



Bureau of Indian Affairs

Mission

The mission of the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) is to enhance the quality of life, promote economic opportunity, and carry out Federal responsibilities to protect and improve the trust assets of American Indians, Indian Tribes, and Alaska Natives.

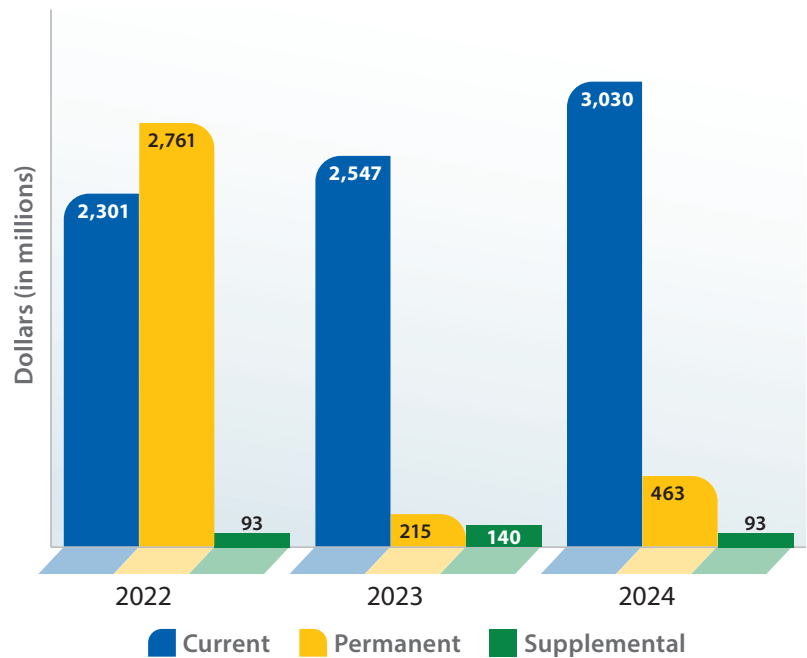
Budget Overview

The 2024 budget for BIA is \$3.0 billion, \$482.8 million above 2023 enacted, in current appropriations. BIA estimates the budget will support staffing of 4,128 full-time equivalents (FTEs) in 2024. The funding total includes \$431.4 million for Contract Support Costs and \$82.5 million for Payments for Tribal Leases, which are requested as current mandatory funding. The President's Budget supports an all-of-government approach to addressing Federal responsibilities and Tribal needs in Indian Country. The White House Council on Native American Affairs, in coordination with Indian Affairs bureaus, supports collaboration on this work across Federal agencies. BIA plays a vital role in carrying out the Federal trust responsibility and in serving Tribes.

Operation of Indian Programs

The 2024 budget includes \$2.3 billion, \$350.6 million above the 2023 enacted level, for the Operation of Indian Programs account. Programs in this account support the stewardship of natural resources and energy resources, deliver community services, support

BIA Funding



law enforcement, help restore Tribal homelands, aid Tribal governance, and create economic opportunity.

The BIA Tribal Government activity promotes Tribal self-determination and provides assistance to Tribes and Alaska Native entities to strengthen and sustain Tribal government systems and support Tribal self-governance through the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (ISDEAA) (Public Law 93-638), contracting, and a self-governance compacting process. The 2024 budget provides \$444.4 million for programs supporting Tribal government activities. Within that total, the budget includes \$240.8 million for compact activities for self-governance Tribes. Those funds enable Tribes to plan, conduct, consolidate, and administer programs, services, functions, and activities for Tribal citizens, according to priorities established by their Tribal governments. The budget also includes \$86.2 million to support Consolidated Tribal Government programs that also promote Indian self-determination, giving approximately 275 Tribes the flexibility to combine and manage contracted programs and grants that are similar or compatible to simplify contracting. The Small



- The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) was established in 1824 under the War Department and transferred to the Department of the Interior in 1849.
- BIA provides services to American Indians and Alaska Natives from the 574 federally recognized Tribes in the 48 contiguous States and Alaska.
- The bureau administers and manages 56 million surface acres and 59 million acres of subsurface mineral estates held in trust by the United States for individual Indians and Tribes.
- More than 80 percent of Indian Affairs employees are American Indian or Alaska Native.

Tribes Supplement program, funded at \$23.0 million—\$16 million above 2023 enacted—helps eligible Tribes expand and sustain their Tribal governance. This level of funding is estimated to allow existing Tribes in this category to reach a funding threshold of \$300,000.

BIA is responsible for more than 29,000 miles of paved, gravel, and earth-surface roads and more than 1,000 bridges. The 2024 budget includes \$51.3 million for Road Maintenance, a \$12.1 million increase above the 2023 enacted level, to support pavement and gravel maintenance, remedial work on improved earthen roads, bridge maintenance, and snow and ice control.

The budget includes \$385.9 million, a \$52.7 million increase over 2023 enacted, for critical trust natural resources activities and investing in climate resilience and environmental justice. Of that amount, \$48.0 million is provided for the Tribal Climate Resilience program. This program includes the Tribal Climate Adaptation Grant program, which is funded at \$24.8 million to better assess and meet Tribal climate adaptation needs, and the Climate Relocation Grant program, which is funded at \$15.5 million, \$6 million more than the 2023 enacted amount. The Tribal Climate Resilience program also includes \$7.8 million for Tribal youth corps programs. The Tribal youth corps program is an important jobs initiative to tackle climate change on the ground, ensure a living wage, and provide skills and a pathway to employment. These funds will also support Tribes in developing science, tools, training, planning, and implementation of actions to build resilience into resource management, infrastructure, and community development

activities. The budget supports the America the Beautiful initiative by honoring Tribal sovereignty and supporting the trust natural resources priorities of Tribal Nations.

The budget also includes \$32.9 million to support the Forestry Projects program and \$47.7 million for Energy and Minerals activities, which include a focused investment in the deployment of clean energy in Tribal communities. Indian Affairs views renewable energy as one of many tools available to American Indians and Alaska Natives to create sustainable economies on Indian land; many Indian reservations are well positioned to access or provide a stable source of competitively priced, low-carbon clean energy. These efforts also support the Justice40 initiative, ensuring at least 40 percent of the overall benefits from certain Federal investments are delivered to disadvantaged communities.

The 2024 budget proposes to shift the Office of Subsistence Management (OSM) to Indian Affairs from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. OSM provides administrative support to the Federal Subsistence Board and the Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils, in addition to supporting the subsistence regulatory process and the Fisheries Resource Monitoring program. Shifting OSM will maintain important expertise while facilitating expanded Tribal co-management partnerships and the incorporation of indigenous knowledge into subsistence management.

The BIA budget further invests in both climate resilience and environmental justice, such as with \$38.8 million for the Environmental Quality Projects program, an increase of \$10.9 million over

2023 enacted, which includes funding to continue remediation of the former Tuba City Dump Superfund site, which continues to threaten the drinking water of the Navajo Nation and the Hopi Tribe. The budget also includes \$10.0 million in the Construction account to address water safety and sanitation requirements. This funding will provide dedicated resources for BIA-owned drinking water and wastewater infrastructure, and it will address significant water quality problems, including Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)-identified systems of concern.

Fiduciary Trust management activities are essential to BIA's mission. The Trust Real Estate Services activity implements strategies to advance Indian trust ownership and improve Indian trust-related information. The 2024 budget proposes \$201.2 million for real estate services programs and supports the processing of Indian trust-related documents, such as land title and records and geospatial data, to support land and water resources use, energy development, and protection and restoration of ecosystems and important lands. The budget also proposes to shift funding for the DOI Office of Hearings and Appeals (OHA) Probate Hearings Division to BIA from the Bureau of Trust Funds Administration. This transfer will align OHA's Probate Hearings Division function with BIA's Probate Real Estate function, allowing DOI to more efficiently process probate cases to completion by improving coordination between BIA and OHA.

As part of the governmentwide efforts to strengthen Tribal communities, the budget includes \$205.4 million, an increase of \$38.4 million above 2023 enacted, in Human Services funding to support Indian families. This amount includes \$79.5 million for Social Services, which will support expanded implementation of the Indian Child Protection and Family Violence Prevention Act. The Act seeks to bolster child protection and ensure better coordination between child welfare and domestic violence programs in Indian Country. In addition, the budget includes increases of \$26.7 million to expand the Tiwahe Initiative through several Human Services programs.

BIA is uniquely positioned to assist in the effort to recover the histories of Federal Indian boarding schools. The 2024 budget includes \$7.0 million for the Secretary's Federal Indian Boarding School Initiative (BSI) and its comprehensive review of Federal boarding school policies. This funding will continue to implement recommendations laid out in the May 2022 Federal Boarding School Initiative Investigative Report, including continued historical research and documentation, and work to identify and protect the remains of those identified. Through the BSI, the Department seeks to work with Tribal Nations to begin the long healing process through transparency and accountability.

BIA's Office of Justice Services (OJS) funds law enforcement, corrections, and court services to support safe Tribal communities. The 2024 budget



Native American intern participates in BIA's Water Resources Technician Training program.
 BIA Photo.

includes \$641.8 million for Public Safety and Justice (PS&J) operations, an increase of \$62.1 million above the 2023 enacted level. Operational funding supports the expanding Tribal needs in policing, detention, and Tribal courts, including those resulting from the *McGirt v. Oklahoma* Supreme Court decision. The budget includes a \$33.5 million program increase to Criminal Investigations and Police Services, specifically targeted to increase the number of officers and investigators on the ground in Indian Country. A program increase of \$2.0 million is also requested to enhance functions within the OJS Professional Standards Directorate, including recruitment and retention initiatives, development and evaluation of law enforcement policies, program reviews, and training.

The 2024 budget includes \$16.5 million to address the crisis of Missing and Murdered Indigenous People. The Missing and Murdered Unit engages in cross-departmental and interagency collaboration to identify gaps in information sharing and data collection to more effectively investigate these cases. As part of a proposed expansion to the Tiwahe Initiative, the budget includes \$1.9 million for the Office of Tribal Justice Support to provide technical assistance to Tribes looking to develop and operate Healing to Wellness courts. These

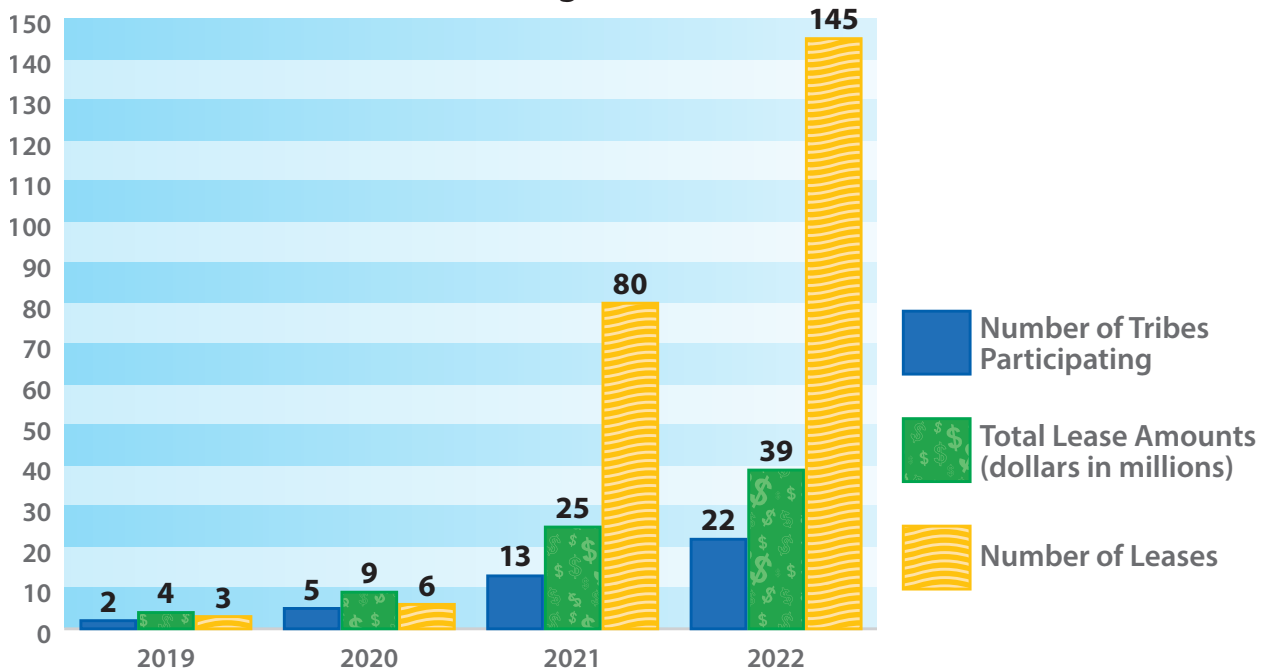
courts serve as alternatives to incarceration and provide a culturally appropriate forum to support those within the criminal justice system by assisting in addressing underlying behavioral health and substance abuse issues.

The 2024 budget funds the Community and Economic Development activity at \$77.6 million, a \$46.4 million increase above 2023 enacted levels, to advance economic opportunities in Indian Country. Job Placement and Training is funded at \$15.8 million and includes an additional \$2.0 million for job training programs focusing on clean energy development. Economic Development projects are funded at \$50.7 million and include a request for an additional \$27.5 million investment in Native language revitalization, which is crucial to preserve endangered languages, promote self-determination, and strengthen Tribal communities. The Economic Development program requests a \$5.0 million increase to establish an economic development component of the Tiwahe Initiative, which will provide funding directly to Tribal governments to design and operate comprehensive and integrated economic and community development programs.

Tribal Priority Allocations

Tribal Priority Allocations give Tribes the

105(I) Lease Program





An Early Warning Systems site at Menager's Dam in Tohono O'odham Nation provides monitoring data reports of hydrologic conditions at the dam.

BIA Photo.

opportunity to further Indian self-determination by establishing their own priorities and reallocating Federal funds among programs in this budget category. The 2024 budget proposes Tribal Priority Allocation funding of \$945.9 million.

Contract Support Costs and Payments for Tribal Leases

The President's Budget supports the principles of Tribal self-determination and strengthening Tribal communities across Indian Country by proposing to reclassify Contract Support Costs and ISDEAA Section 105(l) leases as current mandatory spending in 2024. This reclassification will provide Tribes with certainty in meeting these ongoing needs through dedicated funding sources.

Indian Land Consolidation

The 2024 budget includes \$30.5 million, a \$22.5 million increase above 2023 enacted, for the Indian Land Consolidation Program (ILCP), which purchases fractional interests from willing individual Indian landowners and conveys those

interests to the Tribe with jurisdiction. ILCP funding recognizes the ongoing need to continue to address fractionation on Indian lands while also focusing support on Tribes' plans for and adaptation to climate change. This program is especially important since the Land Buy-Back Program for Tribal Nations (LBBP), established as part of the *Cobell* Settlement, ended in November 2022. The ICLP has incorporated lessons learned from the LBBP and the previous ILCP in BIA to ensure effective program implementation.

Construction

The 2024 budget includes \$199.8 million for Construction activities, a \$46.5 million increase from the 2023 enacted level. The funding supports replacement and deferred maintenance projects to address needs at PS&J facilities. It also includes the irrigation rehabilitation program, which addresses critical deferred maintenance and construction needs at BIA-owned and operated irrigation facilities, including 17 Indian irrigation projects. The Safety of Dams program is responsible

Bipartisan Infrastructure Law: Oglala Dam

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) invests \$466 million in BIA for infrastructure and climate resiliency initiatives, including approximately \$150 million over 5 years to address safety deficiencies at dams in Indian Country. BIA will award additional funding from the 2023 BIL funding for repairs to the Oglala Dam on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota. That investment is in addition to the previously allocated \$25 million in 2022 BIL funding for the

project. These investments are necessary to protect downstream communities and improve overall performance of the dams. The reservoir formed by the Oglala Dam was drained in 2019 to protect communities downstream following flood damage that compromised the spillway and outlet works. The project will restore an important local water supply for the Pine Ridge community.

for 141 high- or significant-hazard dams on 41 Indian reservations. The Construction program also addresses needs at regional and agency offices serving Tribal programs and operations in Indian Country.

The budget includes \$10.0 million to address water quality issues at BIA-owned water infrastructure, including systems of concern identified by EPA. The BIA budget also includes a \$6.8 million increase to support the Administration's governmentwide goal to accelerate the use of zero-emission vehicles (ZEVs) to enable a clean transportation future. Funds will be used to acquire ZEVs, install solar panels and related charging infrastructure, and perform planning and integration to support the initiative across Indian Affairs.

Land and Water Claims Settlements

Tribal land and water rights settlements ensure that Tribes have access to land and water to meet domestic, economic, and cultural needs. The 2024 budget proposes \$976,000 for the Settlements account. The 2024 funding request covers the continuing implementation of the White Earth Reservation Land Settlement Act (Public Law 99-264) and Truckee River Operating Agreement (Public Law 101-618).

The Administration is interested in working with Congress to find a solution to meeting Federal commitments to enacted Indian water rights settlements. The 2024 President's Budget proposes legislation to provide mandatory funding for Indian Water Rights Settlements using the Indian Water Rights Settlement Completion Fund established in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (Public Law 117-58). The proposal would provide the fund \$2.8

billion: \$250.0 million annually over 10 years for existing and future water rights settlements and \$34.0 million a year over 10 years for requirements associated with Operation, Maintenance, and Repair of the Ak Chin Indian Water Rights Settlement Project, the Animas-La Plata Project (Colorado Ute Settlement), the Columbia and Snake River Salmon Recovery Project (Nez Perce Settlement), and the Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project.

LWCF Tribal Land Acquisition

The budget includes \$12.0 million for the creation of a new Tribal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) land acquisition program. During LWCF listening sessions held in 2022, one of the top priorities Tribes identified was direct access to LWCF funding for conservation and recreation LWCF projects without the existing program requirements to partner with or apply through States. BIA will primarily provide funding to Tribes to acquire lands or easements for the purposes of protecting and conserving natural resource areas that may also be of cultural importance to the Tribe or have significant recreational benefits for Tribal communities, consistent with the purposes of LWCF funding. Although, BIA plans to hold formal Tribal consultation on the establishment and eligibility criteria of the program. This new program will further enhance the ability of Tribes to address the climate crisis, support Tribal sovereignty and self-determination, and provide another important tool to support Tribal co-stewardship.

Indian Guaranteed Loan Program

The 2024 budget request for this program is \$15.5 million, which will guarantee or insure \$202.3 million in loan principal to support Indian

economic development across Indian Country. The program's purpose is to reduce the inherent risk to lenders investing in eligible Indian business loans. The program also provides technical assistance to applicants and supports Indian businesses starting up, expanding operations, revitalizing operations in a changing industry, or rebounding from business downturns. By strengthening the economic base

of Tribal communities, the Tribal governments near those businesses progress toward greater independence and self-determination. Neighboring non-Indian communities also benefit from the increased economic success of Tribal governments.

Fixed Costs

Fixed costs of \$49.4 million are fully funded.



The Department of the Interior hosted the 2022 White House Tribal Nations Summit.

DOI Photo.

SUMMARY OF BUREAU APPROPRIATIONS ^{1/}

(dollar amounts in thousands)

Comparison of 2024 Request with 2023 Enacted

	2023 Enacted		2024 Request		Change	
	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount
Current						
Operation of Indian Programs	2,810	1,994,482	3,113	2,300,621	+303	+306,139
Contract Support Costs	0	409,029	0	431,388	0	+22,359
Payments for Tribal Leases	0	55,432	0	82,500	0	+27,068
Construction	39	205,559	51	249,564	+12	+44,005
Indian Land and Water Claim Settlements and Miscellaneous Payments to Indians	0	825	0	976	0	+151
Indian Guaranteed Loan Program Account	0	13,884	0	15,461	0	+1,577
Indian Land Consolidation	3	8,000	25	30,500	+22	+22,500
LWCF Tribal Land Acquisition	0	0	0	12,000	0	+12,000
Subtotal, Current	2,852	2,687,211	3,189	3,123,010	+337	+435,799
Permanent						
Indian Guaranteed Loan Program Account	0	2,000	0	0	0	-2,000
White Earth Settlement Fund	0	1,750	0	1,750	0	0
Miscellaneous Permanent Appropriations	254	115,191	254	115,365	0	+174
Operation and Maintenance of Quarters	40	6,173	40	6,211	0	+38
Selis-Qlispe Ksanka Settlement Trust Fund	0	90,000	0	90,000	0	0
Indian Water Rights Settlement Completion Fund	0	0	0	250,000	0	+250,000
Subtotal, Permanent	294	215,114	294	463,326	0	+248,212
Allocation and Reimbursable						
Allocation from Others	555	0	606	0	+51	0
Reimbursable Programs	39	0	39	0	0	0
Subtotal, Allocation and Reimbursable	594	0	645	0	+51	0
TOTAL, BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS	3,740	2,902,325	4,128	3,586,336	+388	+684,011

^{1/} Current funding amounts include supplemental appropriations and transfers. For further details, see Highlights of Budget Changes tables for each account.

HIGHLIGHTS OF BUDGET CHANGES

By Appropriation Activity/Subactivity

APPROPRIATION: Operation of Indian Programs

	2022 Actual	2023 Enacted	2024 Request	Change
Tribal Government				
Aid to Tribal Government	27,812	29,037	30,163	+1,126
Consolidated Tribal				
Government Program (TPA)	84,821	82,467	86,176	+3,709
Self-Governance Compacts (TPA)	187,813	200,398	240,797	+40,399
New Tribes (TPA)	480	480	0	-480
Small Tribes Supplement (TPA)	7,000	7,002	23,002	+16,000
Road Maintenance (TPA)	37,400	39,190	51,278	+12,088
Tribal Government Program Oversight	10,098	10,414	12,965	+2,551
Subtotal, Tribal Government	355,424	368,988	444,381	+75,393
Human Services				
Social Services (TPA)	53,292	54,934	79,506	+24,572
Welfare Assistance (TPA)	78,494	78,494	78,494	0
Indian Child Welfare Act (TPA)	17,313	17,848	25,843	+7,995
Housing Improvement Program (TPA)	11,736	12,219	17,960	+5,741
Human Services Tribal Design (TPA)	290	218	222	+4
Human Services Program Oversight	3,185	3,272	3,394	+122
Subtotal, Human Services	164,310	166,985	205,419	+38,434
Trust—Natural Resources Management				
Natural Resources (TPA)	14,250	16,903	17,441	+538
Irrigation Operations and Maintenance	14,169	15,269	25,462	+10,193
Rights Protection Implementation	45,687	49,200	49,542	+342
Tribal Management/Development Program	14,459	18,544	18,658	+114
Endangered Species	5,219	6,243	6,265	+22
Tribal Climate Resilience	31,971	34,991	48,040	+13,049
Integrated Resource Info Program	2,998	3,077	5,199	+2,122
Agriculture and Range	37,827	39,438	42,045	+2,607
Forestry	60,277	66,017	68,566	+2,549
Water Resources	15,802	18,426	19,625	+1,199
Fish, Wildlife and Parks	20,506	23,699	24,935	+1,236
Energy & Minerals	31,814	33,011	47,652	+14,641
Resource Management Program Oversight	7,948	8,301	12,427	+4,126
Subtotal, Trust—Natural Resources Management	302,927	333,119	385,857	+52,738
Trust—Real Estate Services				
Trust Services (TPA)	9,503	10,218	10,501	+283
Navajo-Hopi Settlement Program	1,256	1,303	1,356	+53
Probate (TPA)	13,529	14,140	16,399	+2,259
Office of Hearings and Appeals	0	0	8,664	+8,664
Land Title and Records Offices	15,735	16,425	17,343	+918
Land Acquisitions	0	0	12,000	+12,000
Real Estate Services	39,736	41,133	43,129	+1,996
Land Records Improvement	6,990	7,074	7,240	+166
Environmental Quality	29,677	32,907	43,909	+11,002
Alaskan Native Programs	1,499	1,521	1,560	+39

APPROPRIATION: Operation of Indian Programs *(continued)*

	2022 Actual	2023 Enacted	2024 Request	Change
Rights Protection	17,361	17,531	17,817	+286
Trust—Real Estate Services Oversight	14,904	16,751	21,312	+4,561
Subtotal, Trust—Real Estate Services	150,190	159,003	201,230	+42,227
Public Safety and Justice				
Law Enforcement	501,479	506,290	573,138	+66,848
Tribal Courts (TPA)	43,169	71,770	66,966	-4,804
Fire Protection (TPA)	1,632	1,665	1,680	+15
Subtotal, Public Safety and Justice	546,280	579,725	641,784	+62,059
Community and Economic Development				
Job Placement and Training (TPA)	13,401	13,759	15,830	+2,071
Economic Development (TPA)	5,218	5,855	7,942	+2,087
Economic Development Projects	0	0	50,724	+50,724
Community Development Oversight	10,734	11,558	3,093	-8,465
Subtotal, Community and Economic Development	29,353	31,172	77,589	+46,417
Executive Direction and Administrative Services	270,600	263,766	301,377	+37,611
Special Initiatives (CDS)	1,250	4,240	0	-4,240
TOTAL APPROPRIATION (w/o supplementals and transfers)	1,820,334	1,906,998	2,257,637	+350,639
Disaster Relief Act, 2023 (P.L. 117-328)	0	+44,500	0	-44,500
Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (P.L. 117-58)	+43,200	+43,200	+43,200	0
Transfer to OIG (P.L. 117-58)	-216	-216	-216	0
Other Transfers	+52,235	0	0	0
TOTAL APPROPRIATION (w/ supplementals and transfers)	1,915,553	1,994,482	2,300,621	+306,139

APPROPRIATION: Contract Support Costs

	2022 Actual	2023 Enacted	2024 Request	Change
Contract Support (TPA)	232,985	404,029	426,388	+22,359
Indian Self-Determination Fund (TPA)	5,000	5,000	5,000	0
TOTAL APPROPRIATION	237,985	409,029	431,388	+22,359

APPROPRIATION: Payments for Tribal Leases

	2022 Actual	2023 Enacted	2024 Request	Change
TOTAL APPROPRIATION	24,066	55,432	82,500	+27,068

APPROPRIATION: Construction

	2022 Actual	2023 Enacted	2024 Request	Change
Public Safety and Justice Construction	47,811	51,561	75,311	+23,750
Resource Management Construction	74,060	75,213	90,351	+15,138
Other Program Construction	24,898	26,535	34,152	+7,617
<hr/>				
TOTAL APPROPRIATION (w/o supplementals and transfer)	146,769	153,309	199,814	+46,505
Disaster Relief Act, 2022 (P.L. 117-43)	+452	0	0	0
Disaster Relief Act, 2023 (P.L. 117-328)	0	+2,500	0	-2,500
Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (P.L. 117-58)	+50,000	+50,000	+50,000	0
Transfer to OIG (P.L. 117-58)	-250	-250	-250	0
<hr/>				
TOTAL APPROPRIATION (w/ supplementals and transfer)	196,971	205,559	249,564	+44,005

APPROPRIATION: Indian Land and Water Claim Settlements and Miscellaneous Payments to Indians

	2022 Actual	2023 Enacted	2024 Request	Change
Unallocated	1,000	825	976	+151
<hr/>				
TOTAL APPROPRIATION	1,000	825	976	+151

APPROPRIATION: Indian Guaranteed Loan Program Account

	2022 Actual	2023 Enacted	2024 Request	Change
TOTAL APPROPRIATION	11,833	13,884	15,461	+1,577

APPROPRIATION: Indian Land Consolidation

	2022 Actual	2023 Enacted	2024 Request	Change
TOTAL APPROPRIATION	7,000	8,000	30,500	+22,500

APPROPRIATION: LWCF Tribal Land Acquisition

	2022 Actual	2023 Enacted	2024 Request	Change
TOTAL APPROPRIATION	0	0	12,000	+12,000

