



## SOCIAL SECURITY

The Commissioner

August 8, 2013

The Honorable Sylvia M. Burwell  
Director, Office of Management and Budget  
725 17<sup>th</sup> Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Ms. Burwell:

We are pleased to provide the annual progress report on our Tribal Consultation and Coordination Plan. Since we submitted our last progress report on August 9, 2012, we completed a number of activities to advance our plan. We detail our progress in the enclosed report.

Our Tribal Consultation Workgroup met regularly to review our consultation policies and outreach efforts. While there have been no policy, legislative, or regulatory proposals that required formal consultation in the past year, we continue to work closely with tribal leaders through our communication, education, and outreach activities.

If you have any questions, please contact me or have your staff contact Kojuan Almond, our Associate Commissioner for External Affairs, at (410) 965-1804.

Sincerely,

/s/

Carolyn W. Colvin  
Acting Commissioner

Enclosure

**Social Security Administration  
Tribal Consultation Plan – 2013 Progress Report**

Since our last progress report on August 9, 2012, we have had no policy, legislative, or regulatory proposals that required formal consultation. Our Tribal Consultation Workgroup will continue to monitor whether any new proposals have tribal implications. We will continue to strengthen our relationships with Indian tribes, as defined in Executive Order 13175 - Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments, through ongoing communication, education, and outreach activities.

***Maintain and Expand Ongoing Communication***

To improve access and understanding of our programs, we continue to conduct programmatic seminars with Indian tribes, provide program-training guides to tribal benefit specialists, and provide information about our programs and services to tribal community members.

Since our last progress report, we also:

- Participated with the Project Homeless Connect in Minneapolis, Minnesota, to provide information about Social Security programs and services to homeless and transient American Indians;
- Presented training about Social Security's work incentives programs to faculty and students at the White Earth Tribal College in Mahanomen, Minnesota and the Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwe Community College in Hayward, Wisconsin;
- Provided information about Social Security programs and services, including the [my Social Security](#) account, to benefit coordinators, caseworkers, tribal leaders, and staff at the Barona Band of Mission Indians Tribe Lakeside, California; Colorado River Indian Tribe Housing Authority Parker, Arizona; Hiawatha Public Housing office, Hiawatha, Iowa; Indianapolis American Indian Council, Indianapolis, Indiana; Kansas City Indian Center, Kansas City, Missouri; Lower Brule Reservation, Lower Brule, South Dakota; Minnesota Native American Clinic, Minneapolis, Minnesota; North Fork Rancheria Tribe, North Fork, California; Rocky Boy Reservation, Rocky Boy, Montana; Salt Lake City Urban Indian Center, Salt Lake City, Utah; Tomah Tribal Aging Board, Tomah, Wisconsin; and Yurok Indian Housing Authority, Klamath, California;
- Provided information about direct deposit and the Medicare "Extra Help" program at the Crow Creek Reservation Senior Center, Pierre, South Dakota;
- Participated in monthly meetings with leaders from the Urban Indian Elders Services and the State of Minnesota Indian Affairs in Minneapolis, Minnesota to provide information about our programs and services;
- Presented training on Social Security's Business Services Online Suite of Services and Social Security number verification services to staff at the Soboba Tribal Gaming Commission, San Jacinto, California;

- Presented training to Native American Employers about Social Security's Business Services Online Suite of Services and Social Security number verification services in Rapid City, South Dakota;
- Met with the Executive Director of the Native American Indian Center, Columbus, Ohio to provide information about Social Security programs and services to tribal community members;
- Published an article about Social Security benefits for urban tribal community members in the Native Health Clinic newsletter and website in Phoenix, Arizona;
- Published monthly articles on Social Security programs and services for the Smith River Rancheria, Smith River, California and the Yurok Tribe Newspaper in Klamath, California;
- Published articles about Social Security programs and services in the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians newsletter in Dowagiac, Michigan;
- Published articles on Social Security programs in the Char-Koosta News publication of the Flathead Indian Nation, Pablo, Montana;
- Participated in several radio programs on Social Security programs and services for a Native American radio station, KILI, in Porcupine, South Dakota;
- Published bi-weekly articles on Social Security programs and services for the Winnebago Indian News in Winnebago, Wisconsin;
- Provided 34 Native American students with internships through the American University's Washington Internship for Native Students (WINS) program;
- Provided a \$50,000 grant to the WINS program for research on the "Protection and Advocacy for Beneficiaries of Social Security";
- Provided an internship opportunity for a Native American student from Haskell Indian Nations University, Lawrence, Kansas;
- Donated school supplies to the Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians Elementary School, Red Lake, Minnesota;
- Donated 40 reception chairs to Haskell Indian Nations University, Lawrence, Kansas;
- Participated at Haskell Indian Nations University, Lawrence, Kansas, Little Priest Tribal College Winnebago, Nebraska, and Nebraska Indian Community College Job Recruitment fairs to provide information about Social Security internship and career opportunities in South Sioux City, Nebraska; and
- Expanded our Video Service Delivery to 27 remote Indian tribe locations, in which tribal community members interact via video conferencing with Social Security field office staff to file for benefits, request appeals, requests replacement Social Security cards, and obtain other services.

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

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

#### **1. Seeking Input from Tribes**

We meet weekly, via conference call, with benefit coordinators from the Blackfeet Tribe in Browning, Montana, Fort Peck, and Fort Belknap, Montana reservations to address tribal member's service delivery issues.

We meet monthly with the Grand Traverse Band Indian Tribe, Peshawbestown, Michigan regarding program benefits and services for tribal community members.

We meet quarterly with the Moapa Indian Tribe in Moapa, Nevada and provide information about our programs and services.

In September 2012, our Chicago regional staff and the Michigan Disability Determination Services staff held a Tribal Advocacy meeting in Traverse City, Michigan. We addressed program entitlement questions and provided information on our programs and services to tribal leaders from the:

- Saginaw-Chippewa Tribe, Mount Pleasant Michigan;
- Lac Vieux Tribal Council, Watersmeet, Michigan;
- Pokagon Band of Potawatomi, Dowagiac, Michigan;
- Nottawaseppi Huron Band of Potawatomi, Fulton, Michigan;
- Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, Hayward, Wisconsin;
- Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians, Peshawbestown, Michigan;
- SuHannaville Potawatomi Tribe, Wilson, Michigan;
- Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan;
- Saginaw-Chippewa Tribe, Mount Pleasant, Michigan; and
- Gun Lake Tribe, Wayland, Michigan.

In May 2013, our Denver Regional Commissioner met with South Dakota Secretary of Tribal Relations in Pierre, South Dakota about promoting our Social Security programs and services on the [South Dakota Department of Tribal Relations website](#) as a resource for tribal community members.

In July 2013, Acting Commissioner Carolyn W. Colvin met with tribal leaders and members of the American Indians and Alaska Natives (AIAN) organizations to provide information about Social Security's programs and service delivery options. Tribal leaders and AIAN organizations shared ideas about service delivery options in rural tribal communities and concerns about Supplemental Security Income (SSI) exclusions related to Tribal Trusts. As we continue to gather feedback on Tribal Trusts, we will work with tribal leaders.

## **2. Developing Core Consultation Issues**

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

## **3. Enhancing Staff Training and Awareness**

We informed employees Agency-wide about the Native American Precedent Application (NAPA) intranet website. The NAPA website provides our claims technicians with a single location for obtaining specific income and resource information from an individual Indian tribe to determine tribal member's non-medical SSI eligibility. Each Tribal government that has members who receive SSI has a single precedent that provides information for all members.

We collaborate throughout the year with Social Security's AIAN Advisory Council to educate employees about American Indians and Alaska Natives culture.

We collaborated with the Department of Justice and the Internal Revenue Service to develop procedures related to the "[Tribal Trust Accounting and Management Settlement Agreements](#)" for Social Security field office staff processing SSI claims that involve settlement payments received by tribal members.

## **4. Consulting Regularly with Tribes**

To date, no policy, regulatory, or legislative changes required formal consultation with the tribes.

## **5. Exchanging of Information between SSA and Tribal Governments**

In October 2012, our Social Security San Francisco regional staff members, met with tribal leaders of National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) Elders and Disability Committee at NCAI's annual conference. We shared information on our activities with tribal communities.

In November 2012, we published an article titled, "[An Overview of American Indians and Alaska Natives in the Context of Social Security and Supplemental Security Income.](#)" which examines the economic security of the AIAN population receiving Social Security benefits and SSI.

In November 2012, we sent a letter to the leaders of the 566 federally recognized Indian tribes and 5 Indian tribal advocacy groups, announcing updates to our [Social Security AIAN website](#). In the letter, we highlighted an updated section on the AIAN website entitled, "Tribal Communications," in which we:

- Posted a factsheet titled "[The Ticket To Work Program And Becoming A Tribal Employment Network](#)";
- Posted a special poster developed in honor of National Native American Heritage Month;
- Provided information on our Tribal Consultation and Coordination plan; and
- Provided information on our video service delivery locations serving tribal communities.

We actively participated in a number of Indian Tribal events, including:

- Native Association Elders Conference (Fairbanks, Alaska, August 2012);
- Navajo Nation Self Reliance Conference (Window Rock, Arizona, August 2012);
- The National Rural Electric Cooperative Retirement Planning Seminar (Window Rock, Arizona, August 2012);
- Respecting American Indian Civil Rights Conference (Greely, Colorado, August 2012);
- Department of Veteran Affairs Stand Down on Tribal Homelessness (Fort Snelling, Minnesota, August 2012);
- White Earth Tribe Collaborations Conference (Mahnomen, Minnesota, August 2012);
- Department of Veteran Affairs Tribal Relations Conference (Rapid City, South Dakota, August 2012);
- Native American Summit (Salt Lake City, Utah, August 2012);
- Puyallup Tribe Caseworkers Conference (Puyallup, Washington, August 2012);
- Indian Elder Law Conference (Wausau, Wisconsin, August 2012);
- Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (Anchorage, Alaska, September 2012);
- Bois Forte reservation Elder Resource Fair (Nett Lake, Minnesota, September 2012);
- Eastern Washington Tribal Medicare Conference (Airway Heights, Washington, September 2012);
- Spokane Tribe Temporary Assistance Seminar (Spokane, Washington, September 2012);
- Lac Court Oreilles Wellness Fair ( Hayward, Wisconsin, September 2012);
- Navajo Area Indian Health Services and Social Services Conference (Gallup, New Mexico, October 2012);
- National Congress of American Indians Annual Conference (Sacramento, California, October 2012);
- Friendship House Annual Dancing Feather Youth Pow-Wow (San Francisco, California, October 2012);
- Pathways into Health Conference (Rapid City, South Dakota, October 2012);
- Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe Seminar (Sequim, Washington, October 2012);
- Squaxin Island Elder Abuse Summit (Shelton, Washington, October 2012);
- Veterans Pow-Wow at DQ University (Davis, California, November 2012);
- Native American Veterans Resource Fair (Tulare, California, November 2012);
- Mille Lacs Ojibwe Tribe Elders Conference (Onamia, Minnesota, November 2012);
- Skokomish Tribal Elders Seminar (Shelton, Washington, November 2012);
- Quinalt Indian Nation Benefit Fair in (Taholah, Washington, November 2012);
- Northwest Washington Indian Tribes Seminar (Tulalip, Washington, November 2012);
- Indian Health Services Outreach and Training Conference (Reno, Nevada, December 2012);
- Muckleshoot Health and Wellness Seminar (Auburn, Washington, December 2012);
- Tohono O'odham Nation Elders Conference (Sells, Arizona, January 2013);
- Yurok Tribe Wellness Court, Swords to Plowshares Native American Veterans Legal Aid Clinic Conference (Davis, California, January 2013);
- Urban Indian Directors Health and Resource Fair (Minneapolis, Minnesota, January 2013);

- Warm Springs Tribal Social Services Disability Training Seminar (The Dalles, Oregon, January 2013);
- Tribal Relations Day (Pierre, South Dakota, January 2013);
- Puyallup Tribe Elder and Wellness Training Conference (Tacoma, Washington, January 2013);
- Coeur d'Alene Tribe and Bureau of Indian Affairs Seminar (Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, February 2013);
- National American Indian Girl and Woman HIV/AIDS Day Conference (Phoenix, Arizona, March 2013);
- National Native HIV/AIDS Awareness Day Conference (San Francisco, California, March 2013);
- American Indian Alliance of Silicon Valley Pow-Wow (San Jose, California, March 2013);
- Little Priest Tribal College Career Fair (Sioux City, Nebraska, March 2013);
- Native Caring Annual Conference (Lincoln City, Oregon, March 2013);
- Washington Indian Tribes Health Care Seminar (Shelton, Washington, March 2013);
- Alaska Annual Tribal Business Office Conference (Anchorage, Alaska, April 2013);
- Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community Disability Summit (Phoenix, Arizona, April 2013);
- Saginaw-Chippewa Tribal Elders Conference (Mount Pleasant, Michigan, April 2013);
- Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribal Seminar (Kingston, Washington, April 2013);
- Tohono O'Odham Nation Women's Health Fair (Sells, Arizona, May 2013);
- Veterans Resource Fair and Native American Heritage Celebration (San Jose, California, May 2013);
- American Indian Annual Wellness Fair (Minneapolis, Minnesota, May 2013);
- American Indian Opportunities Center Seminar (Minneapolis, Minnesota, May 2013);
- Muckleshoot Elders Fair (Auburn, Washington, May 2013);
- Chehalis Tribal Health Fair (Oakville, Washington, May 2013);
- National Tribal Public Health Summit (Hollywood, Florida, June 2013);
- Leech Lake Reservation Resource Fair (Cass Lake, Minnesota, June 2013);
- Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa and Upper Sioux Community Age and Disability Odyssey Conference (Duluth, Minnesota, June 2013);
- Society of American Indian Government Employees National Conference (Spokane, Washington, June 2013);
- Wisdom Steps Conference (Hinckley, Minnesota, July 2013); and
- Pine Ridge and Rosebud Reservation Veteran's Stand Down (Mission, South Dakota, July 2013).

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

As part of our outreach and communications efforts with tribal governments and tribal colleges and universities, we:

- Continue to contract with American University WINS program and offer 17 internships to Native American students for the summer of fiscal year (FY) 2013;
- Continue to collaborate with the American University WINS program to offer Native students internships for the remainder of FY 2013 and continue these efforts in FY 2014;
- Continue to work with Tribal Colleges and Universities and offer internship opportunities to Native students outside of the American University WINS program; and
- Continue to donate excessed furniture such as chairs, desk, printers, and computers in FY 2014.

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.