



Bureau of Indian Affairs

Mission

The mission of the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) is to enhance the quality of life, promote economic opportunity, and carry out the responsibility to protect and improve the trust assets of American Indians, Indian Tribes, and Alaska Natives.

Budget Overview

The 2027 budget for BIA is \$1.8 billion in current appropriations. BIA estimates the budget will support staffing of 2,817 full-time equivalents (FTE) in 2027.

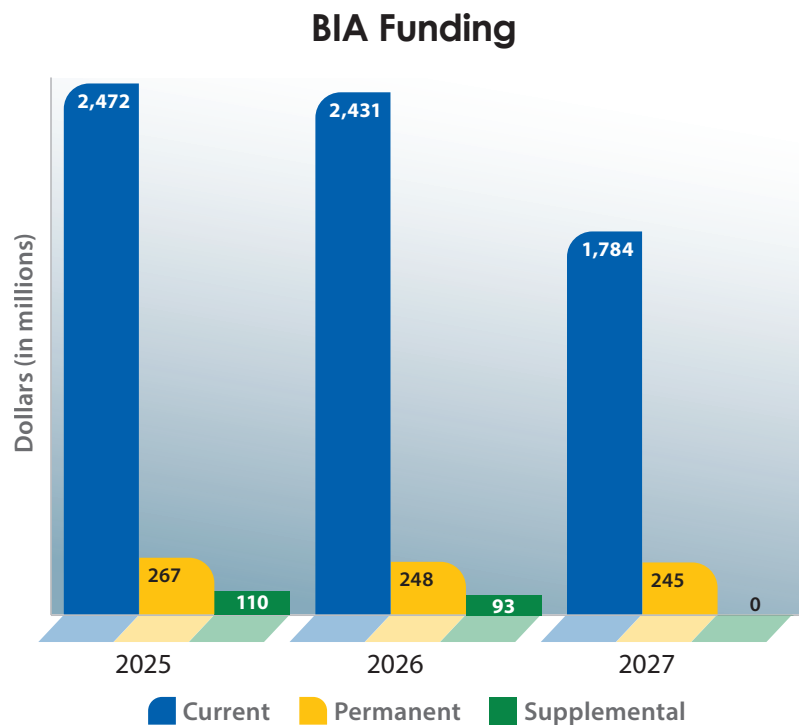
The Bureau plays a primary role in carrying out Federal trust, treaty, and other responsibilities for 575 currently federally recognized Tribes, with a service population of nearly 2 million American Indians and Alaska Natives in Tribal and native communities nationwide. The 2027 budget supports continuing core efforts to advance self-governance and self-determination, foster stronger economies and self-sufficiency, and support safe Indian communities through a wide range of activities.

Operation of Indian Programs

The 2027 budget includes \$1.3 billion for the Operation of Indian Programs account. Priorities in this account are as follows.

Protect Indian Country

BIA's Office of Justice Services (OJS) funds law enforcement, corrections, and court services to maintain safe Tribal communities. These programs



support 198 law enforcement programs and 101 corrections programs run by Tribes and by BIA as direct services. OJS funding also supports the Missing and Murdered Unit, including Operation Spirit Return, an initiative implemented in the spring of 2025 by the Trump administration to help solve missing and unidentified persons cases involving American Indians and Alaska Natives in the United States. The operation identifies unknown human remains located in or close to Indian Country that are believed to belong to either American Indian or Alaska Native persons and focuses on reuniting those remains with family members and returning them to their Tribal communities. Overall, BIA's budget for Public Safety and Justice activities is \$560.3 million, which includes \$286.4 million for Criminal Investigation and Police Services and \$142.4 million for Detentions and Corrections.

Promote Tribal Self-Determination

The Department supports Tribal sovereignty. The BIA Tribal Government activity supports resources for Tribes and



- BIA was established in 1824 under the War Department and transferred to the Department of the Interior in 1849.
- BIA provides services to American Indians and Alaska Natives from the 575 federally recognized Tribes in the 48 contiguous States and Alaska.
- The Bureau administers and manages 56 million surface acres and 59 million acres of subsurface mineral estates held in trust by the United States for individual Indians and Tribes.
- More than 80 percent of Indian Affairs employees are American Indian or Alaska Native.



Totem pole at the Alaska Native Heritage Center in Anchorage.

DOI Photo.

Alaska Native entities to strengthen and sustain Tribal government systems and support Tribal self-governance through the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (ISDEAA) (Public Law 93–638) contracting and self-governance compacting process.

On January 23, 2025, President Trump issued a memorandum of support for full Federal recognition for the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina. On December 18, 2025, when President Trump signed the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2026 (Public Law 119–60), which contained the Lumbee Fairness Act, the Lumbee Tribe attained full recognition. The budget includes \$5 million in the New Tribes program for the Lumbee Tribe, and the Department will work in consultation with the Tribe on a needs assessment to provide to Congress.

Manage Trust Resources, Lands, and Energy Development

BIA's Trust-Natural Resources Management activity supports the stewardship and development of energy resources on trust lands in Indian Country. Natural resource programs assist Tribes in the management, development, and protection of Indian trust land and natural resources on 56 million surface acres and 59 million acres of subsurface mineral estates. These programs enable Tribal trust landowners to optimize the use of resources, providing benefits such as revenue, jobs, and the protection of traditional resources.



Secretary Burgum meets with Tribal leaders in February 2026.

BIA Photo.

The budget includes funding to modernize the probate process and reduce the current decades-old backlog, which will unlock Indian lands for economic development and other uses. The funding will support probate surge operations and performance-driven incentive programs. This funding aligns with the Department's broader modernization agenda and will be developed with Tribal partners to ensure cultural, legal, and operational relevance.

The Energy and Minerals activity within Trust-Natural Resources Management supports Executive Order (EO) 14154, *Unleashing American Energy*, and the Administration's priority for domestic energy abundance and economic development, including management and development of energy resources on Tribal lands. Income from energy and mineral production is the largest source of revenue generated from natural resources on trust lands. The 2027 budget commits to the Indian Energy Service Center, which coordinates Indian energy development activities across Interior's bureaus. The Center facilitates communication and coordination

to enhance BIA's ability to process leases, the Bureau of Land Management's responsibility for Applications for Permit to Drill approval and monitoring, and the Office of Natural Resources Revenue's responsibilities for revenue accounting.

The 2027 budget also supports EO 14225, *Immediate Expansion of American Timber Production*, and the Administration's active forest management reforms on Indian forest lands, which are managed by 300 Tribes across 19.2 million acres. The funding supports the development, maintenance, and enhancement of forest resources in accordance with sustained yield principles included in forest management plans.

Tribal Priority Allocations

Tribal Priority Allocations (TPAs) give Tribes the opportunity to further Indian self-determination by establishing their own priorities and reallocating Federal funds among programs in this budget category. The 2027 budget proposes TPA funding of \$459.9 million.

Contract Support Costs

The President's Budget maintains the Administration's support for the principles of Tribal self-determination and strengthening Tribal communities across Indian Country by fully funding Contract Support Costs at \$215.9 million. Contract Support Costs enable Tribes to assume responsibility for operating Federal programs by covering the costs to administer the programs.

Payments for Tribal Leases

The budget fully funds \$147.6 million for Payments for Tribal Leases, which includes Tribal facility lease agreements under section 105(l) of the ISDEAA, in support of Tribal self-determination.

Construction

The 2027 budget proposes \$88.1 million for BIA's Construction activities, including funding for

facilities replacement and deferred maintenance projects for public safety and justice facilities, irrigation projects and dams, and regional and agency offices serving Tribal programs and operations in Indian Country.

Land and Water Claim Settlements

The 2027 budget proposes \$58.9 million to meet Indian settlement commitments. The funding request covers the continuing implementation of the Truckee River Operating Agreement (Public Law 101-618), the White Earth Land Settlement Act (Public Law 99-264), and funding for Federal payments authorized in the Hualapai Tribe Water Rights Settlement Act of 2022 (Public Law 117-349).

Fixed Costs

Fixed costs are fully funded.



Indian Country Police Officer Training Program graduation.

DOI Photo.

SUMMARY OF BUREAU APPROPRIATIONS ^{1/}

(dollar amounts in thousands)

Comparison of 2027 Request with 2026 Enacted

	2026 Enacted		2027 Request		Change	
	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount
Current						
Operation of Indian Programs	2,931	1,976,184	2,407	1,272,857	-524	-703,327
Contract Support Costs	0	205,418	0	215,926	0	+10,508
Payments for Tribal Leases	0	138,324	0	147,563	0	+9,239
Construction	59	185,530	34	88,097	-25	-97,433
Indian Land and Water Claim Settlements and Miscellaneous Payments to Indians	0	976	0	58,897	0	+57,921
Indian Guaranteed Loan Program Account	11	13,329	2	500	-9	-12,829
Indian Land Consolidation	13	4,000	0	0	-13	-4,000
Subtotal, Current	3,014	2,523,761	2,443	1,783,840	-571	-739,921
Permanent						
Indian Guaranteed Loan Program Account	0	3,085	0	0	0	-3,085
White Earth Settlement Fund	0	1,750	0	1,750	0	0
Miscellaneous Permanent Appropriations	222	148,818	222	148,095	0	-723
Operation and Maintenance of Quarters	13	3,684	13	3,754	0	+70
Selis-Qlispe Ksanka Settlement Trust Fund	0	90,000	0	90,000	0	0
Gifts and Donations	0	1,000	0	1,000	0	0
Subtotal, Permanent	235	248,337	235	244,599	0	-3,738
Reimbursable, Allocation, and Other						
Allocation	299	0	110	0	-189	0
Reimbursable	29	0	29	0	0	0
Subtotal, Reimbursable, Allocation, and Other	328	0	139	0	-189	0
TOTAL, BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS	3,577	2,772,098	2,817	2,028,439	-760	-743,659

^{1/} Funding amounts include supplemental appropriations and transfers. For further details on Current funding, see Highlights of Budget Changes tables for each account.

HIGHLIGHTS OF BUDGET CHANGES

By Appropriation Activity/Subactivity
(dollar amounts in thousands)

APPROPRIATION: Operation of Indian Programs

	2025 Actual	2026 Enacted	2027 Request	Change
Tribal Government				
Aid to Tribal Government (TPA)	26,928	28,923	31,022	+2,099
Consolidated Tribal Government Program (TPA)	85,489	83,415	52,340	-31,075
Self Governance Compacts (TPA)	232,238	230,008	146,133	-83,875
New Tribes (TPA)	0	0	5,000	+5,000
Small Tribes Supplement (TPA)	7,002	7,002	0	-7,002
Road Maintenance (TPA)	39,190	39,190	27,206	-11,984
Tribal Government Program Oversight	10,449	10,449	9,281	-1,168
Subtotal, Tribal Government	401,296	398,987	270,982	-128,005

APPROPRIATION: Operation of Indian Programs (continued)

	2025 Actual	2026 Enacted	2027 Request	Change
Human Services				
Social Services (TPA)	52,989	56,454	34,275	-22,179
Welfare Assistance (TPA)	78,494	78,494	0	-78,494
Indian Child Welfare Act (TPA)	16,575	16,903	10,872	-6,031
Housing Improvement Program (TPA)	11,939	13,439	0	-13,439
Human Services Tribal Design (TPA)	217	218	0	-218
Human Services Program Oversight	3,239	3,239	3,067	-172
Subtotal, Human Services	163,453	168,747	48,214	-120,533
Trust—Natural Resources Management				
Natural Resources (TPA)	12,985	13,985	4,595	-9,390
Irrigation Operations and Maintenance	15,269	15,269	9,016	-6,253
Rights Protection Implementation	49,200	51,000	7,584	-43,416
Tribal Management/Development Program	18,544	19,044	0	-19,044
Endangered Species	5,993	5,993	0	-5,993
Tribal Climate Resilience	26,291	34,291	0	-34,291
Integrated Resource Info Program	2,954	2,954	2,761	-193
Agriculture and Range	40,938	41,438	13,914	-27,524
Forestry	65,385	62,887	25,131	-37,756
Water Resources	17,991	18,005	2,699	-15,306
Fish, Wildlife, and Parks	23,752	23,751	2,092	-21,659
Energy and Minerals	32,849	30,814	19,975	-10,839
Resource Management Program Oversight	8,218	8,218	9,120	+902
Subtotal, Trust—Natural Resources Management	320,369	327,649	96,887	-230,762
Trust—Real Estate Services				
Trust Services (TPA)	10,322	10,219	4,156	-6,063
Navajo-Hopi Settlement Program	1,303	1,303	1,223	-80
Probate (TPA)	14,140	17,140	8,124	-9,016
Office of Hearings and Appeals	7,096	7,096	6,938	-158
Land Title and Records Offices	16,425	16,425	8,577	-7,848
Land Acquisitions	2,000	2,000	0	-2,000
Real Estate Services	41,588	40,998	23,287	-17,711
Land Records Improvement	6,667	6,667	2,521	-4,146
Environmental Quality	32,548	32,048	11,916	-20,132
Alaskan Native Programs (TPA)	1,521	1,521	645	-876
Rights Protection	17,616	17,584	2,562	-15,022
Trust—Real Estate Services Oversight	18,782	16,886	19,878	+2,992
Subtotal, Trust—Real Estate Services	170,008	169,887	89,827	-80,060
Public Safety and Justice				
Law Enforcement	513,499	519,345	513,499	-5,846
Tribal Courts (TPA)	45,309	49,101	45,309	-3,792
Fire Protection (TPA)	1,455	1,613	1,455	-158
Subtotal, Public Safety and Justice	560,263	570,059	560,263	-9,796

APPROPRIATION: Operation of Indian Programs *(continued)*

	2025 Actual	2026 Enacted	2027 Request	Change
Community and Economic Development				
Job Placement and Training (TPA)	13,686	13,686	6,386	-7,300
Economic Development (TPA)	2,829	2,855	2,532	-323
Economic Development Projects	13,175	15,371	0	-15,371
Community Development Oversight	834	834	842	+8
Subtotal, Community and Economic Development	30,524	32,746	9,760	-22,986
Executive Direction and Administrative Services				
Assistant Secretary Support	12,409	15,409	8,384	-7,025
Executive Direction	21,917	22,020	13,786	-8,234
Administrative Services	54,005	53,205	34,465	-18,740
Safety and Risk Management	3,204	3,204	3,065	-139
Information Resources Technology	52,337	52,337	42,002	-10,335
Human Capital Management	24,149	24,149	21,616	-2,533
Facilities Management	19,379	19,379	16,883	-2,496
Intra-Governmental Payments	20,742	23,577	19,107	-4,470
Rentals	43,654	43,354	37,616	-5,738
Subtotal, Executive Direction and Administrative Services	251,796	256,634	196,924	-59,710
Special Initiatives (Congressionally Directed Spending)	0	8,491	0	-8,491
SUBTOTAL APPROPRIATION	1,897,709	1,933,200	1,272,857	-660,343
American Relief Act (P.L. 118-158)	17,765	0	0	0
Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (P.L. 117-58)	43,200	43,200	0	-43,200
Transfer to OIG (P.L. 117-58)	-216	-216	0	+216
TOTAL APPROPRIATION	1,958,458	1,976,184	1,272,857	-703,327

APPROPRIATION: Contract Support Costs

	2025 Actual	2026 Enacted	2027 Request	Change
Contract Support (TPA)	282,958	200,418	210,926	+10,508
Indian Self-Determination Fund (TPA)	5,000	5,000	5,000	0
TOTAL APPROPRIATION	287,958	205,418	215,926	+10,508

APPROPRIATION: Payments for Tribal Leases

	2025 Actual	2026 Enacted	2027 Request	Change
TOTAL APPROPRIATION	134,086	138,324	147,563	+9,239

APPROPRIATION: Construction

	2025 Actual	2026 Enacted	2027 Request	Change
Public Safety and Justice Construction				
Facilities Replacement/New Construction	33,500	35,500	33,500	-2,000
Employee Housing	3,500	3,500	3,500	0
Facilities Improvement and Repair	6,620	6,620	6,700	+80
Fire Safety Coordination	171	171	171	0
Fire Protection	2,000	2,000	2,000	0
Subtotal, Public Safety and Justice Construction	45,791	47,791	45,871	-1,920
Resource Management Construction				
Irrigation Project Construction	24,519	24,519	13,500	-11,019
Engineering and Supervision	2,758	2,758	2,000	-758
Survey and Design	1,016	1,016	500	-516
Federal Power Compliance	671	671	500	-171
Dam Projects	36,730	36,730	18,151	-18,579
Subtotal, Resource Management Construction	65,694	65,694	34,651	-31,043
Other Program Construction				
Telecommunications Improvement and Repair	1,419	2,419	819	-1,600
Facilities/Quarters Improvement and Repair	4,619	4,619	1,000	-3,619
Water and Sanitation	5,760	5,760	0	-5,760
Construction Program Management	10,497	9,497	5,756	-3,741
Subtotal, Other Program Construction	22,295	22,295	7,575	-14,720
SUBTOTAL APPROPRIATION	133,780	135,780	88,097	-47,683
Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (P.L. 117-58)	50,000	50,000	0	-50,000
Transfer to OIG (P.L. 117-58)	-250	-250	0	+250
TOTAL APPROPRIATION	183,530	185,530	88,097	-97,433

APPROPRIATION: Indian Land and Water Claim Settlements and Miscellaneous Payments to Indians

	2025 Actual	2026 Enacted	2027 Request	Change
Land Settlements				
White Earth Land Settlement Act	625	625	625	0
Water Settlements				
Hualapai Tribe Water Rights Settlement	79	79	58,000	+57,921
Miscellaneous Payments				
Truckee River Operating Agreement	272	272	272	0
TOTAL APPROPRIATION	976	976	58,897	+57,921

APPROPRIATION: Indian Guaranteed Loan Program Account

	2025 Actual	2026 Enacted	2027 Request	Change
Subsidies.....	11,204	11,204	0	-11,204
Program Management	2,125	2,125	500	-1,625
TOTAL APPROPRIATION	13,329	13,329	500	-12,829

APPROPRIATION: Indian Land Consolidation

	2025 Actual	2026 Enacted	2027 Request	Change
TOTAL APPROPRIATION	4,000	4,000	0	-4,000

