

many village economies. Displacing traditional Alaska Native social safety nets, these well-meaning programs have undermined the healthy interdependence and self-sufficiency of Native tribes and families and have put Native tribes and families at risk of becoming permanent dependencies of Government.

“(5) Despite these seemingly insurmountable problems, the Alaska Natives Commission found that Alaska Natives, building on the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, had begun a unique process of critical self-examination which, if supported by the United States Congress through innovative legislation, and effective public administration at all levels including traditional Native governance, could provide the basis for an Alaska Native social, cultural, economic, and spiritual renewal.

“(6) The Alaska Natives Commission recognized that the key to the future well-being of Alaska Natives lay in—

“(A) the systematic resumption of responsibility by Alaska Natives for the well-being of their members,

“(B) the strengthening of their economies,

“(C) the strengthening, operation, and control of their systems of governance, social services, education, health care, and law enforcement, and

“(D) exercising rights they have from their special relationship with the Federal Government and as citizens of the United States and Alaska.

“(7) The Alaska Natives Commission recognized that the following 3 basic principles must be respected in addressing the myriad of problems facing Alaska Natives:

“(A) Self-reliance.

“(B) Self-determination.

“(C) Integrity of Native cultures.

“(8) There is a need to address the problems confronting Alaska Natives. This should be done rapidly, with certainty, and in conformity with the real economic, social, and cultural needs of Alaska Natives.

“(9) Congress retains and has exercised its constitutional authority over Native affairs in Alaska subsequent to the Treaty of Cession and does so now through this Act.

“SEC. 2. ALASKA NATIVE IMPLEMENTATION STUDY.

“(a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds and declares that—

“(1) the Alaska Natives Commission adopted certain recommendations raising important policy questions which are unresolved in Alaska and which require further study and review before Congress considers legislation to implement solutions to address these recommendations; and

“(2) the Alaska Federation of Natives is the representative body of statewide Alaska Native interests best suited to further investigate and report to Congress with proposals to implement the recommendations of the Alaska Natives Commission.

“(b) GRANT.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall make a grant to the Alaska Federation of Natives to conduct the study and submit the report required by this section. Such grant may only be made if the Alaska Federation of Natives agrees to abide by the requirements of this section.

“(c) STUDY.—Pursuant to subsection (b), the Alaska Federation of Natives shall—

“(1) examine the recommendations of the Alaska Natives Commission;

“(2) examine initiatives in the United States, Canada, and elsewhere for successful ways that issues similar to the issues addressed by the Alaska Natives Commission have been addressed;

“(3) conduct hearings within the Alaska Native community on further ways in which the Commission’s recommendations might be implemented; and

“(4) recommend enactment of specific provisions of law and other actions the Congress should take to implement such recommendations.

“(d) CONSIDERATION OF LOCAL CONTROL.—In developing its recommendations pursuant to subsection (c)(4), the Alaska Federation of Natives shall give specific attention to the ways in which the recommendations may be achieved at the local level with maximum local control of the implementation of the recommendations.

“(e) REPORT.—Not later than 12 months after the date on which the grant is made under subsection (b), the Alaska Federation of Natives shall submit a report on the study conducted under this section, together with the recommendations developed pursuant to subsection (c)(4), to the President and the Congress and to the Governor and legislature of the State of Alaska. In addition, the Alaska Federation of Natives shall make the report available to Alaska Native villages and organizations and to the general public.

“(f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated \$350,000 for the grant under subsection (b).

“(g) ADDITIONAL STATE FUNDING.—The Congress encourages the State of Alaska to provide the additional funding necessary for the completion of the study under this section.”

ALASKA NATIVES COMMISSION

Pub. L. 101-379, §12, Aug. 18, 1990, 104 Stat. 478, established a Joint Federal-State Commission on Policies and Programs Affecting Alaska Natives to conduct a comprehensive review of Federal and State policies and programs affecting Alaska Natives in order to identify specific actions that could be taken to help assure that public policy goals were more fully realized among Alaska Natives, further provided for membership, meetings, and other administrative affairs of the Commission, as well as specific powers and duties, further directed the Commission to submit, by no later than 18 months after its first meeting, a report with recommendations to the President, the Congress, the Governor of Alaska, and the legislature of the State of Alaska, and further provided for funding as well as termination of the Commission 180 days after the date of submission of its report.

NATIVE HAWAIIANS STUDY COMMISSION

Pub. L. 96-565, title III, §§301-307, Dec. 22, 1980, 94 Stat. 3324-3326, known as the Native Hawaiians Study Commission Act, established the Native Hawaiians Study Commission to study the culture, needs, and concerns of Native Hawaiians, and to issue a report and make recommendations to Congress. The Commission was required to have its first meeting not less than 90 days after Dec. 22, 1980, produce a draft report no later than 1 year after its first meeting and a final report no later than 9 months later. The Commission ceased to exist upon the expiration of the 60-day period following the submission of its final report.

§ 2991b. Financial assistance for Native American projects

(a) Authorization for financial assistance to public and nonprofit agencies; consultation with other Federal agencies to avoid duplication

The Commissioner is authorized to provide financial assistance, on a single year or multiyear basis, to public and nonprofit private agencies, including but not limited to, governing bodies of Indian Tribes on Federal and State reservations, Alaska Native villages and regional corporations established by the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act [43 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.], and such public and nonprofit private agencies serving Native Hawaiians, and Indian and Alaska Native organizations in urban or rural areas that are not Indian reservations or Alaska Native villages, for projects pertaining to the purposes of

this subchapter. The Commissioner is authorized to provide financial assistance to public and nonprofit private agencies serving other Native American Pacific Islanders (including American Samoan Natives) for projects pertaining to the purposes of this Act. In determining the projects to be assisted under this subchapter, the Commissioner shall consult with other Federal agencies for the purpose of eliminating duplication or conflict among similar activities or projects and for the purpose of determining whether the findings resulting from those projects may be incorporated into one or more programs for which those agencies are responsible. Every determination made with respect to a request for financial assistance under this section shall be made without regard to whether the agency making such request serves, or the project to be assisted is for the benefit of, Indians who are not members of a federally recognized Tribe. To the greatest extent practicable, the Commissioner shall ensure that each project to be assisted under this subchapter is consistent with the priorities established by the agency which receives such assistance.

(b) Economic development

(1) In general

The Commissioner may provide assistance under subsection (a) for projects relating to the purposes of this subchapter to a Native community development financial institution, as defined by the Secretary of the Treasury.

(2) Priority

With regard to not less than 50 percent of the total amount available for assistance under this section, the Commissioner shall give priority to any application seeking assistance for—

(A) the development of a Tribal code or court system for purposes of economic development, including commercial codes, training for court personnel, regulation pursuant to section 261 of title 25, and the development of nonprofit subsidiaries or other Tribal business structures;

(B) the development of a community development financial institution, including training and administrative expenses; or

(C) the development of a Tribal master plan for community and economic development and infrastructure.

(c) Limitations of financial assistance; exceptions; non-Federal contributions

Financial assistance extended to an agency under this subchapter shall not exceed 80 percent of the approved costs of the assisted project, except that the Commissioner may approve assistance in excess of such percentage if the Commissioner determines, in accordance with regulations establishing objective criteria, that such action is required in furtherance of the purposes of this subchapter. Non-Federal contributions may be in cash or in kind, fairly evaluated, including but not limited to plant, equipment, and services. The Commissioner shall not require non-Federal contributions in excess of 20 percent of the approved costs of programs or activities assisted under this subchapter.

(d) Assistance as addition to, and not substitution for, activities previously carried out without Federal assistance; waiver; non-reservation areas

(1) No project shall be approved for assistance under this subchapter unless the Commissioner is satisfied that the activities to be carried out under such project will be in addition to, and not in substitution for, comparable activities previously carried out without Federal assistance, except that the Commissioner may waive this requirement in any case in which the Commissioner determines, in accordance with regulations establishing objective criteria, that application of the requirement would result in unnecessary hardship or otherwise be inconsistent with the purposes of this subchapter.

(2) No project may be disapproved for assistance under this subchapter solely because the agency requesting such assistance is an Indian organization in a nonreservation area or serves Indians in a nonreservation area.

(e) Grants to improve Tribal regulation of environmental quality

(1) The Commissioner shall award grants to Indian Tribes for the purpose of funding 80 percent of the costs of planning, developing, and implementing programs designed to improve the capability of the governing body of the Indian Tribe to regulate environmental quality pursuant to Federal and Tribal environmental laws.

(2) The purposes for which funds provided under any grant awarded under paragraph (1) may be used include, but are not limited to—

(A) the training and education of employees responsible for enforcing, or monitoring compliance with, environmental quality laws,

(B) the development of Tribal laws on environmental quality, and

(C) the enforcement and monitoring of environmental quality laws.

(3) The 20 percent of the costs of planning, developing, and implementing a program for which a grant is awarded under paragraph (1) that are not to be paid from such grant may be paid by the grant recipient in cash or through the provision of property or services, but only to the extent that such cash or property is from any source (including any Federal agency) other than a program, contract, or grant authorized under this subchapter.

(4) Grants shall be awarded under paragraph (1) on the basis of applications that are submitted by Indian Tribes to the Commissioner in such form as the Commissioner shall prescribe.

(Pub. L. 88-452, title VIII, §803, as added Pub. L. 93-644, §11, Jan. 4, 1975, 88 Stat. 2324; amended Pub. L. 95-568, §17(a)(39), Nov. 2, 1978, 92 Stat. 2443; Pub. L. 98-558, title X, §1002, Oct. 30, 1984, 98 Stat. 2905; Pub. L. 100-175, title V, §§502(1), 504(a), 506(c)(2), Nov. 29, 1987, 101 Stat. 973, 975, 978; Pub. L. 101-408, §2, Oct. 4, 1990, 104 Stat. 883; Pub. L. 102-375, title VIII, §822(1), (21), Sept. 30, 1992, 106 Stat. 1295, 1300; Pub. L. 102-497, §9(a), Oct. 24, 1992, 106 Stat. 3257; Pub. L. 103-171, §5(2), Dec. 2, 1993, 107 Stat. 1991; Pub. L. 116-261, §5(a), (d), Dec. 30, 2020, 134 Stat. 3313, 3314.)

Editorial Notes

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, referred to in subsec. (a), is Pub. L. 92-203, Dec. 18, 1971, 85 Stat. 688, which is classified generally to chapter 33 (§1601 et seq.) of Title 43, Public Lands. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 1601 of Title 43 and Tables.

This Act, referred to in subsec. (a), probably means the Native American Programs Act of 1974, Pub. L. 88-452, title VIII, as added by Pub. L. 93-644, §11, Jan. 4, 1975, 88 Stat. 2324, which is classified generally to this subchapter, see section 2991 of this title.

PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 2991b, Pub. L. 88-452, title VIII, §803, as added Pub. L. 89-794, title VIII, §801, Nov. 8, 1966, 80 Stat. 1473, provided for stipend for volunteers, living, travel, and leave allowances, and subsistence, prior to the general amendment of this subchapter by Pub. L. 90-222, title I, §110, Dec. 23, 1967, 81 Stat. 722.

AMENDMENTS

2020—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 116-261, §5(d)(1), (2), substituted “Tribe” for “tribe” and “Tribes” for “tribes”.

Subsecs. (b) to (e). Pub. L. 116-261, §5(a), added subsec. (b) and redesignated former subsecs. (b) to (d) as (c) to (e), respectively.

Subsec. (e)(1). Pub. L. 116-261, §5(d), substituted “Tribe” for “tribe”, “Tribes” for “tribes”, and “Tribal” for “tribal”.

Subsec. (e)(2)(B). Pub. L. 116-261, §5(d)(3), substituted “Tribal” for “tribal”.

Subsec. (e)(4). Pub. L. 116-261, §5(d)(2), substituted “Tribes” for “tribes”.

1993—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 103-171 substituted “areas that are not Indian reservations or Alaska Native villages” for “nonreservation areas”.

1992—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 102-497 struck out “, subject to the availability of funds appropriated under the authority of section 2992d(c) of this title,” after “Commissioner is authorized” in second sentence.

Pub. L. 102-375, §822(21), substituted “Alaska Native villages” for “Alaskan Native villages”.

Pub. L. 102-375, §822(1)(A), (B)(i), substituted “Commissioner” for “Secretary” wherever appearing and substituted “Indian and Alaska Native organizations” for “Indian organizations”.

Pub. L. 102-375, §822(1)(B)(ii), which directed the substitution of “area that is not an Indian reservation or Alaska Native village” for “nonreservation area”, could not be executed because the words “nonreservation area” did not appear.

Subsecs. (b), (c)(1), (d)(1), (4). Pub. L. 102-375, §822(1)(A), substituted “Commissioner” for “Secretary” wherever appearing.

1990—Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 101-408 added subsec. (d).

1987—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 100-175, §506(c)(2), substituted “Native Hawaiians” for “Hawaiian Natives”.

Pub. L. 100-175, §§502(1), 504(a), inserted “, on a single year or multiyear basis,” after “assistance” in first sentence and inserted after first sentence “The Secretary is authorized, subject to the availability of funds appropriated under the authority of section 2992d(c) of this title, to provide financial assistance to public and nonprofit private agencies serving other Native American Pacific Islanders (including American Samoan Natives) for projects pertaining to the purposes of this Act.”

1984—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 98-558, §1002(a), inserted at end “Every determination made with respect to a request for financial assistance under this section shall be made without regard to whether the agency making such request serves, or the project to be assisted is for the benefit of, Indians who are not members of a federally recognized tribe. To the greatest extent practicable, the Secretary shall ensure that each project to be assisted under this subchapter is consistent with the

priorities established by the agency which receives such assistance.”

Subsec. (c)(1). Pub. L. 98-558, §1002(b), designated existing provisions as par. (1) and added par. (2).

1978—Pub. L. 95-568 substituted in subsecs. (b) and (c) “the Secretary determines” for “he determines”.

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1987 AMENDMENT

Amendment by sections 502(1) and 504(a) of Pub. L. 100-175 effective Oct. 1, 1987, and amendment by section 506(c)(2) of Pub. L. 100-175 effective upon expiration of 90-day period beginning Nov. 29, 1987, see section 701(a), (c) of Pub. L. 100-175, set out as a note under section 3001 of this title.

§ 2991b-1. Loan fund; demonstration project**(a) Grant to Office of Hawaiian Affairs to establish revolving loan fund; purposes of fund; administrative costs; matching funds**

(1) In order to provide funding that is not available from private sources, the Commissioner shall award a grant to the Office of Hawaiian Affairs of the State of Hawaii (referred to in this section as the “Office”), which shall use that grant to carry out, in the State of Hawaii, a demonstration project involving the establishment of a revolving loan fund—

(A) from which the Office shall make loans or loan guarantees to Native Hawaiian organizations and to individual Native Hawaiians for the purpose of promoting economic development in the State of Hawaii; and

(B) into which all payments, interest, charges, and other amounts collected from loans made under subparagraph (A) shall be deposited notwithstanding any other provision of law.

(2) The agreement under which a grant is awarded under paragraph (1) shall contain provisions which set forth the administrative costs of the grantee that are to be paid out of the funds provided under the grant and a requirement that the grantee contribute to the revolving loan fund an amount of non-Federal funds equal to the amount of such grant.

(b) Loans or loan guarantees to borrowers; determinations; term; interest rate; default and collection procedures; prohibition on self-lending

(1) The Office may make a loan or loan guarantee to a borrower under subsection (a)(1)(A) only if the Office determines that—

(A) the borrower is unable to obtain financing from other sources on reasonable terms and conditions; and

(B) there is a reasonable prospect that the borrower will repay the loan.

(2) Each loan or loan guarantee made under subsection (a)(1)(A) shall be—

(A) for a term that does not exceed 7 years; and

(B) at a rate of interest that does not exceed a rate equal to the sum of—

(I) the most recently published prime rate (as published in the newspapers of general circulation in the State of Hawaii before the date on which the loan is made); and

(II) 3 percentage points.