

PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN

BUILDING A BETTER AMERICA

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**President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law is Delivering for Indian
Country**

As of July 2022

The Biden-Harris Administration has hit the ground running to implement the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, and it is already delivering results for Indian Country. To date, more than \$2.6 billion in Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funding has been announced and is headed to Tribal communities. This year alone, Tribes will receive more than \$800 million in set aside funds for transportation to invest in roads, bridges, and public transit, and over \$150 million set aside for clean water. Many more projects will be added in the coming months, as funding opportunities become grant awards and as formula funds become specific projects. The law provides more than \$13 billion in funding to directly support Tribal communities and makes Tribes eligible to apply for or request billions in discretionary, formula, and other funding. By the time implementation is complete, the law will have made the largest single investment in Tribal infrastructure ever in United States history.

Roads and Bridges: For too long, the Federal government has underinvested in the estimated 145,000 miles of roads passing through Tribal lands. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law seeks to rectify these historical wrongs and rebuild our roads and bridges. It includes the single largest dedicated bridge investment since the construction of the interstate highway system. Based on formula funding alone, Tribes are expected to receive more than \$4 billion over five years in federal funding for highways and bridges.

- **Announced funding to date:** To date, Indian Country has been allocated \$578 million in 2022 through the Tribal Transportation Program.

Internet: High-speed internet is necessary for everyone to do their jobs, participate in school, access health care, and stay connected. Yet over one-third of Indian Country lacks broadband infrastructure that delivers even minimally sufficient speeds. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law invests \$65 billion to provide affordable, high-speed

internet to every American, including \$2 billion for the Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program at the Department of Commerce to bring high-speed internet coverage to more Tribal communities. Additionally, the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law's Affordable Connectivity Program cuts internet bills by up to \$75 per month for households on Tribal lands (and \$30 per month for other households) and provides a one-time \$100 discount off a connected device. The Biden-Harris Administration is providing further cost savings by working with internet providers to offer high-speed internet plans that are fully covered by the Affordable Connectivity Program — meaning most eligible households can now get high-speed internet without paying a dime.

- **Progress to date:** Over 185,000 households on Tribal lands are enrolled in the Affordable Connectivity Program, with more signing up every day. Households can check their eligibility, sign up, and find fully covered internet plans at [GetInternet.gov](https://www.getinternet.gov).

Water: Currently, up to 10 million American households across the country connect to water through lead pipes and lack access to clean, safe drinking water. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law represents the largest investment in clean drinking water in American history, including the first-ever dedicated federal funding to replace lead service lines and address dangerous PFAS chemicals.

- **Announced funding to date:** To date, approximately \$154 million is available in fiscal year 2022 to provide clean and safe water to Indian Country. Of this funding, \$60 million is dedicated to lead pipe and service line replacement, with another \$54 million for safe drinking water investments that can also support lead pipe replacement in fiscal year 2022. In addition, \$1.7 billion has been announced for Indian Water Rights settlements, and the Indian Health Service has announced \$700 million in fiscal year 2022 investments to address sanitation deficiencies in Indian Country.

Public Transit: The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law makes the largest investment in public transit in U.S. history. Based on funding from the Tribal Transit Program alone, Tribes are expected to receive more than \$183 million over five years under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to improve public transit across Indian Country.¹

- **Announced funding to date:** To date, Indian Country has been allocated more than \$35 million to improve public transportation options in fiscal year 2022.

Resilience: Millions of Americans feel the effects of climate change and extreme weather every day. More frequent hurricanes, wildfires, heat waves, floods, unprecedented power outages, and persistent droughts devastate our communities and threaten our

¹ Transit formula funding amounts are subject to changes resulting from the 2020 census or from annual transit service data reported to FTA's National Transit Database.

infrastructure. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law makes a historic investment to bolster our resilience against pressing challenges like impacts of climate change, extreme weather events, and other hazards like cyberattacks.

- **Announced funding to date:** To date, nearly \$30 million has been allocated to projects in Indian Country for infrastructure resilience through the Irrigation, Power, and Safety of Dams programs in 2022.

Legacy Pollution Cleanup: Across the country, thousands of former industrial, chemical, and energy sites emit harmful pollutants into surrounding communities. These sites pose harms to health, welfare, and economic prosperity — and disproportionately impact communities of color. Tribal nations occupy and govern homelands adjacent to and affected by many of these sites. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law will deliver the largest investment in tackling legacy pollution in American history by cleaning up Superfund and brownfield sites, reclaiming abandoned mines, and capping orphaned oil and gas wells. Tribes will receive set aside funding through the \$150 million Tribal Orphaned Wells Program.

For more information, click [here](#) to see a map of funding and announced projects in your community through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

INDIAN COUNTRY PROJECT SPOTLIGHTS

Water Project Spotlight

Rocky Boy 's Reservation / North Central Montana Rural Water System

Overview: The Department of the Interior Rural Water Projects awarded \$57.5 million to ensure a reliable water supply for 30,000 Montanans, including the Rocky Boy's Reservation.

See [here](#) for the full list of the Department of the Interior's first round of BIL-funded Rural Water Projects announced earlier this year.

Resilience Project Spotlight

Pine Ridge Reservation / Oglala Dam

Overview: The Department of the Interior awarded \$22.6 million for repairs at Oglala Dam on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota. Oglala Dam experienced a near failure in 2018 as a result of spillway deficiencies. BIL will help fund the complete replacement of the spillway and outlet works, with designs currently in process.

See [here](#) for the full list of the Department of the Interior's first round of BIL-funded dam safety investments announced earlier this year.

Resilience Project Spotlight

Alaska Native Communities / Flood Prevention and Water Projects

Overview: The Department of Agriculture awarded nearly \$40 million to flood prevention and rural water projects to Alaska Native communities through its Watershed Flood Protection Operation Program at the Natural Resources Conservation Service. These funds will focus on relocating homes and infrastructure out of the floodplain and away from hazard zones created by riverbank erosion or permafrost thaw.

See [here](#) for the full list of Natural Resources and Conservation Service projects announced earlier this year.