

Office of the Special Trustee for American Indians

ITARA Section 304

2016

Why was OST Created?

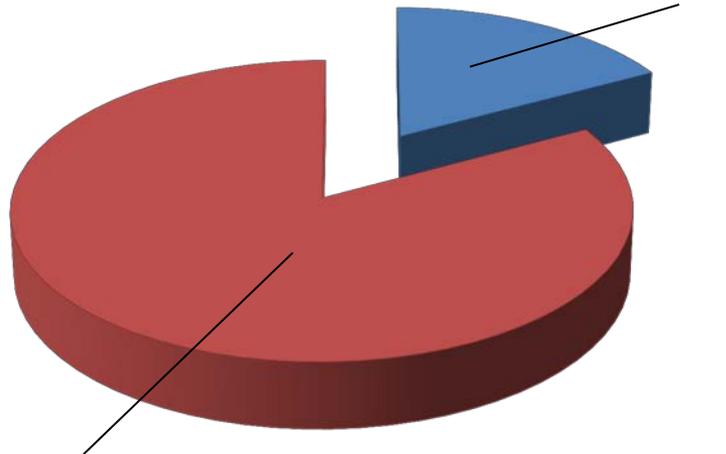
Congress passed the American Indian Trust Fund Management Reform Act of 1994 in response to criticisms surrounding Indian trust funds management at the Department of the Interior (Department or DOI).

Primary purpose was to provide for more effective management of, and accountability for the proper discharge of, the Secretary's trust responsibilities to Tribes and individual beneficiaries and to identify and oversee trust reform efforts throughout the Department.

Trust Funds and Accounts Under Management

Trust Funds as of 9/30/2015

Individual Indian Monies
\$845 Million
17% of Total

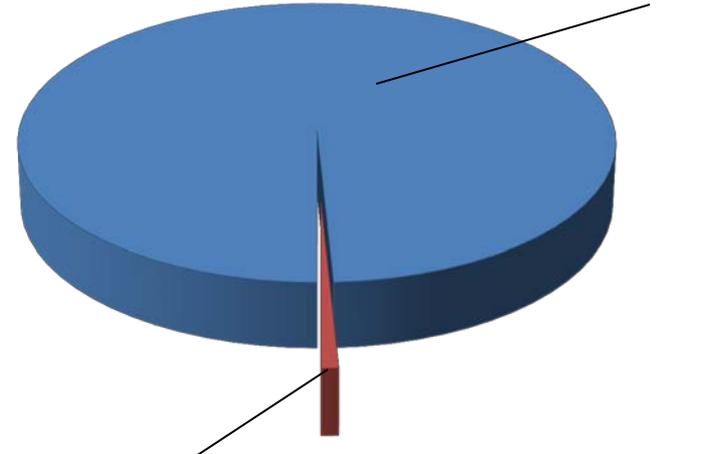


Tribal Funds
\$4.1 Billion
83% of Total

In FY 2015, \$1.7 Billion was received and disbursed.

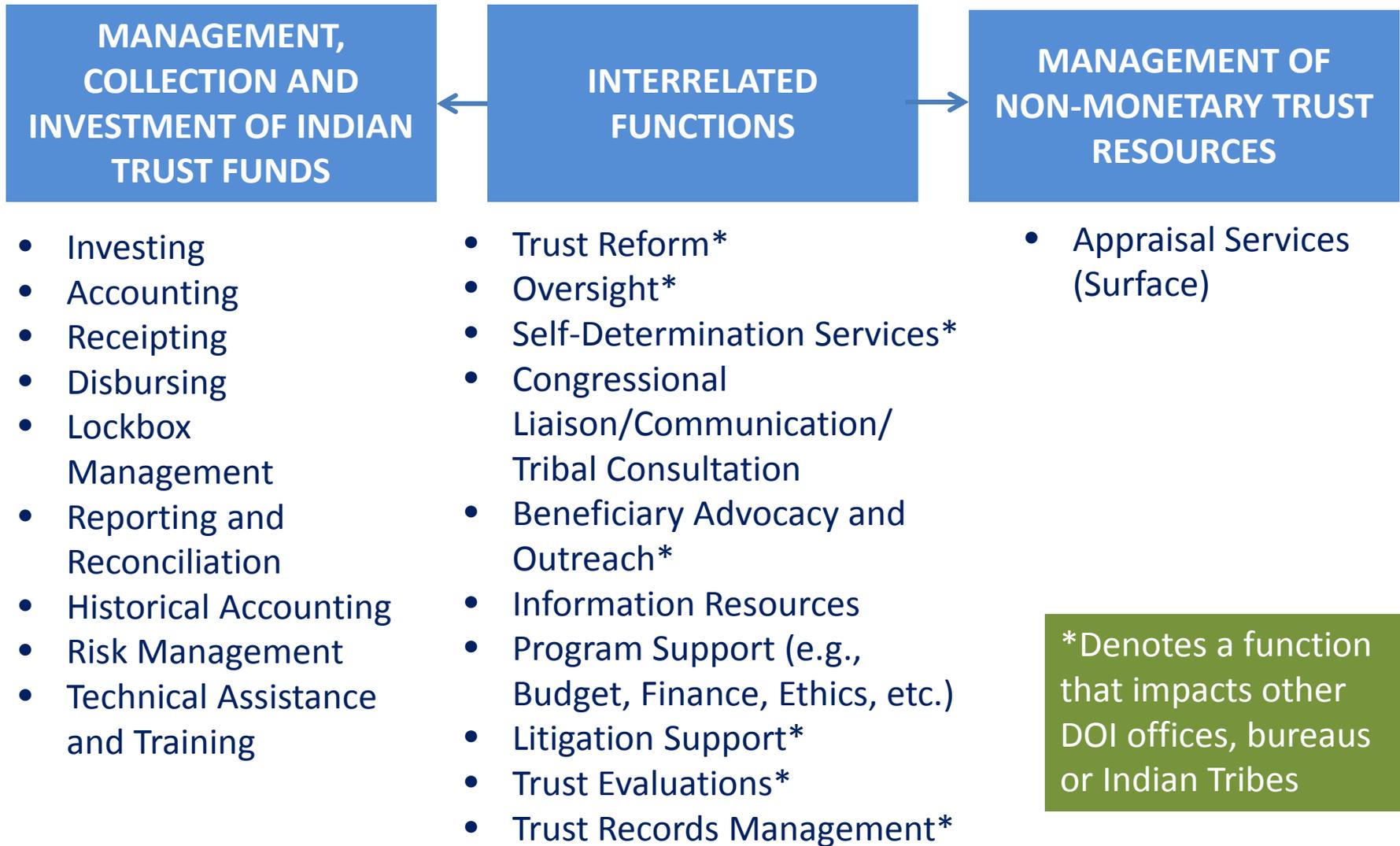
Trust Accounts as of 9/30/2015

Individual Indian Accounts
400,000
99% of Total



Tribal Accounts
3,300 (for over 250 Tribes)
1% of Total

OST Trust Functions



*Denotes a function that impacts other DOI offices, bureaus or Indian Tribes

Focused Fiduciary Management

Operates a modern, centralized fiduciary accounting system for Tribal and IIM trust funds (same system used by leading banks).

- Automated receipting with centralized one-day collection, deposit and posting of most Tribal and individual trust funds.
- Expedited disbursements through the use of direct deposit, debit cards, and the Trust Beneficiary Call Center.

Structures and invests individual Tribal portfolios to meet the cash flow objectives of Tribes.

Operates the American Indian Records Repository (AIRR), a national, centralized records storage for Tribal and individual records – over 270,000 boxes (686+ million pages) cataloged and transferred.

Enhanced Beneficiary Services

Maintains Fiduciary Trust Officers and Regional Trust Administrators as the primary points of contact and provide focused outreach for beneficiaries

Operates the Trust Beneficiary Call Center (TBCC), responding to over 1.8 million calls since inception with a 94% first-line resolution rate.

Locates Whereabouts Unknown (WAU) – over 330,000 WAU accountholders updated in the last 15 years resulting in distribution of more than \$386 million.

Provides financial empowerment and Tribal investment courses promoting economic self-sufficiency.

Provides comprehensive Tribal and individual Beneficiary Statements of Performance (over 900,000 periodic statements distributed annually).

Ongoing Initiatives

OST has developed, implemented and overseen extensive reform efforts in the last 20 years, and is currently working on additional initiatives and enhancements including:

<p>Establishing online “banking” for Tribal and individual beneficiaries.</p>	<p>Reforming the probate process and providing more options for meaningful estate planning.</p>	<p>Enhancing a “paperless” work environment by further automating trust processes and digitizing trust records.</p>	<p>Continuing support of Land Buy Back Program for Tribal Nations.</p>	<p>Online evaluation tool for tribes that compact trust programs</p>
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Benefits to Separation of Trust Duties

Mitigates potential conflicts of interest.

Improves accountability and delivery of services.

Dedicates resources exclusively to trust functions.

Ensures independent reviews of trust programs.

Thank you

For more information about OST:

www.doi.gov/ost

For more information about ITARA:

www.doi.gov/ost/itara

Written comments should be submitted to OST_ITARA@ost.doi.gov or to:

Ms. Elizabeth Appel
Office of the Assistant Secretary - Indian Affairs
1849 C Street, NW., MS 3642
Washington, DC 20240.

All written input received by September 30, 2016, will be considered.