

NIEA & AIHEC CONSULTATION CAUCUS



Welcome, everyone!

At this critical point in American education and in Indian Education, we appreciate your time and attention, as we know there is a lot going on. Today we'll caucus on critical topics to share during the upcoming DOI consultation session for BIE stakeholders.

DOI CONSULTATION SESSION - BIE INTERESTED PARTIES



There are nine (9) DOI Workforce Consultation sessions, with seven (7) in-person sessions by region, one (1) virtual session for Tribal leaders, and one (1) virtual session for BIE stakeholders.

Department of the Interior – Tribal Consultation Sessions:
Indian Affairs Workforce Efficiency and Productivity (EO 14210)

Session 5 - Virtual - BIE Interested Parties

Fri, May 30, 2025

10:00 AM - 3:30 PM Eastern (ET)

Register: <https://www.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/QnKYqOkIT-SINW629ejcuQ>

DOI WORKFORCE CONSULTATION TOPICS



Restructuring of Indian Affairs to support more efficient interactions with Tribes



Addressing current funding structures, including identifying efficiency barriers to expedite funding to Tribes and Tribal programs



Increasing Indian Affairs support for Tribal self-governance and self-determination



Feedback on DOI's emergency permitting procedures in response to the President's National Energy Emergency

DRAFT TALKING POINTS – WEBINAR PROCESS


- AIHEC and NIEA have collaborated on today's materials. These talking points are in draft form, and following today's discussion will be amended to reflect the stances and opinions of the leaders here today. These are available in the chat.
- Finalized Talking Points will be circulated tomorrow.
- AIHEC and NIEA are both members of the Coalition for Tribal Sovereignty which also has comprehensive, non-education specific, talking points available at <https://coalitionfortribalsovereignty.org/current-federal-actions/resources-for-indian-country/>
 - Password: nativetruth **(case-sensitive)**



Open Discussion

TOPIC 1

Restructuring of Indian Affairs to support more efficient interactions with Tribes




In 2013, after a third-party review and extensive consultation, Indian Affairs implemented significant changes to the structure of the agency and how the agency interacts with Tribes. Indian Affairs remains committed to those efforts as well as the efforts of EO 14210 to be more efficient without diminishing the current levels of operational support and services to Tribes.

What recommendations would you make to Indian Affairs to improve efficiency through staffing changes, resource sharing, process improvements, and potential consolidation of programs and offices?

Open Discussion

TOPIC 2

Addressing current funding structures, including identifying efficiency barriers to expedite funding to Tribes and Tribal programs




Indian Affairs understands that the funding structures and mechanisms for Tribal programs are complicated and include a combination of Tribal Priority Allocations, one-time awards, grant funding, formula funding, and other Federal funding sources. **What recommendations would you make to Indian Affairs to improve access to Federal programs, funding, and services?**

Indian Affairs is seeking input on how to better support Tribes by reducing the administrative burden to access and administer funding, improving communications with Tribes on funding opportunities, and improving technical assistance and direct support to Tribes to obtain and administer funding.

Open Discussion

TOPIC 3

Increasing Indian Affairs
support for Tribal self-
governance and self-
determination



The Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (ISDEAA; P.L. 93-638, 25 U.S.C. §§ 5301 et seq.) outlined federal policy on Tribal self-determination. Since the ISDEAA enactment, Congress has authorized the expansion of Tribal self-determination and self-governance across the Federal Government.

How can Indian Affairs optimize its functionality and effectiveness to provide Tribes with improved flexibility to foster economic growth, address the specific local needs of their communities, and increase pathways to self-determination and self-governance?

TRIBAL CONSULTATION FEEDBACK

Written tribal consultation written comments are accepted, either by email or by mail through Monday, July 7, 2025.



EMAIL COMMENTS

Submit tribal consultation comments via email by 11 :59 pm ET on Monday, July 7, 2025, to:

consultation@bia.gov

USPS COMMENTS

Submit tribal consultation comments via mail by Monday, July 7, 2025, to:

The Department of the Interior
Office of Regulatory Affairs and
Collaborative Action
1001 Indian School Road NW, Suite 229,
Albuquerque, NM 87104

NEW BIE CONSULTATIONS

DOI has recently announced two additional consultations, with six additional sessions that BIE stakeholders will be interested in:



On May 21, 2025, DOI announced Tribal Consultation on the new DOI Strategic Plan. There will be four virtual consultation sessions by region:

- East Coast Tribal: June 17th
- West Coast Tribal: June 24th
- [Dear Tribal Leader Letter here.](#)
- Alaska Native: June 18th
- Native Hawaiian: June 26th
- [Draft Strategic Plan here.](#)

On May 23, 2025 BIE announced the next Tribal Consultation on school choice and EO 14191. They intend on implementation ahead of the 2025-2026 school year.

- **Two (2) back-to-back EO Mechanism consultation sessions on Monday, July 14, 2025**
 - Reserving nearly \$1.3 million of BIE's ESEA Allocation for school choice options
 - Encouraging interested Tribes in assuming control of BIE-operated schools
 - Increasing the number of TED grants for SY 2025-2026
- **One (1) BIE Chief Academic Officer Consultation session on Tuesday, July 15, 2025.**
- [Dear Tribal Leader Letter accessed here.](#)



Additional Advocacy

RESOURCES

- <https://coalitionfortribalsovereignty.org>
 - For password protected pages:
nativetruth
- <https://www.niea.org/administration-updates>
- <https://www.aihec.org>



AMERICAN INDIAN
HIGHER EDUCATION
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**National Indian
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