



Native American Contractors Association

*Protecting the rights of Indigenous Peoples to create economic development through government contracting*

April 8, 2026

The Honorable Kelly Loeffler  
Administrator  
U.S. Small Business Administration  
409 3rd Street SW  
Washington, DC 20416

Dear Administrator Loeffler,

On behalf of the undersigned Native-owned small businesses participating in the U.S. Small Business Administration's (SBA) 8(a) Business Development Program, we respectfully submit this letter to share our concerns regarding the pace and status of recent application reviews and determinations within the program.

We understand that there have been few, if any, new 8(a) participant approvals in recent months, with approvals appearing to have stopped since August of 2025. We also note a reduction in total approvals for Native-owned firms during 2025. In addition, some applicants have experienced extended review periods— in certain cases exceeding one year—despite the statutory goal of issuing determinations within 90 days of receiving a complete application.<sup>1</sup> We are concerned that these conditions may be creating challenges for prospective participants, particularly for Native-owned firms, which serve broader Tribal and Native communities and carry significant social and economic responsibilities.

The 8(a) Business Development Program remains a vital pathway for Native-owned small businesses to access federal contracting opportunities, strengthen organizational capacity, and contribute to the national economy. For many Native communities, federal contracting represents a significant source of economic activity, with resulting revenues supporting essential services such as healthcare, education, infrastructure, and public safety. Participation in the program plays an important role in fostering economic stability and long-term growth within these communities.

We note that extended delays in application determinations may create uncertainty for applicants and the communities they serve. Many businesses invest considerable time and resources in preparing for participation, including establishing compliant business structures, developing leadership teams, and aligning operations with program requirements. Prolonged timelines can affect planning, workforce development, and investment decisions made in reliance on the program's established framework. In

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<sup>1</sup> 15 U.S.C. § 637(a)(9)(B)

turn, these challenges may have broader implications for community stability and economic development.

We respectfully request that the Small Business Administration consider the following actions:

1. Resuming the timely review and determination of all pending 8(a) applications in accordance with applicable statutory timelines; and
2. Provide clear and transparent communication to pending applicants, including an anticipated timeline for when application determinations may be issued.

We appreciate the SBA's continued commitment to supporting small businesses and fostering economic opportunity across the country. Given the importance of the 8(a) Program to Native communities and other underserved businesses, we urge timely attention to these concerns and welcome continued engagement with the Agency to support effective and consistent program implementation.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,