

## **Transportation, Housing and Urban Development** *Provisions Contained in the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2018*

### **Expanding Transportation in Alaska**

**Essential Air Service:** \$155 million, a \$5 million increase, to support access for rural communities otherwise isolated from the National Air Transportation System.

**Airport Construction:** \$1 billion in new discretionary authority for grants for high priority airport construction projects, prioritizing funding for small and rural airports.

**Transportation Investment Generating Economic Development (TIGER) Grants:** \$1.5 billion, a \$1 billion increase, for capital projects that generate economic development and improve access to reliable, safe, and affordable transportation for communities, such as investing in road, rail, transit, and port projects to maintain transportation networks critical to Alaska.

**Cargo Planes:** Includes language permitting Part 121 carriers to be able to use existing weather data to set flight plans and land in remote places in Alaska. This allows large, intermittent cargo planes to continue to fly into villages and rural Alaska despite regulation changes that otherwise require National Weather Service forecasted data to be used, which is unavailable in most of the state.

### **Housing Assistance**

**Indian Housing Block Grants:** Provides \$655 million for the Indian Housing Block Grant, to provide a range of affordable housing activities on Indian reservations and Indian areas. An additional \$100 million was included for competitive grants for eligible NAHASDA grant recipients.

**Indian Community Development Fund:** Allocates \$65 million for the Indian Community Development Program within the Community Development Fund, used for developing viable Indian and Alaska Native Communities, including decent housing, a suitable living environment, and economic opportunities. Up to \$4 million is available for imminent health and safety emergencies.

**Indian Housing Loan Guarantee Fund:** Provides \$1 million for the Indian Housing Loan Guarantee Fund, a home mortgage specifically designed for American Indian and Alaska Native families, Alaska Villages, Tribes, or Tribally Designated Housing Entities.

**HUD-VASH Demonstration Program for Homeless and At-Risk Native Vets:** Allocates \$5 million for HUD-VASH vouchers, a demonstration program offering permanent homes and supportive services to Native American Veterans who are experiencing or risk experiencing homelessness.

**Home Investment Partnerships (HOME) Program:** Allocates \$1.36 billion, a \$412 million increase from the previous year, to fund the program which provides grants to States and localities to fund building, buying, and/or rehabilitating affordable housing for rent or homeownership or providing direct rental assistance to low-income people.