

CONSUMER FINANCIAL PROTECTION BUREAU
POLICY FOR CONSULTATION WITH TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS

Consultation with tribal governments is a process through the Bureau seeks tribal input on the development of new or amended policies, regulations, and programs. The Bureau intends to engage in meaningful government-to-government dialogue on proposed regulations, policies, and programs that would be expressly directed to tribal governments or tribal members or that would have direct implications for Indian tribes.

Guiding Principles

Three principles guide the Bureau's policy for consultation with tribal governments and activities under this policy.

- (1) The Bureau recognizes the unique legal relationship between the United States government and tribes as domestic dependent nations under the trust of the federal government; and
- (2) The Bureau is committed to regular and meaningful consultation and collaboration with tribal officials, leading to meaningful dialogue with Indian tribes on Bureau policies that would be expressly directed to tribal governments or tribal members or that would have direct implications for Indian tribes; and
- (3) The Bureau is committed to developing and issuing regulations and guidance in a timely and efficient manner.

Matters for Tribal Consultation

Proposed new and amended policies, regulations, and programs should be the subject of consultation to the extent that they would be expressly directed to tribal governments or tribal members or that would have direct implications for Indian tribes. Such policies do not include matters related to the Bureau's exercise of supervisory, litigation, or enforcement authority that are confidential or otherwise not subject to public disclosure.

Methods of Consultation

The Bureau may engage in a number of activities seeking input from and meaningful dialogue with tribal governments.

Where policies or programs would deal exclusively with highly complex or sophisticated financial matters affecting a small number of well-known constituent groups, the Bureau may routinely incorporate tribal consultation into Federal Register notices. To do so, the Bureau would specifically request comment from tribal governments and tribal members through the Federal Register notice soliciting comment on a particular policy. When soliciting comment specifically from tribal governments, the Bureau will ordinarily provide a minimum 60-day comment period.

The Bureau will provide an agency point of contact, available through a dedicated email address published on www.consumerfinance.gov for Indian tribes to reach out for information or to raise concerns proactively.

Additionally, the Bureau is committed to engaging in meetings, conference calls, and other forms of communication and outreach to exchange views about any policy or issue within the Bureau's jurisdiction.

Judicial Review

This policy is intended only to improve the internal management of the Bureau, and is not intended to create any right, benefit, or trust responsibility, whether substantive or procedural, that is legally enforceable by a party against the Bureau or against any other person.