



NATIVE AMERICAN BUILDING CODES & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT SUMMIT

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WELCOME

Hosted by Nimiipuu Fund, Nez Perce Tribal Housing Authority, and Enterprise Financial, this summit offers opportunities to:

- Understand how building codes are developed and adopted
- Get introduced to the International Code Council (ICC)
- Navigate the code adoption process tailored to Tribal Nations
- Learn best practices in enforcement, inspection, and workforce development

This summit is ideal for tribal leaders, housing authorities, planners, contractors, inspectors, and workforce professionals committed to building stronger communities. We are grateful to the National American Indian Housing Council for sharing valuable video resources, including insights from Rudy Soto and HUD's Office of Native American Programs (ONAP) with Tonya Plummer. Your contributions help strengthen our collective knowledge and support for Native communities.



CONFERENCE
SCHEDULE &
SPEAKER
INFORMATION

WWW.NIMIIPUUFUND.ORG

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2025

Hosted by Nimiipuu Fund, Nez Perce Tribal Housing Authority, and Enterprise Financial.

8:00 AM DOORS OPEN & BREAKFAST

8:45 AM OPENING CEREMONY & INVOCATION

9:00 AM WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

9:15 AM PANEL: NATIVE AMERICAN BUILDING PROFESSIONALS

Moderator: Doug Marconi, Nez Perce Tribal Housing Authority;
Panelists: Val Drywater, Colville Tribes; Joel Holliday, Warm Springs Tribe; Dale Schrock, Colville Tribes

This session brings together Native building professionals to explore how cultural values, Tribal sovereignty, and modern development intersect in housing and infrastructure. Panelists will share strategies for integrating tradition into building codes, navigating jurisdictional challenges, and planning resilient communities for the future.

10:00 AM NETWORKING BREAK & WORD FROM OUR STATE REPRESENTATIVE

10:15 AM PANEL: TECHNICAL & ADVOCACY – OVERCOMING COMPLIANCE CHALLENGES WITH TRIBAL SOLUTIONS

Moderator: Jeff Ackley, Enterprise Financial
Panelists: Melvin Wheeler, Nez Perce TERO; Felix McGowan, AMERIND Insurance; Jason Clark, Colville Indian Housing Authority; Michelangelo Bustamante, Native American Bank

This panel unites experts and advocates to explore how Tribal Nations can navigate compliance, advance building codes, and create community-focused solutions. Participants will gain practical strategies for regulatory challenges, workforce development, and projects that balance safety with Tribal priorities.

11:00 AM WORD FROM RUDY SOTO, NATIONAL AMERICAN INDIAN HOUSING COUNCIL

12:00 PM LUNCH & KEYNOTE: DAVID JACKSON, NATIVE AMERICAN CODES COUNCIL

David Jackson, Founder of the Native American Codes Council and Gila River Indian Community member, delivers a keynote on how building codes support Tribal sovereignty, strengthen infrastructure, and foster resilient communities. Followed by remarks from Tonya Plummer, Office of Loan Guarantee, HUD Office of Native American Programs.

1:00 PM PANEL: CODES, CAREERS, COMMUNITY: STRENGTHENING NATIVE HOMEOWNERSHIP THROUGH TRAINING

Panelists: Tawney Brunch, Lakota Funds; Ellen White Thunder, Lakota Funds; Shayna Ferguson, Lakota Federal Credit Union

This session explores how building codes and workforce development support stronger Native homeownership. Panelists will share training programs, certification models, and outcomes

from the Good Jobs Challenge, highlighting strategies to create career pathways and address workforce needs. Attendees will gain practical ideas for internships, training, and expanding housing opportunities in their communities.

2:15 PM SESSION: NATIVE AMERICAN BUILDING CODES

This workshop, facilitated by David Jackson, will provide a deep dive into the development and implementation of building codes within Tribal Nations. Participants will gain practical skills in understanding digital plans and blueprint reading, with a focus on adapting these tools to meet Tribal needs. Designed for housing professionals, planners, and code officials, this session equips attendees with both technical knowledge and practical strategies to strengthen code adoption, enforcement, and long-term community resilience.

5:00 PM BUILDING CONNECTIONS: NETWORKING NIGHT

This evening social will feature yard games, food, wine and beer, and a complimentary beverage for summit registrants at Rivaura Estate Winery in Juliaetta, Idaho. Networking Night provides an informal space to build relationships, exchange ideas, and celebrate community. Hosted by Nimiipuu Fund, Nez Perce Tribal Housing Authority, and Enterprise Community Partners.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2025

Tribal Projects in Lapwai, Idaho Site Visits.

8:00 AM GRAB-N-GO BREAKFAST

8:30 AM SHUTTLES FOR FIELD TOUR DEPART

Or Transportation On Your Own

9:00 AM FIELD TOUR HANDS-ON LEARNING

Day two of the Summit takes participants into the community for hands-on learning and site-based exploration. After a grab-and-go breakfast and shuttle departure, attendees will tour key projects in Lapwai guided by Doug Marconi and David Jackson, who will walk through site schematics and demonstrate inspection techniques. Site visits include the Tiny Village Housing Project (NPTA), the Nimiipuu Health Assisted Living Facility (NMPH and NPT), and the Nez Perce Senior Day Center (NPT)—each representing Tribal innovation in housing, health, and elder care.

CLOSING REFLECTIONS

The afternoon session returns to the Clearwater River Casino for lunch and closing reflections. David Jackson will provide an in-depth review of digital plans and blueprint interpretation, followed by a group discussion and final Q&A. The event will close with a flag ceremony and drum by the Nez Perce Tribe Veterans, honoring tradition and community.



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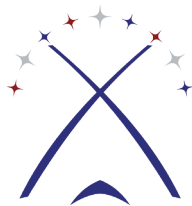
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