



Regional Housing Authority

Tlingit-Haida Regional Housing Authority
5446 Jenkins Drive • Juneau, Alaska 99801

THRHA NEWS

TLINGIT-HAIDA REGIONAL HOUSING AUTHORITY NEWSLETTER • **SPRING 2019**

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS APPOINTS JACKIE PATA AS NEW PRESIDENT & CEO



THRHA's Board of Commissioners announced on April 12th that it had made an appointment for the position of President & CEO.

The Board of Commissioners is pleased to announce that Jackie Pata will take the helm at the Housing Authority. A well-respected leader across Alaska and throughout Indian Country, the BOC selected Ms. Pata based on her previous experience in housing and passion for service to Southeast communities, which they feel will be a significant asset to the Housing Authority.

Since 2001, Ms. Pata led the National Congress of American Indians in Washington, DC as its Executive Director. Prior to that, she served as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Native American Programs for the U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development where she was responsible for the implementation of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self Determination Act. Previously from 1989 to 1998, Ms. Pata was the Executive Director of THRHA and

served as Chairwoman of the Native American Indian Housing Council where she led the charge to reform the Indian housing program. Preceding her appointment as President & CEO, Ms. Pata also served as Ex-Officio on the BOC for THRHA.

Additionally, Ms. Pata is the Second Vice President for the Central Council of the Tlingit Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska and serves on a variety of national executive boards, including as a Vice President for the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, Board Member for the George Gustave Heye Center of the National Museum of the American Indian, and she has been a Board Member at Sealaska Corporation since 1999.

INTERIM PRESIDENT & CEO LETTER

Spring is finally here! The THRHA team is busy scheduling all the outside work on our properties throughout Southeast Alaska. We kicked off spring with the First Annual Southeast Housing Summit in March. Congratulations to the Organized



Village of Kasaan who was the recipient of our community of the year award. Thank you to all who attended and participated in the Summit, it was a great success and we are already planning for next year's event. THRHA has also begun planning for the ribbon cutting ceremony for the newly constructed duplex in Kasaan. Kudos to the crews in both Kasaan and Yakutat for working through the winter to build a duplex and a four-plex.

In January, our BOC approved a four-year strategic plan for THRHA. Staff have been working during the first quarter to achieve our goals. One of those goals is to create a long-term housing plan for each community. We have kicked off a housing needs survey in all twelve of the communities in which we are the tribally designated housing entity. Please take a moment to fill out the survey if you live in one of our partner communities. The link to the housing survey is:

www.surveymonkey.com/r/SEhousing.

Another goal of THRHA is to increase financial and homeowner education for our customers. We have held classes in Kake, Saxman, and Juneau. More classes are planned for our other partner communities. Additionally, we are continuing our commitment to improve communication and have scheduled monthly video conferencing meetings with our Tribal Partners. We have also launched our new and improved website. Please visit the website at www.regionalhousingauthority.org and provide us with any feedback.

While the discussions regarding the Federal and State budgets are concerning for our organization, we are working for you to educate our legislators on the importance of our programs. We continue to seek out and secure new sources of funding. An important key to our future is forming partnerships. Partnerships was one of the focus topics at the Summit and we continue to reach out and create new partnerships throughout Southeast in order to create new housing opportunities.

"I am grateful to have this opportunity to work for the people of Southeast Alaska as the Interim President & CEO of THRHA. I am very proud of our staff and their accomplishments over the last year, and I am looking forward to 'Planning Our Future Through Housing' with all of you."



Richard Peterson, President of the Central Council of the Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska welcomes conference participants.



INAUGURAL SOUTHEAST HOUSING SUMMIT HOSTED IN JUNEAU

In March, THRHA hosted the First Annual Southeast Housing Summit in Juneau. This event brought together more than 100 participants from Southeast Alaska to explore the theme of "Planning Our Future Through Housing". Conference attendees and presenters represented a variety of housing-related industries that included real estate, local government, mortgage and finance, tribal management, and Alaska Native Corporations.



Meilani Schijvens of Raincoast Data goes over rental rates in Southeast Alaska.

"Southeast Alaska is presented with a variety of unique housing obstacles," said Joyce Niven, Interim THRHA President & CEO. "High housing costs, low inventory, challenges with building and maintaining new properties are just a few examples of the issues we face in working towards sustainable housing in the region."

Over the course of the two-day event, a variety of topics were presented that included: partnerships, community building, planning, and energy efficiency. "We viewed this Summit as a great opportunity for networking and building strong and meaningful partnerships throughout Southeast," said Niven.



David Hansen of A-1 Alaska Hearth & Stove presents information during the SHS poster session.

The event was co-sponsored by a variety of sponsors that included: Central Council Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska, First Bank, Pacific Rim Mechanical, Alaska Electric Light & Power, Corvus Design, Tongass Electric, NorthWind Architects, LLC., SALT, MRV Architects, Alaska Seaplanes, the Cold Climate Housing Research Center, Rain Coast Data, and Ikonik Communications.

For those who were unable to attend, the full schedule of events, speaker bios, and copies of Summit presentations are available on the Summit's website at www.southeasthousingconference.com.

The Second Annual Housing Summit is scheduled for March 18-19, 2020 in Juneau, Alaska.

APPRENTICES COMPLETE HEAT- PUMP TRAINING IN WRANGELL

THRHA is continuing its mission to support energy efficiency and provide career opportunities through technical and field training apprenticeship programs that will help meet maintenance needs in rural Alaska. Recently, the Apprentice Program completed a heat pump training in Wrangell with twenty-two tribal member apprentices from seven different communities.

This hands-on training allowed for apprentices to install eleven heat pumps in THRHA-owned units, replacing oil-operated boilers that were at least twenty years old. "The heat pumps are approximately 130% more energy efficient



Twenty-two apprentices completed the Wrangell training.

than the boilers,” said Lorraine DeAsis, Director of Project Development. “Not only will they reduce costs, but they will also reduce maintenance calls and ‘no-heat’ days for our residents.”

This heat pump training was the third field training and second technical classroom training offered by THRHA. Future projects also include installing hybrid heat pumps and electric hot water heaters to completely remove the oil-based systems. “I’ve been waiting a long time for this training to be offered,” said Yakutat plumbing apprentice, Mike Alfred. “It was a lot of fun, we all learned a lot, and through this project we were able to make a difference.”



Apprentices received hands-on training to learn how to install heat pumps.

Field trainers were Yakutat tribal citizens Kris Karsunky and Derek James, construction business owners in Sitka. In addition to providing the hands-on training, they also helped write a step-by-step installation instruction manual that was distributed to all participants.

THRHA began offering apprenticeship programs in March of 2018. Currently, programs are offered in plumbing and electrical. “We saw that there was a need in our outlying Southeast communities when we were trying to find licensed technicians to do work in those communities. We were also coming across previously completed projects that were not up to code,” said Lorraine.

ORGANIZED VILLAGE OF KASSAN RECEIVES COMMUNITY PARTNER OF THE YEAR AWARD



At the First Annual Southeast Housing Summit, the Organized Village of Kasaan received THRHA's 2019 Community Partner of the Year Award. "Kasaan's population has grown by 63% since 2010, largely in

The award was given in recognition of Kasaan's forward thinking planning, innovation, and creativity that they have exhibited in support of community housing. "Kasaan has been able to leverage their

part to the work that the Tribe has done to spark economic development,” said Joyce Niven, THRHA’s Interim President & CEO. “As a Tribal Partner, Kasaan has been a model partner.”

NAHASDA (Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act) funding with other creative funding opportunities for the advancement of their Tribal members,” said Joyce.

“Congratulations to Kasaan for this remarkable achievement!”

EMPLOYEE NEWS



PATRICK MARVIN has joined THRHA as a Customer Service Specialist in the Housing Department. In this role, he is responsible for responding to customer questions and requests, resolving concerns, and providing additional support to the Housing Department as needed. A lifelong Alaskan, Patrick previously worked at True North Federal Credit Union in

Juneau. “If anyone is unsure about the housing options THRHA provides, needs help completing an application, or would like to check on the status of their current application, I would be happy to help,” said Patrick. He can be reached directly at (907) 780-3119 or pmarvin@thrha.org.



GALADRIEL “GLADE”

MORALES has joined THRHA as its new Grant Administrator. In this new position, Glade is responsible for administering THRHA’s grant activities including preparing grant applications, performing prospect research on potential grant opportunities, and monitoring grant programs. “I’m excited to partner with our

Tribal partners and work towards providing the best for all of our stakeholders,” said Glade. Born and raised in Sitka, she has a master’s degree from The University of Alaska Southeast. Glade can be reached at gmorales@thrha.org or (907) 780-3130.



NIIMA RADFORD joined THRHA as a Customer Service Specialist in the Housing Department. In this position, she is responsible for providing customer service to tenants for all rental programs and units owned and managed by THRHA. “I am so excited to be a part of the Housing Authority team. If anyone has questions

about any of our programs or services, or needs help completing an application, I welcome them to contact me directly.” Niima was born and raised in Los Angeles but moved to Alaska about five years ago. Niima can be reached at (907) 780-3114 or nradford@thrha.org.

THRHA UNVEILS STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

THRHA recently unveiled its three-year Strategic Plan. "We are pleased to be able to share the Housing Authority's vision with our communities and tribal partners," said Desiree Jackson, Director of Tribal Services. "This strategic plan provides THRHA team members with goals that will help strengthen the programs and services we offer."

TLINGIT-HAIDA REGIONAL HOUSING AUTHORITY STRATEGIC PRIORITIES 2019-22

Diversify income streams and improve cost management through building and developing subsidiaries.

DIVERSIFY

Provide opportunities to our employees and customers to grow and gain knowledge through well-developed education and training programs.

PROVIDE

Develop a brand that clearly communicates what THRHA does and effectively identifies who we serve.

DEVELOP

Create and implement an effective grants management process.

CREATE

Collaborate with tribal partners to develop a housing plan in each of our communities.

COLLABORATE



Tlingit-Haida Regional Housing Authority's mission is to connect Southeast Alaskans with sustainable housing opportunities and innovative financial solutions.



LIHEAP PROVIDES \$530K IN HEATING AID THIS WINTER



THRHA's Low Income Housing Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) had a busy winter season. To date, the team has processed and approved 885 applications and distributed \$530,130 in heating assistance to sixteen communities throughout Southeast Alaska. "We have about 230 applications pending or that have been marked as incomplete as we are waiting for clients to return information and documents that are required for us to process the applications," said Tribal Services Program

and processing applications through May 15th so there is still time to apply for anyone who needs assistance."

The program, which is federally funded, is available to both Native and non-Native families. It provides a one-time benefit to eligible households to assist with home energy heating costs. The amount of the benefit is determined by household income, household size, fuel type, and geographic location.

To learn more about the program or to apply,
visit <https://www.regionalhousingauthority.org/improve-your-home/low-income-energy-assistance-program-liheap/>.

For questions, contact Energy Staff at (907) 780-6100 or via email at energy@thrha.org

THRHA AWARDED NEW GRANTS

THRHA is pleased to announce that it was recently awarded an Alaska Housing Finance Corporation supplemental grant in the amount of \$646,800. This grant, which was the highest awarded amount in the State of Alaska, will allow THRHA to upgrade heating systems (including boilers and/or heat pumps) for 113 units throughout the 12 communities that THRHA serves.

Additionally, THRHA received a \$750,000 grant from the Federal Home Loan Bank (FHLB). This grant is part of the Affordable Housing Program specifically for the Homeownership Housing Rehab project. This project targets all 12 THRHA communities and will provide renovation of 30 owner-occupied homes at the total cost of \$1.5 million. This grant will allow THRHA to provide rehabilitation to these homes that include safety upgrades, accessibility improvements, increased energy efficiency, and will also help to eliminate environmental hazards.

STUDENT HOUSING VOUCHER PROGRAM

*Applications are accepted
April 15th-June 15th*

THRHA began accepting on April 15th Student Housing Voucher Program applications for the 2019-20 academic year. To be eligible for the program, students must be an enrolled Tribal citizen, meet certain income restrictions, be enrolled as a full-time student at an accredited college, university, or vocational school, and maintain a minimum 2.0 GPA.

"This past academic year, we awarded 42 students with housing assistance," said Megan Gregory, Tribal Services Program Coordinator. "These awards amounted to over \$55,000 in scholarships."

Applications are accepted through June 15th of each year and students may qualify for up to \$1,500 per semester or \$3,000 per year with a lifetime maximum of \$12,000 over 8 semesters," said Megan. "We will be accepting applications electronically. We are hopeful that this effort will help streamline check requests and the application process for new and returning students."

Part-time students with a minimum of nine credits per semester may be eligible for 50% of the maximum assistance.

**For questions, contact Megan Gregory at
(907) 780-6100
or via email at shvp@thrha.org**

To learn more, visit <https://www.regionalhousingauthority.org/student-housing-voucher/>

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 15th - Student Housing Voucher Program application period opens

April 24th – Wrangell Financial Cent\$/ Maintenance 6:00-8:00 pm @ the Nolan Center

April 30th – Juneau Financial Cent\$ 6:30-8:30 pm @ THRHA

May 1st – Angoon Financial Cent\$/ Maintenance 6:00-8:00 pm @ Senior Building

May 2nd - Juneau/Douglas Financial Cent\$/ Maintenance 6:00-8:00 pm @ THRHA

May 8th – Craig/Klawock Financial Cent\$/ Maintenance 6:00-8:00 pm @ Klawock Elderly Building

May 9th – Kasaan Financial Cent\$/ Maintenance 6:00-8:00 pm **Location TBA**

May 14th – Petersburg Financial Cent\$/ Maintenance 6:00-8:00 pm **Location TBA**

May 15th – **LIHEAP Application Deadline**

May 22nd – Saxman Financial Cent\$/ Maintenance 6:00-8:00 pm @ Saxman Elderly Building

May 29th – Yakutat Financial Cent\$/ Maintenance 6:00-8:00 pm @ Sunrise Building

May 30th – Juneau/ Douglas 2nd Financial Cent\$ class 6:00-8:00 pm @ THRHA

June 14th – Kake Financial Cent\$ 2:00-4:00 pm @ Elderly Building

June 15th – **Student Housing Voucher Program Application Deadline**

June 18th – Haines Financial Cent\$/ Maintenance 6:00-8:00 pm **Location TBA**

June 19th- Skagway Financial Cent\$/ Maintenance 6:00-8:00 pm **Location TBA**

Keep up with us on Facebook!

