



Photo provided by Cheryl McClellan



Chief's Address To The Nation



Chief George Thurman

Greetings,

On January 25th, the 2014 Revenue Allocation Plan (RAP) Budget was finally approved during a Special Governing Council Meeting for RAP after several earlier attempts to reach a quorum of 60 members had failed.

A continuing resolution for the first quarter of 2014 allowed some funding for services during the period of October 1 through December 31, 2013. The passage of the full RAP Budget almost 4 months into the fiscal year once again puts our committees, boards, commissions, and RAP programs and services behind. Those mentioned, plus other departments, now need to develop or modify their 2014 budgets for approval

by the Business Committee to allow further and new spending levels.

The practice has always been that Federal funding will be utilized first before any RAP funding is used.

I need to iterate that because of federal guidelines, many of our tribal membership are not eligible for assistance from our federal funding due to their residing outside of our tribal jurisdiction; thus our RAP programs and services, which are available to all tribal members no matter where you may reside, need to be available at the beginning of the fiscal year.

I will be scheduling meetings with the Business Committee, Sauk Business Enterprises, Finance Dept., RAP Dept., Property & Procurement Dept., Chief of Staff (COS), and other departments to work collectively to develop a process to be brought forward to Governing Council for input so this funding will be available at the beginning of the fiscal year. I want everyone to know that it is going to take a cooperative effort to accomplish this endeavor.

This month I am sharing information from the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) Broadcast that is very informative and that affects our Sac and Fox Nation.

erally recognized tribes in the year 2010 is 1,969,167.

* The state with the highest population indicator was Oklahoma with 471,738 Native Americans living in or near the areas of federally recognized tribes. This is followed by California with 281,374, and then by Arizona with 234,891.

* The BIA region with the highest population indicator is Eastern Oklahoma, with 335,529, followed by the Pacific Region with 281,112, and then by the Northwest Region with 266,028.

* Approximately 28.1 percent of the service population is below 16 years of age, and there are slightly more boys than girls. Approximately 64.8 percent are between the ages of 16 and 64, with slightly more females. Those ages 65 and older represent only 7.1 percent of the population, and again there are more women than men (4.0 percent versus 3.1 percent).

* On average about 49-50 percent of all Native Americans in or near the tribal areas of federally recognized tribes, who are 16 years or older, are employed either full or part time in civilian jobs.

* According to estimated ranges based on a 90 percent confidence interval, in several states less than 50 percent of Natives Americans are working, among those who are 16 years or older and who are living in or near the tribal areas of federally recognized tribes. These states include Alaska, Arizona, California, Maine, Minnesota, Montana, New Mexico, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Utah.

* Approximately 21 percent of all Native American employees work for a government (federal, state, local, or tribal), though this too varies by tribe, state, and region. For example, it ranges between 8 and 12 percent in Iowa, and between 40 and 45 percent in South Dakota.

* An estimated 23 percent of all Native American families in the United States in 2010 earned incomes that are below the poverty line. The highest estimated rate of poverty is in South Dakota, with 43-47 percent of Native American families in 2010 earning incomes below the pov-



New Chief of Staff: The Sac and Fox Nation welcomes Ernest Clark as the new Chief of Staff. Watch for profile in March.

erty line. The next highest rates of poverty are estimated to be in Arizona (31-33 percent), Minnesota (30-33 percent), Montana (32-36 percent), and Nebraska (30-37 percent).

January 15, 2014 NCAI Broadcast

FY 2014 Omnibus Restores Some Funds to Tribal Programs
Bill Rejects Contract Support Costs Caps Proposal

House and Senate negotiators released a \$1.012 trillion FY 2014 Omnibus spending bill (HR 3547) on January 13, 2014 that provides directives for all 12 appropriations bills, including the Interior-Environment bill, which provides funding for the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Indian Health Service. The Senate cleared a three-day continuing resolution (H J Res 106) today to keep the government open through January 18. The current continuing resolution (PL 113-46) expires Wednesday and federal agencies require a stopgap bill to avoid a shutdown. Throughout the last year, tribes have urged policymakers to undo sequester reductions and avoid cutting even more deeply from key domestic investments, which include the solemn duty to fund the trust responsibility. The Murray-Ryan budget agreement reached in December (PL 113-67) partially replaces sequestration.

A majority of tribal trust and treaty promises are funded in the domestic discretionary bud-

get in the following appropriations bills:

* Interior-Environment: Bureau of Indian Affairs /Bureau of Indian Education, Indian Health Service

* Labor-Health and Human Services-Education: Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Department of Education

* Commerce-Justice-Science: Department of Justice: Office of Justice Programs, State and Local Law Enforcement, Office of Violence Against Women, Community Oriented Policing Services

* Transportation, Housing: Housing and Urban Development, Indian Housing Block Grant, Indian Community Development Block Grant

The House passed the FY 2014 Omnibus bill today, 359-67, and the Senate is expected to clear it later in the week. The Omnibus does not include any continuing resolutions, the first time in many years for the Departments of the Interior and Health and Human Services. This analysis includes updates on many tribal programs addressed in the FY 2014 Omnibus bill.

Highlights

Contract Support Costs: Significantly, the Omnibus explanatory text (p. 19) states that "the agreement does not include statutory language carried in previous years that limits the amount available in any given fiscal year for the payment of (Continued on Page 3)

National News

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR | 2013 American Indian Population and Labor Force Report Released

On January 16, 2014, the US Department of the Interior released the 2013 American Indian Population and Labor Force Report with data primarily for 2010. This is the first time the Report has been released since 2005.

As different from past reports, the 2013 Report relies on both Census Bureau data and data collected from tribes through the 2010 Labor Force Survey. This means that the 2013 data cannot be compared to data in past Reports. Employment estimates in the 2013 Report are drawn from Census data and are not reported in relation to each tribe's service population because "there is currently no source of reliable data that exists at that level for each tribe" (p. 12). The 2013 Report provides estimates of the number of tribal residents who are employed and those who are available for work but not working (or jobless), but explicitly does not provide unemployment data.

NCAI previously submitted comments citing concerns about the use of Census data for tribal-level estimates. We retain those concerns and are pursuing discussions with senior Administration officials to identify solutions.

The main findings of the report as listed on page 10 are:

* The sum of population indicators associated with all fed-



Community Building Parking Update: Despite dealing with occasional outbursts of the Polar Vortex the Sac and Fox Community Building Parking lot is underway. Cement work has begun and with a little help from some Spring like weather should be completed in the near future. (SFN photo)

Upcoming Events 2014

February 9
Native American Church Dance

February 11
Sac & Fox Nation Veterans' Meeting
Elders Bldg Stroud
5 pm-

February 12
Elders Advisory Committee Meeting
Shawnee
10:00 Potluck

February 15
PowWow Committee
Indian Dice & Dance
Sac and Fox Gym

February 22
Special Petition
Governing Council
10 am
Sac and Fox Gym