



February 23, 2023

Dear Tribal Leader:

On behalf of the FEMA Grant Programs Directorate (GPD) and U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), I invite you to participate in an in-person listening session during the National Congress of American Indians' Executive Council Winter Session on Thursday, February 23, 2023, 3:30 pm – 5:00 pm ET, to discuss the new Shelter and Services Program (SSP). The purpose of this listening session is to gather feedback from Tribal leaders to inform FEMA's and CBP's implementation of SSP in order to better serve Tribal Nations.

The [2023 Consolidated Appropriations Act \(H.R.2617\)](#) establishes the SSP. This grant program aims to support the sheltering and related activities provided by non-federal entities, including facility improvements and construction, in support of relieving noncitizen overcrowding in short-term holding facilities operated by CBP. FEMA will administer grants or cooperative agreements with Tribal Nations, state and local governments, as well as non-governmental organizations. FEMA and CBP will work with these governments and organizations to identify eligible costs of providing temporary shelter and related services to individuals released from Department of Homeland Security custody

A framing paper with questions for Tribal leader consideration is attached. All information will be available on the FEMA website at: [www.fema.gov/about/tribes/consultations](http://www.fema.gov/about/tribes/consultations).

The official record will remain open for 30 days after the listening session to submit written comments to [gpd-comms@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:gpd-comms@fema.dhs.gov). Tribal Nations' written comments are due by Thursday, March 23, 2023.

We look forward to your participation and receiving both your verbal and written comments as we work to support Tribal Nations' access to grant funding before, during, and after disasters.

Sincerely,  
**ROBERT A  
FARMER**

Digitally signed by ROBERT A  
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Date: 2023.02.22 15:46:01  
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Deputy Assistant Administrator  
Office of Enterprise Grant Services  
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*Mark R. Koumans*

Mark Koumans  
Deputy Executive Assistant Commissioner  
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cc: Tribal Emergency Managers