



## **NATIVE AMERICANS LIVING IN URBAN AREAS TELEPHONE / ON-SITE INTERVIEW GUIDE**

### **Introduction/Purpose of the Study**

My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I'm a researcher from the [organization name, location]. I'm calling today because the Urban Institute, on behalf of the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), is studying the housing conditions and needs of Native Americans, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians across the United States. The study will describe housing needs and socioeconomic conditions in Indian Country.

One part of this study focuses on the housing needs and conditions among Indians living in urban and suburban areas off of reservations and tribal lands. We will be speaking with community leaders, staff of organizations that work with Native Americans, and community residents to better understand the housing issues in the study sites. We are visiting 5 communities and talking by telephone to community leaders and local community organization staff in 25 additional communities.

We will use what we learn today and from other interviews to contribute to a report on housing conditions and needs among Native Americans. This report will be submitted to HUD to inform the federal government of housing challenges. The interview today should last about half an hour [telephone] // one and one half hours [in-person].  
I'll start by going over the consent to participate.

### **Confidentiality Statement** *[Interviewer must read this]*

Before beginning the interview, I (we) want to thank you for agreeing to participate in this study and remind you that your participation is voluntary. I (we) know that you are busy and will try to be as brief as possible. We have many questions and are going to talk to many different people, so please do not feel as though we expect you to be able to answer every question. The interview today should last about 30 to 35 minutes. This interview is not part of an audit or a compliance review. We are interested in learning about your ideas, experiences, and opinions about housing in your community. There are no right or wrong answers. We want to know what you think.

In addition, before we start, I want to let you know that although we will take notes during these interviews, information is never repeated with the name of the respondent in any reports or in any discussions with supervisors, colleagues, or HUD. When we write our reports and discuss our findings, information from all the people we speak with is compiled and presented so that no one person can be identified.

Do you have any questions before we begin?



### A. Respondent Background Questions

1. Name and Title of Respondent
2. Affiliation
3. How long have you been in this position?
4. How long have you worked for this organization / agency?
5. Please describe the housing related services or assistance offered by your organization/agency.
6. What is the geographic area your organization or agency serves?
7. Approximately how many people does your organization or agency serve in the course of a year?
8. Please describe your client base. Who seeks services or assistance (race, ethnicity, age, income level, household structure, etc.)?
9. Approximately what percent of your client base is Native American or Alaska Native?
  - a. With which tribes are these clients enrolled or affiliated?
10. Is this organization / agency itself affiliated with a particular tribe or tribes? Which one(s)?

~~11. And yourself, are you enrolled in a tribe?~~

~~[[if YES] which one?~~

~~[[if NO], are you of Native American descent?~~

### ~~B. Housing conditions of AIAN in urban areas~~

~~1. How would you describe the housing conditions experienced by most Native American households in [community]?~~

~~a. What are the most commonly cited problems?~~

~~b. How widespread do you think these problems are?~~



~~2. Are there problems that affect renters more than homeowners? Vice-versa?~~

~~a. What are they?~~

~~3. How have housing conditions changed in the past 5 years? Explain~~

~~4. Do you think there are differences between the housing conditions faced by Native American (American Indian and Alaska Native) and non-Native households in the community?~~

~~a. What are the differences?~~

~~b. What do you think the differences can be attributed to?~~

### C. Housing availability, cost, household needs; impact of the recession

1. What are the most pressing housing needs among Native American households in your community?

2. ~~Is there a sufficient supply of~~Are there enough safe and affordable housing units in your community to meet the need?

a. ~~If no, what types of housing units are in short supply? Does the supply of safe and affordable housing units vary by housing type~~ (small, medium or large rental units, houses for rent, houses for sale, etc.)?

3. Has the supply of safe and affordable housing changed in the last 5 years?

a. In what way?

~~b. Do you think the recession has had an impact on housing availability in this area? Explain~~

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4. Has the cost of housing changed in this area in the last 5 years?

[If YES] How has it changed? Why has it changed?  
(increased/decreased due to demand for rental units; increased/decreased sales prices due demand / foreclosures and drop in demand; etc.)



## B. Housing conditions of AIAN in urban areas

1. How would you describe the housing conditions experienced by most Native American households in [community]?

- a. What are the most commonly cited problems?
- b. How widespread do you think these problems are?

2. Are there problems that affect renters more than homeowners? Vice versa?

- a. What are they?

4. Are there differences between the housing conditions faced by Native American (American Indian and Alaska Native) and non-Native households in the community?

- a. What are the differences?
- b. What do you think the differences can be attributed to?

## **D. Homelessness (changes in who is homeless, available resources)**

1. Is *homelessness* or being at risk of homelessness (e.g., having no residence, staying in a shelter or transitional housing, staying with friends or family on a non-permanent basis) a problem among Native Americans living in [community]?

2. What are the major factors leading to homelessness among Native Americans here?

- a. Probe: lack of affordable housing; loss of income; domestic violence, mental or physical health problems, substance abuse, etc.

3. Do you think the number of homeless Native Americans in this community has changed in the last 5 years? What would you estimate the number of homeless Native Americans in this community to be?

a. How and why do you think the number has changed? Has there been a change in the last 5 years in the number of homeless people?

64. Has there been a change in the last 5 years in who becomes homeless (age, gender, tribal group, family structure, education level, etc.)?

[If YES] Please describe the change.



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45. Do most homeless Native Americans here have no place to stay, stay in temporary housing, or double up with family or friends?

~~86. Do many Native Americans make use of homeless shelters?~~

~~[[If NO] Why do you think they do not?~~

~~5. Is overcrowding a problem in homes where people double up?~~

~~6. Has there been a change in the last 5 years in who becomes homeless (age, gender, tribal group, family structure, education level, etc.)?~~

~~[[If YES] Please describe the change.~~

7. Are there organizations or agencies that target homeless-related services to the Native American community? Describe.

~~8. Do many Native Americans make use of homeless shelters?~~

~~[[If NO] Why do you think they do not?~~

98. What is needed here in the way of services, outreach, or other factors to address problems of homelessness among Native Americans in [community]?

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### E. Capacity (availability and quality) of local organizations to address housing needs

1. ~~To what degree is your organization / agency able to meet your clients' housing needs?~~

~~a. Do clients have What housing needs that are beyond what your organization / agency cannot address?~~

~~b.a. What are the barriers to your organization's / agency's ability to address these needs? (funds, training, additional staff, space, etc.)~~

2. What other organizations / agencies in the area ~~meet the housing needs of~~ offer housing services to Native Americans?

~~a. Do any of these organizations / agencies provide services or solutions that your organization/agency is unable to provide? [[If Yes] Please describe.~~

3. ~~Do these~~ Are there organizations / agencies ~~in the area that~~ have expertise in addressing the housing needs of Native Americans who:



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- a. Are elderly? Are single parents? Who have young children?
- b. Are victims of domestic violence?
- c. Have a disability? Have a substance abuse problem?
- d. Have a felony conviction?
- e. Are veterans?

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~~4. What would you say are the most effective programs in your community that address housing needs among Native American households?~~

~~a. What makes these programs successful? In what way are they successful?~~

~~5. Do organizations and agencies that address the housing needs of Native American households ever work together, either formally or informally?~~

~~a. Examples?~~

~~6. [If not already mentioned] Are there Native American-run organizations that have some focus on housing?~~

7. Do the organizations that address the housing needs of Native Americans tend to work with people regardless of tribal enrollment and descent or do they target services to people from a specific tribe or tribes?

8. If you could, what new housing program would you start in your community to address Native American housing needs? Why?

~~9. How would you change existing programs if you could?~~

~~10. What factors affect Native Americans' willingness to seek assistance or support for housing needs from community organizations or agencies?~~

~~a. What factors tend to encourage Native American households to seek assistance?~~



ba. What factors discourage households?

**F. PHA staff module**

1. What percentage of your public housing clients are Native Americans?

a. For Housing Choice Vouchers?

b. For Section 184 loan guarantees?

c. For other types of assistance?

2. Has the percent changed in the last 5 years? Describe the change.

a. What factors do you think have led to the change?

3. Have you seen a change in the number of Native American households applying for assistance (regardless of whether they receive assistance)?

[If YES] Why do you think there has been a change? (Recession-related factors, job loss, increase in housing costs, lack of affordable housing units for people moving to the community, etc.)

4. Have you seen changes in the characteristics of Native American households who have applied for assistance in the past 5 years? (age, marital status, number of children, tribal status)

5. Does your agency conduct outreach to Native Americans?

[If YES] Please describe

6. Does your agency have information materials targeted to Native Americans?

[If YES] May I have a copy?

7. Are there particular challenges related to serving Native Americans? Please explain.

**G. Local AIAN community leaders module (also include in ICC guide)**

1. Describe the ways that your organization works with other organizations and agencies that address housing needs of Native Americans / Alaska Natives.



~~2. What are some of the key issues that bring you in contact with such organizations?~~

~~3. Do you find some organizations or agencies better able to work with Native Americans to address their housing needs?~~

a. What factors make an organization or agency more effective than others?

~~34. Nowadays, what are some of the main reasons Native Americans might choose to move from tribal lands to urban areas? (job opportunities, access to housing, education opportunities, domestic violence, etc.)~~

~~54. What factors lead Native Americans to move from urban areas to reservations / tribal areas? (access to housing, reasons related to family, reasons related to culture, etc.)~~

~~6. Has the recession been a factor in people's decisions more recently?~~

a. How has it affected people's decisions on where to live? Examples?

~~75. Do more people move between tribal lands and to or away from urban areas now ~~than 5 years ago~~?~~

a. Why ~~has the number of people increased/decreased~~ has this changed?

~~86. Has the *number of moves* people make between tribal lands and urban areas increased in the last 5 years?~~

a. Why do you think people are moving more/less often than in the past?

~~97. Do you find that many or few Native Americans living in [community] maintain close ties with their tribes?~~

~~a. Do people visit family or friends on the res? Attend cultural events? Attend tribal meetings? Use tribal services?~~

~~ba. Why do you think most Native Americans living in urban areas do/do not maintain close ties with a reservation or tribal area?~~

## H. HUD HQ and regional staff module





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~~The bracketed phrases are topics we said we would explore with HUD HQ and regional staff as part of the urban studies component. We need more guidance on these questions:  
[Provision of federal housing programs to urban AIAN]~~

1. Do any federal housing programs explicitly include Native American households in the list of potential clients?

2. Are there any federal programs that identify Native American households, other than people living on Indian lands, as priority clients?

*[Outreach to AIAN households]*

3. Does HUD provide guidance to local HAs on how to reach out to Native American households living in metro areas? Please explain.

4. Are there outreach materials local HAs can use that have been developed specifically with Native American households in mind?

a. If so, may I have a copy?

*[Challenges to serving AIAN households]*

5. What challenges do local HAs identify as associated with serving Native Americans households in metro areas?

6. How has HUD responded to any request from local HAs for assistance working with Native American households? Examples?