



Protecting and Preserving Generations Through Building Safety and Sustainability

Natural hazards such as wildfires, extreme heat and cold, hurricanes and tornadoes threaten the safety of people living on tribal lands. Using modern building codes can help protect lives, property, buildings and the land itself. The [National Institute of Building Sciences](#) found that hazard mitigation saves between \$2 and \$13 for every \$1 invested with building codes being the most cost-effective mitigation strategy. These benefits include less injuries and deaths, reduced property damage, and disaster recovery costs and they accrue to both the individual and the community.

Energy costs are also becoming an increasing expense for many households. Incorporating energy efficiency features into homes can reduce monthly energy bills while reducing air quality issues and preserving natural resources. Energy efficiency also serves as a protection against hazards, reducing deaths, injuries and community sheltering needs.

Construction on tribal lands is not required to meet any safety, resilience or sustainability requirements unless adoption and effective enforcement of building codes takes place. This leaves tribal members

vulnerable to natural hazards and high energy costs. It could also impact the durability of housing, leading to challenges in the long-term availability of housing. The implementation of building codes has not been shown to appreciably increase the cost of housing.

The International Codes® (I-Codes®) are set of 15 model codes developed through a consensus-based process that captures best practices to produce safe, sustainable, and resilient buildings. They can be adapted to meet the specific needs of communities that adopt them. The Code Council also provides services to support communities in effective enforcement including training, certifications, plan review services, and administrative software tools.

Funding is available from the U.S. government to support the adoption and administration of building and energy codes including dedicated tribal codes funding under the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) at the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and energy code related funding from the Department of Energy's Resilient and Efficient Codes Initiative (RECI) program. The Code Council can help tribes secure this funding. Visit iccsafe.org/federalgrants to learn more.