



BUREAU OF TRUST FUNDS ADMINISTRATION

Mission

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

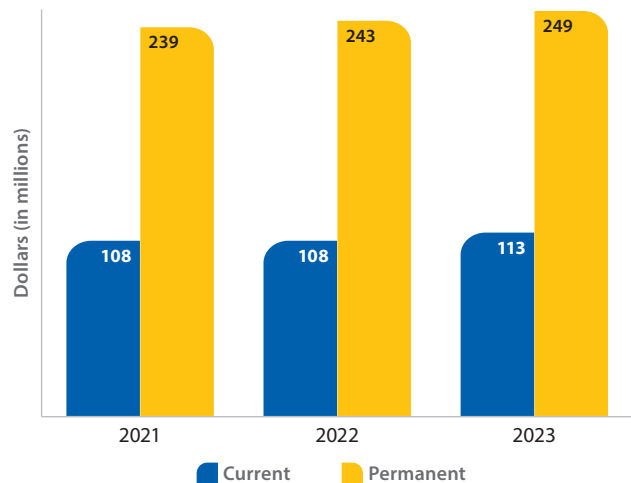
Budget Overview

The 2023 budget includes \$112.7 million in current appropriations to support the execution of the Federal trust responsibilities to American Indian Tribes, individuals, and communities. BTFA estimates staffing will total 425 full-time equivalents (FTEs) in 2023.

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 (OST) in anticipation of the sunset of OST. BTFA held consultations in early November 2021 to gather Tribal input on the future of BTFA and is currently reviewing the verbal and written input from those consultations. For the remainder of 2022 and in 2023, BTFA will continue to actively seek perspectives from Indian Country, including through forums such as the Tribal Interior Budget Council, on how BTFA can be leveraged to strengthen fiduciary trust asset management and work with Congress to chart a path forward for BTFA and the eventual sunset of OST, in accordance with the American Indian Trust Fund Management Reform Act of 1994. BTFA also is proposing a budget restructuring in the 2023 budget.

BTFA Funding



BTFA is responsible for the financial management of approximately \$6.16 billion of Indian trust funds held in about 3,900 Tribal accounts and about 404,000 IIM Accounts. 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, and reporting of trust funds on behalf of individual Indians 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),

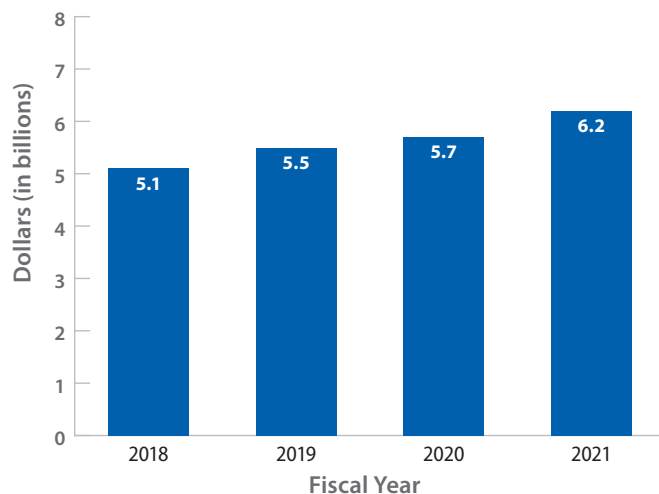
BUREAU OF TRUST FUNDS ADMINISTRATION Facts



- The Bureau of Trust Funds Administration (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 \$6.16 billion of Indian trust funds held in about 3,900 Tribal accounts and about 404,000 Individual Indian Money accounts.
- BTFA processes more than 350,000 account maintenance transactions and 4,500 probate orders and distributions of funds to beneficiaries annually.

which also works to resolve the ownership of residual balances in Youpee Escheat accounts and special deposit accounts and to distribute account balances to Tribes, individual Indians, and non-trust entities.

BTFA Managed Trust Fund Balances



OTAR provides litigation support resulting from Tribal lawsuits in coordination with the Department of Justice. As of March 2022, 28 Tribal trust cases were pending in various Federal courts by Indian Tribes regarding the Federal Government’s fiduciary trust duties.

The Land Buy-Back Program for Tribal Nations (LBBP) is responsible for the expenditure of the \$1.9 billion Trust Land Consolidation Fund authorized by the settlement agreement in *Cobell*

v. *Salazar*, confirmed by the Claims Resolution Act of 2010. The program, which was authorized for 10 years, ends in November 2022. Recognizing the importance of maintaining the momentum of the LBBP effort, the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) budget proposes to reestablish a modified Indian Land Consolidation program in 2023 and includes \$80.0 million for this program to further reduce land ownership fractionation in Indian Country and enhance the ability of Tribal governments to plan for and adapt to climate change.

Federal Trust Programs

The 2023 budget includes \$111.2 million for Trust and Program Operations, of which \$24.1 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. Through new online services, the Field Operations program will promote equitable access for Indian trust beneficiaries by ensuring that BTFA services are accessible in historically underserved communities.

The budget provides \$17.6 million for Accounting Operations, which conducts all fiduciary accounting activities—including receipting, disbursing, and reconciling—related to the trust funds managed by the Department. Settlement Support, which funds OTAR, is funded at \$17.9 million. This funding level will allow OTAR to manage the expected workload for historical accounting for Tribal trust and IIM accounts.

The request includes \$8.4 million for Information Resources funding to develop, maintain, and operate the trust information technology enterprise architecture; provide day-to-day computer support to BTFA personnel nationwide; and develop and maintain applications in support of the BTFA mission. These functions directly support BTFA's unique Information Resources needs and do not duplicate those elsewhere in the Department, including BIA.

The budget provides \$13.3 million for Trust Records. 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. Included in the request is funding for the digitization of trust records to continue ongoing work to meet new Federal records retention requirements and to modernize records operations.

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 through 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 2023 budget requests \$510,000 to establish a Trust Operations Management function



The Trust Beneficiary Call Center located in Albuquerque, NM.

BTFA Photo.

within Trust Operations. This amount will fund a Principal Deputy Bureau Director for Trust Operations and dedicated personnel to coordinate efforts among the various programs under Trust Operations. The dedicated resource will allow for enhanced continuity in program delivery to Tribes and BTFA program beneficiaries.

The budget requests \$22.9 million for Business Management, which includes BTFA's communication, policy, and training functions and its budget, finance, and administration entities. This amount includes \$9.7 million for DOI's Office of Hearings and Appeals and the Office of the Solicitor for litigation support. The budget provides \$6.5 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. Those functions are integral to BTFA accomplishing its unique mission and do not duplicate functions elsewhere in the Department.

Fixed Costs

Fixed costs of \$1.7 million are fully funded.

SUMMARY OF BUREAU APPROPRIATIONS

(dollar amounts in thousands)

Comparison of 2023 Request with 2022 CR

	2022 CR		2023 Request		Change	
	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount
Current						
Federal Trust Programs	417	108,399	422	112,675	+5	+4,276
Subtotal, Current	417	108,399	422	112,675	+5	+4,276
Permanent						
Tribal Special Fund	0	89,000	0	91,000	0	+2,000
Tribal Trust Fund	0	154,000	0	158,000	0	+4,000
Trust Land Consolidation Fund	10	0	0	0	-10	0
Subtotal, Permanent	10	243,000	0	249,000	-10	+6,000
Reimbursable	3	0	3	0	0	0
TOTAL, BUREAU OF TRUST FUNDS ADMINISTRATION	430	351,399	425	361,675	-5	+10,276

HIGHLIGHTS OF BUDGET CHANGES

By Appropriation Activity/Subactivity

APPROPRIATION: Federal Trust Programs

	2021 Actual	2022 CR	2023 Request	Change
Executive Direction	1,494	1,494	1,520	+26
Trust and Program Operations	106,905	106,905	111,155	+4,250
TOTAL APPROPRIATION	108,399	108,399	112,675	+4,276