Highway Construction Workforce Partnership/ Strategic Workforce Development



EDC-6 Strategic Workforce Development Tribal Contacts and Resources December 2021

When looking to advance workforce development in your State, stakeholders to consider engaging include Tribal communities. Beyond the Highway Construction Workforce Partnership (HCWP) resources developed in the HCWP <u>Playbook</u> and HCWP <u>Toolkit</u>, a list of Tribal contacts and resources are provided below to support workforce development outreach with Tribes:

- 1. The Bureau of Indian Affairs' (BIAs') mission is to enhance the quality of life, promote economic opportunity, and carry out the responsibility to protect and improve the trust assets of American Indians, Indian Tribes, and Alaska Natives. The twelve regional BIA offices are in the heart of Indian Country, with the agencies located at the reservation level. The following hyperlinks will take you to the website for the BIA regional offices—which includes a link to a map that shows the States within each region—and the website providing contacts for each of the Tribes by State, including Tribal leaders and e-mails/websites for each tribe: https://www.bia.gov/regional-offices and https://www.bia.gov/tribal-leaders-directory.
- 2. The Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA's) Office of Tribal Transportation (OTT) administers the Tribal Transportation Program (TTP) and provides stewardship and oversight for direct funding agreements with 135 Federally recognized Tribes. The OTT also provides support for all FHWA activities affecting Tribal transportation. This support includes the administration of discretionary grants awarded to Tribes, and the transfer of funds from States and other local governments to Tribes through the 23 U.S.C. § 202(a)(9) transfer process: https://highways.dot.gov/federal-lands/programs-tribal/contact-info
- 3. The FHWA Tribal Transportation Assistance Program (TTAP) is funded under FHWA's Training and Education programs and authorized by 23 U.S.C. § 504(b). Although there are no TTAP Centers and field services currently, the FHWA Local Aid Support Team (TTAP Program Office) is in the process of reestablishing the regional TTAP Centers. The reestablishment of the TTAP Centers respects the sovereignty of Tribal nations and further builds Tribal governments' capacity by providing training and technical assistance to grow the Tribal workforce.
 - **TTAP Vision:** Through mutual respect and understanding, enhance the quality of life in Tribal communities by building capacity for Tribes to administer and manage their transportation programs and systems.
 - TTAP Center's Mission: Serve as a go-to local resource for Tribal transportation training, technical assistance, and technology transfer needs and opportunities to effectively carry out the TTAP

Vision: https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/clas/ttap/ttap_about.aspx

4. Keep your State, Tribal, and local Community and Technical colleges in mind as you look for ways to develop and train the construction labor workforce. There are likely specific training opportunities that can be hosted through them, such as CDL training and craft position training. There may also be job placement opportunities through these colleges. A list of Tribal colleges, including links to the college websites, can be found at: https://tribalcollegejournal.org/map-of-tribal-colleges/. On the Job Training/Supportive Services (OJT/SS) or Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) funds may also be available to fund and support these initiatives at these colleges. Additional FMSCA information can be found at: https://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/newsroom/us-department-transportation-awards-nearly-80-million-grants-improve-commercial-motor.