



AGENCY TRIBAL CONSULTATION

DEAR TRIBAL LEADER LETTER

Invitation for September 14, 2022

August 26, 2022

Via Email

Dear Tribal Leader:

On behalf of Kilolo Kijakazi, Acting Commissioner of Social Security, we are writing to invite you to attend a Tribal consultation scheduled for September 14, 2022, pursuant to the [Presidential Memorandum on Tribal Consultation and Strengthening Nation-to-Nation Relationships](#), dated January 26, 2021.

We value transparency, participation, and collaboration with Tribal Government Offices on our programs and operations. Building on years of experience in supporting Tribal policy, we are seeking to create an **Office for Native American Partnerships**. The Office would direct and administer comprehensive SSA programs and policies related to American Indians and Alaska Natives, advocate for the government-to-government relationships with Tribes and serve as the primary point of contact for internal and external stakeholders on Tribal affairs. We are seeking consultation on design and implementation of this office.

Secondly, we are seeking consultation on the impact and implementation procedures for the Tribal General Welfare Exclusion Act (TGWEA) as it pertains to Internal Revenue Code and the Social Security Act. In response to recommendations received during our June 2021 consultation, we seek your guidance for procedural implementation by hosting a demonstration of an internal SSA tool designed to assist with decisions related to TGWEA which impact Supplemental Security Income (SSI) recipients.

And lastly, we are providing a platform for a follow up discussion on policy content from our June 2021 Tribal Consultation that included Treasury as well. Treasury published [Draft FAQs for Payments by Indian Tribal Governments to their Individual Members Under COVID-Relief Legislation](#). The Draft FAQs provide general information on the Federal income tax treatment and required reporting for these payments. This is a follow-up discussion on SSI benefits previously affected by COVID relief funds.

Registration Process

We respectfully request that each Tribe register one primary leader or designee leader to provide comments. All others are welcome to register as listen-only participants.

Register in advance for this meeting:

Here is the [LIVE](#) link to the Tribal Consultation Invitation and Registration Information page. The registration page is now open and will close Monday, September 12, 2022 at 11:59 P.M. ET.

After registering, you will receive a confirmation page. Prior to the meeting, you will receive an *MS Teams meeting invitation with a link and call-in information that you will need in order to join the consultation.*

We have attached framing questions to guide our discussion and focus the areas where we would appreciate Tribal government recommendations.

The consultation is not for press purposes.

- We hope that you will be able to join us for this important discussion and value your participation. If you wish to provide comments in writing, please send written comments to Social Security Administration at AIAN.EC@ssa.gov.

Sincerely,

Nancy Berryhill & Renee Ferguson
Point of Contact for Tribal Consultation
Social Security Administration