



UNITED SOUTH AND EASTERN TRIBES, INC.

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Resolution No. USET 2002:001

**REMOVAL OF ICDBG PROGRAM FROM THE BULK NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY (NOFA) AND TO PROMOTE RANKING/RATING AT THE AREA LEVEL INSTEAD OF THE NATIONAL LEVEL**

**WHEREAS,** United South and Eastern Tribes, Incorporated (USET) is an intertribal organization comprised of twenty-four (24) federally recognized tribes; and

**WHEREAS,** the actions taken by the USET Board of Directors officially represent the intentions of each member tribe, as the Board of Directors is comprised of delegates from the member tribes' leadership; and

**WHEREAS,** the Indian Community Development Block Grant Program (ICDBG) is extremely important to all tribes located in each U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Regional Office within the USET area related to infrastructure, economic and social development; and

**WHEREAS,** each Area Office of Native American Programs (ONAP) offices are very familiar with the tribes located in their respective areas; and

**WHEREAS,** each tribe located in the USET area has come to rely upon the guidance and assistance offered and provided by the respective HUD Regional Offices as it relates to technical assistance provided prior to grant preparation, administration and implementation; and

**WHEREAS,** the application process in years prior to 2001 was reasonably presented, straight forward and easy to understand; and

**WHEREAS,** in FY 2001, the Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) was expanded from an average of 16 pages to over 700 pages, creating a confusing and unnecessarily complex document, which makes extraction of ICDBG information extremely difficult; and

**WHEREAS,** said expanded NOFA includes a change in the review of applications whereby tribal applications would be ranked and rated at the national level; and

**WHEREAS,** previously, applications had been reviewed and ranked at the Area ONAP level, and the tribes had come to depend on their respective ONAP office to notify them if there were deficiencies in any area of grant management; and

**WHEREAS,** the tribes were fully satisfied with the application and notification process as it existed prior to FY 2001, and are not in favor of any of the changes proposed in the expanded NOFA, unless a request for change to the system is initiated within Indian Country by a majority of American Indian Tribes; therefore, be it

**RESOLVED** that the USET Board of Directors hereby endorses and supports the tribal position of having the ICDBG program removed from the expanded NOFA; and, be it further

*“Because there is strength in Unity”*

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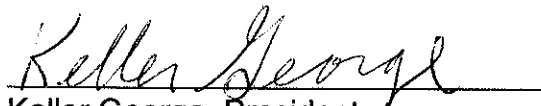
**RESOLVED** the USET Tribes requests that all aspects of grant application and review, including ranking & rating, authorization to give 30 day notification of delinquencies prior to grant application deadline, and technical assistance for all aspects of grant management be provided from their respective ONAP regional offices; and, be it further

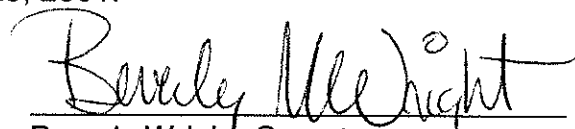
**RESOLVED** the USET Tribes requests that no changes be made to the application process that existed prior to 2001, unless those changes are requested from a majority of tribes in Indian Country; and, finally be it

**RESOLVED** that the USET Tribes instruct the Executive Director to contact and forward this resolution to HUD Secretary Mel Martinez; Ted Key, Acting Deputy Secretary for Native American Programs; and to all constituents involved in providing services to Native American tribes.

**CERTIFICATION**

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Annual Meeting, at which a quorum was present in Miami, FL, on Thursday, October 25, 2001.

  
Keller George, President  
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

  
Beverly Wright, Secretary  
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.