



September 9, 2024

Dear Tribal Leader:

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) remains committed to its responsibility to engage in consultation and collaboration with tribal officials, consistent with [Executive Order 13175](#), *Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments*, reaffirmed by President Biden's [Memorandum on Tribal Consultation and Strengthening Nation-to-Nation Relationships](#)."

The [2022-2026 FEMA Strategic Plan Goal 1.2](#) includes a commitment to removing barriers to FEMA programs through a people first approach. The [2022-2026 FEMA National Tribal Strategy Goal 1.4](#) further commits FEMA to increase Tribal Nation's access to FEMA programs and resources by affecting policy change. [Executive Order 14112](#), *Reforming Federal Funding and Support for Tribal Nations to Better Embrace Our Trust Responsibilities and Promote the Next Era of Tribal Self-Determination*, directs all federal agencies, including FEMA, to remove barriers that Tribal Nations face when accessing federal resources.

FEMA is seeking Tribal Nation comments on redesigning the [Community Rating System \(CRS\)](#), a voluntary incentive program under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), to enhance the CRS program's effectiveness, promote resilience, and mitigate the financial impacts of flooding on communities. The purpose of CRS Redesign is to align the CRS with the improved understanding of flood risk and flood risk reduction approaches gained since the initiation of the program and better incentivize communities and policyholders to become more resilient and lower their vulnerability to flood risk, thereby supporting the sound financial framework of the NFIP. CRS Redesign is a multi-year effort to afford CRS participating communities and CRS partners and stakeholders ample time to learn about, provide feedback on suggested alternatives, and prepare for potential changes to the CRS program.

FEMA is gathering feedback on ways the agency can improve the CRS program: (1) to incentivize communities to take measurable actions and make sustained progress that reduce current and future flood risk; (2) to embed equity as a foundation of the CRS program; (3) to incentivize communities to promote property owners to purchase flood insurance to reduce their financial exposure to flood risk; and (4) to deliver a community participant-centered and modernized program.

Consistent with our responsibilities and commitments, FEMA invites Tribal Nations to provide input on redesigning the CRS program by participating in a series of listening sessions. The listening sessions are open to the general public, but one is geared specifically toward our Tribal partners. For additional background information on the CRS Redesign, please visit the [Request for Information on the CRS Redesign Effort](#) on the Federal Register website.

Upcoming Tribal Consultation on CRS Redesign:

Virtual Tribal Consultation #1

Day/Time: Thursday, October 10, 2024 3:00 – 5:00 pm E.T.

Location: Zoom (Link for registration [here](#))

Virtual Tribal Consultation #2

Day/Time: Wednesday, October 16, 2024 3:00 – 5:00 pm E.T.

Location: Zoom (Link for registration [here](#))

All consultation materials may be found at [Tribal Consultations | FEMA.gov](#). Tribal Nations can submit their written comments to FEMA-CRS-Redesign@fema.dhs.gov by COB Friday, November 15, 2024.

If you or other Tribal Nations have any questions about these consultations, please reach out to our FEMA Tribal Affairs team at fema-tribal@fema.dhs.gov.

We look forward to your participation and receiving comments and feedback as we work to support Tribal Nations before, during, and after disasters.

Sincerely,

Victoria Salinas

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Senior Official Performing the Duties of Deputy Administrator
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