

Bureau of Indian Affairs Providers Conference tribal listening session

Director's remarks as prepared for delivery

November 29, 2023

- Good morning, everyone. We're honored to participate with everyone in this listening session today.
- We express our sincere thanks to the tribal leaders and their representatives for joining us today.
- Please know that we consider our work with you to be of the highest importance.
- We wish to strengthen our nation-to-nation relationship with all tribes.
- We recognize that it can be challenging to absorb our data, to understand the many methodologies we use.
- We received your input about this...and we've altered our presentations based on your recommendations.
- We are committed to make these sessions as productive as possible.
- So please continue to provide feedback on how we can make these sessions better for you.
- Now, we historically have used tribal listening sessions like this one today as a way to prepare you for a formal tribal consultation.
- But today is very different.
- The objective of today's listening session is to share information on the 2020 Census American Indian and Alaska Native data products.
- We'll update you on the status of upcoming 2020 AIAN data products.
- We'll also describe a new initiative called *Statistical Product First*.
- And we'll seek your feedback on our recent 2020 Census data product called the Detailed Demographic and Housing Characteristics File A, or the Detailed DHC-A for short.
- It's the successor to the American Indian and Alaska Native Summary File that we produced in previous censuses.
- You'll see an overview of 2020 Census results for detailed American Indian and Alaska Native tribes and villages.
- This includes population changes between 2010 and 2020, as well as the size and geographic distribution of tribes.
- Additionally, we will update you on the status of another 2020 Census data product, the Detailed Demographic Housing and Characteristics File B data.
- This product provides housing and tenure information for detailed AIAN tribes and villages.
- Our final presentation will introduce a new program called *Statistical Product First* approach.
- Now, we have historically published statistics that delineate AIAN as a category within larger and more generalized data products.
- Under the *Statistical Products First* program, we reorient how we design data products.
- We start with you telling us about the information you need for your tribes' governance and planning.

- Future engagements will be used to gather your data needs.
- Now, as you know, we have an obligation to protect the privacy of your tribes' members and the confidentiality of their data.
- We will continue to preserve these protections while providing the data you need for governance and planning.
- We recognize that tribes need and can benefit from more accurate data at lower levels of geography such as census tracts, block groups, and blocks.
- And achieving this delicate balance has proven to be quite a challenge, not just for tribes, but for all communities in the United States.
- We're confident that by working together, we can develop products that meet your needs.
- We look forward to a continued partnership with you.
- As I mentioned in yesterday's conference plenary, we cannot do this alone.
- We need a community of the whole approach, which necessarily includes you and all tribes.
- Thank you for joining us for this listening session.