

**U.S. Department of Labor
Employment and Training Administration
Native American Employment and Training Council**

July 19th, 2023

Julie Su, Acting Secretary
U.S. Department of Labor
Frances Perkins Building
200 Constitution Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20210

Dear Acting Secretary Su:

Pursuant to the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014, the Native American Employment and Training Council is pleased to provide, for your consideration, our latest set of recommendations to continue to improve the nation's Indian and Native American Program.

These recommendations were adopted by the Council at our Federal Advisory Council meeting on May 5, 2023. These recommendations were informed by input from numerous subject matter experts and members of the public. They support the intent of the President, Congress, and your efforts to ensure that we continue to strengthen the Indian and Native American Program.

These recommendations are particularly important as America's first peoples face unique challenges in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Council's recommendations focus on several critical areas where workforce and labor information can provide essential support to indigenous people: addressing the record-setting low levels of labor force participation; wage gaps for Native Americans; high cycles of poverty, lack of opportunities to enter the middle class; and access to good quality jobs.

The Council continues to believe that improved federal policies will drive more effective Native American workforce investments, improve career opportunities for Native American youth, and help adults make progress toward equity in the labor force across the nation. Improved investments provide the foundation for illuminating a pathway to the middle class, particularly for Native American communities.

As Council members, we have been honored to serve in this capacity and look forward to supporting you in ensuring these recommendations become a reality.

Respectfully Yours


Joseph Quintana, Chair

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Native American Employment and Training Council Members

Representing	Name	Organization
Region 6	Jacob Bernal	Tucson Indian Center
Other Disciplines	Kim Kaniatobe Carrol	Cherokee Nation
Region 4	Lora Ann Chaisson	Inter-Tribal Council of Louisiana, Inc.
Region 4	Lorraine Edmo	Native American Professional Parent Resources
Other Disciplines	Patricia Hibbeler	Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes
Region 5	Robert Houle	Bad River Health and Wellness Center
Region 6	Shawn Isaac	Torres Martinez Tribe
Region 3	Candace Lowry	North Carolina Commission on Indian Affairs
Region 6 (Alaska)	Holly Morales	Cook Inlet Tribal Council
Region 4 (Oklahoma)	Erwin Pahmahmie, Jr.	Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes Department of Labor
Region 5	Angel Peer	American Indian Council, Inc.
Region 6	Joseph Quintana	United American Indian Involvement, Inc.
Region 6	Gary Rickard	
Other Disciplines	Kay Seven	Nez Perce Tribe-Education Department Career Center Program
Regions 1 & 2	Darrell Waldron	Rhode Island Indian Council, Inc.
Region 6	Winona Whitman	Alu Like, Inc.
Other Disciplines	Jacob Wojnas	Te wa tha hon:ni Corporation

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Draft NAETC Recommendations:

1. Modify statutory and regulatory language to allow for the extension of serving council member appointments. This will enable the council to remain active during the administrative process of another council being appointed.
2. Modify WIOA legislation during the current reauthorization process by removing the requirement for INAP grants to be distributed as part of a competitive process. There should also be language calling for the investment in the grantee's capabilities, creating the resources to support a long-term sustainable system.
3. Develop and issue, in conjunction with the council, a "Yes WIOA Can!" communication and marketing campaign that focuses on the Native American community grants and grantees. The council believes this will clarify many of the available flexibilities.
4. Honor the commitment made by the Department to host a "Good Jobs Summit" as part of the Department's mandate to provide technical assistance for INAP grantees.