

## Needs Work Group

### DRAFT NOTES

April 25, 2014

#### Discussion:

- **IF** ACS is chosen as a data source, should data be updated annually or every 5 years
  - HUD is encouraging 5 years because it is new data
  - Base Year: 1<sup>st</sup> 5 year cycle:
    - 2007-2011 Received late 2013
    - 2012-2016, for the next cycle
- The reality is that there is no perfect data set, i.e., without flaw
  - Should the goal be to continually improve the data?
  - Are the right questions being asked? Looking at the variables becomes more important.
  - HUD/Census will collaborate/work with the Tribes to improve data
  - Should we be delineating the problems/issues with the data (e.g. ACS) and finding ways to mitigate the issues?
  - The data is flawed enough that many of the Tribes are losing; many of the smaller tribes are the ones that will be losing. Do we need to start over to make it more beneficial/more equitable for the smaller tribes?
  - Note that the simulations were based on data that was old (e.g., IHS data, birth death rates, migration); Projections/simulations represent a new reality.
  - Census challenges are an option which can include the use of alternative data sources at a local level
    - Tribally owned data is an extension of Tribal Sovereignty
  - Examine the patterns of which Tribes are losing the most and how to mitigate the loss
  - Bring in other expertise or have further presentations to help understand how to fine tune the details
  - The monetary changes impact many people & services
  - Should still consider the “better of” option for a limited time (e.g., 5 years) in order to have the time to fully examine and understand the use of ACS data. It would also allow Tribes to prepare for future monetary impacts.
  - There are two discussions:
    - Examination of ACS: data validity, reliability, sampling, etc., which can be examined over time
    - Mitigate great losses to tribes
  - Changing weights/factors in the formula can be mitigate the negative monetary impacts to the Tribes with the largest losses
    - E.g., Tribal enrollment data is already being used as part of the formula which can be weighted differently
  - Are there other measures that would capture the needs that the Tribes think are important and which are not currently captured in the formula?
    - E.g., Are there other data points within ACS that can be used in the formula?

- TA requests can be very general but should also be clearly defined, e.g., request for assistance with research regarding variables that would capture/measure need. TA request would need to define *need*.
- Have tribes who have conducted their own needs assessments and surveys made any recommendations to The Census Bureau about changes or modifications?
  - Census would be open to having these discussions and learning more about data collection improvements in Indian Country
  - Tribally driven data collection can supplement other data sources and will also help define the variables that need to be measured
- Data collection by tribes is a costly endeavor which not all Tribes can afford or have the staff to do.
- Definitions and criteria used in the ACS have been in use before. i.e., ACS is not completely new
- ACS data can be supplemented by other data sources. E.g., housing data collected through other data sources that would capture the dramatic differences in housing stock.
- Considering that different conditions exist in different areas, there may not always be one solution/approach to a problem or issue. Also, the data from other sources may be a reflection of our communities and not the reality. However, there are ways to supplement existing data to more closely reflect reality.
  - There are tribes/TDHEs that provide services to members of several different Federally Recognized Tribes
- Hold harmless is appealing and reasonable. How do we get there?
- Census challenge seeks an apples to apples comparison. If you do not agree with the process, you might be replicating the process. So another perspective or approach would be to question how the census works, the questions it asks, the procedure by which data is collected, etc.
- The nature of the formula is that it is a zero-sum game; there are winners and losers. As a Committee, we can only try to lessen the blow on those Tribes who get hit the hardest.

#### **Discussion on Current Variables:**

1. Only one Need is counted – no extra treatment for homes with multiple problems
2. Unpack SEVERE overcrowding vs. moderate overcrowding

#### **Next Steps – Preparation for the next Negotiated Rulemaking Session:**

In the next meeting, the Needs Work Group will focus on identifying a data set or agreeing that we do not have consensus so that we can move onto other issues.

The list of regional Census representatives distributed to Committee Members and posted (Ben Winters will follow-up to see that this happens).