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## **Tribal Listening Sessions and Consultations on FEMA’s Tribal Consultation Policy Update *Framing Paper and Key Concepts***

### **Overarching Consultation Questions**

*How can FEMA improve its (2019) Tribal Consultation Policy and procedures to better address Tribal Nation needs?*

*What do Tribal Nations need to further engage and participate in FEMA’s tribal consultation process?*

*What additional feedback would tribal leaders want to contribute to FEMA regarding the Tribal Consultation Policy update?*

### **Background**

The Federal Emergency Management Agency’s (FEMA) [Tribal Consultation Policy](#) was last updated in 2019. FEMA tribal consultation is the process for communicating and collaborating with federally recognized Indian tribal governments (hereinafter collectively referred to as “Tribal Nations”) to exchange information and receive input on actions that have tribal implications including regulations, rules, legislative comments or proposals, policies, directives, and programs. FEMA’s Tribal Consultation Policy provides guidance on Agency-wide tribal consultation protocol and helps FEMA officials review tribal consultation requests in a meaningful and consistent way.

FEMA’s Tribal Consultation Policy applies to all FEMA programs and headquarters and regional employees responsible for developing or implementing actions on behalf of FEMA that may have an impact on the public or any non-federal entity. This policy also applies to those employees responsible for engaging in regular and meaningful consultation and coordination with Tribal Nations and Alaska Native Corporations (ANCs), if applicable, on actions that have tribal implications.

FEMA strives to enhance its Nation-to-Nation partnership with Tribal Nations. FEMA also remains committed to its responsibility under [Executive Order 13175: Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments](#), reaffirmed by President Biden’s [January 26, 2021, Memorandum](#) on *Tribal Consultation and Strengthening Nation-to-Nation Relationships*, and reflected in the 2022-2026 [FEMA’s National Tribal Strategy](#), to engage in meaningful consultation and collaboration with tribal officials. In addition, [FEMA’s Tribal Policy](#) outlines a framework for Nation-to-Nation relations between FEMA and Tribal Nations that recognizes tribal sovereignty, self-governance, and FEMA’s responsibilities, consistent with applicable authorities.

In 2024, FEMA intends to hold a series of virtual and in-person government-to-government tribal listening sessions and consultations to discuss updating the Tribal Consultation Policy. Please visit FEMA’s [Tribal Consultations webpage](#) for more information and how you can register to participate.

## Discussion Questions

FEMA seeks Tribal Nations feedback on its existing Tribal Consultation Policy. Below are questions for your consideration. These questions are not in order of priority and are not meant to be an exhaustive list of discussion topics. FEMA welcomes broader input on its tribal consultation activities in support of Tribal Nations.

1. What processes, factors, criteria, or other aspects of the tribal consultation process would Tribal Nations like to see changed in the updated FEMA policy?
2. What aspects of FEMA's current tribal consultation process would Tribal Nations like to see continued in the updated policy?
3. What barriers, if any, have Tribal Nations experienced that have precluded them from requesting or participating in a FEMA tribal consultation?
4. What would Tribal Nations like to see in the future in terms of increasing their engagement with FEMA throughout the tribal consultation process?
5. Are there additional suggested steps that FEMA could take to improve tribal consultation and make it more meaningful?

All consultation materials may be found at: [Tribal Consultations | FEMA.gov](#). Tribal Nations can submit feedback or comments via email to [fema-tribal@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:fema-tribal@fema.dhs.gov) with the subject line "Tribal Consultation Policy – Written Comments." Final feedback and comments are due by **July 30, 2024**.