

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/vJItdeqgrzwiH_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-GoqzwwHKltKpJ8A4zvQpvrjX6tVRw>.

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

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