

Message from the Acting Commissioner and Tribal Consultation Official



It is my honor to continue in service as your tribal liaison, bridging Social Security to sovereign tribal nations. As Social Security's Acting Commissioner and Tribal Consultation Official, I am dedicated to leveraging agency resources to serve tribal communities and to strengthening our government-to-government relationships.

To better serve you, we seek to actively improve access to our services. We developed the American Indians and Alaska Natives website to provide you with a wealth of information about all of Social Security's programs, online services, and publish our annual progress report on Tribal Consultation and Coordination outreach.

I encourage you to visit the website at www.ssa.gov/people/aian/. In addition to many great resources, you will find the Tribal Benefits Coordinator Guide. This guide includes policy updates and helpful information unique to Native Americans. It is my hope that this year's guide will provide tribal benefit coordinators with an up-to-date picture of how Social Security serves Indian Country communities.

In August 2017, we appointed Renee Ferguson as the American Indian and Alaska Native Executive Champion to support my commitment to service delivery and outreach initiatives. Under Renee's leadership, we will reinforce the need for building relationships in Native American communities and take a more direct approach to improving cultural awareness across Social Security.

Thank you for your continued support as we continue, together, stepping in the right direction.

Nancy A. Berryhill

Acting Commissioner of Social Security

Message from the American Indian and Alaska Native Executive Champion



I am happy to join the Social Security team to assist the agency with meeting the evolving needs of tribal communities. This year's Tribal Benefits Coordinator Guide is one way of showing Social Security's commitment to improving access to Social Security programs and building meaningful relationships in Indian Country.

I am dedicated to providing accurate information to tribal communities by dedicating resources to ensure timely communication on tribal issues. I am committed to strengthening the voice of tribal leaders by enhancing outreach and cultural awareness opportunities throughout Indian Country.

I hope the SSA AIAN Website and the Tribal Communication Guide will be resources that you use often. If you have suggestions for improvement or questions concerning the website or the guide, I encourage you to reach out to your local contacts or contact us through our dedicated mailbox at:

SSA.Tribal.Communications@ssa.gov.

I look forward to collaborating with you and thank you for your support.

Renee Ferguson

AIAN Executive Champion