

Dream Catcher

April 2001

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Bristol Bay Alliance Creates Training, Jobs and New Voc-ed Center

The Southwest Alaska Vocational Education Center will be offering vocational training in the construction trades even before its own building is complete.

Thanks to a creative alliance between the Bristol Bay Housing Authority (BBHA) and the Alaska Works

Alaska housing authority and union representatives.

The agreement will put area residents to work and on a fast track to apprenticeship programs in carpentry, plumbing and pipefitting, painting, and other trades needed to renovate the building.

Apprentices will earn while they learn, sampling the work of various crafts and earning from 50 to 90 percent, depending on experience, of the journeyman wage for a particular trade. Completing an apprenticeship earns a worker journeyman status, with full union health and retirement benefits and hourly wages ranging from \$23 to more than \$30 an hour.

Converting the "mothballed" Air Force office and dormitory complex will begin this spring, with the first formal classes scheduled for January 2002.

The project is funded by grants from HUD's Office of Native American Programs and the U.S. Economic Development Administration.

The Vocational Education Center will serve rural residents of southwest Alaska where educational opportunities are limited and seasonal unemployment exceeds 60 percent.

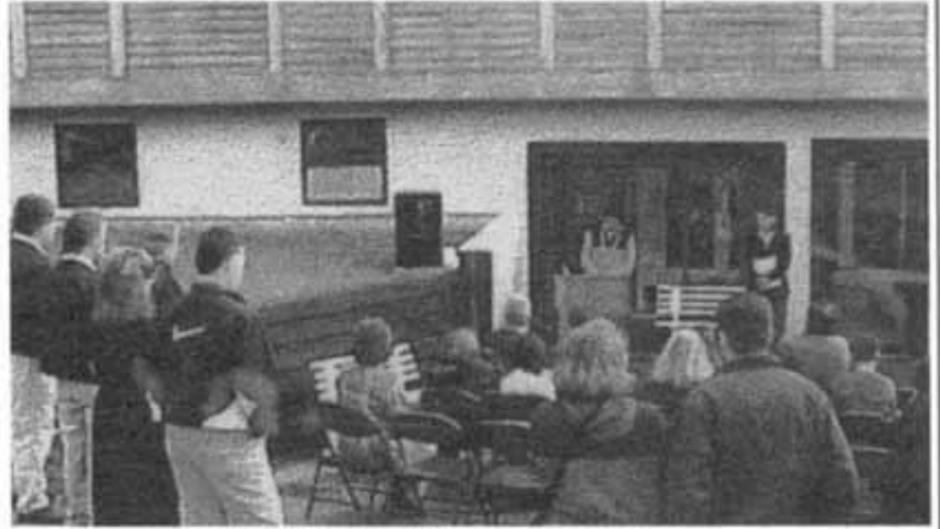


Partnership, southwest Alaska village residents will work as apprentice tradesmen and women to renovate a decommissioned Air Force building.

The renovated building will house the Vocational Education Center in King Salmon, Alaska.

BBHA Commissioner Boris Kosbruk of Perryville joined representatives of various Alaska trade unions in signing an agreement on January 31, believed to be the first of its kind between an

Neighborhood Networks Computer Center Opens at Akwesasne



The St. Regis Mohawk Tribal Council and the Akwesasne Housing Authority celebrated the grand opening of the Akwesasne Neighborhood Networks Center on October 14, 2000. The Center, located in the Housing Authority's complex, boasts a computer classroom with individual work stations that will bring computer training and the Internet to the community.

"Neighborhood Networks" is a nationwide community-based initiative launched by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development in 1995. Its goal is to provide residents of HUD-assisted properties with programs, activities, and training that promote economic self-sufficiency.

The Akwesasne Neighborhood Networks Computer Learning Center is the first of its kind in Indian Country. It will offer opportunities for the communi-



ty to discover the computer world, leading to more self-reliant families and stimulating economic development. Life-long learning will be encouraged through the Center's many planned activities. For example, a partnership agreement is being worked out now with the State University of New York to provide computer instruction free of charge.

An Advisory Committee, with members from the local community, will guide the development of programs at the Center. Support for the Center has come from many partners in the private and public

sector. HUD's Native eDGE program arranged for the donation of approximately \$10,000 worth of computers and other equipment from Anderson Consulting. GM Powertrain/United Auto Workers Local 465 donated \$6,000. Other resources to benefit the Center have come from the Alcoa Foundation, HSBC Bank, Key Bank of Northern New York, Novosel Associates, Northnet Internet Service, Inc., and the Akwesasne Library and Cultural Center.

Chief Hilda Smoke said at the opening, "The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal Council would like to commend the Akwesasne Housing Authority's Director Cecelia Cook and Tribal Human Services Director Rita LaFrance for their collaborative effort in making this project a reality so quickly." The administrator for HUD's regional Office of Native American Programs in Chicago, Kevin Fitzgibbons, commented, "You're going to see a positive impact on individuals and long-term economic benefits for the Tribe and the people."



Social Security Administration:

Launching of "The Work Site"

High-Tech Website for Persons with Disabilities

The Social Security Administration has launched "The Work Site," a new website designed to help persons with disabilities successfully enter the workforce. At www.ssa.gov/work, there is a wealth of information—everything from training programs for people with disabilities to tax incentives for employers who hire them.

The Work Site is fully accessible to people with disabilities. This is significant because fewer than five percent of all Internet sites are accessible to people who are visually or hearing impaired or who have limited dexterity.

Social Security disability beneficiaries

will find basic information about return-to-work programs. Youth with disabilities will find information tailored to them and their parents. Employers will get information about tax incentives for hiring people with disabilities and the laws that apply to disabled employees.

Employers will also have access to Project Able, the SSA resume bank for people with disabilities who are looking for jobs.

Advocates for persons with disabilities will appreciate the site's lists of State partnerships, research activities, available SSA contracts and grants, and a calendar of events.

Calendar of Events

April 2001

April 22 - 25 - 19th Annual "Protecting Our Children" National American Indian Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect "Building a Spirit of Cooperation to Protect Our Children" - William A. Egan Civic and Convention Center, Anchorage, AK - For more information contact Kim Just, Conference Coordinator, (503) 222-4044 or visit the website at www.nicwa.org/

April 22-26 - National Tribal Environmental Council's National Conference Hosted by Miccosukkee Tribe- Miami, Florida Contact: NTEC (505) 242-2175.

April 25-26, 2001 - AMERIND Spring Institute, Radisson Hotel & Conference Center, Albuquerque, New Mexico. For more information contact Nancy Harjo or Glenda Thompson at 1-800-352-3496.

May 2001

May 13 - 16, National Congress of American Indians - Mid Year Session, Foxwoods Resort, Ledyard, CT.

May 15-16 -The Great Lakes Indian Housing Association- Quarterly Meeting, Mahnomen, Minnesota

Community Development Resources Internet Sites with Links

To promote community development in Indian Country, HUD recommends these useful proven resources:

Urban Land Institute:

www.uli.org

National Council for Urban Economic Development:

www.cued.org

The Community Builders, Inc.:

www.tcbinc.org

HOPE VI—Information from the Housing Research Foundation:

www.housingresearch.org

Initiative for a Competitive Inner City (ICIC):

www.icic.org

National Council of State Housing Agencies:

www.ncsha.org

National Housing & Rehabilitation Association:

www.housingonline.com

National Housing Institute:

www.nhi.org

The Enterprise Foundation:

www.enterprisefoundation.org

Corporation for Supportive Housing:

www.csh.org

Local Initiatives Support Corporation:

www.liscnet.org

Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative:

www.dsni.org

Citizens' Housing and Planning Associates:

www.chapa.org

International Council of Shopping Centers:

www.icsc.org

Economic Development Administration (U.S. Department of Commerce):

www.doc.gov/eda

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development:

www.hud.gov



ONAP'S TIP ON..... INVESTMENTS

The Indian Housing Block Grant (IHBG) Program under NAHASDA provides tribes and tribally designated housing entities with the ability to draw down certain grant funds for investment purposes. Recipients are encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity to increase funding for affordable housing activities.

How much of the IHBG grant may a recipient invest?

Recipients may invest the annual IHBG grant less the annual formula grant amount allocated as operating subsidy multiplied by 75% for Fiscal Year (FY) 2000 Indian Housing Plans (IHP), or 100% for FY 2001 IHPs. For example, a recipient with a \$1,000,000 grant in FY 2000 with an operating subsidy allocation of \$200,000 could invest \$600,000. (The calculation is \$1,000,000 minus \$200,000 = \$800,000 x 75% = \$600,000). In FY 2001, the same recipient (assuming the same grant amount and operating subsidy allocation) would be able to invest \$800,000 (\$1,000,000 minus \$200,000 = \$800,000 x 100% = \$800,000).

How can recipients take advantage of this opportunity? To be approved for investments, the tribe or TDHE submits information to the Area Office of Native American Programs demonstrating that it has no unresolved significant audit findings in the most current audit or HUD review, and that the tribe is a self-governance

tribe or the recipient has the administrative capacity to manage the investment. HUD will review the recipient's current annual audit or HUD review to ensure that the recipient has no outstanding findings. If an independent financial audit was conducted in lieu of an annual audit, a copy of this financial audit must be submitted.

If the tribe is a self-governance tribe, a certification from the tribe or copy of the Bureau of Indian Affairs designation is required. If the tribe is not a self-governance tribe a copy of the tribe's or TDHE's internal control policy and investment policy is submitted to HUD. HUD will review these documents to ensure that controls are in place to responsibly manage the investment. Self-governance tribes are not required to submit these policies.

A recipient's request to invest IHBG funds, submitted with the required supporting documentation, will be reviewed and acted upon by the Area Office of Native American Programs within 60 days of receipt. Once approved for investments, the recipient is required to hold these funds in an account separate from other funds of the recipient. Investments may be for a period of no longer than two years.

The type of investments recipients may invest IHBG funds in are obligations of the United States: obligations issued by Government

sponsored agencies; securities that are guaranteed or insured by the United States; mutual (or other) funds registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission and which invest only in obligations of the United States or securities that are guaranteed or insured by the United States; or accounts that are insured by an agency or instrumentality of the United States or fully collateralized to ensure protection of the funds, even in the event of bank failure. IHBG funds held in these accounts are required to have a general depository agreement.

Recipients interested in submitting a request to draw on IHBG funds for investment purposes should review Notice PIH 99-04 (extended through May 31, 2001 by Notice PIH 2000-21), and the IHBG regulation at 24 CFR 1000.58. Questions regarding the amount a recipient may be eligible to draw on for investment purposes, or on any of the requirements identified above should be directed to your Area ONAP. Once approved, recipients are not required to seek approval for each annual grant.

We encourage tribes and TDHEs to take advantage of the investment opportunity afforded under the NAHASDA regulations. It is an important aspect of the new program under NAHASDA and provides an opportunity to increase resources available to the tribe.

HUD and Treasury issue Report on the ONE- STOP MORTGAGE Initiative

HUD and the U.S. Treasury joined forces to release the *HUD/Treasury One-Stop Mortgage Center Initiative in Indian Country*. HUD announced a more streamlined process for lending on tribal land, including a new standard lease and model mortgage code for all federally sponsored loan programs for Native Americans.

Meeting with NM Tribal Leadership

The initiative was announced late last year at a government to government meeting hosted by the All Indian Pueblo council at the Santo Domingo Pueblo tribal headquarters.

The Treasury also announced that the Treasury-led National Partners for Financial Empowerment will launch a Committee on Native American Financial Literacy.

Santo Domingo Low-Income Housing Tax Credit Project

Along with Pueblo Governor Tony Tortalita; Lt. Governor Raymond Pacheco; Bart Harvey, Chairman and CEO of The Enterprise Foundation; Jim Stretz, Executive Director of the New Mexico Mortgage Finance Authority; and Terry Hill, President of the Federal Home Loan Bank of Dallas participated in a ribbon-cutting ceremony unveiling a housing

development comprised of 20 new rental units. The Santo Domingo Tribal Housing Authority developed the homes with technical assistance from The Enterprise Foundation's Native American Initiative.

The Santo Domingo Pueblo also highlighted this effort as an innovative way to leverage NAHASDA funds to build affordable housing. In this case, the New Mexico Mortgage Finance Authority issues tax credits to the tribe. For more information the Complete One Stop Mortgage initiative see: <http://www.codetalk.fed.us/>.



2001 ONAP Drug Elimination Training Schedule

Phoenix (SWONAP): April 18-20, 2001

Anchorage (Alaska): May 21-24, 2001

Eastern Woodlands/Southern Plains:
September 17-19, 2001

Northwest/Northern Plains - November 12-14, 2001

Building on the success of ONAP's community development and youth leadership training events over the last few years, we are designing a number of exciting upcoming training opportunities for fiscal year 2001. These 3-day training courses will focus on improving, strengthening, and building tribal skills in crime prevention, drug elimination, and substance abuse prevention. The target audiences will be prospective and current Indian Housing and Drug Elimination Program (IHDEP) grantees.

The training curriculum will include improving project management skills; conducting needs assessments; setting project goals; collecting assessment data for new reporting requirements; and designing sustainable programs. The training will be interactive--a 'learning community' where tribes can share their successes, discuss problems, and interactively discuss solutions. For more information contact Indian housing drug elimination information and resource center (IHDE RC) at 1-800-839-5561.

ONAP Training Institute

2001 Tentative* Course Schedule

Construction Contract Management

March 6-8	Oklahoma City, OK
April 10-12	Scottsdale, AZ
May 15-17	Denver, CO
June TBD	Chicago, IL

Fiscal Management

March 20-22	Scottsdale, AZ
April 24-26	Seattle, WA
May 1-3	Oklahoma City, OK
June 19-21	Denver, CO
September 25-27	Anchorage, AK

IHP/APR

April 3-5	Seattle, WA
April 24-26	Oklahoma City, OK
May 15-17	Anchorage, AK
May	Chicago, IL
May 22-24	Denver, CO
June 5-7	Scottsdale, AZ

Board Member & Tribal Officers' Roles & Responsibilities

March 13-15	Denver, CO
November 13-15	Anchorage, AK
July	Chicago, IL
October 10-12	Seattle, WA

Annual Crime Prevention Drug Elimination Conference, July 22-26, hosted by the Mashantucket Pequot Nation

NAHASDA Basics

March 13-15	Chicago, IL
TBD	Anchorage, AK
April 10-12	Denver, CO
June 12-14	Oklahoma City, OK
July 17-19	Seattle, WA
August 7-9	Scottsdale, AZ

Basic Financial & Leveraging

April 10-11	Anchorage, AK
May 30-31	Chicago, IL
June 5-6	Denver, CO
July 10-11	Oklahoma City, OK
August 14-15	Seattle, WA
August 21-22	Billings, MT
October 2-3	Scottsdale, AZ
October 16-17	Oklahoma City

Advanced Financial & Leveraging

April 12-13	Anchorage, AK
TBD	Denver, CO
August 7-8	Chicago, IL
September 5-6	Oklahoma City, OK
October 30-31	Seattle, WA
November 6-7	Oklahoma City, OK
December 4-5	Scottsdale, AZ
TBD	Denver, CO
September 18-19	Rapid City, SD

Drug Elimination Grant Administration

April 18-20	Scottsdale, AZ
May 21-24	Anchorage, AK
September 17-19	Chicago, IL
November 12-14	Seattle, WA

Culture Camp Workshops

Summer	To Be Determined
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Boys and Girls Clubs Training

April	To Be Determined
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*Please note! Some course dates and locations have not yet been confirmed. Watch for a brochure coming by fax or mail with final dates and exact locations.

Strategic Planning for the Next Generation is Theme of Interagency Conference

The 1st Interagency Conference on Comprehensive Planning for Indian Country, sponsored by HUD and its partner agencies, was held November 28-30, in Palm Springs, California. More than 750 participants were welcomed to the beautiful Coachella Valley by the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians, the Cabazon Band of Mission Indians, the Morongo Band of Mission Indians, the Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla, the Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians, and the Augustine Band of Mission Indians. Federal agencies contributing to the conference included the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Indian Health Service, the Administration for Native Americans, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Federal Communications Commission, the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Health and Human Services.

The Cabazon Band of Mission Indians and the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians provided speakers detailing their tribes' economic and cultural accomplishments through strategic planning. Both Tribes hosted

events including a continental breakfast and a luncheon. The luncheon, hosted by the Cabazon, featured presentations by Cabazon Tribal Chairman John James and their invited speakers, California Senator Richard Alacron and U.S. Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez.

For three days, representatives from several Indian tribal governments, Federal agencies, and the private sector shared ideas about comprehensive and strategic community planning for Indian Country. An array of distinguished experts spoke in comprehensive plenary sessions on various topics, including indigenous and holistic planning strategies for tribal governments; project implementation; and how self-governance affects planning and development. In the more focused break-out sessions, a wide range of topics were presented. They included: creating a comprehensive tribal plan; designing, financing and planning housing projects; developing and enforcing legal codes; economic growth and business development; community facilities and services; and infrastructure development. More than 30 organizations—including leaders

and Federal agencies—exhibited their products and provided information about their services and technology.

In opening remarks at the Conference's opening ceremony, HUD Deputy Assistant Secretary Jacqueline Johnson noted, "...this is an important planning time for us in Indian Country. It is important that we develop a unified agenda for what we hope to accomplish over the coming years ... Infrastructure is indeed roads, water and sewer lines, and utilities. But it is also the financial infrastructure to provide credit to families and tribal businesses. It is the legal codes and instruments needed to manage the new development that will grow from the building of those roads and water systems. It is the technology and telecommunication systems that will help our children become leaders in this Information Age. It is a system of strong tribal housing and economic development agencies that form the backbone of how basic services are provided to Native American families. 'Planning for the next generation'—that is indeed our theme for this conference."



Francis Gros Louis

Setting the Standard

Receives HUD's Highest Award

On January 19 2001, Francis Gros Louis (Huron-Wendat) received HUD's Distinguished Service Award. This is HUD's Highest Award, and this is not the first award for "Lou". In 1998 he received the Secretary's Certificate of Merit. Lou serves HUD and the people we serve as the best example of dedication and hard work. He has 28 years of federal service with HUD in the field and HUD headquarters. Presently, Lou is a Tribal Development Specialist in Native eDGE.