

Osage Data Sharing Agreement-Signing Ceremony

Director's remarks as prepared for delivery

September 24, 2024

- Good morning, everyone.
- It's a great honor to be with you today as we celebrate this historic agreement between the Osage Nation and the U.S. Census Bureau.
- With this agreement, we will be able to better serve the Osage Nation by improving the quality of data that we can provide to the Osage people.
- We very much appreciate being able to access the Osage Nation's aggregated population counts on such topics as education, military service, household type, employment, health, housing, and income.
- Our statistical agency is always striving to improve our programs to better represent and serve you, as well as all of our country's diverse communities.
- We will of course continue protecting the confidentiality of tribal members' responses as we are required to do under Title 13.
- This agreement marks an important milestone—a nation-to-nation agreement designed to better to serve tribes and the people of Indian Country.
- The resulting improved statistical data will further enable the Osage Nation in its public health planning, in its economic development, its community needs assessments, and many other important purposes.
- As we have stated many times these past few years, our work together is of the highest priority.
- Our efforts to build nation-to-nation relationships with Tribal Nations have spanned decades.
- And while we are proud of the progress we have made over the years, today's agreement represents a significant milestone of collaboration and trust.
- It stands out in its importance to us, and hopefully to all Tribal Nations.
- We remain deeply committed to strengthening the valuable partnerships we have built with Tribal Nations over the years.
- We believe the achievements of this day will show the way that we can better serve the people of Indian Country.
- We wish to especially thank Susan Bayro, cabinet secretary of Administration of the Osage Nation, and Charles Tippeconnic, tribal relations specialist at the Census Bureau, for their tireless work in bringing this agreement to fruition.
- And I would like to acknowledge and sincerely thank the Osage Nation Congress for authorizing our agreement.
- We hope this will be the first of other collaborations that allow us to better serve the Osage Nation in the years ahead and strengthen their nation's data.
- Thank you.

