The Intergovernmental Affairs office (IAO) is a branch within the Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs (OCIA). The IAO establishes and maintains relationships with tribal, state, and local government officials, national intergovernmental associations, tribal associations, and their members in order to share information about U.S. Census Bureau programs and products.

The IAO encourages supportive policy development by intergovernmental and tribal associations, serving as a conduit by which these associations and governments communicate their concerns to the Census Bureau. The IAO regularly collaborates with the U.S. Department of Commerce’s Intergovernmental Affairs Office on cross-cutting issues. IAO projects and support of other directorate projects influence the achievement of Census Bureau goals and objectives.

**POLICY SUPPORT**

Policy support is any education or technical support activity the IAO undertakes in anticipation of an official, association, or governmental entity making a public statement or officially adopting a policy position regarding a Census Bureau program or policy--to ensure the necessary facts that inform the policy adoption process are available to the policymaking entity.

**STAKEHOLDER EDUCATION**

Ongoing efforts to keep intergovernmental associations and their members informed regarding Census Bureau programs and operations in order to encourage participation in Census Bureau programs, and to empower stakeholders.

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL ADVISOR**

Advice given to the director and executive staff regarding responses to state, local, and tribal officials, and their associations through formal and informal channels. This includes testimony drafting, talking point development (with the Public Information Office), briefing and hearing preparation, and other similar functions.

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**INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND TRIBAL LIAISON**

The intergovernmental and tribal liaison works to achieve a concise, mutual, and positive understanding between the Census Bureau and intergovernmental associations and their members regarding the director’s intent in relation to Census Bureau programs and policies of interest to intergovernmental stakeholders.
Governor’s Liaison Network
A program comprised of gubernatorial appointees from each state and territory. IAO staff work to establish state partnerships through this network on behalf of the Census Bureau and its programs.

Program Areas Support
IAO provides outreach and planning support on behalf of program areas. This involves creating and maintaining relationships with state and local governments and state data organizations to enhance efficiency.

Big 7 Associations
Concentrated liaison activity with key association members including tribal and intergovernmental staff and selected elected officials at Big 7 organization events and conference calls where needed. These efforts are focused on preparing associations for participation in 2020 Census partnership activities.

Tribal Affairs
Closely working with American Indian and Alaska Native (AIAN) tribal nations on a government-to-government basis to address issues concerning tribal self-government. IAO serves as the principal liaison office for tribal affairs and is the principal advisor to the Director and executive staff on tribal issues and concerns

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