



USET

SOVEREIGNTY PROTECTION FUND

USET SPF Action Alert

Participate in OMB Tribal Consultation on Strengthening the Nation-to-Nation Relationship

Dear USET SPF Membership,

Today, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) will continue its first-ever consultation with Tribal Nations as it prepares a Tribal consultation action plan pursuant to President Biden's [January 26th Presidential Memorandum on Tribal Consultation and Strengthening Nation-to-Nation Relationships](#). The consultation was announced on March 19th via a "[Dear Tribal Leader](#)" letter. OMB is hosting the final of two virtual consultation sessions **this afternoon**:

- **Date:** Monday, April 5th
Time: 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. ET
Registration: [Click here](#)

Due to a limited number of available conference lines, OMB has requested that no more than two Tribal Leaders from each Tribal government register to attend each session. Written comments may be submitted via email April 9, 2021 to: tribalconsultation@omb.eop.gov.

USET SPF has long advocated that OMB be subject to Tribal consultation requirements and is pleased that the Biden Administration has directed the agency to determine how it might establish a more honorable working relationship with Tribal Nations. We strongly encourage the leaders of our member Tribal Nations to take part in this historic consultation. **To assist you in these initial conversations, we provide a set of [OMB-specific Tribal Leader Talking Points](#), in addition to [USET SPF's Consultation Principles](#), which have been prepared for the broader consultations happening in accordance with the January 26th Memorandum.**

An agency within the Executive Office of the President, OMB is charged with the oversight of federal agencies and overall administration of the federal budget, including the annual preparation of the President's Budget Request. This includes spending on federal programs in execution of the fiduciary trust obligation to Tribal Nations. For more information on OMB, please see an [Overview and Background Presentation](#) from Raina Thiele, former OMB Program Examiner and White House Associate Director of Intergovernmental Affairs and Public Engagement.

Despite the level of authority OMB has over federal Indian programs and its decision-making power in determining the Administration's priorities for federal spending, as well as other Administration policy, it has historically and consistently taken the position that it does not have consultative responsibilities to Tribal Nations. Indeed, OMB is specifically

left out of [Executive Order \(E.O.\) 13175, Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments](#), which was issued in November of 2000.

USET SPF maintains that OMB's decades-long lack of contact and familiarity with Indian Country, along with a general lack of transparency and predominant focus on the internal workings of government, is, in large part, responsible for numerous failures in the federal budget process and other OMB functions. Over the course of the last several years, we have urged various Administrations, Congress, and other federal entities to assist with reforms to OMB designed to improve the delivery of trust and treaty obligations. With this in mind, we celebrate this consultation and are hopeful that it is a first step in improved relations with the agency, as well as the improved execution of trust and treaty obligations across the Executive Branch.

With questions or for more information, please contact Liz Malerba, USET SPF Director of Policy and Legislative Affairs, at: lmalerba@usetinc.org