

U.S. Department of Commerce

Tribal Resource Guide



Indian Country Is



<http://www.commerce.gov/os/olia/native-american-affairs>

Tribal governments, their business enterprises, their members, and firms that want to do business in Indian Country can tap into the vast resources of the bureaus of the Department of Commerce to create jobs on- and off-reservation. From grants from the National Telecommunications & Information Administration to develop broadband infrastructure, to data resources available from the U.S. Census Bureau to inform tribal policy-makers, overseas market development assistance through the International Trade Administration, and funding opportunities available through the Economic Development Administration and the Minority Business Development Agency, the Department's resources help tribes and their citizens create conditions conducive to business development and to seize opportunities in America and abroad.

The Department's partnerships with tribes, Native-owned businesses, and firms that want to do business in Indian Country is led by the Secretary's Senior Advisor on Native American Affairs. The Office of the Secretary's Senior Advisor on Native American Affairs is responsible for (1) coordinating and communicating all Native American issues directly with Tribes and across all the bureaus within the Department of Commerce, as well as externally with all other federal agencies; (2) coordinating and implementing the Department's Tribal Consultation Policy Plan and consultation sessions; (3) serving as the primary contact for all tribal Consultation actions and issues; and (4) serving as the facilitator of the Office of Native American Business Development by assisting and consulting with Indian Country to leverage the combined efforts of the Federal government, tribal governments, private sector businesses, and financing institutions in order to promote economic growth for tribes and Native Americans.

Policy

When tribal governments are empowered to effectively self-govern by building vibrant and sustainable economies, we all win. The Department of Commerce recognizes the advances tribal governments have made since the enactment of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act in 1975, and seeks to assist tribes in developing their economies so that the goals of the Self-Determination Era can be fully realized by every tribal nation that chooses self-governance.

The Department also takes seriously the United States' trust responsibility to the various Indian tribes and Native peoples of our country and adheres to [Executive Order \(E.O.\) No. 13175](#), "Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments" (November 6, 2000) and President Obama's November 5, 2009, "[Tribal Consultation](#)" Memorandum. Since President Obama took office, the Department has revised its Tribal Consultation Policy after engaging in extensive consultation with tribal officials for a period of several months in 2012. The Department's final consultation policy was published and communicated to Tribal leaders on [May 21, 2013](#).

About the Department of Commerce

The mission of the Department is to create the conditions for economic growth and opportunity. As part of the Obama Administration's economic team, the Secretary of Commerce serves as the voice of U.S. business within the President's Cabinet.

Department Bureaus:

- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
- Economic Development Administration (EDA)
- U.S. Census Bureau (Census)
- Economics and Statistics Administration (ESA)
- International Trade Administration (ITA)
- Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA)
- National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST)
- National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA)
- U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO)
- Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS)
- Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA)
- National Technical Information Service (NTIS)

About Secretary Penny Pritzker

Penny Pritzker has served as the 38th U.S. Secretary of Commerce since being sworn in by Vice President Joe Biden on June 26, 2013. As Secretary of Commerce, she is focused on providing American businesses and entrepreneurs with the tools they need to grow and hire.



Secretary Pritzker is a key member of President Obama's economic team, with 27 years of private sector experience. Since taking office, she has worked closely with the business community and helped advance the President's priorities of expanding growth and opportunity for all Americans. Guided by conversations with nearly 1,300 CEOs and business leaders, and over one-third of the Fortune 500 CEOs, Secretary Pritzker has developed the "Open for Business Agenda." This bold strategic plan and policy blueprint for the Commerce Department focuses on expanding trade and investment, unleashing government data for economic benefit, spurring innovation, protecting the environment—and executing these priorities with operational excellence as careful stewards of taxpayer dollars.

Before joining the Obama Administration, Secretary Pritzker founded and ran five different businesses in the real estate, hospitality, senior living, and financial services industries. She has also served on the boards of a number of major corporations, such as Hyatt Hotels, La Salle Bank, and the William Wrigley Jr. Company, and she was Executive Chairman of Trans Union.

Secretary Pritzker earned her bachelor's degree in economics from Harvard University and J.D. and M.B.A. degrees from Stanford University. She and her husband Dr. Bryan Traubert have two children.

Department Resources for Tribes, Native Businesses, and Their Partners

Native American Affairs Contact



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Each bureau within the Department contains resources that can assist tribes in developing their economies and effectively governing themselves. Although tribal governments and their citizens can rely on the resources of all Department bureaus, most of the Department's direct interaction with Native communities is done through the bureaus listed below.

Economic Development and Infrastructure

Economic Development Administration (EDA)

Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA)

International Trade Administration (ITA)

National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA)

Natural and Cultural Resources Protection

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

Statistical Resources

U.S. Census Bureau

Intellectual Property

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO)

Economic Development Administration (EDA)

www.eda.gov

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U.S. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION

The Economic Development Administration (EDA) is the only federal government agency focused exclusively on economic development and plays a critical role in fostering regional economic development efforts in communities across the nation. For 50 years, EDA grants have helped remove economic barriers and attract capital to Indian country, addressing a broad array of needs from construction to non-construction, technical assistance, and revolving loan fund projects. Between Fiscal Years 2009 and 2014, EDA awarded nearly \$54 million in assistance to Indian tribes to create businesses, build roads and other infrastructure, and develop economic development plans.

Investment Programs:

Public Works. EDA empowers distressed communities to revitalize, expand, and upgrade their physical infrastructure to attract new industry, encourage business expansion, diversify local economies, and generate or retain long-term, private sector jobs and investment.

Economic Adjustment. EDA assists state and local interests in designing and implementing strategies to adjust or bring about change to an economy. The program focuses on areas that have experienced or are under threat of serious structural damage to the underlying economic base. Under Economic Adjustment, EDA administers its Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) Program, which supplies small businesses and entrepreneurs with the gap financing needed to start or expand their business.

Partnership Planning. EDA supports local organizations (Economic Development Districts, Indian Tribes, and other eligible areas) with long-term planning efforts. Each year, EDA funds 52 Native American planning organizations which are leading these efforts across the country.

Trade Adjustment Assistance for Firms. EDA has a national network of eleven Trade Adjustment Assistance Centers to help strengthen the competitiveness of American companies that have lost domestic sales and employment because of increased imports of similar goods and services.

University Centers. EDA's University Centers are a partnership of the federal government and academia that makes the varied and vast resources of universities available to the economic development community.

Research and National Technical Assistance. EDA supports research of leading edge, world class economic development practices and information dissemination efforts.

Local Technical Assistance. EDA helps fill the knowledge and information gaps that may prevent leaders in the public and nonprofit sectors in distressed areas from making optimal decisions on local economic development issues.

QUICK STATS

Budget:

FY 2015 Enacted:
\$250 million

FY 2016 Request:
\$273 million

Location:

State and Regional
Locations Nationwide

Mission:

- To lead the federal economic development agenda by promoting innovation and competitiveness preparing American regions for growth and success in the worldwide economy.
- To improve the longer-term prosperity and quality of life in regions across the country.

Vision: Promote job growth and global competitiveness through innovation.

Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA)

www.mbda.gov

*Alejandra Y. Castillo,
National Director*

*Bridget Gonzales Young
Chief*

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The Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA) is the only federal agency dedicated to creating jobs through the growth and global competitiveness of minority-owned businesses in the United States. MBDA coordinates and leverages public and private sector resources to provide access to capital, contracts, and markets for tribal business enterprises across the country.

MBDA administers a cooperative grant program that funds a nationwide network of MBDA Business Centers. These Centers, operated by local public or private sector entities, provide a range of business consultation and technical services to minority-owned firms with revenues of \$1.0 million or more and/or in high growth industries that are seeking to grow regionally, nationally, and globally. Services include private equity and venture capital sourcing, surety bonding assistance, identification of procurement and competitive bid opportunities, merger and acquisition support, ready-to-export preparation and loan packaging.

All MBDA business development centers are open for tribal businesses, but six business centers specialize in working with tribal businesses and are strategically located near major Native American population centers: Anchorage, AK, Bismarck, ND, Tulsa, OK, Bridgeport, CT, Fresno, CA, and Santa Fe, NM. The current MBDA Business Center grant program runs on a five year cycle and a new cooperative grant competition will open in the fall of 2015.

MBDA Tools:

- **Experts.** MBDA officials and business center experts are available to work directly with tribal businesses to increase capacity through access to capital, global business development, teaming arrangements, federal contracting, supply chain diversity, and business growth strategies.
- **Business Events.** MBDA hosts and participates in numerous business events throughout the country in support of minority-owned businesses. These include business roundtables, export seminars, and business-to-business (B2B) matchmaking forums. The Agency welcomes the opportunity to partner with tribal enterprises to create business events.
- **Data.** MBDA also conducts research on minority businesses and produces statistical fact sheets by minority group, based on the U.S. Census Bureau's *Survey of Business Owners*. Reports have focused on access to capital, innovation, strategic alliances, and the characteristics of minority-owned firms including American Indian and Alaska Native-owned enterprises.

For more information about the services the Minority Business Development Agency provides and how they can help your tribal business, please visit the MBDA website at: www.MBDA.gov.

QUICK STATS

Budget:

FY 2015 Enacted:
\$30 million

FY 2016 Request:
\$30 million

Location:

Nationwide

Mission: To promote the growth of minority-owned businesses through the mobilization of public and private sector programs, policy and research.

Vision: Promote the ability of minority business enterprises (MBEs) to grow and to participate in the global economy.

Results: Between 2009-2013, MBDA helped clients obtain over \$19 billion in contracts and capital leading to the retention and/or creation of more than 58,000 jobs.

International Trade Administration (ITA)

www.trade.gov

Stefan Selig

Under Secretary of Commerce for International Trade

Laura Barmby, Tribal Affairs Liaison

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Or Contact the Department's Senior Advisor for Native American Affairs



INTERNATIONAL
T R A D E
ADMINISTRATION

The International Trade Administration (ITA) is charged with strengthening the competitiveness of U.S. industry, promoting trade and investment, and ensuring fair trade and compliance with trade laws and agreements. ITA is organized into three business units that work together to achieve ITA's mission: (1) Industry and Analysis; (2) Enforcement and Compliance; and (3) Global Markets. ITA works with American business including tribally-owned firms to tap into overseas markets. Much of this work is done at the local level at U.S. Export Assistance Centers – over 100 of which are located around the nation. More information on these centers can be found here:

<http://www.export.gov/usoffices/index.asp>

- **Industry and Analysis.** ITA advances the international competitiveness of U.S. industries by leveraging expertise and relationships with U.S. industry in the development and execution of innovative international trade and investment policies and strategies.
- **Enforcement and Compliance.** ITA promotes the effective administration of U.S. antidumping (AD) / countervailing (CVD) trade law remedies; addresses and curtails trade-distorting practices; promotes adoption of disciplines and practices by U.S. trading partners that enhance transparency and impartiality in foreign trade practices; and administers the Foreign Trade Zone (FTZ) program and other import programs that support U.S. jobs. It also represents and advocates on behalf of U.S. industry interests with regard to the exercise and enforcement of U.S. rights under bilateral and multilateral trade agreements.
- **Global Markets.** ITA advances U.S. commercial interests by engaging with U.S. businesses that export to foreign countries; expands U.S. exports by developing and implementing policies and programs to increase U.S. access to and presence in foreign markets; and provides market contacts, knowledge, opportunities, and customized solutions to U.S. firms.
 - SelectUSA, a unit within Global Markets, coordinates investment-related resources available across federal agencies and departments to facilitate foreign and domestic investment in the United States. Additionally, SelectUSA maintains close partnerships with state and local economic development organizations, which work to attract investments to their own jurisdictions.

Global Markets serves U.S. businesses through its network of international trade specialists in more than 100 domestic offices, and Foreign Service officers in embassies and consulates in more than 75 countries.

ITA Initiatives:

- **NEI/NEXT** a data-based, customer service-driven initiative to ensure that more American businesses can fully capitalize on markets that are opening up around the world. Through five core objectives, NEI/NEXT will build on Administration-wide achievements under the National Export Initiative (NEI) by
 - Connecting more U.S. businesses to their NEXT global customer.
 - Making the NEXT international shipment easier and less expensive.
 - Expanding access to finance for U.S. businesses' NEXT export transaction.
 - Promoting exports and foreign direct investment attraction as the NEXT economic development priority in communities and regions across the country.
 - Creating, fostering and ensuring U.S. business' NEXT global opportunity by helping developed and developing economies improve their business environments.

For more information about the International Trade Administration, visit www.trade.gov.

QUICK STATS

Budget:

FY 2015 Enacted:
\$462 million

FY 2016 Request:
\$497 million

Location:

In over 75 Countries and
100 U.S. Locations

Mission:

- To enhance international trade opportunities for American companies.
- To promote the United States as an investment destination.
- To enforce trade agreements to ensure that U.S. companies and consumers obtain the maximum benefits possible.
- To improve the competitiveness of U.S. manufacturers and service companies through market access, analysis, and advocacy programs.

Vision: Promote
American
competitiveness globally.

National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA)

www.ntia.doc.gov

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The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) is responsible for advising the President on telecommunications and information policy issues. NTIA's programs and policymaking focus largely on expanding broadband Internet access and adoption in America, expanding the use of spectrum by all users, ensuring that the Internet remains an engine for continued innovation and economic growth, and delivering FirstNet's public safety broadband network.

The National Telecommunications and Information Administration Works On:

SPECTRUM MANAGEMENT. NTIA's Office of Spectrum Management (OSM) is dedicated to protecting the vital federal government operations that use spectrum while also supporting the growth of commercial wireless broadband. It is focused on increasing the amount of spectrum available to meet the wireless broadband needs of consumers and businesses, paving the way for continued innovation and economic growth. NTIA also conducts cutting-edge spectrum research on sharing methods and technologies that promote spectrum efficiency. In collaboration with the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), NTIA manages the Center for Advanced Communications to perform advanced spectrum sharing research, testing, and evaluation.

BROADBAND. NTIA's Office of Telecommunications and Information Applications (OTIA) successfully oversaw \$4 billion in grants to expand broadband access and adoption across the United States, including more than \$1 billion for projects directly or indirectly benefitting tribes. Building on that experience, NTIA's Broadband USA initiative will support continued work to assist communities expand broadband infrastructure and adoption by convening stakeholders and community leaders, sharing lessons learned, developing toolkits, and providing technical assistance. NTIA's October 2014 report on broadband adoption revealed that only 56 percent of American Indian or Alaska Native households stated they used broadband at home in 2012, compared to 73 percent of all U.S. households.

INTERNET AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS POLICY. NTIA's Office of Policy Analysis and Development (OPAD) plays a key role in the Department of Commerce's Internet Policy Task Force, contributing to policies that promote innovation and protect consumer privacy, cybersecurity, online copyrights, and the free flow of information. OPAD performs research; releases reports, letters and formal comments to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) or other regulatory bodies; and reviews federal legislation.

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS. The "First Responder Network Authority" (FirstNet), an independent authority within NTIA created by the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 (the Act), is charged with ensuring the deployment of a Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network (NPSBN). Under the Act, \$135 million was directed to a State and Local Implementation Grant Program (SLIGP), to be administered by NTIA, to assist regional, tribal, state, and local government entities as they plan for the NPSBN. SLIGP grants have been awarded to 54 U.S. states and territories, including the District of Columbia. These grants help ensure that planning for the NPSBN takes into consideration the needs of public safety personnel within these jurisdictions—including federally recognized tribes. FirstNet and its Board have dedicated personnel to support tribal involvement in congressionally mandated state-level consultations and government-to-government consultations on environmental and cultural resource matters.

QUICK STATS

Budget:

FY 2015 Enacted:
\$38.2 million

FY 2016 Request:
\$49.2 million

Location:

Washington, D.C. and
Boulder, Colo.

Mission:

1. To expand Internet access and adoption in America.
2. To expand the use of spectrum by all users.
3. To ensure that the Internet remains an engine for continued innovation and economic growth.
4. To support FirstNet in the deployment of a nationwide public safety broadband network, at no cost to the taxpayer.

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

www.noaa.gov

Dr. Kathryn Sullivan

*Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere,
NOAA Administrator*

Linda D. Belton

Intergovernmental Affairs and Tribal Liaison

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The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) mission is to understand and predict changes in the Earth's environment, from the depths of the ocean to the surface of the sun, to conserve and manage our coastal and marine resources and to manage a sustainable supply of quality seafood. NOAA works directly with tribal governments on fisheries management issues through the National Marine Fisheries Service, on coastal management through the National Ocean Service and has various other resources available which may be of use to tribal governments. NOAA focuses on five service areas:

- 1) National Weather Service <http://www.weather.gov>
- 2) National Environmental Satellite, Data and Information Service <http://www.nesdis.noaa.gov>
- 3) National Ocean Service <http://oceanservice.noaa.gov>
- 4) National Marine Fisheries Service <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov>
- 5) Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research <http://www.research.noaa.gov>

NOAA's Services Provided to Tribal Communities:

- **Weather Forecasts.** NOAA provides local and regional forecasts and emergency alerts for severe storms, tornadoes, hurricanes (www.nhc.noaa.gov), floods, extreme heat, winter storms, fire threats, tsunamis and solar flares (www.weather.gov), and monitors drought (www.drought.gov). Tribal governments and their citizens can rely on NOAA forecasts for emergency preparedness and planning.
- **Coastal Management.** NOAA is the lead federal agency responsible for promoting sustainable, safe and efficient use of our Nation's coastal, ocean, and Great Lakes resources. NOAA provides training and information for tribal citizens, governments, and businesses to use when making coastal planning and management decisions (www.coast.noaa.gov).
- **Research.** NOAA provides tribal communities with the environmental intelligence needed to plan for and respond to climate events and enhances the protection and management of the nation's resources.
- **Climate Resilience Toolkit.** Tribal communities can explore tools for displaying and analyzing climate data, and consider a range of funding opportunities that could help build resilience, or recover from a climate-related event (www.toolkit.climate.gov).
- **Fisheries Management.** Federally managed fisheries provide an important food and recreation source for the Nation, as well as thousands of jobs. NOAA works directly with tribal governments to co-manage fisheries and strives to fulfill the federal trust responsibility related to treaty-reserved rights.

For information on NOAA's tribal consultation policy see, *NOAA Procedures for Government-to-Government Consultation with Federally Recognized Indian Tribes and Alaska Native Corporations*, available at:

<http://www.legislative.noaa.gov/policybriefs/NOAA%20Tribal%20consultation%20handbook%20111213.pdf>

QUICK STATS

Budget:

FY 2015 Enacted:
\$5.4 billion

FY 2016 Request:
\$6 billion

Location:

Every U.S. State and all
U.S. territories

Mission:

*Science, Service, and
Stewardship.*

- To understand and predict changes in climate, weather, oceans, and coasts.
- To share knowledge and information with citizens, businesses and tribal and local governments.
- To conserve and manage coastal and marine ecosystems and resources.

Vision: *Resilient
Ecosystems, Communities
and Economies.
Create healthy
ecosystems,
communities and
economies that are
resilient in the face of
climate change.*

U.S. Census Bureau (Census)

www.census.gov

John H. Thompson

Director

Dee Alexander

Intergovernmental Tribal Affairs Specialist

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The Census Bureau is the largest statistical agency of the federal government. Its work has expanded commensurate with the nation's population and economy, keeping pace with the demand for current facts and figures. Activities involve survey and questionnaire design, geographic infrastructure updates, data collection, processing and dissemination. The Census Bureau's many programs include censuses, surveys, estimates and projections. These are invaluable planning tools for citizens, American Indian and Alaska Native businesses, and tribal government officials.

Census Bureau Responsibilities and Activities:

- **Conducting the Constitutionally Mandated Decennial Census of Population and Housing.** The U.S. Constitution requires the Census Bureau to conduct a once-a-decade count of the populations in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and U.S. Territories. The information collected is used to apportion seats in the House of Representatives.
- **Conducting the Economic Census every 5 years.** The Economic Census measures the Nation's economy every five years, providing vital statistics for virtually every industry and geographic area of the country. It is also used to establish all principal economic indicators for the Nation, including the Gross Domestic Product (GDP).
- **Conducting the Boundary and Annexation Survey (BAS) each year.** The BAS collects changes to legal boundaries, names and governmental status for federally recognized American Indian reservations, off-reservation trust land, and tribal subdivisions within the United States. The boundary information collected is used to report data from the American Community Survey (ACS) and other census programs and surveys.
- **Conducting the American Community Survey (ACS) each year.** The information collected provides detailed, annual statistics about the social, economic, and housing characteristics of our American tribal communities. The ACS is the most comprehensive and timely source of detailed, quality data on our people and economy.

Census Tools:

- **Data.** There are both legal and statistical American Indian Alaska Native areas (AIANs) for which the Census Bureau provides data. This data can help tribal governments and tribal businesses in planning for their community needs.
- **Training.** Data dissemination specialists are available through each Census Bureau regional office to give presentations and can train tribal staff in the navigation of the Census Bureau's informative website on how to find useful data on a wide range of topics – health, education, population and housing, among others – which is available by various levels of tribal geography.
- **Maps.** The Census Bureau can provide maps that show tribal boundaries in the United States by state, country or tribal designated area. The Census Bureau works closely with states and tribal governments to make sure our maps and data reflect accurate and up-to-date information on your area.

For more information about the services the U.S. Census Bureau provides and how they can help your office and tribal staff, please visit the Census website at: www.census.gov.

QUICK STATS

Budget:

FY 2015 Enacted:
\$1 billion

FY 2016 Request:
\$1.5 billion

Location:

Nationwide

Mission:

- To serve as the leading source of quality data about the Nation's people and economy.
- To honor privacy, protect confidentiality, share expertise globally, and conduct work openly.

Vision: To be the leading source of high quality, timely, relevant and cost effective statistical information supporting the Nation's decision makers.

United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO)

www.uspto.gov

Michelle K. Lee

*Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property
and Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office*

*Susan Anthony, Tribal Liaison, and
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The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) is at the cutting edge of the nation's technological progress and achievement. The USPTO grants U.S. patents, registers trademarks, and advises the Federal Government on intellectual property (IP) policy, protection, and enforcement. This work enables the protection of new ideas and spurs innovation, creativity, and the development of new technology globally.

The USPTO also provides domestic education outreach on all types of intellectual property (IP), including through training in the field, web-based seminars and digital video-conferencing, and distance learning. This work emphasizes training for U.S. small and medium sized businesses and independent inventors and specifically includes an initiative to provide training for Native American and Alaskan Native businesses as well as youth in high school and at 2- and 4-year institutions.

USPTO Resources, Programs, and Initiatives:

SATELLITE OFFICES. USPTO is in the process of opening four satellite offices (Detroit, Denver, Silicon Valley, Dallas) to assist in the recruiting of quality patent examiners and judges and to function as hubs of innovation, providing information and resources to U.S. innovators throughout the country.

WEB BASED TOOLS.

- [Online Intellectual Property Training Module](#) or complete information about intellectual property (IP) protection in the U.S. and abroad, in 1.5 hours.
- The USPTO [Intellectual Property Awareness Assessment Tool](#) and the U.S. Department of Commerce [Needs Assessment Tool](#), web-based tools designed to assess IP knowledge and provide personalized training resources for small and medium sized enterprises and inventors.
- [Patent Process Overview](#) and other online resources for America's innovators at USPTO.gov offer information and guidance on securing and maintaining IP rights.
- A robust set of videos, tutorials and other information for anyone wishing to learn more about [trademarks and information in enforcing trademark rights](#).
- Information on [copyright](#) and a link to the U.S. Copyright Office handling registration.
- [Introduction to Intellectual Property for American Indian and Alaskan Native Artists](#) brochure, developed by the U.S. Department of the Interior Indian Arts and Crafts Board and the USPTO.

PROGRAMS.

- **Patent and Trademark Resource Centers Program.** USPTO supports a nationwide network of public, state, and academic libraries where businesses can access patent and trademark information with the help of a trained specialist.
- **A Nationwide Pro Bono Network.** USPTO has supported regional networks throughout country to assist financially under-resourced independent inventors and small businesses.
- **Native American Tribal Insignia Database,** in which federally and state recognized tribes may record their official insignia as an aid in the examination of applications for trademark registration. This database can help prevent the misappropriation of cultural symbols.

TELEPHONE HELP. Toll-free help lines: for patent and trademark applicants (1-800-786-9199) and for information on protecting and enforcing IP in the US and internationally (1-866-999-HALT). For more information about USPTO's services and how they can help your tribe or tribal members, please contact the USPTO Tribal Liaison or visit the USPTO website at: www.uspto.gov.

QUICK STATS

Budget:

USPTO does not operate on taxpayer dollars. It operates solely on fees collected for services it provides.

Location:

Alexandria, Virginia, and four regional locations.

Mission: The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office grants U.S. patents fulfilling the mandate of Article I, Section 8, Clause 8, of the Constitution; USPTO registers trademarks based on the Commerce Clause. Provide advice to the President and the Secretary of Commerce on policies relating to intellectual property.

Vision: Promote industrial and technological progress in the United States by administering patents and trademarks.