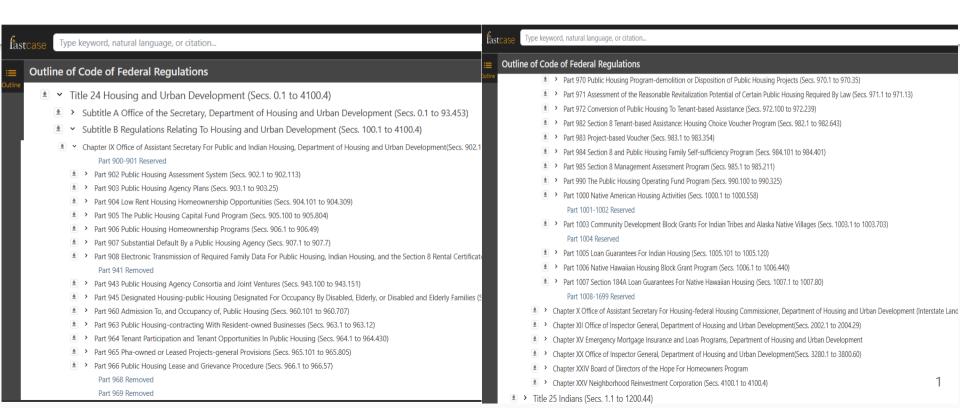
# Tribal Housing Issues Indian Affairs Committee

November 29, 2023

Winter L. Torres

**Hat 1:** CEO, NM Eviction Prevention & Diversion **Hat 2:** President & Founder,

Torres Legal Solutions LLC (CO & NM)





## New Mexico Eviction Prevention & Diversion

NMEPD

### In NMEPD's opinion:

- 1. The number one affordable housing priority (in Albuquerque) should be a site/complex for unsheltered Native American New Mexicans with quality, culturally appropriate wraparound services, planned & built with Native American input & participation
- 2. The State of NM must invest in a permanent, specialized team to help tribes & Native Americans access federal funding & push through federal processes as quickly as possible

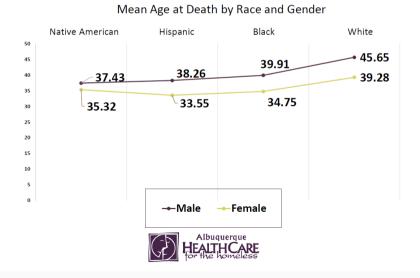
### The Need

Native Americans suffer the worst socioeconomic ill rates (by race)

NMEPD: Largest racial group to access eviction prevention & rental assistance, behind only Whites

- McKinley County, with NM's largest Native American population, has the state's highest poverty rate (2021)
- Cibola & McKinley Counties have the state's worst per capita personal income (2021)
- Suicide rate of 34.9 per 100K NM residents in 2021, compared to the state rate of 24.3
- Though only 11.2% of NM's population in October 2022, accounted for 15% of HSD program recipients
- In October 2022, San Juan & McKinley Counties each had 1.8% of their Medicaid/SNAP/Cash Assistance recipients experiencing homelessness, behind only Bernalillo County & 2 other counties
- Though only 4.6% of the population w/in the City of Albuquerque, account for 11% of the population served by Albuquerque Healthcare for the Homeless (2020)

### **Homeless Mortality in New Mexico**



## NMEPD's Informal System Assessment

- State of NM entities are hesitant to wade into Native American housing matters
  - It's difficult. See HUD regs on slides 1 & 15.
  - With 23 tribes, the federal government, the state government, local governments, trust land, allotted land, & fee simple land, it is akin to checkerboard jurisdiction
  - There is desire to address the issue, but it is set aside at initial planning & implementation with the intent to return to the matter later because of the difficulty. Attention does not return to the matter.
- The tribes have insurmountable capacity & system infrastructure barriers, much larger than that our state & local governments face currently
- The State of NM has reached a consensus about involving itself in housing
  - THAT MUST INCLUDE A STATE TEAM DEDICATED SOLELY TO ADDRESSING THE GAPS IN THE NATIVE AMERICAN HOUSING CHECKERBOARD

What are some federally provided options?



Native American
Housing Assistance &
Self-Determination Act
of 1996 (NAHASDA)

# National Best Practice San Felipe Pueblo

Following 5 slides created by Isaac Perez, Executive Director, San Felipe Housing Pueblo Housing Authority

## **HUD Office of Native American Programs (ONAP)**

- Indian Housing Block Grant (IHBG)
- Indian Community
   Development Block Grant
   (ICDBG)
- Section 184 Home Loan
   Guarantee
- Title VI Leverage

### **OPPORTUNITIES**

- Tribe donated 100-acre parcel
- \$4M unspent in LOCCS
- 2009 ARRA funding: \$2M for infrastructure



- Design plans in place
- Nearby tribal water/sewer treatment facility. No septic!



## NAHASDA IS A TOOL TO GET MORE \$\$\$

#### TITLE VI

- Allowed us to leverage our limited IHBG
- \$500,000 turns into \$2.5M in loan
- We negotiate a 2-year interest only loan
- \$ are used to construct homes
- We use our IHBG to make interest payments
- Force account crew builds homes
- Families are qualified for loans with HA

#### **SECTION 184**

- We take out 184 loans on the homes after construction – paying ourselves back for our upfront construction costs
- We use the cash out to pay off our Title VI loan
- Once families sign their mortgage documents, they then make payments to the HA
- We use family payments to repay the Section 184 loan

## SOURCES AND USES

LAND (100 ACRES)		CONSTRUCTION		
\$9,000,000	TRIBAL (DONATION)	\$225,000	MFA	
INFRASTRUCTURE		\$1,600,000	RIF Rural Innovation Fund	
\$2,000,000	ARRA/NAHBG (same as IHBG)	\$7,800,000	TITLE VI	
\$800,000	IHBG	\$8,300,000	SECTION 184	
\$200,000	IHS	\$1,650,000	ICDBG	
\$300,000	RHED Rural Housing & Economic Dev	elopment		
\$3,100,000	FHWA Federal Highway Administration	TOTAL= <b>\$34,975</b>	,000	

### FORCE ACCOUNT CREW

- 40 tribal members
- Tribally-determined wage rates





# "WE CAN ONLY DO WHAT WE DO BECAUSE THE TRIBE SUPPORTS US"

- Land Donation 100 acres
- \$10 million loan to pay off Title VI and previous 184 Loans
  - Rather than pay the bank principle and interest we pay the tribe
  - Tribe now has a strong investment portfolio
- Worked with DOT to get funds for roads and sidewalks
- Tribe subsidizes two full-time positions and part of ED salary
- Providing Funding for two parks
- Tribe advances a loan on IHBG funds until new fiscal year funds are received

# **About Section 184 Loans**



#### Lenders

- Roughly only 30 lenders in NM (most, if not all, based out-of-state)
- USDA is one
- Lenders don't earn as much interest as on a typical mortgage, so little incentive to do Section 184 loans
- Section 184 loans do not have a minimum credit score requirement, but all lenders do

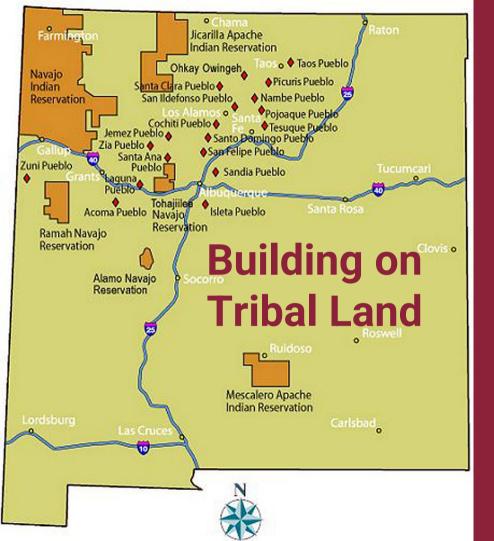
### **Mortgage & Mortgagees**

- Requires 2.25% down payment
- Less than 1% of MFA administered loans (for HUD) are Section 184
- Limited to residential, single-family housing up to 4 units
- Limited to primary residence
- Foreclosures go to tribe
- Tribes, Indian Housing Authorities, & Tribally Designated Housing Entities (TDHEs) can be mortgagee
- 20 NM tribes are approved for lending for homes on trust land

### **Loan Purpose**

For fee simple, allotted, or trust land

- Purchase
- Construction
- Rehabilitation
- Refinance



### Allotted Land – Residential Lease

- Requires approval of ALL owners
- BIA

### Trust Land – Homesite Lease

- Water line
- Power line
- Historic preservation
- National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)
  - Biological Compliance (endangered species)
  - Cultural Resource Compliance (archaeologist)
- Survey
- Grazing
- Rights of Way
- Inheritance

### **Building on Tribal Land:**

## Practically & Practicably Almost Impossible without specialized, sustained, substantial administrative support

### Frequently Asked Question

What is the process of getting a homesite lease?

Generally, you first pick-up an application and fill it out. Then you contact your Grazing/Land Board Official who will assist you with technical advice. You submit the application, with the required documents; fees, environmental review approvals (Biological and Cultural), with a survey plat. A complete HSL packet will be submitted by your local land office staff for the Environmental Reviewer, and finally to the department manager for review and approval.

How long is the Homesite Lease process?

About nine (9) months to twenty-four (24) months. Highly dependent on how soon applicant is able to contract an archaeologist and land surveyor and turn in all proper documentation. Factors that increase the length of time include: additional environmental reviews to evaluate Fish and Wildlife concerns; assessment of uranium impact or other human health and safety concerns; consent disputes; other...

How much does it cost to get a homesite lease with all the fees, rental payments, and third-party contractors?

Your vested interest may vary from \$110 - \$2,500.00. There is a \$30 application fee. A \$20 fee for a Biological review with the Fish & Wildlife during the application process. Once the lease is approved, there is a yearly \$1 or \$12 rental fee, depending on the type of lease agreement you have. Fees are subject to change. Other costs incur when hiring a private surveyor [\$ 500-\$1,500] and archaeologist [\$ 350 - \$700], but NLD cannot confirm a set price as these are third-party contractors whose agreement of services are between you and them. Costs also vary because some may not be applying for a new homesite, some may be transferring an Approved Homesite Lease, in which case the rental fee must be paid in full, and a \$45 processing fee, along with any incurring costs brought on due to the lack of environmental compliance approvals.

Why does it take so long and why must it go to various places?

What is a biological and cultural resource clearance? And why do we need it?

These reviews are required based on federal, state, & tribal regulations applied through the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). They are put in place to ensure compliance with laws that protect wildlife, their habitat, land use and historical sites.

### Practically & Practicably Almost Impossible

§ 162.011 How does a prospective lessee ident

§ 162.012 What are the consent requirements f

§ 162.013 Who is authorized to consent to a lea

§ 162.014 What laws will apply to leases approve

§ 162.015 May a lease contain a preference cor

§ 162.016 Will BIA comply with tribal laws in ma

§ 162.017 What taxes apply to leases approved

§ 162.018 May tribes administer this part on Bla

§ 162.019 May a lease address access to the lease

§ 162.020 May a lease combine tracts with different

tribal members?

infrastructure?

▼ Lease Administration

landowners to negotiate a lease?

without specialized, sustained, s	§ 162.022 What are BIA's responsibilities	§ 162.329	What other types of payments ar	e requiv Effectiveness,	Compliance, and Enforcement
▼ Title 25 Indians	§ 162.023 /What if an individual or entity tall	Bonding and I		§ 162.361	When will an amendment, assign
▼ Chapter I Bureau of Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior	1 - 2an approved lease or other prop	CI GGIOTE GEORGE	Is a performance bond required for		residential lease be effective?
▼ Subchapter H Land and Water	§ 162.024 May BIA take emergency action	11 11 10 100 100 100 100 100	Is insurance required for a reside	§ 162.362	What happens if BIA disapproves
▼ Part 162 Leases and Permits	§ 162.025 May decisions under this part		5-162.337 [Reserved]		leasehold mortgage?
▼ Subpart A General Provisions	§ 162.026 Who can answer questions about		\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\	§ 162.363	What happens if BIA does not me
▼ Purpose, Definitions, and Scope	§ 162.027 What documentation may BIA		What documents are required for Will BIA review a proposed resident		lease document?
§ 162.001 What is the purpose of this part?	enforcing leases?	g 102.559	the NEPA review documentation	§ 162.364	May BIA investigate compliance
§ 162.002 How is this part subdivided?	§ 162.028 How may an Indian tribe obtain § 162.029 How does BIA provide notice to	\$ 162.340	What is the approval process for	§ 162.365	May a residential lease provide for
§ 162.003 What key terms do I need to know?	► Subpart B Agricultural Leases		How will BIA decide whether to a	pprove a res 162.366	What will BIA do about a violation
§ 162.004 To what land does this part apply?	▼ Subpart C Residential Leases	§ 162.342	When will a residential lease be e	ffective? § 162.367	What will BIA do if the lessee doe
▼ When to Get a Lease	▼ Residential Leasing General Provisions	§ 162.343	Must a residential lease docume		on time?
§ 162.005 When do I need a lease to authorize po	ssession § 162.301 What types of leases does this	§ 162.344	Will BIA require an appeal bond for	or an appea § 162.368	Will late payment charges or spe
§ 162.006 To what types of land use agreements	does this § 162.302 Is there a model residential leas		lease document?		under a residential lease?
§ 162.007 To what permits does this part apply?	§ 162.303 Who needs a lease for housing	Amendments			How will payment rights relating
§ 162.008 Does this part apply to lease documen	ts I sw Lease Requirements before	-	May the parties amend a resider		When will a cancellation of a resi
January 4, 2013?	§ 162.311 How long may the term of a resi	donas rodos ran	What are the consent requiremen	ts for an ang 162.371	What will BIA do if a lessee rema
§ 162.009 Do I need BIA approval of a sublease	old mortg § 162.312 What must the lease include if		What is the approval process for		expires or is terminated or cance
▼ How to Get a Lease	§ 162.313 Are there mandatory provisions	tillet de condonitie	How will BIA decide whether to a	§ 162.372	Will BIA appeal bond regulations
§ 162.010 How do I obtain a lease?	§ 162.314 May permanent improvements		May a lease a seign a regidential		residential leases?

lease document? § 162.364 May BIA investigate compliance with a § 162.365 May a residential lease provide for nego What will BIA do about a violation of a r § 162.367 What will BIA do if the lessee does not of on time? § 162.368 Will late payment charges or special fee

§ 162.361 When will an amendment, assignment,

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under a residential lease? § 162.369 How will payment rights relating to a re-§ 162.370 When will a cancellation of a residential § 162.371 What will BIA do if a lessee remains in p

expires or is terminated or cancelled? § 162.372 Will BIA appeal bond regulations apply residential leases? § 162.373 When will BIA issue a decision on an ap decision?

§ 162.374 What happens if the lessee abandons the ▶ Subpart D Business Leases

▶ Subpart E Wind and Solar Resource Leases ► Subpart F Special Requirements for Certain Reservation

§ 162.701 Who owns the records associated with this § 162.702 How must records associated with this pa

§ 162.703 How does the Paperwork Reduction Act at

§ 162.354 What are the consent requirement § 162.355 What is the approval process for § 162.356 How will BIA decide whether to a

Leasehold Mortgages

Subleases

§ 162.358 What are the consent requirement

§ 162.357 May a lessee mortgage a resider

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§ 162.353 May a lessee sublease a residen

§ 162.352 How will BIA decide whether to a

§ 162.349 May a lessee assign a residentia

§ 162.351 What is the approval process for

§ 162.350 What are the consent requirement

§ 162.359 What is the approval process for a leasehold mortgage of a residential lease?

§ 162.360 How will BIA decide whether to approve a leasehold mortgage of a residential

▼ Subpart G Records

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§ 162.323 When are rental payments due

§ 162.324 Must a residential lease specif

§ 162.321 How much rent must be paid u Indian land? § 162.322 How will BIA determine fair ma

§ 162.325 What form of payment is accept

§ 162.326 May a residential lease provide

§ 162.327 Will BIA notify a lessee when a

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compensation?

§ 162.320 How much rent must be paid u

▼ Rental Requirements

§ 162.315 How must a residential lease a

improvements? § 162.316 How will BIA enforce removal re § 162.317 How must a residential lease d