



Bureau of Trust Funds Administration

Mission

The mission of the Bureau of Trust Funds Administration (BTFA) is to manage the Department of the Interior's (DOI's) trust beneficiaries' financial assets. BTFA provides fiduciary guidance, management, and leadership for Tribal trust and Individual Indian Money (IIM) accounts.

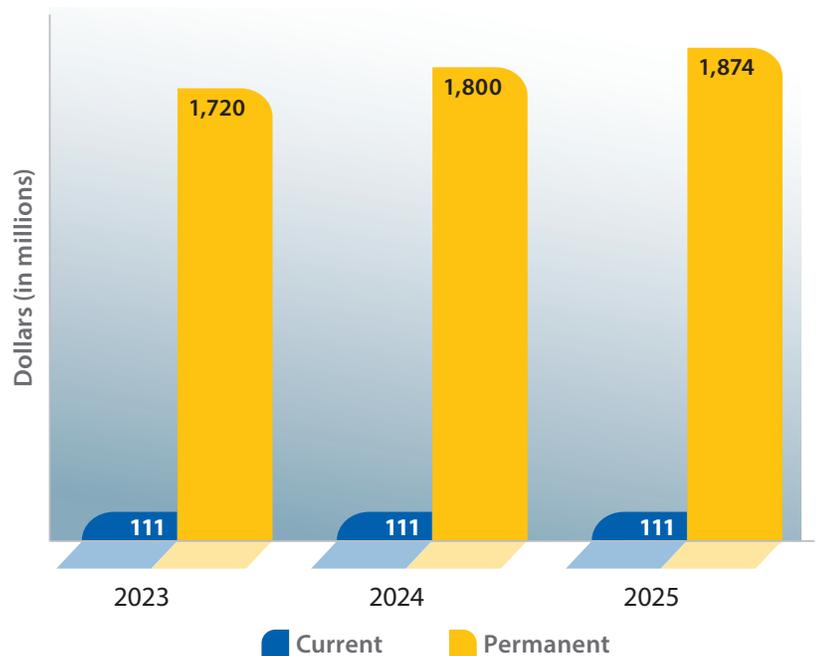
Budget Overview

The 2025 budget totals \$111.3 million in current appropriations, \$5,000 above the 2024 continuing resolution (CR) amount, to support the execution of the Federal trust responsibilities to American Indian and Alaska Native Tribes, individuals, and communities. BTFA estimates staffing will total 444 full-time equivalents (FTEs) in 2025. The 2025 budget promotes investments in programs to ensure the Department is meeting its financial management trust obligations, with targeted programmatic increases to ensure effective operations and improve beneficiary services. In addition, the 2025 budget proposes to transfer \$7.1 million for the Office of Hearings and Appeals to the Bureau of Indian Affairs to better facilitate probate functions.

Program Overview

BTFA was established within the Office of the Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs (AS-IA) in 2020 to house the ongoing financial trust management functions of the Office of the Special Trustee for American Indians. The 2025 budget continues to propose BTFA as

BTFA Funding



a stand-alone bureau with critical independent functions for effective management of Indian assets and service to Indian Country. In 2021, the Department held listening sessions on the future of BTFA, and the input received showed Tribes do not want BTFA or its functions eliminated, and some Tribes would like to have expanded services from BTFA. The Department looks forward to working with Congress on ensuring BTFA is fully recognized as a bureau to allow the organization to focus on its mission of serving Indian Country.

The bureau is responsible for the financial management of approximately \$8.8 billion of Indian trust funds held in about 4,200 Tribal accounts (approximately \$7.2 billion) and about 411,000 IIM Accounts (approximately \$1.5 billion). Trust funds include payments from judgment awards, settlements of claims, land-use agreements, royalties on natural resource use, other proceeds derived directly from trust resources, and financial investment income. Trust financial management functions include receipting, investing, disbursing, reconciling, and reporting of trust funds on behalf of individual Indians

BUREAU OF TRUST FUNDS ADMINISTRATION Facts



- BTFA will continue to meet Interior's core responsibilities for sound fiduciary trust management on behalf of individual Indians and Tribes.
- The Bureau provides services to American Indians and Alaska Natives in 574 federally recognized Tribes in the 48 contiguous States and Alaska.
- BTFA will continue to manage approximately \$8.8 billion of Indian trust funds held in about 4,200 Tribal accounts and about 411,000 Individual Indian Money accounts.
- BTFA processes more than 350,000 account maintenance transactions and 2,500 probate orders (monetary estate distributions) and distributions of funds to beneficiaries annually.

and Tribes. In addition, BTFA provides document production support for lawsuits and litigation related to Tribal and IIM trust accounts.

BTFA is responsible for planning and executing the historical accounting of Tribal trust accounts and IIM accounts. That work is accomplished by the Office of Trust Analysis and Research (OTAR), which also works to resolve the ownership of residual balances in Youpee Escheat accounts and Special Deposit Accounts and distribute account balances to Tribes, individual Indians, and non-trust entities.

OTAR provides litigation support resulting from Tribal lawsuits in coordination with the DOI Solicitor's Office and the Department of Justice. As of January 8, 2024, 24 pending cases were filed in various Federal courts—by Indian Tribes or individual Indians—that involve or could involve BTFA regarding the Federal Government's fiduciary trust duties.

The 2025 budget transfers the \$7.1 million in funding for the DOI Office of Hearings and Appeals (OHA) Probate Hearings Division from BTFA to the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA). The OHA Probate Hearings Division adjudicates Indian probate cases submitted from the BIA probate program on behalf of the Secretary, independent of BIA. This transfer will align OHA's Probate Hearings Division function with BIA's Probate Real Estate function, allowing DOI to more efficiently process probate cases to completion by improving coordination between BIA and OHA and by modifying new tools and research methods for case processing.

Federal Trust Programs

Executive Direction is funded at \$1.8 million, including a program increase of \$200,000 for BTFA to support the Deputy Chief Beneficiary Officer, who will lead BTFA's customer experience improvement efforts to continually increase its understanding of its beneficiaries, reduce administrative hurdles, enhance transparency, and create efficiencies to improve beneficiary service delivery and more directly meet the needs of the trust beneficiaries. The Executive Direction staff coordinate BTFA's role as a High-Impact Service Provider (HISP). BTFA was selected as a HISP by the Office of Management and Budget due to the scale and critical nature of BTFA's beneficiary services. As a HISP, BTFA continually measures its customer service to identify and implement actions for improvement.

The 2025 budget includes \$109.5 million for Trust and Program Operations.

Trust Operations comprises BTFA's primary beneficiary-facing services, including field operations, accounting operations, settlement support, trust records, and information resources functions. The budget provides \$85.9 million for Trust Operations, of which \$25.9 million is for Field operations. Field operations staff serve as the primary point of contact for trust beneficiaries—Tribes, individual Indians, and Alaska Natives—seeking information and services in conjunction with their trust assets. Fiduciary Trust Officers are the initial liaison for Tribal Governments and beneficiaries on questions the Tribes or beneficiaries may have about their trust assets managed by the Secretary. The staff provide technical assistance



BTFA provides estate planning tips to beneficiaries.

BTFA Photo.

to beneficiaries on a daily basis at local levels throughout Indian Country in regional, agency, and urban locations.

The budget provides \$18.6 million for Accounting, which is responsible for all fiduciary accounting activities, estate processing of monetary assets, liquidity investments, and reconciliations related to individual Indians, Alaska Natives, and Tribal trust funds under management by the Department. The accumulated balances in Tribal Trust are a result of claims and judgment awards, investment income, and revenues from approximately 56 million acres of trust lands. Revenues derive from subsurface mineral extractions (e.g., coal, oil, gas, and uranium), timber, grazing, and other surface leases. Accounting provides timely and accurate financial account information to trust beneficiaries, timely recording of oil and gas royalties in the trust accounting system, and accurate processing of financial information in trust beneficiary accounts.

Settlement Support, which funds OTAR, is funded at \$18.0 million, which provides litigation and settlement support for cases involving Indian trust assets or trust-related issues, addresses historical accounting and other issues pertaining to Tribal Trust and IIM accounts, determines and facilitates the distribution of residual balances in Special Deposit Accounts and Youpee Escheat accounts,

and addresses beneficiary account holder objections to BTFA Statements of Performance that are filed through the administrative appeals process established in 2023.

The budget includes \$8.8 million in Information Resources funding to develop, maintain, and operate the trust information technology (IT) enterprise architecture; provide day-to-day computer support to BTFA personnel nationwide; and develop and maintain applications in support of the BTFA mission. The \$39,000 program increase in IT enhancement funding will allow BTFA to meet continued emerging Federal requirements in addressing cybersecurity, artificial intelligence, data center consolidation, and mission system modernization.

Trust Records is funded at \$13.9 million in the 2025 budget. This program operates the American Indian Records Repository and provides records management training and services to BTFA, Tribes, BIA, the Bureau of Indian Education, and AS-IA. The budget includes funding for the digitization of trust records to continue ongoing work to meet Federal records retention requirements.

Trust Records also supports DOI's Federal Indian Boarding School Initiative (BSI) and its comprehensive review of Federal boarding

school policies. BTFA, through Trust Records and other BTFA offices, is supporting the BSI with investigation and retrieval of relevant records, including information from 1819 to 1969 related to DOI's oversight and implementation of the Indian boarding school program. Through the BSI, the Department seeks to work with Tribal Nations to begin the long healing process through transparency and accountability.

The 2025 budget requests \$684,000 to establish a Trust Operations Management function within Trust Operations. This amount will fund a Principal Deputy Bureau Director for Trust Operations and dedicated personnel to oversee day-to-day trust operations, perform planning, monitor performance, and coordinate activities, providing direction and targeting efficiency, cost savings, and cohesive trust services to beneficiaries.

Program Operations comprises BTFA's communication, policy, and training functions and its budget, finance, and administration entities. The budget requests \$23.6 million, a \$3.4 million program increase, for Program Operations. This amount includes \$2.4 million for the DOI Office of the Solicitor for litigation support. The budget

provides \$7.8 million for the Office of Strategic Oversight and Planning, which oversees and evaluates the Indian fiduciary trust programs and manages a comprehensive system of internal controls for BTFA operations and the BTFA Strategic Planning and Project Management Office. A \$911,000 program increase will support the annual financial audit.

Within Program Operations, the BTFA budget includes \$614,000 to establish an Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) office. Those services have been provided to BTFA through the Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs; however, establishing an office within the bureau will allow BTFA to offer the full suite of EEO services to its employees and be in compliance with the Elijah E. Cummings Federal Employee Antidiscrimination Act of 2020.

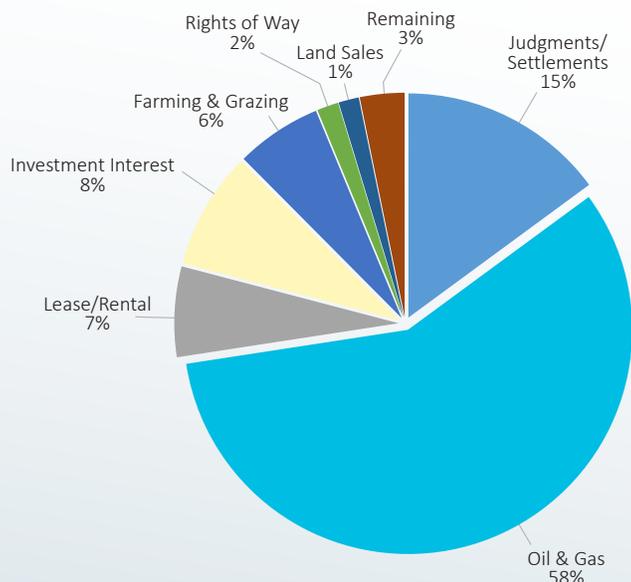
Fixed Costs

Fixed costs are fully funded. The request also includes \$3.3 million for baseline capacity, which reflects the incremental amount needed to cover the fixed costs associated with mission operations in 2024. This request in combination with the 2025 fixed costs will allow BTFA to meet must-pay requirements without affecting program activities.

Accounting & Financial Management

FY 2023 Revenue Sources

- Judgments/Settlements: \$298,930,164
- Oil & Gas: \$1,156,171,838
- Lease/Rental: \$130,611,077
- Investment Interest: \$169,865,790
- Farming & Grazing: \$124,360,098
- Rights of Way: \$31,168,247
- Land Sales: \$29,435,002
- Forestry: \$43,294,538
- Damages/Fines: \$25,194,479
- Other: \$1,615,438.07
- Other Minerals: \$10,952,557
- Returned Payments: \$26,719,513



SUMMARY OF BUREAU APPROPRIATIONS

(dollar amounts in thousands)

Comparison of 2025 Request with 2024 CR

	2024 CR		2025 Request		Change	
	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount
Current						
Federal Trust Programs	436	111,272	441	111,277	+5	+5
Subtotal, Current	436	111,272	441	111,277	+5	+5
Permanent						
Tribal Special Fund	0	422,000	0	440,000	0	+18,000
Tribal Trust Fund	0	1,378,000	0	1,434,000	0	+56,000
Subtotal, Permanent	0	1,800,000	0	1,874,000	0	+74,000
Allocation and Reimbursable						
Reimbursable	3	0	3	0	0	0
Subtotal, Allocation and Reimbursable	3	0	3	0	0	0
TOTAL, BUREAU OF TRUST FUNDS ADMINISTRATION	439	1,911,272	444	1,985,277	+5	+74,005

HIGHLIGHTS OF BUDGET CHANGES

By Appropriation Activity/Subactivity

APPROPRIATION: Federal Trust Programs

	2023 Actual	2024 CR	2025 Request	Change
Executive Direction	1,520	1,520	1,765	+245
Trust and Program Operations	109,752	109,752	109,512	-240
TOTAL APPROPRIATION	111,272	111,272	111,277	+5

