



Frequently asked questions

Where does income for IIM accounts come from?

Most IIM accounts receive income from the use or sale of a trust asset, such as agricultural or grazing leases, coal production, timber harvesting, and oil and gas leases. Funds can also come from a per capita payment, and from income earned on deposited funds. Some accounts receive proceeds from an estate account following a probate.

When will I get my money?

This varies depending on the kind of income you receive. In general, for an unrestricted account, when an account reaches a balance of \$15 the money is automatically disbursed to the beneficiary. When oil and gas royalty payments exceed \$5 in a given cycle, the funds will be disbursed to the beneficiary. If you are using Direct Deposit there is no minimum limit, and money is automatically deposited to your account whenever it is received.

How is the value of a trust asset determined?

The Office of Appraisal Services provides impartial market value estimates for a variety of property interests on land owned in trust or restricted status by individual Indians, Alaska Natives, and Indian tribes. These valuations assist beneficiaries in receiving fair and just compensation for the use of the land.

Where can I get more information?

For information on your account contact an OST Fiduciary Trust Officer, or call the Trust Beneficiary Call Center, toll-free, (888) 678-6836.

Direct Deposit: Getting your funds more efficiently

You can choose to receive your funds through electronic transfer to your bank or financial institution. Postings are automatic, and you don't have to wait for a check in the mail. As well, money is deposited to your account whenever it is received. To sign up for OST's Direct Deposit contact the Trust Beneficiary Call Center, toll-free, (888) 678-6836. There is no charge to participate.

U.S. Department of the Interior



Office of the Special Trustee
for American Indians



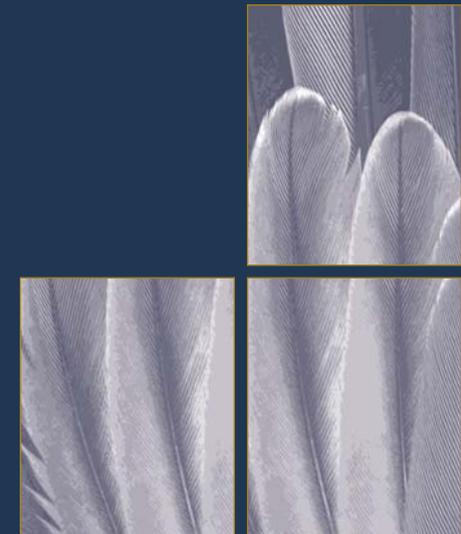
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Office of the Special Trustee
for American Indians
**Individual Indian Money
Account Information**





Indian Trust account background

Beginning in the late 1800s, Indian land and resource assets were allotted to individual Indians. Funds earned from the use of these trust assets were distributed to the individual beneficiaries of the land.

In 1994, the American Indian Trust Fund Management Reform Act established the Office of the Special Trustee for American Indians (OST) to improve the management and accountability of Indian trust funds held by the Department of the Interior. One of OST's responsibilities is to manage financial trust assets for both Indian tribes and Individual Indian Money (IIM) account holders.

Today, the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) approves the management of trust property that generates income, as well as non-income producing property. OST manages the income that is generated from the use of trust assets, and ensures that the funds are disbursed or invested and held in accounts for IIM beneficiaries.

IIM accounts are established for individual trust beneficiaries. These accounts can be created for a number of different reasons. Some examples include:

- You are the original allottee of a parcel of land.
- You are an heir to the original allottee of a parcel of Indian trust land and have inherited the land through probate.
- You received a trust asset through a gift deed.
- You received a per capita trust payment from the tribe, a tribal settlement, or a judgment award.

Account management

OST manages IIM accounts and processes deposits and disbursements of trust funds to account holders. OST also maintains account information.



Explaining IIM accounts

Account statements

Account statements are generally mailed to Indian trust beneficiaries on a quarterly basis. These statements include account activity for the past quarter and contain information such as account balance at the beginning of the quarter, all transactions during the quarter including receipts and disbursements, and the balance at the end of the quarter.

If you receive income from an oil or gas asset, you will also receive an explanation of payment that includes the payor's name and lease number, sales information, unit values, royalty information, and adjustments.

Your account number

Your personal IIM account number is made up of three sections, and will look something like "123 A 1234567." The first three digits represent a tribal code, land area code or Alaska Regional Corporation code. The one-letter character is an "alpha" or "class" code, which identifies the type of account you have. For example:

- A = Account holder is the original allottee of the land.
- U = Account holder is not the original allottee but owns land interests, or receives a per capita payment.
- N = An Indian who is not enrolled in a federally-recognized tribe (lineal descendant).
- L = Life estate, dower or curtesy, or homestead interest for an Indian.
- B = Life estate, dower, or curtesy, or homestead interest for a non-Indian.
- J = Judgment per capita payment, generally used for minors and adults in need of assistance or under legal disability.
- P = Tribal per capita payment generally used for minors or adults in need of assistance or under legal disability.
- X = Non Indian fee interest owner.

The group of numbers following the alpha code is your personal account number. In some cases this is your tribal enrollment number. Although you may have more than one type of account, your personal account number will always remain the same. Only the "alpha" code should be different.



IIM account classifications

Unrestricted:

Most adults have unrestricted accounts. In general, funds in unrestricted accounts are disbursed to the account holder whenever the account balance reaches \$15 (unless you request otherwise or have Direct Deposit). Funds are invested in government securities, and earn income until they are disbursed. At any time, an account holder may request the balance of his or her account be disbursed, regardless of the balance in the account.

Restricted (including supervised):

Accounts can be restricted for a variety of reasons. An account can be restricted because a claim is pending against the account, such as for child support, or if we do not have a current address on file (if the beneficiary is on the Whereabouts Unknown list). Funds in restricted accounts are invested and earn income.

Restricted accounts include *supervised accounts*—generally held for minors and for those who are unable to care for their own financial affairs. Funds in supervised accounts are invested and earn income. The funds are disbursed for use in accordance with a BIA-approved disbursement plan. If the account holder is a minor, his or her account is supervised until the account holder reaches 18 years of age, or the age of majority determined by his or her tribe. After that age, if the account holder meets statutory and tribal requirements, funds can be disbursed.

Estate:

Estate accounts are established when OST receives notice that an account holder is deceased. Estate accounts remain open, earning income, until the probate process is completed and assets are distributed or disbursed to the account holder's heirs.