



# United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS  
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Tribal Leader,

On February 26, 2025, Executive Order (EO)14222 *Implementing the President's "Department of Government Efficiency" Cost Efficiency Initiative* commenced a transformation in Federal spending on contracts, grants, and loans to ensure Government spending is transparent and Government employees are accountable to the American public. The Executive Order contained the following requirement:

*Contract and Grant Justification. Each Agency Head shall, with assistance as requested from the agency's DOGE Team Lead, build a centralized technological system within the agency to seamlessly record every payment issued by the agency pursuant to each of the agency's covered contracts and grants, along with a brief, written justification for each payment submitted by the agency employee who approved the payment. This system shall include a mechanism for the Agency Head to pause and rapidly review any payment for which the approving employee has not submitted a brief, written justification within the technological system.*

Effective on May 19, 2025, pursuant to EO14222, the Department of Treasury (Treasury) implemented a new Payment Justification field within all Federal payment systems, including the Automated Standard Application for Payments (ASAP) system which is utilized by the Department of Interior (DOI). In our continued efforts to support Tribal self-governance and Tribal self-determination, Indian Affairs is exploring improvements to the ASAP process for the transfer of Indian Self Determination Education and Assistance Act (ISDEAA) funds to Tribes. In addition, we have engaged in discussions with Indian Health Service (IHS) on the agency's payment process in delivering ISDEAA funds to Tribes.

To address comments received on the new justification field, Indian Affairs has worked with the Treasury Tribal Affairs Office and Bureau of the Fiscal Service (BFS) on finalizing a solution. Treasury has confirmed that it has sent communication to your ASAP contact that ***"effective immediately, your organization is no longer required to complete the Payment Justification field when submitting a drawdown request in ASAP. While the field will still appear on the user interface, it may be left blank."*** We are notifying you of this communication to ensure that you have the relevant information.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact your Awarding Official overseeing your program funds.

Sincerely,

Bryan K. Mercier  
Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs