



**National Tribal Air Association (NTAA)  
FY 2024 Budget Recommendation  
To the National Tribal Caucus (NTC)**

**February 28, 2022**

Each year federally recognized Tribes in the United States compete for \$12.5 million in air quality program funding that has remained stagnant for many years. NTAA is providing the following budget recommendations to the NTC in an effort to advance air quality for Tribal communities across the nation. NTAA requests \$57.4 million expansion from the stagnated \$12.5 million annual appropriation authorized under the Clean Air Act (CAA) Section 103 and 105 for Tribal air grants.

The NTAA is a member-based organization with 154 principal member Tribes. The organization's mission is to advance air quality management policies and programs, consistent with the needs, interests, and unique legal status of Indian Tribes. Although NTAA always seeks to represent consensus perspectives on any given issue, it is important to note that the recommendations expressed by the NTAA may not be agreed upon by all Tribes.

NTAA's funding request is based on the direct feedback of over 200 Tribal respondents from NTAA's baseline needs assessment of Tribal Air Quality programs across the country conducted in 2021 where:

- NTAA found that 72% of Tribal respondents said that they did not have enough funding for even one full-time air quality position.
- A large majority (66%) reported that insufficient funding directly affected the health and welfare of their people.

Currently, \$12.5 million is distributed to 127 Tribal air grants per year. Expanding this amount for all 574 Tribes would sustain existing and mature programs while the additional funding would offer Tribes without programs the ability to establish new air quality programs. Increasing EPA funding from \$12.5 million to \$57.4 million would uphold the Biden Administration's commitment to respect sovereignty and self-governance of Indian Tribes and meet their Tribal trust obligations.

This funding increase would assist more Tribes build their Clean Air Act Programs at a critical time when the impacts of health challenges, the economy, racial injustice, and climate change disproportionately harm Native Americans. Additional recommendations for supporting Tribal Air Programs in FY 2024 and beyond will be provided when NTAA publishes the Status of Tribal Air Report in May 2022. More information can be found at [www.ntaatribalair.org](http://www.ntaatribalair.org).