TRIBAL CONSULTATIONS

USDA Seeks Feedback on Ways to Provide Better Access to Grants to Improve Water Infrastructure on Tribal Lands and in Colonias

WASHINGTON, Oct. 26, 2021 – U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Under Secretary for Rural Development Xochitl Torres Small today announced that USDA is hosting virtual Tribal consultations on Nov. 30 and Dec. 1 for elected leaders of federally recognized Tribes or their proxies.

USDA is seeking recommendations on how to improve the Water and Waste Disposal Grants to Alleviate Health Risks on Tribal Lands and Colonias program. This program helps people who live in low-income communities and federally recognized Tribes access safe and reliable drinking water, waste disposal facilities and waste disposal services.

The Department is seeking input from Tribal leaders on:

- Adjusting the program’s scoring criteria to address health risks experienced by federally-recognized Tribes due to a lack of access to safe drinking water and wastewater disposal services and facilities.

- Improving program delivery based on the experiences of federally-recognized Tribes who have applied for and used these grants.

USDA is hosting two consultations. Both sessions will cover the same topics.

- The first consultation will be held virtually on Tuesday, Nov. 30, 2021, at 1:00 p.m. Eastern Time. To register, visit https://www.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJItdqgrzwiH_Y6gbZ0-9Qq_eLJmGnniks.

- The second consultation will be held virtually on Wednesday, Dec. 1, 2021, at 1:00 p.m. Eastern Time. To register, visit https://www.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJItc-GoqzwvHKItKpJ8A4zyQpvrjX6tVRw.

USDA will issue additional information in the coming days to help Tribal leaders and their proxies prepare for the consultations.

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