FTOs also regularly work with employees of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Bureau of Land Management and Office of Natural Resources Revenue to provide information to beneficiaries on all aspects of their trust assets. Locate your FTO online at www.doi.gov/ost/fto.

FTOs continually look for beneficiaries who have funds in trust but do not have current contact information on record with OST.

As of May 24, 2017, more than $107.8 million is held in trust for 63,650 beneficiaries whose whereabouts are unknown. For a list of names of those beneficiaries, visit www.doi.gov/ost/wau.

Other offices within OST provide a range of services supporting OST’s operations. The Office of Trust Records (OTR) provides records management services including training to DOI bureaus and Indian Tribes. The Office of Trust Review and Audit and the Office of Risk Management ensure OST has a robust set of internal controls. A full complement of IT support is provided by the Information Resource group. Budgeting, space management, human resources, appropriated funds accounting, and acquisitions are handled through the Office of Budget, Finance and Administration. In addition to communications, the Office of External Affairs administers OST’s tribal self-governance and self-determination activities.
The U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) has responsibility for the largest land trust in the United States. The Indian trust consists of approximately 56 million surface acres and 59 million acres of subsurface mineral estates held in trust by the United States for American Indians, Indian tribes, and Alaska Natives.

On these lands, DOI manages nearly 96,000 leases, for uses such as farming, grazing, and oil and gas production on behalf of Individual Indian and Tribes. In FY 2016, funds from leases, use permits, land sales and income from financial assets totaling approximately $745 million were collected for about 401,000 open Individual Indian Money (IIM) accounts. Approximately $483 million was collected for about 3,400 tribal accounts held for over 250 tribes.

The American Indian Trust Fund Management Reform Act of 1994 (Public Law 103-412) established the Office of the Special Trustee for American Indians (OST) to improve the accountability and management of Indian trust funds administered by Interior. The office, led by a politically-appointed Special Trustee, is headquartered at DOI in Washington, D.C.

OST's role includes operational responsibility for financial trust fund management, including accounting, investing and disbursing trust funds to individual Indian and tribal beneficiaries. Financial accounting functions are administered in Albuquerque, New Mexico by the Office of Trust Services. The Office of Appraisal Services, which appraises Indian trust land was moved to OST in 2002. The Office of Historical Trust Accounting (OHTA) was realigned to OST in 2007. OHTA provides litigation support to DOI in addition to researching and resolving complex historical trust accounts.

OST is also responsible for coordinating reform efforts to improve trust asset management and beneficiary services throughout Interior. OST staff is located throughout Indian country to provide beneficiaries direct services in their communities.

OST Manages Financial Assets of Indian Trust Beneficiaries

OST is similar to a financial institution. The office is responsible for:
- Posting beneficiaries trust income, generated from land use
- Investing trust funds to earn income
- Disbursing trust funds to beneficiaries
- Maintaining account information, including the proper documentation to support financial trust transactions

Funds Disbursed to Beneficiaries

There are three ways beneficiaries receive trust funds: 1) through the mail by check, 2) by electronic credits to debit card, or 3) by direct deposit. If you are an Individual Indian Money account holder, you can have your trust funds deposited directly into your financial institution or a debit card through efficient and secure electronic transfers.

To learn more, go online to www.doi.gov/ost/iim or call the Trust Beneficiary Call Center, toll free, at 1-888-678-6836.

OST Serves Indian Trust Beneficiaries

OST employs Regional Trust Administrators to oversee trust account management to supervise Fiduciary Trust Officers (FTOs) nationwide. Approximately 50 FTOs, located across Indian country, serve as primary contacts for beneficiaries.

Throughout the year, FTOs hold outreach meetings for beneficiaries to provide trust and financial skills information and to answer questions regarding fiduciary trust assets and accounts.