



SOCIAL SECURITY

Office of the Commissioner

October 22, 2021

The Honorable Susan Rice
Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy
Eisenhower Executive Office Building, Room 469
1650 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20503

The Honorable Shalanda Young
Acting Director, Office of Management and Budget
Eisenhower Executive Office Building, Room 252
1650 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Ambassador Rice and Ms. Young:

The January 26, 2021 Presidential Memorandum requests a detailed plan of action Agencies will take to implement policies and directives under Executive Order 13175 of November 6, 2000 titled *Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Government*.

The *2021 Tribal Consultation and Coordination Plan Progress Report* (enclosed) summarizes our multiple-prong approach consisting of consultation, outreach, service delivery, and recruitment. We are sharing the results based on our commitments described in the *2021 Tribal Consultation and Call to Action Plan* provided in April of this year, which described our plans for consultation and outreach activities in the American Indian and Alaska Native communities.

Because of the national public health emergency related to the COVID-19 pandemic, we continue to use alternate methods of communication to keep the Tribal communities informed and to ensure they are aware of how to access Social Security benefits. We look forward to the time when we can re-engage in face-to-face activities to consult with Tribal leaders.

If you have any questions, please contact me, Social Security's Tribal Consultation Official, at (303) 844-4012.

Sincerely,

Nancy A. Berryhill

Nancy A. Berryhill
Tribal Consultation Official

Enclosures

2021 Tribal Consultation and Coordination Plan Progress Report

The January 26, 2021 Presidential Memorandum requests a detailed plan of actions each executive department and agency will take to implement policies and directives of E.O.13175 of November 6, 2000, *Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Government*.

In response to the Presidential Memorandum, Social Security Administration (SSA) is pleased to share the *2021 Tribal Consultation and Coordination Plan Progress Report*, which describes our efforts for consultation and outreach activities in the American Indian and Alaska Native (AIAN) communities.

Our progress report provides a summary of actions supporting the following initiatives:

- ✓ Continue to Strengthen Tribal Consultation.
- ✓ Increase Outreach and Education Efforts to Tribal Communities
- ✓ Improve Service Delivery
- ✓ Promote Hiring and Support for Local Assistance Efforts

Strengthen Tribal Consultation

We recognize the unique government-to-government relationship that exists between Indian Tribes and the Federal government, grounded in the U.S. Constitution, treaties, Federal case law, statutes, and executive orders. To ensure that Tribes have full access to our programs and services, we engaged with Tribes through a timely and meaningful consultation on policies that directly affect Tribes.

On April 6-8, 2021, we conducted six Tribal consultation sessions in conjunction with three other agencies, Department of Treasury, Department of Veterans Affairs, and the Small Business Administration. The Commissioner provided opening remarks and emphasized our commitment to strengthening our nation-to-nation relationships. The consultation focused on conducting meaningful and productive sessions with the Tribes in the following manner:

- Hosted national consultations timely with Tribal government officials designed to improve our consultation policy and communication with Indian Tribes and Tribal officials, including Alaska natives.
- Provided a 30-day notice prior to scheduling a consultation, involved agency decision makers as active participants in the sessions, considered diverse viewpoints, and recognized identified Tribal impacts.
- Allowed sufficient time for verbal discussion, and several weeks for written comments. Allowed enough time to hear everyone and expanded the time allocated.
- Utilized technology that provided a face-to-face videoconference meeting platform along with available phone line for rural areas.
- Demonstrated our commitment to accountability and acknowledgement of a true nation-to-nations interaction with Tribal Government through publications on policy.

On June 25, 2021, we conducted a national Tribal consultation session in conjunction with the Department of Treasury and the Treasury's Tribal Advisory Committee (TTAC). The topics of the consultation were the effect of COVID-19 pandemic relief on Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits and the prior amendment to the Internal Revenue Service code titled the *Tribal General Welfare Exclusion Act of 2014*:

- Researched the *Tribal General Welfare Exclusion Act of 2014* with policy experts. Based on verbal and written comments, there are many suggestions to improve our Agency business process, which has many duplicative aspects. We are reviewing all suggestions and looking at options to streamline the business process.
- Held internal policy discussions with policy experts, Office of General Council, and Program Law experts, to determine the Agency authority for providing SSI exclusions under COVID-19 relief funds.
- Created and published an SSI Policy Spotlight titled, “Tribal Payment Exclusions under COVID-19 Presidential Disaster Relief Funds” in which we share the conclusions of policy changes due to the COVID-19 Disaster Payments.
<https://www.ssa.gov/people/aian/materials/pdfs/EN-05-10609.pdf>
- Released “Dear Tribal Leader” letters to announce the policy change and automated solution we implemented to correct benefits identified as impacted by Disaster Payments due to a reduced benefit or suspended benefit.
- For this consultation, we held a round table discussion with TTAC, who held many prior discussions with Tribes to gather their concerns over the years.

There were other national and regional efforts including discussions with the Executive Directors of the Native American Finance Officers Association (NAFOA), National Congress of American Indians (NCAI), National Indian Council on Aging (NICOA) and discussions with leadership in the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Throughout the fiscal year, we conducted local listening sessions to bring awareness to an expanded customer service channel through Online Video Hearings, sessions regarding emergency disaster payment, and others. We provided in the addendum details of those engagements.

Increase Outreach and Education Efforts

To improve access to and understanding of our programs, we conducted seminars with Indian Tribes and Tribal entities. In the seminars, we shared information on our retirement and disability programs, including our Wounded Warrior provisions, SSI, Medicare “Extra Help”, Medicare State Buy-in provisions, online services, and service delivery updates. We assisted Tribal community members in creating their own *my Social Security* account to provide access to services online.

In addition, we completed the following actions:

- Created regional partnerships to ensure every region preserves the essential knowledge and resources vital for establishing and retaining relationships with Tribal communities. Our full list of regional activities and partnerships is in the addendum.
- Utilized alternative methods of communication, such as, blogs, social media, radio, newspapers, and *Dear Colleague Letters* that shared information with Tribal communities and explored native language speakers and translators.
- Implemented Agency protocols and policies for those beneficiaries and recipients in receipt of disaster payments provided by the *Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act*. We also shared information about Economic Impact Payments.
- Enhanced understanding of benefits eligibility under the Social Security and SSI programs. This included extending education efforts to assist homeless and other Tribal members facing barriers to accessing our programs.

- Provided detailed Tribal Benefit Coordinators Guide on Social Security services to inform Tribal members about benefits, appeals process, and post-entitlement.

Those who apply for Social Security disability benefits receive notification in writing of any decisions. When our decisions are not favorable, there are four levels of appeal. Understanding the appeals process and the timelines associated with appealing to the next stage is a critical aspect of our outreach program. We sought opportunities to cover the appeals process at seminars and national events.

- Promoted awareness of the entire disability process, including an appeal of a non-medical decision by completing and submitting the online request for reconsideration or hearing.
- Offered detailed informative sessions on how to file an appeal of a disability decision online at www.ssa.gov/benefits/disability/appeal.html. Also, explained how a representative can appeal a decision by completing and submitting online the request for reconsideration or a hearing.
- Provided internal policy training to our employees to explain the *Tribal General Welfare Exclusion Act of 2014* with an emphasis on the Assistance Based on Need program. The training video, provided in January 2021, provided information to our technical staff and front-line technicians working with Tribal communities. The Video On Demand training continues to be an available resource.
- Provided regional policy training with local Indian Health Services Benefit Coordinators and Tribal communities.
- Encouraged local management and Public Affairs Specialists to participate in listening sessions in localities near Tribal communities within the Service Area of the Field Office, full list in the addendum.

This fiscal year, we gained insight from the Office of Management and Budget inter-agency activities. As members of the White House Council on Native American Affairs, we enhanced our knowledge of Tribal sovereignty and self-determination, which are central in working with Tribal governments. We engaged with Directors and national members of Tribal Organizations to share knowledge of programs and procedures through national Tribal meetings. We sought opportunities and presented on national platforms to educate on tribal policy matters regarding Disaster Payments, *Tribal Social Security Fairness Act*, and the *Tribal General Welfare Exclusion Act of 2014* at the following conferences:

- NCAI 2021 Mid-Year Conference.
- 7th National Training Program for the Society of American Indian Government Employees;
- NICOA, the American Indian Elders Conference in Reno, NV;
- NAFOA 2021 Fall Finance & Tribal Economies Conference to share information about disaster payments, SSI exclusions, benefits, the *Tribal General Welfare Exclusion Act of 2014*, and access to Social Security Services in San Antonio, TX;
- 2021 National Native American Housing Symposiums originally scheduled in June, moved to December 2021 and will plan to participate in the new fiscal year.

Improve Service Delivery

The Agency Tribal Consultation Official (TCO) sought mechanisms to improve service delivery models and market how Tribal members can obtain services for our programs. The TCO seeks

to inform members how to access our services while the COVID-19 pandemic limits our ability to interact in a face-to-face environment for claims and enumeration processing. We completed several service delivery improvements, including:

- Enhanced service delivery methods through utilizing Microsoft Teams video options to conduct online disability hearings. The Polycom RealPresence Client video technology connects our technicians with AIAN third-party sites.
- Considered solutions, developed strategy, and brought forward to be discussed under labor obligations expansion of video service delivery in our field operations to conduct business with the public. Management is in regular contact with tribal Video Service Delivery (VSD) sites to ensure communities are served by VSD and phone service throughout the pandemic. A national VSD Memorandum of Understanding agreement with Indian Health Services signed February 10, 2020, provided a platform for continued service improvement such as a new VSD unit installed November 2020 (delayed due to pandemic) in Nome, AK.
- Sought alternative service channels to enhance service to members of the public who experience barriers to accessing our services, and were affected by the pandemic. We tested appointments through a pilot using Microsoft Teams to support the claims-taking process and post entitlement workload in Indian Country with numerous tribes in the Dallas Region. Several regions provided excess laptops throughout the Nation for Tribal Outreach. See the Addendum for the full range of activities with third party sites in Tribal Communities.
- Provided virtual joint presentations on benefits, access to services, and training for beneficiary coordinators with Agencies such as Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and Indian Health Services.
- Provided up-to-date information in a centralized virtual location housed on a public-facing SSA website for Tribal affairs (www.ssa.gov/people/aian), and continued to update AIAN products to provide the best possible service to Indian Country.
- Posted the agency's Tribal Consultation Plan of Action to the public facing SSA website (<https://www.ssa.gov/people/aian/index.html>). As of August 2021, over 4,500 visitors accessed our Tribal Action Plan.

Additionally, we looked for opportunities to clarify and improve access to military service members to our Veterans Wounded Warriors Program. We provided detailed information regarding how we evaluate work activity to determine their eligibility for benefits and shared the following:

- Emphasized that military service members can receive expedited processing of Social Security disability claims. Benefits available through Social Security are different from those from the Department of Veterans Affairs and require a separate application.
- Promoted awareness of the expedited claims process for military service members who become disabled while on active military duty on or after October 1, 2001, regardless of where the disability occurs. For more information on our Wounded Warriors program, visit www.ssa.gov/people/veterans.

The Tribal Social Security Fairness Act of 2018 allows Federally recognized Indian Tribes to extend Social Security coverage to Tribal council positions voluntarily through an agreement

with the Commissioner of Social Security under Section 218A of the Social Security Act. We sought to improve service delivery by responding to policy and legislative proposals affecting Tribal members, such as communication, outreach and sharing for awareness the publication of a policy spotlight for the *Tribal Social Security Fairness Act of 2018*. We completed the following actions as well:

- Proactively addressed business processes allowing Tribes to elect Social Security coverage for the Tribal Council.
- At conferences, explained the content of the voluntary Tribe Council Member Coverage Agreement available to consider retroactive coverage for periods for which they have already paid Federal Insurance Contributions Act (FICA) taxes and have not received a refund. Retroactivity can extend without limit as long as FICA taxes were paid.

Promote Hiring and Support for Local Assistance Efforts

The Agency released our fiscal year 2020-2022 Human Capital Operating Plan (HCOP) in February of 2021. The HCOP aligns with the Government-wide priorities presented in the President’s Management Agenda, Federal Workforce Priorities Report, and the Office of Personnel Management’s Human Capital Framework. We remain committed to recruiting a diverse, qualified pool of applicants at all levels of the agency. As such, we rely on our Agency Advisory Council Chairs, including AIAN AC, within the Diversity and Inclusion (D&I) Council, as they have distinct connections with the communities they serve.

We completed the following actions:

- Enhanced our recruitment initiatives through the D&I Council by providing lists of community contacts to SSA offices that help market SSA job vacancy announcements on social media.
- Through job fairs and tribal community conferences, educated Tribe members on creating USAJOBS accounts and locating vacancies on the site.
- Explored ways our programs and services can benefit Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs) by communicating and collaborating with our network of non-competitive eligibility contacts, which included: SSA’s National Veterans Outreach and Selective Placement Coordinators; Career One Stop Centers; Vocational Rehabilitation Offices; Ticket to Work Job Service Providers; and University Disability and Career Services.
- Promoted local assistance efforts through our Regional Advisory Council Activities designed to enhance diverse recruitment. We are exploring ways to enhance participation at job fairs hosted by TCUs in the future.
- Began active collaborations with Little Priest Tribal College in Winnebago and Nebraska Indian Community College in Macy, Nebraska to build a recruitment relationship.
- Collaborated monthly with Haskell Indian Nations University since April 2021 to discuss job recruitment and college work-study.
- Participated in two American Indian Alaska Native Serving Institution’s job fairs in the Atlanta Region: Troy University and University of North Carolina at Pembroke.

- Attended 8 fairs with Native American participants for FY21 Tribal recruitment outreach activities with the Office of Systems:
 - 5 College Job Fairs -- University of Maryland College Park, University of Maryland Baltimore County, Universities of Baltimore, Towson, and Loyola
 - 2 Baltimore Robotics Job Fairs – for high school and college students
 - 1 Military Spouse Job Fair

Additionally, opportunities for engaging in work activity are available to people who also receive benefits. The Ticket to Work (TTW) program is for persons with disabilities who want to work and participate in planning their employment. We sought opportunities to provide information on employment support, to assist our disabled beneficiaries with returning to work, including:

- Informed Tribal Coordinators of the availability of the TTW and ways to establish Tribal Employment Networks in their community.
- Provided education on Unsuccessful Work Attempts and Impairment-Related Work Expenses, and Special Conditions, through a detailed tribal benefits guide.

Managing the Plan

In closing, to monitor compliance with E.O. 13175 and President Biden’s Memorandum dated January 26, 2021, the Commissioner established two executive leads:

- Nancy Berryhill – Tribal Consultation Official
- Renee Ferguson – AIAN Executive Lead

Both executives effectively managed the plan through coordinated discussions on policy compliance, served as the initial contact for Tribes to request or inquire about Tribal consultations, improved access to benefits, and actively worked to enhance ongoing relationships with Tribes.

**Social Security Administration
Tribal Consultation Plan – 2021 Progress Report
Addendum**

Per the Agency Tribal Consultation and Coordination Action plan, we conducted a number of workshops and other interactive events. The COVID-19 pandemic impacted our ability to conduct most face-to-face meetings. However, we continued to share information and engage in donating excess equipment, such as laptops. We held Outreach and Education events to bring awareness to our programs in the following locations:

Alaska:

- 50 participants -- Retirement presentation for the Ahtna Inc. Tribe.
- Health agencies providing primary care to Eastern Aleutian Tribes, Inc. and Council of Athabascan Tribal Governments, Inc. will refer to SSA for services.
- Presentation for eight villages in Alaska during an Alaska Tribal Social Work Meeting; communicated with representatives on Online Video Hearings initiative (05/2021).
- 14 villages and tribal communities released mass email covering material on People Experiencing Barriers, [my Social Security](#) account registrations, and current scams.

Arizona:

- 40 participants -- Tohono O'dham Nation Quarterly Service Delivery Collaborative Virtual Meeting -- Provided 2021 Update and information for people experiencing barriers.
- 101 participants -- CMS/Indian Health Services Phoenix Training Conference/Southwest Public Affairs Specialist (PAS), presented on benefit programs, online services and other resources for AI communities.
- PAS, Santa Fe, NM collaborated with the Navajo Nation in Chinle City, the Third-Party Community Partners Letter and training also attended by Tuba City Health Services.

California:

- Robinson Rancheria Tribal Council -- Discussed COVID-19 pandemic needs-based funds.
- Shared Tribal Community Partner letter with 12 tribal nations (10/2020).
- Monthly Information Package (MIP) (See Your Lifetime Earnings With [my Social Security](#)) sent to the Yurok Tribe, Elk Valley Rancheria and Tolowa Deeni Nation (08/2021).
- MIP email (New Benefit Verification Letters) sent to the Yurok Tribe, Elk Valley Rancheria, MeWuk Native American Tribe, and Tolowa Deeni Nation (10/2020).

Enclosures – The Honorable Susan Rice and Shalanda Young

- MIP email (Get your Social Security Benefit Statement) sent to the Yurok Tribe, Elk Valley Rancheria and Tolowa Deeni Nation (01/2021).
- MIP email (The Many Things You Can Do Online with Social Security) sent to the Yurok Tribe, Elk Valley Rancheria, Sacramento Native American Health Center, and Tolowa Deeni Nation (03/2021).
- MIP Email to Tuolumne County agencies and advocates (04/2021).
- Press Release (Social Security and OIG Hold Second Annual ‘Slam the Scam’ Day) sent to the Yurok Tribe, Elk Valley Rancheria and Tolowa Dee-ni’ Nation.
- Call with Native American Housing Authority to discuss filing Disability Claims online.
- Dear Colleague Letter and poster sent to Karuk Tribe, Tejon Indian Tribe, Santa Ynez Band of Chumash, Tule River Indian Tribe, Big Sandy Rancheria of Mono Indians of CA, Cold Springs Rancheria of Mono Indians of CA, asking them to share phone lines lines of our local office.
- 40 participants --Orientation for the Native communities for a program titled SOAR, SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access, and Recover. Collaboration through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) SOAR with AIAN community-- discussed about the ability for SSA to have VSD services, becoming Employment Tribal Network, possible SSI exclusion for AIAN.
- Sent introduction to Chairman Amber Torres of Walker River Paiute Tribe.
- Patient advocates with Riverside San Bernardino County Indian Health (SSI applications).
- Refresher Training to Inter-tribal Council of Arizona Inc. The information was provided to care givers, family members and people who work directly with disabled individuals.
- Collaborated with the HR director of Washoe Tribe, discussed SSA initiatives, [my Social Security](#) and People Facing Barriers.

Colorado:

- 70 Tribal Contacts -- Provided monthly newsletters, invited participation in disability forums, shared local contacts for SSA services during the pandemic, disseminated tribal-specific provisions of COVID-19-related disaster legislation.
- Partnered with CMS conference to present information on SSA Retirement, Disability, Survivor and Auxiliary benefits to Tribal Coordinators and IHS staff.

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- 28 participants -- Presented SSA-101 information to tribal members in medical facilities in the Denver Region covering Retirement, Disability, Online Services and Auxiliary benefits.
- Conducted online services training with the Executive Director of Denver Indian Center Inc.
- 175 participants -- Co-coordinated the first virtual Denver Indian Center Elders Luncheon in Denver, Colorado. Placement of several SSA publications in bagged lunches.

Connecticut:

- Collaborated with the Mohegan Tribal Nation (Uncasville, CT) and the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation (New London, CT) for contacts regarding national conference call. Provided SSA information for Tribal & Native American community.

Florida:

- Assisted the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians with post entitlement actions for aged individuals (05/2021).

Georgia:

- SSI Third Party Claims Outreach Campaign Partnership to establish a Partner with Poarch Band of Indians.

Illinois:

- Released Dear Colleague Letters stating we are still open and how to get in contact with your local Social Security Field Office.
- Released Dear Colleague Letter for “We Are Here to Help You with Your Critical SSI Cases” and provided information on “Slam the Scam Day”.
- Released Dear Colleague Letter – “Information for Helping Others”.
- Released Dear Colleague Letter – “Social Security announces New Online Video Hearings”.
- Released Dear Colleague Letter -- “We Have Added Appointed Representatives”.
- Released Dear Colleague Letter -- “COLA and Dire need appointments”.
- Released News Release on New Electronic Social Security Number Verification Service.
- 100 participants -- National Gathering of American Indian Veterans.

Louisiana:

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- Released Community Partner Letter about in-person service and using the 'Office Locator' to Jena Band of Choctaw Indians in Louisiana, Tunica-Biloxi Indian Tribe, and Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana.
- Released the Social Security Help Letter, which informs the public on how to contact SSA due to limited in-person service. It also offers assistance during the COVID-19 pandemic for dire need situations.
- Released Slam the Scam Dear Colleague Letter and included information on how to contact SSA due to limited in-person service.

Maine:

Released Dear Colleague Letter on People Experiencing Barriers Population to the following tribes:

- Passamaquoddy Tribe at Indian Township
- Passamaquoddy Tribe at Pleasant Point
- Penobscot Nation
- Aroostook Band of Micmacs
- Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians

Maryland:

- Collaborated with the Director of Civic Engagement and Special Projects for National Congress of American Indians (NCAI), discussed People Experiencing Barriers. Offered executive speakers for virtual Executive Council Winter Session on 2/21-2/25/21 which focused on policy. Presented idea to share SSA Tribal People Experiencing Barriers Letter and release tribal community partners letter.
- Sent Tribal Leader Letter to Society of American Indian Government Employees.
- 500 participants -- SSA Video with Tribal Consultation Official Nancy Berryhill and AIAN Executive Lead Renee Ferguson infomercial (recording) at the NCAI Executive Council Winter Session Conference. Video played before the General Assembly speakers. NCAI also posted on their Twitter page.
- Released material on People Experiencing Barriers and scam outreach to Administration for Native Americans and Native American Life Lines.
- Released material on People Experiencing Barriers, [my Social Security](#), and scam outreach to Bureau of Indian Education and International Association for Indigenous Aging.

Massachusetts:

- 50 participants -- Webinar for AIAN community: Medicare eligibility, Initial Enrollment Period (IEP), General Enrollment Period (GEP), Special Enrollment Periods (SEP), etc.
- People Experiencing Barriers Campaign outreach -- Wampanoag Tribe of Mashpee (MA).
- Dear Colleague Letter sent to organizations for the following tribes: Passamaquoddy Tribe at Indian Township, Penobscot Nation, Aroostook Band of Micmacs, and Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians.

Minnesota:

- Indian Health Services, CMS and SSA meeting. Prepared for Regional Medicare training.
- Red Lake Hospital staff. Reaching people experiencing barriers. Discussed SSA posters.
- Quarterly meetings with Urban Indian Elders Services. The group discussed services available to our Indian Elders, children and young adults.
- Discussion with Great Lake Inter-Tribal Council, Inc. (GLITC) SSA, people experiencing barriers project; provide COVID-19 pandemic updates and procedures.
- Discussion with St. Croix Ojibwe staff in Northern Wisconsin. Provided SSA information including COVID updates and procedures. Program updates and a general FAQ session.
- CARES/COFA payments. Discussion with Great Lake Inter-Tribal Council, Inc. (GLITC) staff. Q&A regarding CARES/COFA payments for SSI recipients. Promoted new SSI Spot Light of excludable income.

Missouri:

- Released National Dear Colleague Letter to AIAN contacts throughout the KC Region to promote awareness of the "Tribal Payment Exclusions under COVID-19 Presidential Disaster Relief Funds" and how to contact SSA representatives for assistance, included publication: EN-05-10609 - "Spotlight on AIAN Provisions".

Mississippi:

- Contact with the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians' Departments of Police, Housing Authority, Food Distribution and Social Services occurs on a regular basis.

Montana:

- Training for Indian People's Action on SSA Disability and Retirement in Billings, MT.
- Attended virtual designation ceremony of Fort Peck Housing Authority EnVision Center.
- Released material on People Experiencing Barriers, *my Social Security*, and scam outreach to Fort Belknap Indian Community.

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- Communicated regularly with the Blackfeet Tribe to provide service to clients.

North Carolina:

- Dear Colleague Letter -- Seeking Input on Federal Coordination To Promote Economic Mobility for All Americans to tribes including Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians and Metrolina Native American Association.
- MIP Reaching SSA -- Information about reaching SSA during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Released Letter to tribal communities for Share our New Resources for People Helping Others, Help Prevent Fraud by Government Imposters, Your Client May Be Eligible for In-person Appointment, and COLA Announcement.

Nevada:

- Released Tribal community partners letter in NV regarding SSI Third Party Claims Assistant.
- Sent Dear Community Partner letter to NV Health Centers and Case Management Society of America based on website in PARC for Nevada contact.

New Mexico:

- PAS, Santa Fe, NM assisted Native American Liaison, VA with clients who were requesting information on how COVID-19 assistance payments from their tribe would affect there SSDI.
- Released mass mailing of SSI training partnership to 247 Native American contacts in NM.
- 100 participants -- Santa Fe, NM presented at the Annual CMS /Indian Health Services.
- Collaborated with Senior Services, Isleta Pueblo. Provided information for a new published notebook containing Medicare, SSA, and Medicaid information to all elders.
- Released the IRS EIP New Press Native American Division, NM.
- Released the Third Party Training invitation and Dear Colleague letter along with COLA information to Native American Outreach.
- Assisted Benefits coordinator, Tohajalee clinic.
- Collaborated with the Isleta Pueblo, AIAN First Nations Healthcare/Domestic Violence caseworkers, Albuquerque Indian Health Service, Patient Benefit Coordinator, Taos Pueblo Indian Health Services, Canoncito/Tohajilee Navajo Indian Reservation, Taos Health Services, to donate laptops for Microsoft Teams Pilot training.
- Released Tribal-Pueblo Liaison New Mexico Texas Veterans Service Offices, the Community Partner Letter, Office Information Flyer (English and Spanish), Please Share Me

Letter (English and Spanish), Social Security Scam Flyer (English and Spanish) and What You Can Do Online Flyer.

- 50 participants -- Provided Training to NM Coordinators for the Annual CMS Tribal Benefit Coordinator Training.
- 100 participants -- Provided Training to Coordinators for the Navajo Nation Conference in coordination with CMS (05/2021).
- Released mass mailing of the Dear Colleague letter, SSA COLA press release, and National Disability Forum information to Indian Health Services in New Mexico (10/2020 - 11/2020).
- Partnered with multiple Tribal communities for Microsoft Teams Pilot appointments and laptop donations to connect with field office technicians in New Mexico (01/2021- 04/2021).
- Provided Press release on "2020 Tax Return with the IRS to Receive missing EIP" to I.H.S. coordinators and various Native American Program Managers.
- Presented to the Isleta and Laguna pueblo Benefit Coordinators on SSI & SSDI and assisted Management of the Isleta Pueblo Assisted Living facility for Medicare and SSI Medicaid eligibility.
- Assisted NM Indian Health Service benefit coordinators and Patient Benefits Representatives with benefits, questions from tribe members in nursing homes, representative payee information, claims pending at the State Disability Determination Services (DDS), Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) questions, and Medicare concerns for Tribal members.
- Released mass mailing of SSI training partnership information to 3rd party partners in New Mexico and provided multiple trainings on how to complete SSI applications (05/2021- 06/2021).
- Assisted the Santa Clara Pueblo Government Affairs with information on current IRS and SSA scams. Collaborated on posting flyers for tribe members awareness.

New York:

- 195 participants -- Released monthly regional newsletters (MIP articles) to tribal contacts- Cayuga, Oneida, Onondaga, Seneca, Shinnecock, St. Regis Mohawk, Tonawanda, and Tuscarora Nations, as well as Native American Community Services, American Indian Community House, and others.
- 51 participants -- Shared People Experiencing Barriers poster with the tribes in NY:
 - Cayuga Nation

Enclosures – The Honorable Susan Rice and Shalanda Young

- Oneida Nation
 - Onondaga Nation
 - Seneca Nation
 - Shinnecock Nation
 - St. Regis Mohawk Nation
 - Tonawanda Band of Seneca Nation
 - Tuscarora Nation
 - Native American Community Services (Buffalo)
 - Native American Community Services (Rochester)
- 61 participants -- Released regional VP partner for the following tribes: Cayuga, Oneida, Onondaga, Seneca, Shinnecock, St. Regis Mohawk, Tonawanda, and Tuscarora Nations, as well as Native American Community Services, American Indian Community House, and others.
 - Released Dear Community Partner letter and posters in multiple languages.

North Dakota:

- Social Security Tribal 101 training for staff at Mandan Hidatsa & Arikara (MHA) Tribal Health in New Town, ND.

Oklahoma:

- 247 participants -- Released mass mailing of SSI training partnership to Native American contacts in Oklahoma to promote third party SSI claims-taking training to:
 - Choctaw Nation clinic in Idabel, Oklahoma & the clinic in Hugo
 - Cherokee Nation Will Rogers Health Center & Ponca Tribe - White Eagle Health Center
 - Quapaw Counseling Services Miami Tribe & Wyandotte Nation, Bearskin Health Clinic
- 66 participants -- Released Tribal Community Letter.
- 162 participants -- Oklahoma Indian Health Service (IHS)/CMS Area Virtual Training.
- Released invitation for the National Disability Forum on COVID-19 and SSA Programs to 65 Native American Leaders and 71 Native American Health Care Providers.
- Provided SSI training to IHS. staff at the Lawton Indian Hospital.
- Released the COLA Press Release to 169 Oklahoma Tribal Leaders and Advocates.
- Released the "Your Client May Be Eligible for an In-Person Appointment" Dear Colleagues Letter to 238 Oklahoma Native American Governments, 38 Oklahoma Native American Summit Partners, and 889 Oklahoma contacts.
- Collaborated tribes regarding operations of Social Security offices in Oklahoma.
- Released Monthly Social Security Newsletter to 66 Native American tribal leaders.

- Released scam/ Fraud Newsletter to 172 Native American Contacts, 187 Native American Health Care Facilities, 12 Native American Tribal Government Contacts.
- Released the 'Social Security Help' email with People Experiencing Barriers advocates and community contacts in Oklahoma. Sent information via fax and email to 169 Native American Health providers/clinics and contacts and to 123 Native American Headquarters.
- Released the "File 2020 Tax Return with the IRS to Receive Missing Economic Impact Payments" press release to 237 Oklahoma Native American Health care providers, 169 Indian Health Services contacts, and 77 Indian Governments Headquarters.
- Promoted the agency third party SSI claims-taking training to the following:
 - N.E. Tribal Health Center-Miami & Cherokee Nation Wilma Mankiller Health Center
 - Muskogee Creek Nation IHS in Coweta, Okmulgee & in Okemah
 - Urban Oklahoma City (OKC) Indian Clinic & Iowa Family Health Clinic in Perkins
 - Kaw Nation Kamza Health Clinic in Newkirk & United Keetoowah Treatment Center
- Participated in quarterly regional meetings with 31 Patient Coordinators for IHS.
- Released Pandemic Relief and Supplemental Security Income Dear Colleagues Letter to 238 Oklahoma Native Tribes contacts via fax and email.
- Collaborated on the agency third party SSI claims-taking training with the Muskogee Creek Nation IHS in Eufaula Oklahoma; Muskogee Creek Nation Health Clinic in Coweta Oklahoma; Sox and Fox Black Hawk Health Center, Shawnee OK
- Collaborated with tribal council members of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation of Oklahoma.
- 56 participants -- Virtual benefits presentation to members of the Shawnee Tribe Of Oklahoma.
- 56 participants -- Virtual presentation to members and faculty of the Gordo Cooper Technology Center in Shawnee, OK, part of the Shawnee Tribe of OK education department.
- Conducted an outreach by email to 169 Native American contacts and 39 Native American Tribes and Elders programs in Oklahoma to promote tribal participation in the Microsoft Teams Pilot project. Contacted the tribal leadership and patient benefits coordinators to pitch the pilot and enlist their participation. Offered our excess laptop computers to assist the tribes with using MS Teams to file applications with Social Security.
- Released Third Party SSI Dear Colleague letter and questionnaire to various tribal nations in Oklahoma (04/2021) and held collaborative discussions to promote training (06/2021).
- Assisted Oklahoma Indian Health Service benefit coordinators and Patient Benefits Representatives with benefits, questions from tribe members in nursing homes, claims pending at the State DDS, SNAP questions, and Medicare concerns for Tribal members.

Pennsylvania:

- 50 participants -- CMS Indian Health Services - Tribal Affairs Regional Virtual Training.

South Carolina:

- Released Dear Community Partner Letter to SC Indian Affairs Commission, Columbia, SC.
- Collaborated with SC Indian Affairs Commission for referrals for Third Party initiative.
- Community Partner Letter released to Edisto Indian Free Clinic.

South Dakota:

- Communicated regularly with the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation to provide service to clients.

Texas:

- Distributed the National Disability Forum on COVID-19 and SSA programs to the Dallas Region. Organizations were reminded of FO GI line availability and 1-800# availability.
- Distributed the Community Partner Letter and Social Security Help, via email to 474 AIAN contacts in Texas. The letter outlines the various ways in which Social Security can offer assistance during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Released Third Party SSI Dear Colleague letter to various tribal nations in TX (04/2021).
- Released mass mailing of SSI training partnership to third party partners to Human Services for the Cherokee Nation (06/2021).

Virginia:

- Pamunkey Tribe Enumeration and ID Verification Outreach.
- Sent email with material on People Experiencing Barriers and scam outreach to Chickahominy Indian Tribe.

Washington:

- Provided monthly newsletters and invitations to participate in disability forums, shared local contacts for SSA services during the pandemic, disseminated tribal-specific provisions of COVID-19-related disaster legislation (including emergency payments and clarification of impact on tribal members' SSI eligibility/payment).
- Updated contact information for Washington State Tribal Veterans Advocates.
- Provided publications and outreach materials to staff at the following organizations who will refer applicants to SSA:

Enclosures – The Honorable Susan Rice and Shalanda Young

- Seattle Indian Health Board Leschi Clinic Bellevue Staff, Northwest Regional Council Tribal Association – Bellingham
 - Seattle Indian Health Board Leschi Clinic – Burien
 - Chehalis Tribe – Centralia
 - Seattle Indian Health Board Leschi clinic – Kent
 - Northwest Regional Council Tribal Association – Mt. Vernon
 - Squaxin Island Tribe & Nisqually Indian Tribe – Olympia
 - Seattle Indian Health Board Leschi clinic – North Seattle
 - Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation – Wenatchee
- 15 participants -- Presented a Social Security Webinar to Muckleshoot Tribe members--focus on Retirement, Survivor benefits, Spouse benefits, and Medicare.
 - 10 participants -- Outreach to Suquamish Tribe--provided information on SSI disability and how to help people file for SSI.
 - 15 participants -- Provided a general benefit presentation and assisted with *my Social Security* account registrations for the Nisqually Tribe in Nisqually, WA.
 - 15 participants -- Community outreach with Makah Tribe members on SSA program updates.
 - 15 participants -- Presented SSA Webinar for CMS Medicare Tribal Training.
 - 75 participants -- Portland CMS Tribal Outreach Training on SSA Benefits for Tribes in Washington, Idaho, and Oregon.
 - 7 participants -- Provided benefit information regarding SSA programs and assisted with *my Social Security* account registrations for Puyallup Tribal Case managers in Tacoma, WA.
 - 300 participants -- Provided online services, benefit- and scam-awareness materials to support annual Tribal Elders Symposium for the Cowlitz Tribe Elders Symposium.
 - Sent email with material on People Experiencing Barriers and scam outreach to Spokane Tribe and Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe of Washington.

Wisconsin:

- Discussion with Stockbridge Tribal Elders to share SSA program updates and a general FAQ session.
- Discussion with Oneida Tribal Elders to share SSA program updates and a general question and answer session.
- Released Dear Colleague Letters regarding SSI People Experiencing Barriers to Lac Courte Oreilles Elders Center, Great Lakes Inter Tribal Government office, Red Lake reservation and Red Cliff Band benefits specialists.

Wyoming:

Enclosures – The Honorable Susan Rice and Shalanda Young

- Collaborated with Wind River Tribe - Riverton WY Tribal organization to submit SSI/SSDI application that fit multiple categories for the People Facing Barriers project.
- Collaborated with Fort Washakie Indian Health Services.