



January 18, 2025

DEMOCRATS DELIVER FOR NATIVE COMMUNITIES:

OVER FOUR YEARS, SECURED LARGEST FEDERAL INVESTMENT IN U.S. HISTORY

As Chairman of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs (SCIA), **Senator Brian Schatz (D-HI)** led Senate Democrats in securing more than **\$45 billion** in dedicated funding to Native communities – the most in U.S. history – and shepherded **26 Tribal-specific bills into law** during his leadership. Over four years, the Committee made critical investments in key areas, including health care, housing, education, languages, infrastructure, and public safety through the **American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)** ([P.L. 117-2](#)), the **Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL)** ([P.L. 117-58](#)), the **Inflation Reduction Act (IRA)** ([P.L. 117-169](#)), and annual appropriations.

FUNDING SPOTLIGHT

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT – MORE THAN \$32 BILLION

Single largest investment in Native communities in United States history

- [SCIA APRA Section by Section](#)

BIPARTISAN INFRASTRUCTURE LAW – MORE THAN \$11 BILLION

Focused commitment on critical infrastructure for Tribal and Native communities

- [SCIA BIL Section by Section](#)
- [White House BIL Tribal Playbook](#)

INFLATION REDUCTION ACT – MORE THAN \$720 MILLION

Directed funding for climate, energy, and tax priorities

- [SCIA IRA Section by Section](#)
 - [White House IRA Guidebook](#)
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ISSUE AREA FUNDING & LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS

HOUSING

Advanced Legislation to Reauthorize the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act (NAHASDA)

- [S. 2285 – Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 2023](#) passed in FY 2024 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) by a vote of [86-11](#) (118th Congress)
- [S. 2264 – Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Reauthorization Act of 2021](#) reported unanimously by the Committee (117th Congress)

Secured Critical Investment in Native American Housing

- **Secured more than \$2.3 billion in FY 2023 and FY 2024 appropriations**
 - **\$1.344 billion** for Native housing in the [FY 2024 Consolidated Appropriations Act \(P.L. 118-42\)](#), a \$324 million (32%) increase from FY 2023, to address historic underfunding compared to the total HUD budget --
 - **\$1.1 billion** (41% increase) for NAHASDA Indian Housing Block Grant program
 - **\$75 million** for the NAHASDA Indian Community Development Block Grant program for Native families to obtain new homes, make renovations, build community facilities, and receive housing services
 - **\$22 million** for the Native Hawaiian Housing Block Grant program
 - **\$1 billion** for Native housing in the [FY 2023 Consolidated Appropriations Act \(P.L. 117-328\)](#)
- **Secured more than \$1.2 billion in ARPA**
 - **\$750 million** NAHASDA programs at HUD
 - **\$498 million** for a new Homeowner Assistance Program for Tribes to prevent homeowner mortgage foreclosures a Treasury

HEALTH CARE

Secured Advance Appropriations for the Indian Health Service (IHS) for the First Time Ever

- Beginning in FY 2023, provided current and next year funding in both the [FY 2024 Consolidated Appropriations Act \(P.L. 118-42\)](#) and the [FY 2023 Consolidated Appropriations Act \(P.L. 117-328\)](#) for essential health care programs to prevent service disruptions from government shutdowns or lapses in annual appropriations funding

Increased Funding for Native Health Care

- **Secured more than \$24 billion in ARPA and FY 2022, FY 2023, FY 2024 appropriations** for Native health care, including for IHS and Native Hawaiian Health Care Systems

- **Secured nearly \$7 billion** for Native health care in the [*FY 2024 Consolidated Appropriations Act \(P.L. 118-42\)*](#) --
 - \$27 million for the Native Hawaiian Health Care Systems
 - \$6.96 billion for the IHS
 - \$4.9 billion for Health Services and \$813 million for Health Facilities, which includes funding for the staffing of new facilities
 - Fully funded Contract Support Costs and Payments for Tribal Leases
 - Provided advance appropriations for FY 2025

Created New Native Behavioral Health Resources; Advanced Health Care Workforce Parity and Health Care Needs of Native Elders

- **Authorized \$80 million** in the [*FY 2023 Consolidated Appropriations Act \(P.L. 117-328\)*](#) in annual appropriations for four fiscal years for Native communities’ behavioral health needs
- **Passed [*S. 3022 – IHS Workforce Parity Act of 2024*](#)** by the Senate in the 118th Congress
- **Passed [*S. 4776 – Older Americans Act Reauthorization Act of 2024*](#)** by the Senate in the 118th Congress
 - Included [*S. 4273 – Native ELDER Act*](#), which would improve federal programs and services to provide support and flexible services for American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian elders to age in place

PUBLIC SAFETY & JUSTICE

Protecting Native Children, Women, and Law Enforcement Officers in Indian Country, Alaska, and Hawai‘i

- **Secured more than \$2.1 billion** to address public safety needs in Native communities, and addressed the crisis of Missing and Murdered Indigenous People (MMIP) and fentanyl and opioid abuse in Native communities
- **Enacted the [*S. 3263 – VAWA Reauthorization of 2022 \(P.L. 117-103\)*](#)**
 - Restored Tribal jurisdiction to crimes by non-Indians of child violence, sexual violence, sex trafficking, stalking, obstruction of justice, and assault of Tribal justice personnel in Indian Country
- **Enacted [*S. 7 – VAWA Technical Amendments of 2022 \(P.L. 117-315\)*](#)**
 - Clarified that Native Hawaiian Organizations (NHOs) have access to federal grants to serve survivors of domestic and other violence
- **Enacted [*S. 5087 – A Bill to Extend the Not Invisible Act Commission for 18 Months \(P.L. 117-350\)*](#)**
 - Provided additional time for the joint [*Not Invisible Act Commission*](#), authorized by the [*Not Invisible Act of 2019 \(P.L. 116-166\)*](#), to transmit its [*recommendations*](#) to combat the MMIP crisis to the U.S. Department of the Interior, the U.S. Department of Justice, and Congress
- **Passed [*S. 465 – BADGES for Native Communities Act*](#)** through the Senate in the 118th Congress
- **Held multiple events relating to public safety issues, including examining federal resources to combat the fentanyl, opioid, and MMIP crises --**
 - Hearing [*“Examining Public Safety & Justice in Native Communities”*](#)

- Hearing [“S. 465 - BADGES & S. 2695 - Parity for Tribal Law Enforcement”](#)
- Roundtable [“Public Safety & Justice Resources in Native Communities”](#)
- Listening Session [“Public Safety & Justice Resources in Native Communities”](#)
- Hearing [“Fentanyl in Native Communities: Federal Perspectives on Addressing the Growing Crisis”](#)
- Hearing [“Fentanyl in Native Communities: Native Perspectives on Addressing the Growing Crisis”](#)
- Roundtable [“Public Safety in Native Communities”](#)
- Hearing [“Restoring Justice: Addressing Violence in Native Communities through VAWA Title IX Special Jurisdiction”](#)

INDIAN WATER RIGHTS SETTLEMENTS

Secured funding and enacted Indian water rights legislation

- **Secured \$2.5 billion** to complete water rights settlements ratified as of November 15, 2022, through [BIL](#)
- **Enacted \$925.5 million** and provided water-certainty for Tribal and surrounding communities by securing access to clean, reliable water and infrastructure --
 - [S. 3168 – Amendments to the White Mountain Apache Water Rights Quantification Act of 2010 \(P.L. 117-342\)](#)
 - [S.3308 – Colorado River Indian Tribes Water Resiliency Act of 2022 \(P.L. 117-343\)](#)
 - [S.4104 – Hualapai Tribe Water Rights Settlement Act of 2022 \(P.L. 117-349\)](#)

Advanced the largest number of water settlement bills in a single Congress

- In the 118th Congress, ushered **12 Indian water rights settlement bills, totaling more than \$12 billion**, through Committee hearings and business meetings, to address the water rights and water security of 21 Tribes across 5 states --
 - [S. 306 – Tule River Tribe Reserved Water Rights Settlement Act of 2023](#)
 - [S. 595 – Rio San José and Rio Jemez Water Settlements Act of 2023](#)
 - [S. 950 – Technical Correction to the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of the Duck Valley Reservation Water Rights Settlement Act of 2023](#)
 - [S. 1898 – Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project Amendments Act of 2023](#)
 - [S. 1987 – Fort Belknap Indian Community Water Rights Settlement Act of 2024](#)
 - [S. 3406 – Technical Corrections to the Northwestern New Mexico Rural Water Projects Act, Taos Pueblo Indian Water Rights Settlement Act, and Aamodt Litigation Settlement Act](#)
 - [S. 4442 – Crow Tribe Water Rights Settlement Amendment Act of 2024](#)
 - [S. 4505 – Ohkay Owingeh Rio Chama Water Rights Settlement Act of 2024](#)
 - [S. 4633 – Northeastern Arizona Indian Water Rights Settlement Act of 2024](#)
 - [S. 4643 – Zuni Indian Tribe Water Rights Settlement Act of 2024](#)
 - [S. 4705 – Yavapai-Apache Nation Water Rights Settlement Act of 2024](#)
 - [S. 4998 – Navajo San José Stream System Water Rights Settlement Act of 2024](#)

TRIBAL HOMELANDS

11 Bills Enacted into Law to Help Rebuild Tribal Homelands

- [*S. 108 – To Authorize the Seminole Tribe of Florida to Lease of Transfer Certain Land \(P.L. 117-65\)*](#)
 - Authorizes the Seminole Tribe of Florida to lease, sell, convey, warrant, or transfer any real property it owns that is not held in trust
- [*H.R.478 – The Blackwater Trading Post Land Transfer Act \(P.L. 117-267\)*](#)
 - Takes approximately 55 acres in Pinal County, Arizona, into trust for the benefit of the Gila River Indian Community of Arizona
- [*H.R.4881 – Old Pascua Community Land Acquisition Act \(P.L. 117-275\)*](#)
 - Takes approximately 30 acres of Tribally-owned land in Tucson in Pima County, Arizona, into trust for the benefit of the Pascua Yaqui Tribe of Arizona
- [*H.R.897 – The Agua Caliente Land Exchange Fee to Trust Confirmation Act \(P.L. 117-329\)*](#)
 - Takes approximately 2,560 acres in Palm Springs, California, into trust for the benefit of the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians of California
- [*S. 3773 – To Authorize Leases of up to 99 Years for the Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation \(P.L. 117-346\)*](#)
 - Authorizes the Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation of Washington to lease lands held in trust for their benefit for up to 99 years
- [*S.4439 – Katimûn and Ameekyáaraam Sacred Lands Act \(P.L. 117-353\)*](#)
 - Takes approximately 1,031 acres of federal land in Siskiyou County and Humboldt County, California, into trust for the benefit of the Karuk Tribe of California
- [*H.R.423 – Pala Band of Mission Indians Land Transfer Act of 2023 \(P.L. 118-11\)*](#)
 - Takes approximately 721 acres in San Diego County, California, into trust for the benefit of the Pala Band of Mission Indians of California
- [*H.R. 2839 – To Amend the Siletz Reservation Act \(P.L. 118-33\)*](#)
 - Provides for a process by which Oregon and the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians of Oregon may amend or replace a 1980 agreement defining Tribal hunting, fishing, trapping, and gathering rights
- [*S.382 – Puyallup Tribe of Indians Land into Trust Confirmation Act of 2023 \(P.L. 118-48\)*](#)
 - Takes approximately 17 acres in Pierce County, Washington, into trust for the benefit of the Puyallup Tribe of Washington
- [*H.R. 1240 – Winnebago Land Transfer Act of 2023 \(P.L. 118-180\)*](#)
 - Takes approximately 1,585 acres in Woodbury County and Monona County, Iowa, into trust for the benefit of the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska
- [*S. 3857 – Jamul Indian Village Land Transfer Act \(P.L. 118-199\)*](#)
 - Takes approximately 172.1 acres in San Diego, California, into trust for the benefit of the Jamul Indian Village of California

INFRASTRUCTURE

Established a New Program for Tribal Telecommunications and Secured Direct Funding

- **\$3 billion** in [ARPA](#) and [BIL](#) for the **Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program**, a new program at the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) to provide direct funding to Tribes for greater broadband access

Addressed Longstanding Tribal Transportation Funding Backlogs

- **More than \$3.9 billion** in [BIL](#) to address backlogs of Tribal roads, bridges, and transportation projects at the U.S. Department of Transportation
- **\$175.5 million** in new funding in the [FY 2024 Consolidated Appropriations Act \(P.L. 118-42\)](#) --
 - **\$25 million** for the Rural and Tribal Infrastructure Advancement Pilot Program to improve Tribal access
 - **\$150 million** for the Tribal Transportation Program (TTP)

Funded Water and Sanitation Backlogs to Bring Clean, Safe, Reliable Drinking Water and Wastewater into More Tribal Communities

- **\$3.5 billion** in [BIL](#) to the Indian Health Service (IHS) for backlogged projects to improve drinking water and wastewater access to Tribal households
- **\$868 million** for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in the [BIL](#) and [IRA](#) for drinking water (\$614 million) and wastewater (\$254 million) infrastructure for Tribes
- Over **\$1 billion** in federal funding to [build out Tribal water and sanitation infrastructure](#) through a **Schatz-led provision** in the [BIL](#) and [IRA](#)
- **\$15 million in FY 2021** to Tribes and Tribal organizations in [ARPA](#) to assist with high-cost water and waste-water services

ENERGY

Secured Historic Investment in Tribal Energy Development

- **More than \$660 million** for Tribal energy and electrification projects, including --
 - **\$75 million** in Tribal direct loans for energy development – the largest in history
 - **\$72 million** in the [IRA](#) to 21 Tribes in FY 2024 for home electrification projects through a **Schatz-authored provision**
- **\$20 billion** in available loan guarantees for Tribal energy development – a tenfold increase

CLIMATE

Commitment to Addressing Climate Change and Native Communities

- **More than \$1.76 billion** to support climate resiliency, environmental protection, and natural resources management efforts in Native communities, including --
 - **\$216 million** for Tribal climate adaptation and resilience in [BIL](#)
 - **\$220 million** for Tribal climate adaptation and resilience in [IRA](#)

- **\$23.5 million** for climate adaptation and resiliency in the Native Hawaiian Community in the [IRA](#)
- **\$145.5 million** for unelectrified homes transitioning to zero-emission systems and retrofitting in the [IRA](#)
- **Secured Tribal tax priorities for energy efficiency and clean energy in the [IRA](#)**
 - Included Tribes in Section 48 tax credits for solar and wind facilities
 - Included Tribes and Alaska Native Corporations in elective pay tax credits, Section 17D tax credits for energy efficient buildings, and Section 30D(6) clean vehicle tax credits
 - Included Tribal lands and Tribally-designated housing authorities as tax multipliers for Sect 48C clean electricity investment tax credit

Funded Infrastructure Projects for the Native Hawaiian Community to Bolster Climate Resilience

- Awarded **\$20 million** to [17 Native Hawaiian Organizations](#) for climate adaptation projects made possible by a **Schatz-authored provision in the IRA**

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Growing Native Businesses and Investment Opportunities

- **\$500 million** to grow Native-owned small businesses, facilitate access to capital, and boost economic development in Native communities in [ARPA](#)
- **\$28 million** in loan principal to the Native CDFI Fund [FY 2024 Consolidated Appropriations Act \(P.L. 118-42\)](#)

Secured Senate-passage of Tribal leasing and rights-of-way authority legislation

- [S. 1322 – Unlocking Tribal Lands and Opportunities for Commerce and Key Economic Developments \(UNLOCKED\) Act of 2023](#)
 - Schatz-authored bill would extend the lease period for trust and other lands to 99 years and provide Tribes with enhanced authority to grant rights-of-way on their own lands

Funding available for programs that support cultural education for visitors in Hawai‘i

- [\\$1 million in new federal grant funding](#) available for cultural tourism, empowering the Native Hawaiian community, made possible by the **NATIVE Act, federal law authored by Senator Schatz**

EDUCATION & NATIVE LANGUAGES

Establishing a Federal Commission to Heal from Indian Boarding School Era

- **Passed** Senator Warren’s [S. 1723 – Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies Act](#) to support healing from the legacy of federal Indian Boarding Schools out of the Senate in the 118th Congress
- Held [oversight hearing on Volume 1 of the Department of the Interior’s Federal Indian Boarding School Initiative](#)

- Senator Schatz led a bipartisan group of Senators to [speak on the Senate floor](#) on the dark history of Indian Boarding Schools and the progress being made on the Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding Schools Policies Act

Continuing Efforts to Revitalize Native Languages through New Laws and Annual Appropriations

- **Enacted** Chairman Schatz’s [S. 1402 – Durbin Feeling Native American Languages Act of 2022 \(P.L. 117-45\)](#), which improves interagency coordination to advance Native American languages
- **Enacted** Chairman Schatz’s [S. 989 – Native American Language Resource Center Act of 2022 \(P.L. 117-335\)](#), which includes more than [\\$2.2 million](#) in new grant funding and established national language resource centers to support revitalization efforts
- **More than \$5.7 billion** in the [FY 2024 Consolidated Appropriations Act \(P.L. 118-42\)](#) for Native education programs at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, U.S. Department of Education, and the U.S. Department of the Interior
- **More than \$15 million** in the [FY 2024 Consolidated Appropriations Act \(P.L. 118-42\)](#) for Native language revitalization programs at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (Esther Martinez Immersion and Preservation & Maintenance programs)

Nearly Doubled Funding for Native Education and Languages

- **More than \$2.7 billion** in [ARPA](#) and **FY 2022** and **FY 2023 appropriations** for Native education programs at the U.S. Department of Education and the Bureau of Indian Education
- **\$127 million** in [ARPA](#) and **FY 2022** and **FY 2023 appropriations** for Native languages and cultural heritage

CHILDREN & FAMILIES

Secured Historic Investment in Native Children and Families

- **More than \$2.4 billion** in [ARPA](#), and **FY 2022** and **FY 2023 appropriations** for programs serving Native children and families at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, U.S. Department of Education, and the U.S. Department of the Interior

Reauthorized Tribal-Specific Child Abuse and Treatment Programs for the First Time since the 1990s

- [H.R. 663 – Native American Child Protection Act \(P.L. 118-160\)](#)
 - Creates a path for direct set-aside funding for Tribal-specific child abuse prevention and treatment programs by modernizing and reauthorizing the Indian Child Abuse Treatment Grant Program at the Indian Health Service and the Indian Child Protection and Family Violence Prevention Program and the Indian Child Resource and Family Services Centers at the Bureau of Indian Affairs to prevent and treat child abuse

CULTURAL PATRIMONY & INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Safeguarding Tribes' cultural patrimony from illegal possession, sale, and exportation

- Enacted [H.R. 2930 – Safeguard Tribal Objects of Patrimony \(STOP\) Act of 2021 \(P.L. 117-258\)](#)
 - Responds to and prevents the export of Native American cultural items held in violation of current federal laws for sale in foreign countries and establishes a process to repatriate such items
- Held [oversight hearing on implementation of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act](#) (NAGPRA) and co-led [bipartisan letters](#) to 71 institutions and museums holding Native American cultural items, including human remains, urging them to expeditiously comply with the NAGPRA
- In a floor speech, Chairman Schatz demanded institutions comply with NAGPRA and return Native cultural remains and items pursuant to the law
- Held a [listening session](#) and presented [draft legislation, the ARTIST Act](#), to update the American Indian Arts and Crafts Act (IACA)

APPENDIX: SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

117th Congress: 50 events

- 45 meetings
 - 14 business meetings to consider 19 bills
 - 13 oversight hearings
 - 9 legislative hearings to consider 25 bills
 - 2 nomination hearings
 - 6 roundtables
 - 1 listening session
- 4 field hearings (HI, AK, MN)

118th Congress: 38 events

- 36 meetings
 - 12 business meetings to consider 18 bills
 - 6 oversight hearings
 - 10 legislative hearings to consider 23 bills
 - 1 nomination hearing
 - 3 roundtables
 - 4 listening sessions
- 1 field hearing (AK)

LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY

117th Congress: 34 bills advanced out of Committee, 18 enacted into law

- 18 bills passed into law
- 31 bills and three resolutions passed out of Committee
- 81 bills referred to Committee

118th Congress: 26 bills advanced out of committee, 8 enacted into law

- 8 bills passed into law
- 26 bills passed out of Committee
- 75 bills referred to Committee

NOMINATIONS & APPOINTMENTS

117th Congress: 3 Presidential nominations, 3 confirmations

- Bryan Todd Newland to serve as Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs at U.S. Department of the Interior
- Roselyn Tso to serve as Director of the Indian Health Service at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)
- Patrice Kunesh to serve as Commissioner of the Administration for Native Americans at HHS

118th Congress: 1 Presidential nomination

- Favorably referred the nomination of Patrice Kunesh to serve as the Chair of the National Indian Gaming Commission to the full Senate

118th Congress: 2 Agency appointments secured by Chairman Schatz

- Mark Patterson of Hawai'i to serve on the Coordinating Council on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, an independent executive branch organization that makes recommendations to the President and Congress
- Glenn Teves of Hawai'i to serve on the Tribal Advisory Committee at the U.S. Department of Agriculture