



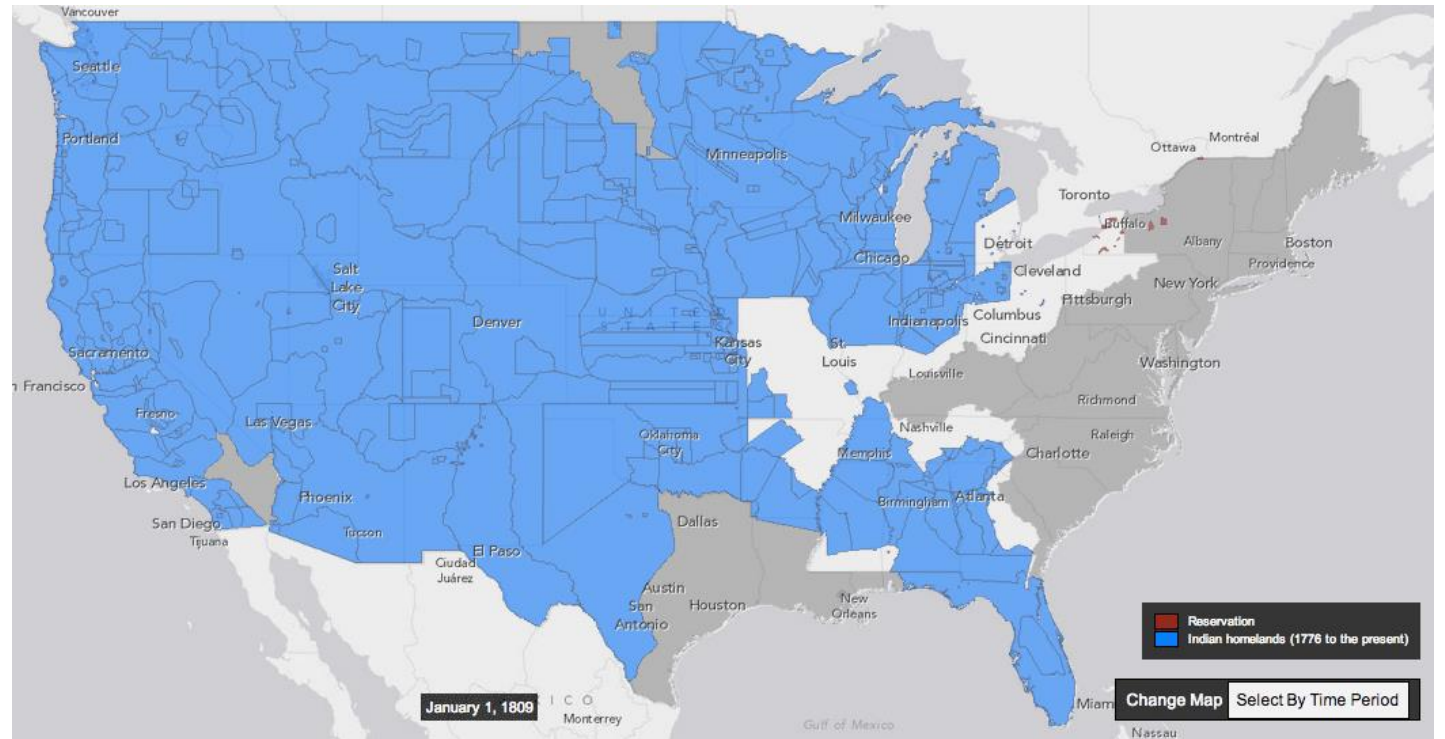
Indigenous Water Security

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**How the U.S.
Took More Than
1.5 Billion
Acres
from Native
Americans**

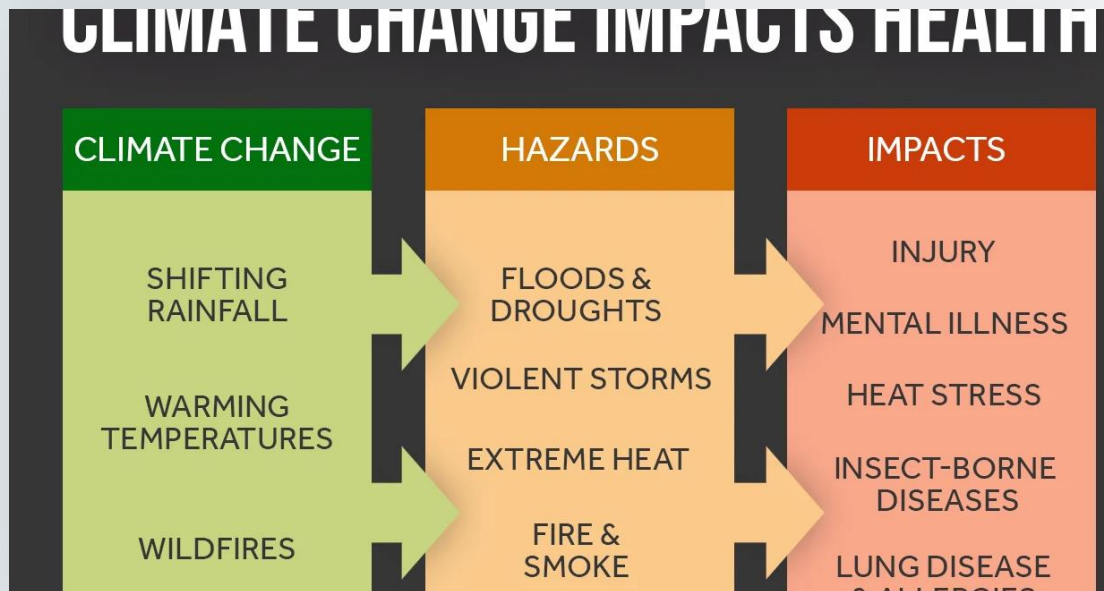




Indigenous communities are *frontline* communities experiencing the “first and worst” consequences of climate change

Climate change implicates water security

- Supply
- Quality



Native American Household are 19X more likely to lack running water than white households.

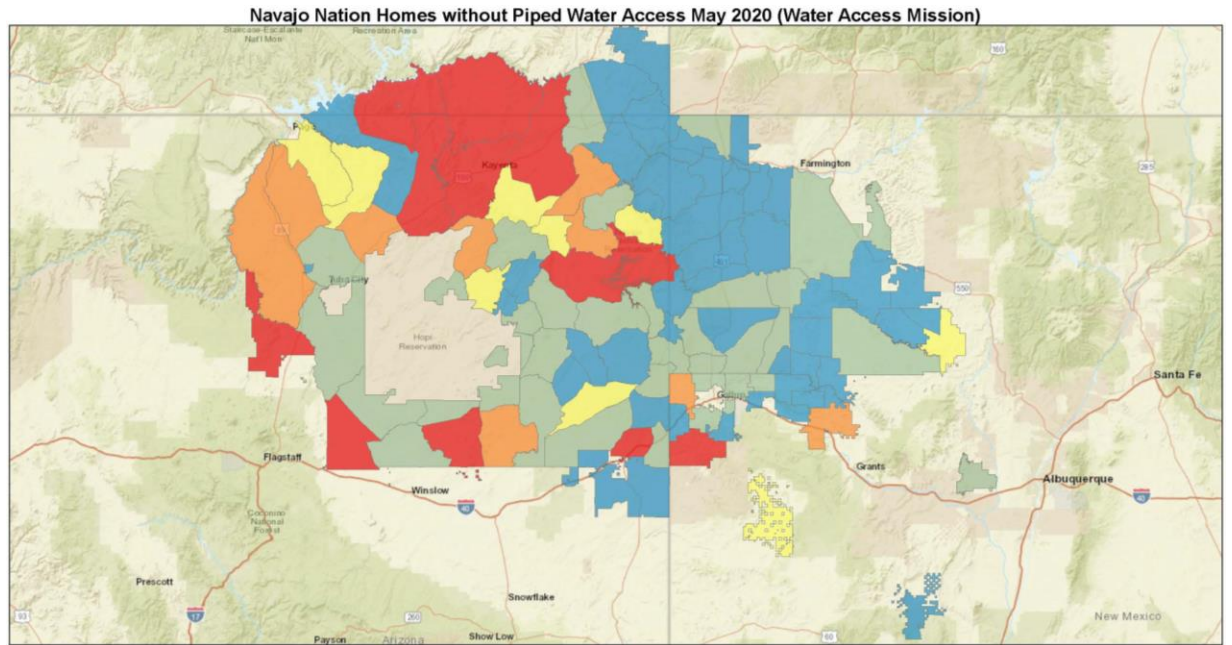
No piped water delivery (supply)

Inadequate quality

Inadequate infrastructure

Operation & maintenance

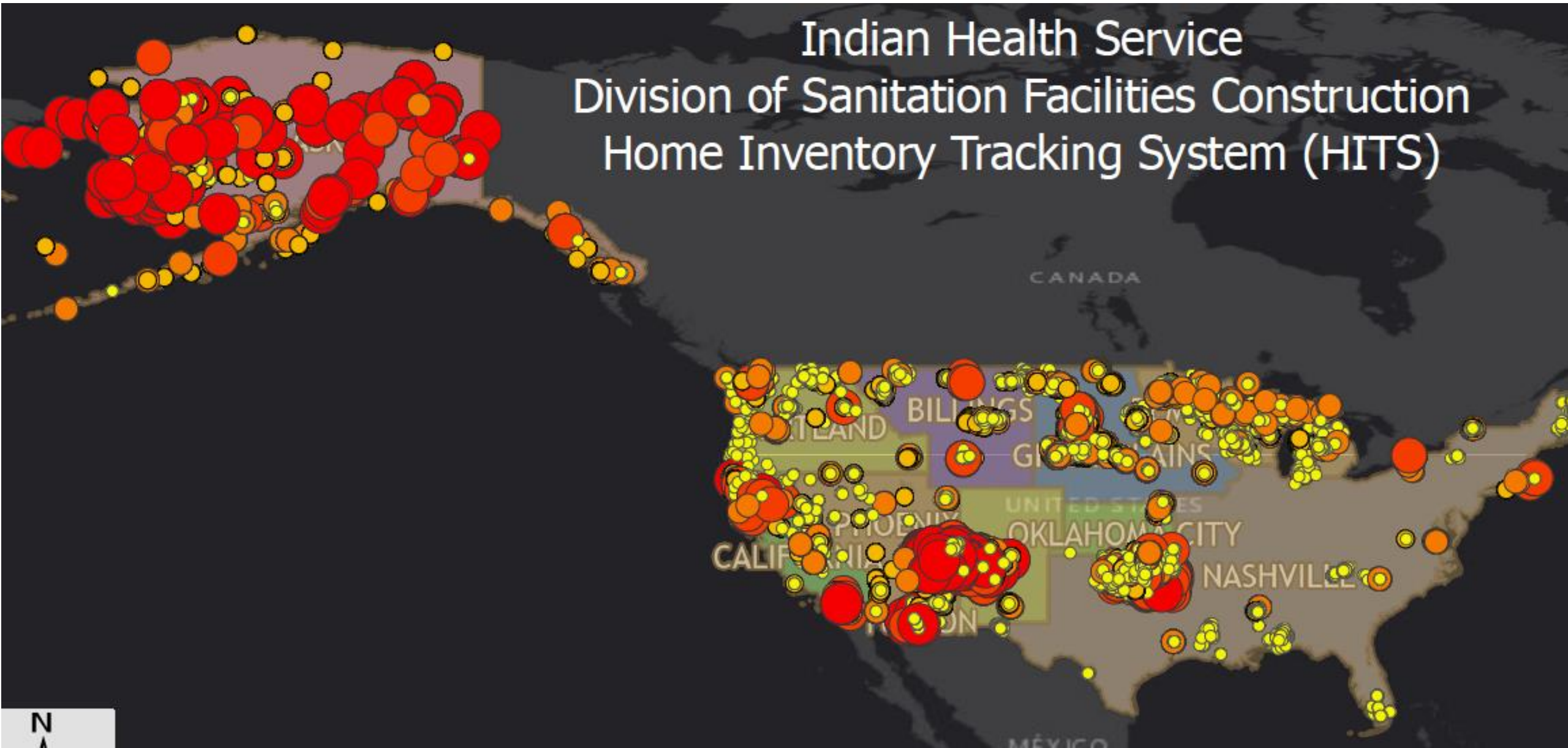




Total homes without access to piped water



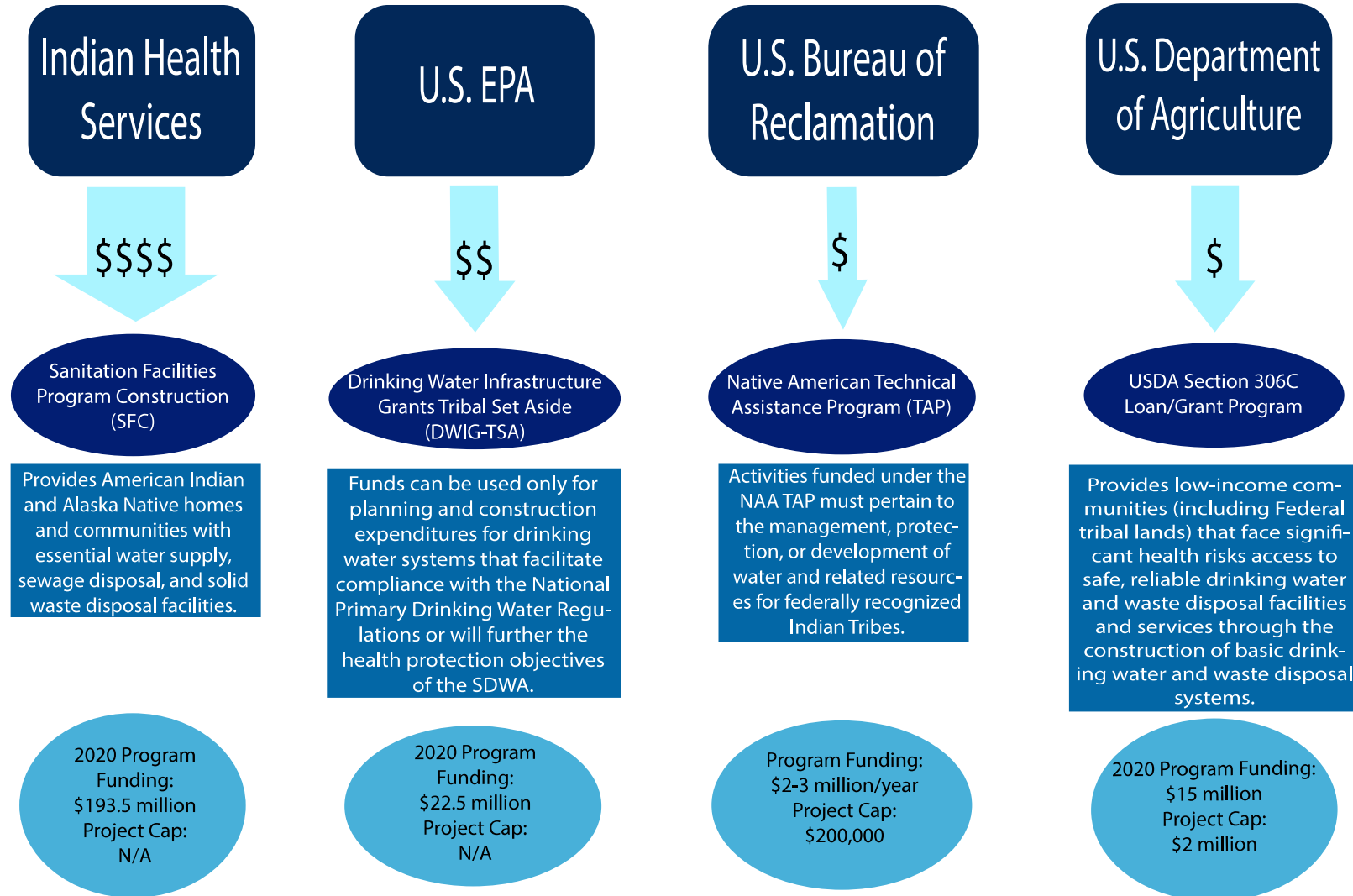
Indian Health Service Division of Sanitation Facilities Construction Home Inventory Tracking System (HITS)





Protecting Future Generations

PRIMARY FEDERAL TRIBAL DRINKING WATER PROGRAMS



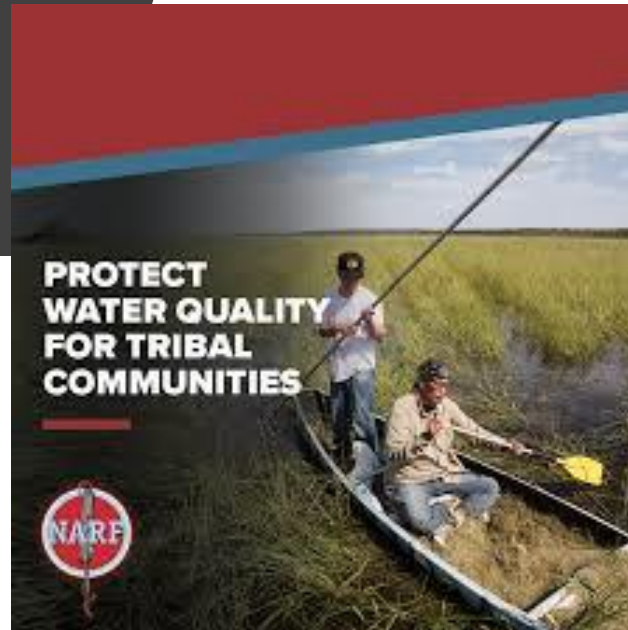
Federal Funding Programs for Access to Clean Drinking Water Projects for Tribal Communities
President's Proposed FY 2026 Budget

Program Eliminated	Dramatically Reduced Funding			Steady Funding	New Funding
<u>Bureau of Indian Affairs</u> Tribal Climate Resilience	<u>Environmental Protection Agency</u> Clean Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) 91% Decrease <i>2025 - \$32 million for Tribes</i> <i>2026 - \$3 million for Tribes</i>	<u>Indian Health Service</u> Sanitation Facilities Construction Program 88% Decrease <i>2025 - \$106 million</i> <i>2026 - \$13 million</i>	<u>Bureau of Reclamation</u> Native American Affairs Program 44% Decrease <i>2025 - \$30 million</i> <i>2026 - \$13 million</i>	<u>Environmental Protection Agency</u> Tribal General Assistance Program Steady <i>2025 - \$72 million</i> <i>2026 - \$72 million</i>	<u>Environmental Protection Agency</u> Indian Reservation Drinking Water Program New Funding <i>2025 - \$4 million</i> <i>2026 - \$31 million</i>
<u>Bureau of Reclamation</u> WaterSMART Program	<u>Environmental Protection Agency</u> Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) 86% Decrease <i>2025 - \$22 million for Tribes</i> <i>2026 - \$3 million for Tribes</i>	<u>U.S. Department of Agriculture</u> Water and Waste Disposal Programs (306c Loans and Grants) 57% Decrease <i>2025 - \$471 million</i> <i>2026 - \$202 million</i>		<u>Environmental Protection Agency</u> Drinking Water Infrastructure Resilience and Sustainability Steady <i>2025 - \$6.5 million</i> <i>2026 - \$6.5 million</i>	
Eliminated: \$88 Million	Reduced: \$427 Million			Steady: \$78.5 Million	New: \$27 Million

\$409.5 Million Dollars

Loss of Funding for Tribal Access to Clean, Reliable, and Accessible Drinking Water

Clean Water Act



Albuquerque v. Browner (9th Cir. 1996)

Can EPA authorize tribal water standards more stringent than that of the state? Can those standards be enforce beyond tribal reservation boundaries?

Recent EPA Action

Tribal Baseline Water Quality Standards

Proposed rule by the EPA to establish water quality standards for Indian reservations without Clean Water Act standards.

Withdrawn December 20, 2024

Tribal Reserved Rights Rule

- Process for states and federal government to consider water-dependent tribal reserved rights when setting water quality goals and pollution limits.
- Went into effect on June 3, 2024
- Pending suit by 12 states, State of Idaho v. EPA

Diné Natural Law



A. The four sacred elements of life, air, light/fire, water and earth/pollen in all their forms must be respected, honored and protected for they sustain life; and

...

C. All creation, from Mother Earth and Father Sky to the animals, those who live in water, those who fly and plant life have their own laws, and have rights and freedom to exist; and

...

F. The rights and freedoms of the people to the use of the sacred elements of life as mentioned above and to the use of the land, natural resources, sacred sites and other living beings must be accomplished through the proper protocol of respect and offering and these practices must be protected and preserved for they are the foundation of our spiritual ceremonies and the *Diné* life way; and

G. It is the duty and responsibility of the *Diné* to protect and preserve the beauty of the natural world for future generations.

“Manoomin is a being,
a relative, and a sacred gift
that must be protected.”



“Manoomin, or wild rice, within all the
Chippewa ceded territories,
possesses inherent rights to exist,
flourish, regenerate, and evolve, as
well as inherent rights to restoration,
recovery, and preservation.”

“Tsuladxiw, our relatives under on water, are the
most important cultural and sacred food of the
Sahkuméhu [Sauk-Suiattle people] and have
been a part of our traditional stories, teachings,
lifeways and spirituality since the earliest times
to the present day.”



“Tsuladxiw (salmon) within the territory of
the Sauk-Suiattle Indian Tribe is
protected and possesses inherent rights
to exist, flourish, regenerate, and evolve.”