

## **Interagency Working Group on Indian Affairs**

**Who we are:** The Interagency Working Group on Indian Affairs (IWGIA) is a government-wide group of federal agency representatives who work with tribal governments. Federal agency members include the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation; the Corporation for National and Community Service; individual agencies of the Departments of Agriculture, Commerce, Defense, Energy, Health and Human Services, Homeland Security, Housing and Urban Development, Interior, Justice, Transportation, Treasury, and Veterans Affairs; the Environmental Protection Agency; the Internal Revenue Service; the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; the Small Business Administration; and the U.S. Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution.

**What we do:** The purpose of the IWGIA is to foster interagency collaboration and coordination and to improve federal-tribal consultation and the delivery of services to Indian Tribes. The White House has identified inter-agency collaboration as a necessary element of developing comprehensive policy initiatives to improve conditions in Indian Country\*. Additionally, numerous agencies incorporate this position in their tribal consultation implementation plans and other Indian policy statements. It is under these directives that the IWGIA members coordinate their individual efforts and collaborate across agencies on policy issues affecting tribal and Indian communities.

The IWGIA carries out its work through committees and, on occasion, informal emails to the entire group. Issues that are broader may be addressed through a short-term task force. Currently, there is one such task force which was established to address state-tribal issues in response to concerns raised by tribal leaders in the White House Tribal Summit held in December 2010. The standing committees of the IWGIA are:

Training  
Consultation and Coordination  
Public Safety

Education  
Economic Development  
Energy Development

All initiatives and work products are proposed by a committee or task force to the entire IWGIA for action and/or approval. Initiatives or issues may be brought forward by individual members as well. As appropriate, the issue may then be assigned to a committee for resolution.

The IWGIA produces an online training course, *Working Effectively with Tribal Governments*, which is available to all federal government employees and the public at no charge at the Office of Personnel Management's GoLearn website [www.golearn.gov](http://www.golearn.gov). The IWGIA is responsible for ensuring the accuracy of the information and member agencies of the IWGIA provide funding to cover the annual hosting costs.

**When we meet:** The IWGIA meets every month, on the fourth Wednesday, to set priorities, to consider new issues, to take any necessary action on committee proposals, and to dialogue with invited expert guests. The current chair of the IWGIA is the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation.

**For more information:** Contact Valerie Hauser at [vhauser@achp.gov](mailto:vhauser@achp.gov) or (202) 606-8530.

*October 7, 2011*

\*See *"Forging a New and Better Future Together" 2010 White House Tribal Nations Conference Progress Report.*

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