



Regional Housing Authority

Spring 2025



TLINGIT HAIDA REGIONAL HOUSING AUTHORITY NEWSLETTER



A Message from the President/CEO Standing Strong Together in Changing Times

As we move through a time of transition under a new federal administration, we're keeping a close eye on potential policy shifts that may impact the funding our tribal housing programs rely on. While we remain hopeful, we are also preparing for the possibility of reduced budgets. Through our participation on national advisory committees, we're actively advocating for smarter, more efficient policies that benefit tribal communities like ours. In the meantime, we're committed to managing every dollar with care and purpose.

Safe Housing Remains Our Priority

Our mission to provide safe and stable homes for our people remains as strong as ever. But one growing concern is the rise in drug use—especially methamphetamine—in our communities. In the past few years, dozens of homes across Southeast Alaska have required extensive repairs, some costing over \$100,000. These unexpected costs limit our ability to build new homes or renovate others for families in need.

We all have a role to play in addressing this crisis. It's not just about housing—it's about protecting our communities and future generations.

Leaning on Our Values

Our strength lies in our values—respect, accountability, and supporting one another. These values are more important than ever.

You can help by staying engaged:

- Respond promptly to inspection notices
- Complete recertifications on time

These steps may seem small, but they have a **direct impact** on the federal funding that keeps our housing programs going.

Community Collaboration in Action

Last month, our tribal leaders came together for a powerful gathering to talk openly about the challenges we face and to build real solutions. That collaboration reminded us: **we're stronger**

together.

Moving Forward with Hope

We're proud of the resilience in our communities. No matter the challenges ahead, we will keep showing up for each other—and for the future of tribal housing in Southeast Alaska.

Together, we rise.

Jackie Pata, President/CEO

2025 VITA PROGRAM

Each year, HYFC and the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program assists our community members throughout Alaska during tax season by providing free tax prep support. In 2025 so far, our VITA volunteers assisted over 1,000 tribal and community members with filing their taxes, resulting in more than \$975,000 in total refunds and \$200,200 in savings on tax preparation fees. In Juneau, VITA assisted 521 community members, totaling nearly \$496,000 in refunds. To learn about the total savings for all the communities in Alaska the VITA program served during this tax season, check out the table below:

VITA Community Report 2025

Physical City ↑	Total Refund	Amount Saved in Tax Prep Fees
Anchorage	\$3,025.00	\$1,050.00
Angoon	\$140,861.00	\$22,750.00
Craig	\$10,599.00	\$3,150.00
Douglas	\$5,146.00	\$2,800.00
Gustavus	\$1,471.00	\$700.00
Haines/Klukwan	\$17,407.00	\$7,350.00
Hoonah	\$1,301.00	\$350.00
Hydaburg	\$16,373.00	\$6,300.00
Juneau	\$496,324.00	\$105,000.00
Kake	\$165,603.00	\$23,100.00
Kasaan	\$ -	\$700.00
Klawock	\$9,626.00	\$4,550.00
Marshall	\$39,836.00	\$3,850.00
Petersburg	\$838.00	\$700.00
Saxman	\$11,356.00	\$2,450.00
Sitka	\$2,937.00	\$700.00
Valdez	\$17,554.00	\$5,600.00
Yakutat	\$3,545.00	\$5,250.00
Other Out of State	\$31,980.00	\$3,850.00
Total	\$975,782.00	\$200,200.00

NeighborWorks Recognition in D.C.

Before the ceremony in Washington D.C, Jackie Pata, the President and CEO of THRHA and Executive Director of HYFC, shared that, “HYFC

is thrilled to be affiliated with such a prestigious, mission-driven organization. We look forward to sharing knowledge and working together to improve services we provide to our tribal citizens. This collaboration will help us continue growing and enhancing the impact we make in our communities." NeighborWorks is a nonprofit providing technical assistance, training, and resources to almost 250 member organizations that provide communities with affordable housing.



Spring Maintenance Tips!

As the seasons change, it's important to take proactive steps to keep your home in top shape. Here are a few essential spring maintenance tasks to help protect your home, improve efficiency, and create a healthier living space:



- **Inspect Your Roof** – Safely remove moss, check for loose screws, and reapply caulk if you have a tin roof. Consider adding a fresh coat of paint to fascia boards for extra protection.
- **Clean Your Gutters** – Ensure water flows away from your home by clearing debris and unclogging drains. Proper drainage prevents roof damage and foundation issues.
- **Clear Your Dryer Vent** – Improve your dryer's efficiency and reduce fire hazards by thoroughly cleaning the vent.
- **Clean Heat Pump Filters** – Wash or replace filters monthly to improve air quality and reduce electricity costs.
- **Repair and Clean Window Screens** – Gently scrub screens with soapy water on a flat surface, and repair any holes to keep summer insects out.
- **Check Seals Around Windows and Doors** – Winter weather can cause caulk and weather seals to crack or harden. Inspect them and repair or replace as needed to boost energy efficiency and keep your home comfortable.

Taking care of these simple maintenance tasks now can help prevent costly repairs and ensure your home stays safe and efficient throughout the year.

THRHA Explores Solar Energy for a Sustainable Future

In November, THRHA hosted Juneau's first-ever solar installation training, bringing together staff from both THRHA and Central Council to learn about renewable energy solutions. This initiative marks an important step in exploring sustainable options for our communities. A hands-on installation training is planned for later in 2025, providing participants with practical experience in solar energy implementation.

While Southeast Alaska's Tongass Rainforest receives limited sunlight, solar power can still

provide significant energy savings. Given the region's high energy costs, well-designed solar systems can offer a strong return on investment, making renewable energy a valuable option for homeowners and organizations alike.

Alaska currently ranks 50th in the nation for solar conversions, but efforts like these can help pave the way for greater energy independence and sustainability. THRHA is committed to exploring innovative solutions that support affordable housing and reduce energy costs for our communities.

THRHA Apprentices: Building Careers and Strengthening Communities

At THRHA, we take great pride in supporting the next generation of skilled tradespeople through our apprenticeship programs. These programs provide hands-on experience, mentorship, and a clear path to career growth—all while allowing apprentices to earn a living as they learn.

We celebrate Jonah Davis from Kake/Angoon, who successfully passed his electrician's residential journeyman exam last summer. Now, he's paying it forward by mentoring his own apprentice, Lexi Jackson from Juneau.

We're also proud of four team members who began as apprentices and have since become skilled carpenters: Antonio Phillips and Clayton Phillips from Hoonah, Sylas Macasaet from Klawock, and John Elisoff from Juneau. Today, they are not only working on framing projects but also training the next group of apprentices, continuing the cycle of learning and leadership.

Currently, THRHA employs **nine carpentry apprentices and two plumbing apprentices**. These apprenticeship programs create valuable opportunities—helping individuals develop essential skills, gain industry knowledge, and build meaningful careers while earning a paycheck. At the same time, they strengthen our workforce and enhance the quality of housing in our communities.

We look forward to seeing these apprentices grow and thrive. Their hard work and dedication are shaping the future of our industry and the communities we serve.



Photo of Lexi Jackson

THRHA Assists with Flood Mitigation



THRHA Welcomes Spring Construction Season

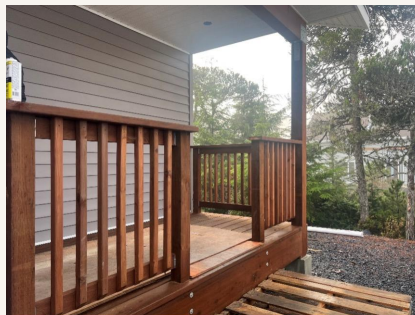
As the seasons change, THRHA remains committed to building strong, vibrant communities. Throughout the winter, our dedicated crew continued working on new construction projects while also planning and designing future developments. With spring's arrival, progress continues across several communities:

- **Craig** – Framing is now complete on the Senior Center, a 7,425-square-foot building featuring eight units (four 2-bedroom and four 1-bedroom) and a spacious common area.
- **Douglas** – Construction is underway on six new homes, with framing completed on the first three.
- **Kake** – The third and fourth new homes in this community are now complete.
- **Kasaan** – Two new homeownership units are nearly finished.
- **Petersburg** – A new duplex is nearing completion.
- **Wrangell** – Construction of a new duplex is now complete.
- **Yakutat** – Framing is nearly complete for the first two homeownership units, with four additional units planned for 2025.

THRHA is proud to expand housing opportunities across Southeast Alaska. As we continue these projects, we remain dedicated to providing safe, high-quality homes that strengthen our communities. Stay tuned for more updates!



Juneau Pederson Hill



Petersburg Duplex



Douglas Homes



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