

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**Centers for Disease Control and Prevention****Designation of a Class of Employees for Addition to the Special Exposure Cohort**

AGENCY: National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: HHS gives notice of a decision to designate a class of employees from the Savannah River Site in Aiken, South Carolina, as an addition to the Special Exposure Cohort (SEC) under the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act of 2000.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Lori Marion-Moss, Acting Director, Division of Compensation Analysis and Support, NIOSH, 1090 Tusculum Avenue, MS C-46, Cincinnati, OH 45226-1938, Telephone 1-877-222-7570. Information requests can also be submitted by email to DCAS@CDC.GOV.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Authority: 42 U.S.C. 7384q(b). 42 U.S.C. 7384l(14)(C).

On July 8, 2026, as provided for under 42 U.S.C. 7384l(14)(C), the Secretary of HHS designated the following class of employees as an addition to the SEC:

All construction trade employees of Department of Energy (DOE) subcontractors who worked at the Savannah River Site in Aiken, South Carolina, from January 1, 1991, through December 31, 1993, for a number of workdays aggregating at least 250 workdays, occurring either solely under this employment, or in combination with workdays within the parameters established for one or more other classes of employees included in the Special Exposure Cohort. This class specifically does not include employees of prime contractors of Westinghouse Savannah River Company during this time period.

This designation will become effective on August 7, 2026, unless Congress provides otherwise prior to the effective date. After this effective date, HHS will publish a notice in the **Federal Register** reporting the addition of this class to the SEC or the result of any provision by Congress regarding the

decision by HHS to add the class to the SEC.

John J. Howard,

Director, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Department of Health and Human Services.

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**Administration for Children and Families**

[Assistance Listing Number(s): 93.612, 93.340]

Notice of Final Issuance on the Adoption of Administration for Native Americans Program Policies and Procedures

AGENCY: Administration for Native Americans (ANA), Administration for Children and Families (ACF), Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

ACTION: Notice of Final Issuance.

SUMMARY: ANA is issuing final interpretive rules, general statements of policy, and rules of agency organization, procedure, or practice relating to the following Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 Notices of Funding Opportunity (NOFOs): Economic Advancement Grants for Local Empowerment (EAGLE), AI3 Action Institute—Artificial Intelligence for American Indians (AI3 Action Institute), and the National Center for Native Training and Technical Assistance (NCNTTA).

DATES: The policies proposed in the **Federal Register** Notice for Public Comment (2026-05484 (91 FR 13604)) are final and effective upon publication of the NOFOs.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Carmelia Strickland, Administration for Native Americans, 330 C Street SW, Washington, DC 20201 or via email to: anacomments@acf.hhs.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 814 of the Native American Programs Act of 1974 (NAPA), as amended (42 U.S.C. 2992b-1), requires ANA to provide notice of its proposed interpretive rules, general statements of policy, and rules of agency organization, procedure, or practice. The proposed clarifications, modifications, and new text will appear in the FY 2026 NOFOs. ANA published a Notice of Public Comment (NOPC) in the **Federal Register** (2026-05484 (91 FR 13604)), with proposed policy and program

clarifications, modifications, and activities that apply to the three above-mentioned NOFOs beginning in FY 2026. The public comment period was open for 30 days.

This notice transmits ANA's final policy governing three NOFOs to be published in FY 2026. ANA received and considered comments from 32 submissions.

The following are the public comments received in response to the NOPC and ANA's responses:

Culture/Cultural Preservation

Comment: Some commenters emphasized that cultural preservation, transmission, and Native cultural frameworks should remain central program considerations rather than secondary elements. Commenters also urged ANA to recognize culturally rooted, community-based roles and broader cultural, environmental, and intergenerational outcomes as important measures of success.

Response: ANA acknowledges the importance of ensuring that cultural preservation and cultural transmission remain integral to program design and implementation of economic development programs. The FY 2026 NOFOs are designed to support economic development in ways that also respect Native cultural and community.

Terminology

Comment: Some concerns were expressed regarding the use of terms such as "Native communities" and "self-determination," including how those terms may be interpreted in relation to sovereignty, eligibility, and program integrity. There was a comment requesting clarification regarding the treatment of diaspora populations and how eligibility and beneficiary definitions would apply in digital or geographically dispersed community contexts.

Response: ANA uses terminology consistent with its statutory authorities, mission, and prior program practice, while applying such terms responsibly and consistently. The list of eligible applicants is set by applicable statutory and regulatory requirements. Where appropriate, ANA will provide additional clarification in the NOFOs regarding eligibility, beneficiaries, and service-area considerations.

Artificial Intelligence

Comment: In regard to the AI3 Action Institute—Artificial Intelligence for American Indians, some commenters raised concerns regarding opportunity costs, Indigenous data sovereignty,