



UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO CLEAN WATER
FOR TRIBAL COMMUNITIES

NAVAJO NATION BAR ASSOCIATION
2021 ANNUAL MEETING

BIDTAH N. BECKER, NTUA
CRYSTAL TULLY-CORDOVA, PHD, NN DWR - WMB



Water and Tribes Initiative and The Pandemic

- AI/ANs are at least 3.5 times more likely than white persons to contract COVID-19
- Research shows correlation between COVID-19 incidence and lack of indoor plumbing
- AI/AN households are 19X more likely than white households to lack indoor plumbing
- Race is the strongest predictor of water and sanitation access, with AI/AN more likely than any other group to face water access issues.

www.tribalcleanwater.org



Artist Chad Yellowjohn

- Partners
- Resources
- Legislation
- Proposed Solutions

Navajo Nation

- Estimated that 30 – 40% of homes on Navajo Nation lack piped water
- IHS estimates are lower
- Why?
 - Different definitions of home
 - Must live in home 24/7

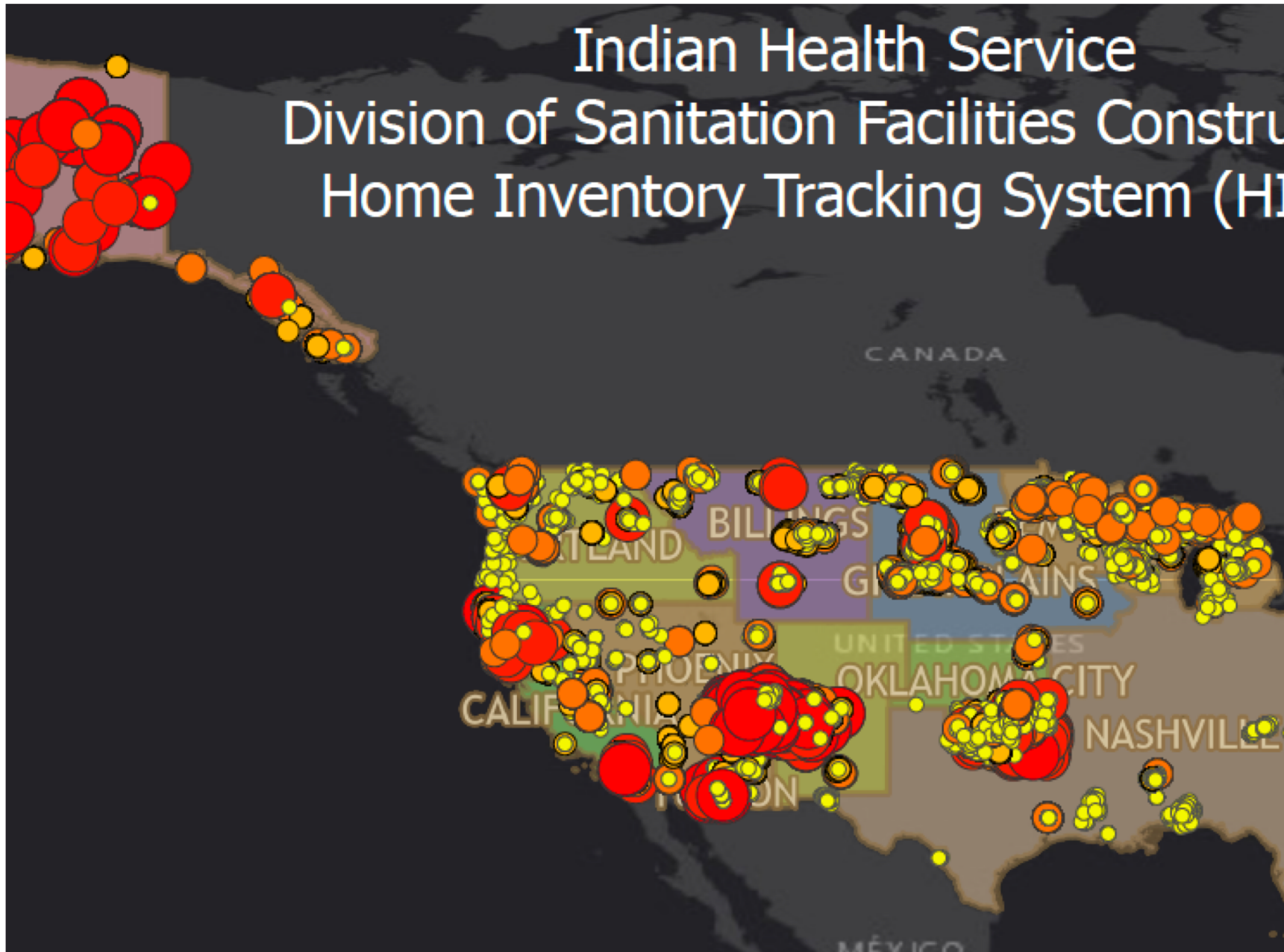




QUALITY:

Inadequate
water quality
is pervasive
in Indian
country

Indian Health Service Division of Sanitation Facilities Construction Home Inventory Tracking System (HITS)



INFRASTRUCTURE:

Existing water infrastructure is deteriorating or inadequate.



nawainc.org

O&M:

**Operation
and
maintenance
of water
systems is a
critical
component of
ensuring long-
term water
security**

Solving the Problem

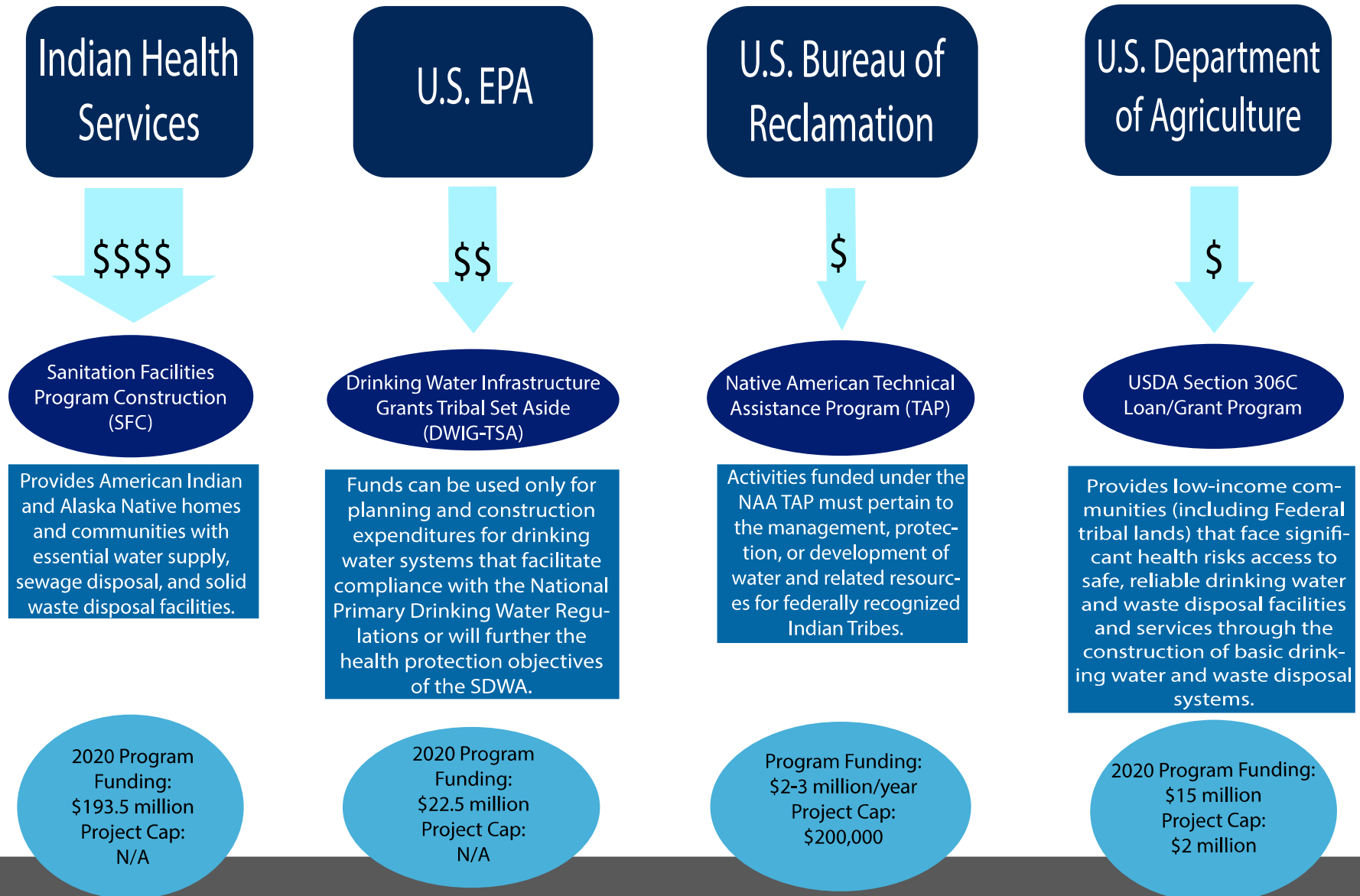
Directive to correcting this wrong

Funding at the level of unmet need

Whole of government approach



PRIMARY FEDERAL TRIBAL DRINKING WATER PROGRAMS



Introduced: Tribal Access to Clean Water Act of 2021 (S. 2369)

- **IHS**

- Approx \$3.41 Billion for the Sanitation Facilities Construction Program
- \$150 million for Technical Assistance
- \$500 million for O&M costs

- **USDA RD**

- \$500 million for 306C and D Grants
- Removed Contribution and “No Funding Elsewhere” Requirements

- **Reclamation**

- Established a competitive grant program for Indian Tribes to provide for pre-project costs

- **EPA**

- Increased TSA to \$200 million (\$100 million each under CWA and SDWA)
- \$5 million in Technical Assistance

Funding

Passed: Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (H.R. 3684) AKA Senate Bipartisan Infrastructure Plan

- **IHS** - \$3.5 Billion for Sanitation Facilities Construction Program
- **EPA** - Increases appropriations for SRF (\$2.4 - \$3.25 Billion)
- **Reclamation** - \$1 Billion for legacy rural water supply projects

Funding

- A coordinated agency approach to enhancing Tribal access to clean drinking water
- Capitalize on different agencies' strengths where their missions overlap
- Options to Implement "whole of government"
 - Interagency Task Force/Working Group
 - Cross-Agency Priority (CAP) Goal
 - Interagency MOU
 - Agency Regulations/Policy

Whole of
Government