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

As of November 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 \$3 billion in Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funding has been announced and is headed to Tribal communities. This year alone, Tribes will receive more than \$1 billion in set aside funds for transportation and broadband to invest in highspeed internet, roads, bridges, and public transit—plus over \$2 billion set aside for clean water and sanitation improvements. Many more projects will be added in the coming months, as more funding opportunities become grant awards, and as the formula funds allocated to Tribes turn into 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 more in discretionary, formula, and other types of awards. 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 nearly \$4 billion over five years in federal funding for highways and bridges.

- **Progress / Announced funding to date:** To date, Indian Country has been allocated \$578 million in 2022 through the Tribal Transportation Program, including \$8.6 million through the Tribal Transit Competitive program – which announced [25 Tribal governments](#) received funding in October -- and over \$41.5 million for nearly [50 locations](#) through the TTP Bridge 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 like a laptop. 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 / Announced funding to date:** Over 212,000 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). In addition, over \$1.3 billion in Consolidated Appropriations Act and Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funds has made available through the Tribal Broadband Connectivity program for 94 Tribal entities to expand high-speed Internet network deployment on Tribal lands. Another Notice of Funding Opportunity for \$1 billion in funds from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law will be announced in the coming months.

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.

- **Progress / 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 investments to address sanitation deficiencies 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

- **Progress / Announced funding to date:** To date, Indian Country has been allocated more than \$35 million to improve public transportation options in fiscal year 2022, and several Tribes have been awarded Low or No Emission Bus Grants to help them purchase or lease zero or low-emission transit buses. Tribal-run schools and schools adjacent to Tribal lands also benefited from the Environmental Protection Agency's recent Clean School Bus program awards.

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

- **Progress / Announced funding to date:** To date, nearly \$40 million has been allocated to projects in Indian Country for infrastructure resilience through the Irrigation, Power, and Safety of Dams programs in 2022. The Department of the Interior also recently announced \$45 million in Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and 2022 annual appropriations funding for Tribal Climate Resilience projects. These 124 awards will support 76 Tribes and 8 Tribal organizations, including helping communities begin the process of community relocation, managed retreat, or protect-in-place actions.

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. Tribal communities with dangerous environmental hazards and pollution caused by past coal mining are also eligible to receive funding under the Department of the Interior's Abandoned Mine Lands program.

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

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.

INDIAN COUNTRY PROJECT SPOTLIGHTS

Clean 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.

Transportation Infrastructure Project Spotlight

Northern Cheyenne Rosebud Cut-Across US 212 to MT 39 – RAISE Program

Overview: The U.S. Department of Transportation awarded \$15.8 million to the Northern Cheyenne Tribe in Montana through the Rebuilding America Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) program. The funding supports the reconstruction of approximately 3.1 miles of existing gravel road on the Rosebud Cut-Across to include a two-lane paved route with two-foot shoulders, geometric improvements, safety enhancements, improved signage, and a separated multimodal pedestrian and bicycle pathway.

The project will improve safe transportation infrastructure for travelers between the communities on the Reservation and provide better access for emergency response vehicles.

See [here](#) for a list of all Fiscal Year 2022 awards.

Water Rights Settlement Spotlight

Gila River Indian Community

Overview: On December 10, on behalf of the Gila River Indian Community, Governor Stephen Roe Lewis signed an Annual Funding Agreement with United States Bureau of Reclamation that provides nearly \$72 million of new funding to accelerate the construction of the Community's irrigation project that is part of its water settlement.

See [here](#) for the FY22 Allocation of Funding for Indian Water Rights settlements.

Resilience Project Spotlights

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.

Port Gamble S’klallam Tribe Relocation of High-Risk Shoreline Residents

Overview: This project will relocate three families to newly constructed homes on other Reservation lots away from the shoreline. The shoreline area consists of predominantly bluff-backed beaches where landslides have occurred due to coastal erosion.

See [here](#) for more awards under the Tribal Climate Resilience program.

Broadband Project Spotlight

Sault Ste Marie Tribe of Chippewa – ReConnect program

Overview: The U.S. Department of Agriculture has awarded the Sault Ste Marie Tribe of Chippewa in Michigan \$25 million to deploy a fiber-to-the-premises network to connect 1,217 people and 26 businesses to high-speed internet in Chippewa and Mackinac counties. The Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa will make high-speed internet affordable by requiring its service provider to participate in the FCC’s Affordable Connectivity Program. This program provides low-income consumers with discounts on high-speed internet services. This project will serve Sault Ste. Marie Off-Reservation Trust Land, the Sault Ste. Marie Reservation as well as socially vulnerable communities in Chippewa and Mackinac counties.

See [here](#) for a list of all Round 3 ReConnect program awards.