 2015);
* Santo Domingo Pueblo Health Fair (Santa Fe, New Mexico, June 2015);
* California Indian Night Conference (Sacramento, California, July 2015);
* Vallejo Powwow (Vallejo, California, July 2015);
* Pathways to Respecting American Indians Civil Rights Conference (Denver, Colorado, July 2015);
* Mille Lacs Reservation Wisdom Steps Conference ( Carlton, Minnesota, July 2015); and
* Leech Lake Resource Fair (Walker, Minnesota, July 2015).

1. **Additional activities in support of Executive Order 13270 - Tribal Colleges and Universities**

As part of our outreach and communication efforts with tribal governments and tribal colleges and universities, we will continue to:

* Collaborate with Tribal Colleges and Universities on recruitment opportunities for students in FY 2016;
* Collaborate with the American University’s Washington Internships for Native Students program to offer Native students internships for the remainder of fiscal year (FY) 2015 and continue this effort in FY 2016; and
* Donate excessed furniture, such as chairs, desks, printers and, computers, in

FY 2015-2016.

We will continue to build upon our accomplishments and accelerate efforts to improve our consultation policy and communication methods with Indian tribes and tribal officials.