



July 6, 2023

Dear Tribal Leader:

On May 26, 2023, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) released a Request for Information (RFI) to seek input regarding the implementation of the [Community Disaster Resilience Zones Act of 2022, Pub L. No. 117-255 \(creating 42 U.S.C. § 5136\)](#) (“Act”). The Act was developed to increase mitigation efforts or “preventative measures” to address the increased frequency and costs of natural disasters for our nation’s most vulnerable communities that are at most risk and least likely to recover from natural hazards. The Act requires FEMA to develop a risk assessment methodology based on the intersection of annualized estimated losses to property, life, agriculture from natural hazards; social vulnerability; and community resilience. FEMA is required to use that data to designate Community Disaster Resilience Zones at the census tract level to include the 50 census tracts assigned the highest risk rating across the nation plus not less than 1% of the census tracts assigned high risk ratings in each state. FEMA may make adjustments to achieve geographic balance. Most importantly, FEMA is required to “include census tracts on Tribal lands located within a State” (42 U.S.C. § 5136(d) (3)(B)).

FEMA greatly needs your input to the RFI on the full scope of questions ([Federal Register :: Community Disaster Resilience Zones and the National Risk Index](#)). The comment period on the RFI closes on July 25.

In addition to the RFI, learning from our Tribal partners is vital to understand the best strategy for selecting [Community Disaster Resilience Zones](#) that includes census tracts with tribal lands. FEMA needs help on how best to include tribal lands in census tracts designated as Community Disaster Resilience Zones, as required by the Act. We invite you to attend our virtual tribal consultation on Aug. 2, 2023, from 3 to 5 p.m. ET. During this consultation, we will share information about the Community Disaster Resilience Zones, and we ask participants to share perspectives that will help shape effective designation of the Community Disaster Resilience Zones. We recognize that how Tribes are reflected in geographic and demographic data is complicated and challenging.

This tribal consultation will be hosted by FEMA’s Grant Programs Directorate. Topics include:

- How best to include Tribal Lands in zone designations.
- How best to use census data at the census tract level, as required by the Community Disaster Resilience Zone Act, to include Tribal lands located within a state in designating Community Disaster Resilience Zones..
- Best strategies to communicate designation of Zones.

This virtual tribal consultation will be conducted via the Zoom for Government platform on Wednesday, Aug. 2, 2023. Below are the webinar details:

- Time: 3 – 5 p.m. ET
- [Register to attend](#)
- Zoom Meeting ID: 161 498 1301
- Passcode: 794607
- Join by phone: 1-669-254-5252

A framing paper with questions for Tribal Leader consideration will be available on the FEMA website at www.fema.gov/about/tribes/consultations. The consultation record will remain open for 30 days after the virtual session for Tribal Leaders to submit feedback. Final feedback and comments will be due on Tuesday, Sept. 5, 2023, to FEMA-CDRZ-RFI@fema.dhs.gov.

We also promote responding to the RFI with input regarding the Community Disaster Resilience Zones Act. Responses to any or all portions of that RFI may be provided by individuals or collective groups but must be submitted not later than Tuesday, July 25, 2023.

We look forward to your participation and feedback as we work in partnership to support Tribal Nations' recovery from disasters and increased resilience to future disasters.

Sincerely,



Pamela S. Williams
Assistant Administrator
Grant Programs Directorate

cc: Tribal Emergency Managers, FEMA Regional
Tribal Liaison Specialists