

# THRHA NEWS

TLINGIT HAIDA REGIONAL HOUSING AUTHORITY NEWSLETTER • SUMMER 2019

## MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT & CEO



*THRHA President & CEO, Jackie Pata enjoying the beauty of Kasaan while visiting tribal partners and communities.*

It is my pleasure to greet you as THRHA's President & CEO. Returning to THRHA is truly a homecoming for me. It's wonderful to be back in Southeast where I was born and raised and see the familiar faces, landscapes, and unique characteristics that have always made Alaska home. I am also thrilled to be able to work so closely with others who are dedicated to increasing housing opportunities and home ownership throughout Southeast Alaska.

In the past month, I traveled to each of THRHA's twelve partner communities and visited with tribal members and community leaders. While our visits were scheduled to share the results of last spring's housing survey and THRHA's new planning tool, they have actually turned into a valuable learning experience for myself and the THRHA team.

In each community, we have been able to engage in important dialogue with tribal members to hear each of your concerns, ideas, and how THRHA can support the vision of each community. I have loved having the opportunity to participate in these conversations and appreciate the time that each community has given us.

Moving forward, THRHA is committed to rewriting the way that housing is addressed in the region. This is an important exercise that will enable THRHA to support each community as we

Summer continues to move along swiftly and before long we will all find ourselves in the midst of winter's cold and ice. However, before then, now is a good time to take care of some

While the weather is still warm, I also hope that everyone will be able to take some time to enjoy the benefits of summer—spending time with friends and family and getting outdoors

develop a housing plan that will fit our region's needs. I look forward to further engagement and interaction at THRHA's Indian Housing Plan (IHP) Planning Forum on August 14-15 in Juneau where we can further develop a model and process that is fair and equitable to each community.

outdoor home maintenance projects prior to the change of seasons. Simple tasks such as washing your windows and screens, checking your porch or decks for loose nails or rot, and cleaning out your gutters and downspouts can help keep your home in tip-top shape.

to participate in traditional activities such as culture camp, berry picking, gathering, fishing, or simply enjoying our beautiful land.

***Gunalchéesh***  
***Háw'aa***  
**Thank You**

## THRHA TEAM MEMBERS TRAVEL TO MEET WITH COMMUNITY AND TRIBAL LEADERS



This past April, THRHA in partnership with Rain Coast Data and the consulting firm SALT, developed and conducted a tribal housing needs assessment for each of THRHA's twelve tribal partner communities. The survey asked participants to respond to thirty-five questions about their homes, housing preferences, household costs, and finances. The web-based survey was primarily administered electronically though paper copies were also made available to survey participants. Following are the survey results and analysis from

- **The most pressing housing need across the region is more affordable housing, of which 83% of survey respondents say has a high level of demand.**
- **72% of respondents acknowledged the need to make existing homes more energy efficient.**
- **Renovation of existing homes was also identified as high demand by 61% of respondents.**
- **In a forced ranking exercise of six possible answers, 44% of respondents felt that more**

each community.

“We were pleased with the number of responses we received to the housing survey,” said Desiree Jackson, Director of Tribal Services. “The survey results provided valuable information that will allow the Housing Authority to work in partnership with each of the tribal partners we serve to develop a unique and comprehensive long-term housing plan.”

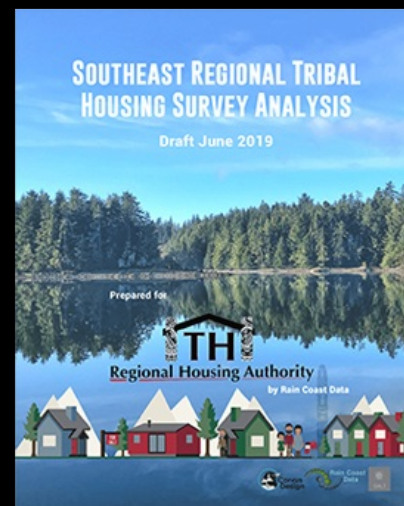
The results of the survey, which were compiled by Rain Coast Data was released to each community in a site visit. While each tribal partner had results reflective of their community, some key findings from the survey for Southeast Alaska included:

single-family housing available for purchase was the most important priority.

- **45% of survey respondents own their homes while 49% rent their homes.**
- **The average household size of respondents was 3.3 people whereas across all Southeast Alaska homes, the average household size is 2.5.**
- **There are an estimated 3,545 children in Alaska Native homes in the THRHA communities.**
- **Across the region, respondents who are homeowners have an average monthly mortgage of \$1,301.**
- **57% of respondents reported that they are housing cost burden and spend more than 30% of their income on housing.**

**To review the full survey results or the results for each partner community, visit the THRHA website at:**

**[www.regionalhousingauthority.org/2019housingsurvey/](http://www.regionalhousingauthority.org/2019housingsurvey/)**



## **PARTNER COMMUNITIES AWARDED \$1.8 MILLION ICDBG GRANT FUNDING**

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) recently awarded three of THRHA partner communities \$1.8 million in Indian Community Development Block Grant

In total, HUD awarded \$7.9 million to fourteen Alaska Native Tribes and villages. THRHA partner communities Petersburg Indian Association, Organized Village of Saxman,



(ICDBG) funding.

“HUD is committed to supporting affordable housing and economic opportunities for Native American communities across the country,” said HUD Secretary Ben Carson. “These grants will generate other investments from public and private sources to create economic opportunities, improve housing conditions and create jobs in Indian country.”

and the Yakutat Tlingit Tribe will each receive a \$600,000 grant to address a variety of housing needs that include home rehabilitations, energy efficiency improvements, and maintenance training and education. THRHA assisted each partner community with the grant process by providing technical assistance and helping to leverage funding for the grant match component requirements.

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*“The housing needs of our partner communities in Southeast Alaska are unique and present challenges not found in other parts of the country,” said Jackie Pata, THRHA President & CEO. “These ICDBG grant awards will provide funding to address some of these needs and also offer additional housing opportunities and improvements for these communities.”*

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The ICDBG Program was established in 1977. Federally recognized Indian tribes, bands, groups or nations (including Alaska Indian, Aleuts, and Eskimos), Alaska Native villages, and eligible tribal organizations compete for this funding each year to help meet their community development needs. The ICDBG Program supports a broad range of housing and community development activities that include housing rehabilitation and land acquisition to support new housing construction, infrastructure construction, and a wide variety of commercial, industrial, and agricultural projects.



## KASAAN TEACHER HOUSING CELEBRATED WITH RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY

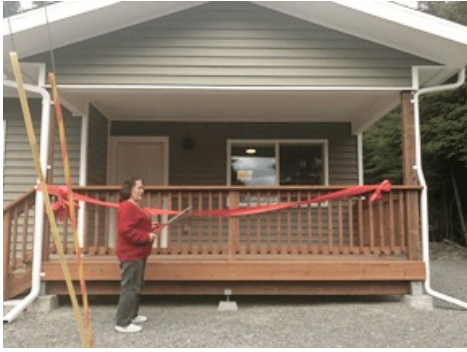
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THRHA was pleased to join the Organized Village of Kasaan (OVK) to celebrate the completion of their Teacher Housing Development project. On May 17, a special ribbon cutting ceremony by OVK and THRHA.

“The new duplex will provide much needed housing for teachers and Tribal citizens,” said Marina Anderson, OVK Vice President. “The housing will also enhance the sustainability of our community.”

The housing development project launched in May 2018 and was established in response to the challenges faced by teachers when seeking housing in the Southeast Island School District. Both units in the duplex are 1,300 square feet, contain three-bedrooms, and were built to a six-star energy rating.





“It is a crisis when communities cannot attract and retain qualified teachers due to a lack of adequate or affordable housing,” said Jackie Pata, THRHA President & CEO. “The Housing Authority is committed to addressing these challenges and finding housing solutions in Southeast Alaska.”

The project was funded by Alaska Housing Finance Corporation’s Teacher, Health Professional & Public Safety Professional Housing Program as well as with funding from the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act. OVK owns the land the duplex was built upon and will retain ownership while THRHA manages the property.

## APPRENTICES CONTINUE WORK IN SUPPORT OF ICDBG GRANTS

*Siding before on a home in Klawock.*



*Siding replacement work in progress.*



THRHA apprentices and team members recently completed the first ten homes on the ICDBG remediation grant. “Our crews are always in the field making a difference in the lives of our neighbors,” said Lorraine DeAsis, Director Project Development. “Everyday we work to change the perspective of the place called home. We truly appreciate their work!”

## TRIBAL

Tribal Services has launched a new proactive IHP planning process with THRHA Tribal partners, including monthly follow-up webinars

# SERVICES LAUNCHES NEW PLANNING PROCESS

for tracking progress.

“This new planning tool gives our tribal partners the data and mechanisms needed to track and monitor each community’s housing needs,” said Desiree Jackson, Director of Tribal Services.



## THRHA LAUNCHES NEW & IMPROVED HOME REPAIR PROGRAM APPLICATION

**THRHA**  
Regional Housing Authority

Tlingit Haida  
Regional Housing Authority  
**HOME REPAIR APPLICATION**

Community:

Do you own or rent your home (please check one)? Rent ☐ Own ☐

Are you without heat or hot water? Yes ☐ No ☐

Is this an emergency repair request? *If so, please call (907) 780-3102 and state your emergency.* Yes ☐ No ☐

Are you Alaska Native/American Indian? Yes ☐ No ☐

Household Information - List all household members that are applying to live in the property with you.

Name <small>(Last, Middle Initial, First)</small>	Relationship <small>to Head of Household</small>	M/I	Birth Date <small>Month, Date, Year</small>	Social Security Number

Mailing Address

Main Phone  Secondary Phone

Email Address

Home Repair Application - Page 2 of 10

THRHA is committed to improving the experience of customers and potential clients who seek to utilize THRHA’s programs and services. Recently, team members undertook efforts to redesign the Home Repair Application in order to consolidate the application process and make the application more user-friendly.

“We are so excited to launch the new application,” said Bettyann Boyd, Client Services Navigator. “This will streamline the process for everyone. Now, instead of applicants having to submit a separate application and paperwork for each program, they can complete one application that will cover all the home repair programs available at the Housing Authority.”

To learn more about THRHA’s Home Repair programs, contact Bettyann Boyd at (907) 780-3102 or at [bboyd@thrha.org](mailto:bboyd@thrha.org).

Applications are also available on the THRHA website at [www.thrha.org](http://www.thrha.org).

# THRHA EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

At THRHA, Larry Gamez is proud to be considered a jack of all trades. While his official title is Safety Coordinator, Larry also works to promote and educate others on home maintenance and repair. "Preventive maintenance can go a long way to safeguarding the value of your home," said Larry. "I always tell people that the choice is theirs—spend a little time and money now or spend a lot more time and money in the future."

Larry joined THRHA in 2015 as the Development & Construction Operations Manager. Prior to that, he worked as a Safety Consultant with the State of Alaska, was the manager of a large construction company in Juneau, and also worked as a General Contractor for twenty-three years in Southeast Alaska. Additionally, Larry also has experience in fire and rescue and has worked as a fireman and EMT with Capital City Fire and Rescue.

As Safety Coordinator, Larry's goal is to "support our workforce in safety and to promote a safe and healthy work environment". In his position, Larry is responsible for monitoring construction activities, promoting occupational health and safety awareness with employees, and conducting safety meetings and training.



Anyone with safety concerns or home maintenance questions can reach Larry at (907) 780-3104 or [larry.gamez@thrha.org](mailto:larry.gamez@thrha.org).

## WHY HOME MAINTENANCE MATTERS

*By Larry Gamaz  
Home Maintenance*

- Home maintenance provides a healthy and safe home environment.
- It protects your financial investment.
- It minimizes unexpected repair work.
- It keeps costs down.

*To learn more, attend one of THRHA's free Financial Cent\$ classes (see upcoming class dates below).*

## SAVE THE DATE

**August 5**— Juneau Financial Cent\$

**August 6**— Craig Financial Cent\$

**August 6**— Kasaan Financial Cent\$

**August 6**— Klawock Financial Cent\$

**August 7**— Hydaburg Financial Cent\$

**August 13**—Wrangell Financial Cent\$

**August 14-15**—IHP Planning Forum (Juneau)

**October 8**—Kake Financial Cent\$

**September 4**—Angoon Financial Cent\$

*Second Annual Housing Summit is scheduled for March 18-19, 2020 (Juneau)*

Keep up with us on Facebook!

