

# MARSHALL PLAN FOR TRIBAL NATIONS: A RESTORATIVE JUSTICE AND DOMESTIC INVESTMENT PLAN

*This Marshall Plan for Indian Country is not only about the obvious, but at a deeper level, it is about principle, righteousness, and justice, including economic justice. It is about course correcting... about re-imagining... a relationship that has evolved over centuries; a relationship that has deviated from the original recognition in this nation's founding documents of our inherent sovereign existence.*

*The consistent historical failure of the United States to fulfill its obligations and promises to us is a significant contributing factor to our current circumstances. As a result, we often fight over a dollar when the actual amount due to us is exponentially greater. We often get caught up in seeking funds for band-aids, as opposed to funds for the creation of robust health systems within every single one of our Tribal Nations. Not only do these scraps fail to correct the underlying deficiencies, but the process too often puts us at odds with one another as relatives.*



*“There comes a time... when people get tired of being trampled by the iron feet of oppression... there comes a time when one must take a position that is neither safe, nor politic, nor popular, but he must take it because conscience tells him it is right.”*

*–Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.*

*That time for us is now... it is our time to courageously and confidently come out of relegated places of invisibility. To be seen and understood on our terms. It is our time to be heard... to be heard using our words... rooted in our indigenous truth and worldview... without apology.*

*Now is our time to boldly and proactively re-imagine this relationship in a manner that demands proper respect and honor of our sovereign-to-sovereign relationship.*

*Our ancestors, despite the difficult and horrific days and years that were ahead of them, at a time when our erasure and extinction as a people was the ultimate goal... just like Dr. King... they too made it to the metaphorical and spiritual mountaintop, fueled and inspired by optimism... by hope.*

*However, it was not of a biblical promised land, rather, theirs was about the rightful and just restoration and return of our homelands... lands that hold the bones and spirits of our ancestors... lands that have sustained us since time immemorial... lands of our creation stories... lands for which we have always been the rightful stewards.*

*They saw on the horizon a view of not only our survival and perseverance, but a prosperous future for us as a people where our indigenous principles and values still guide and center us. Despite the unthinkable challenges of their time, I am confident that they held onto hope, that they had a deep understanding and appreciation that our arrival into that prosperous existence would come well after they themselves had passed on to the spirit world, but a belief that we... as a people... would get there.*

*However, we will never honor their sacrifices, or achieve their dream and vision, if we continue to allow ourselves to be complacent and complicit with a system and structure that routinely and consistently fails us, that fails to honor its responsibilities and obligations to us, if we concede that this is expectation is too great or too heavy of a lift, or if we believe that the pursuit is a naïve and unrealistic endeavor.*

*Together, we must collectively stand up for righteousness and justice... always choosing hope over fear... always choosing unity over division... always remembering who our common interest and concern should be. In doing so, the rising waters will lift all our canoes... because in the end... history... through the eyes of our Creator... will be the final judge of our deeds...*

*...the time has arrived for us to break free of the chains that hold our minds and our bodies hostage ...just as our ancestors intended and visioned... just like the Creator intended... and in doing so... justice and righteousness will no longer elude us.*



Excerpts from [closing comments](#) given by USET Sovereignty Protection Fund Executive Director Kitcki Carroll at the National Congress of American Indians Convention, November 16, 2023. Learn more at [www.usetinc.org/MarshallPlan](http://www.usetinc.org/MarshallPlan).