HOMEOWNER ASSISTANCE FUND: U.S. TREASURY

The Homeownership Assistance Fund (HAF) Program is funded and implemented by the U.S. Treasury available to tribes to provide house payment assistances of past due or current mortgages (house payments), utilities to eligible homeowners and homebuyers.

The U.S. Treasury extended the deadline for Tribes and tribal entities to submit an application for funding to November 15th. With this extension, AVCP RHA also extended our time period for accepting determinations from Tribes to administer this funding on their behalf for the benefit of their Tribal Members. We have sent these notifications with the applicable dates to all tribes for consideration and response. We will be submitting our own HAF application before the deadline.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT: INDIAN HOUSING BLOCK GRANT

The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) included a supplemental allocation to the Indian Housing Block Grant (IHBG) for COVID-related activities. We sent out notifications to all Tribes and gathered program ideas and recommendations.

The Indian Housing Plan (IHP) was built based on these responses and will be sent to all tribes and our HUD ONAP office for review and approval. These funds are planned for new development, modernization activities, expanded emergency voucher assistance, personal protective equipment ordering and distribution, etc. All of the planned activities are listed in the IHP with corresponding budgets for each. Please review with your Council and members.

In This Issue

- NEW DEVELOPMENT PROCESS: INDIAN HOUSING BLOCK GRANT
- CEO CORNER
- TECHNOLOGY UPGRADES
- RECENT MOVE-IN'S
Greetings. We start another fiscal year to continue providing affordable housing programs and opportunities to the tribes and their tribal members and most of the communities in the region.

The pandemic has been a hard, difficult, confusing, and fearful trying time for every one of us as a region, as communities, as organizations, as families, and as friends. Our daily lives in the communities and in our families has been touched and affected by the virus. I want to thank for what you did, what you mandated and decisions you made to protect and keep safe your community and your tribal members. All of you have done good.

AVCP Regional Housing Authority has a 45-year history of providing new houses in the AVCP region under the 1937 Housing Act and NAHASDA providing affordable housing programs and opportunities including new houses, rental programs, emergency voucher assistance program including new programs such as CARES Act, ARPA, and US Treasury Rental and Homeowner Assistance Fund. We have a proud history of helping our communities, our tribes, our elders, and our families. I thank the tribes and local organizations including the village corporation and the city governments for helping us to where we are today.

At the annual meeting I stated the goal for the coming year including:

Four Year Plan. Continue to develop the Four Year Plan. More work needs be done to define and streamline the process to use as a tool to ensure it creates, continues and encourages cooperation and collaboration of all of the local, regional entities and its federal and state partners to plan, as far in advances as possible for new housing unit develop and seeking funding for infrastructure planning and construction.

Strategic Planning. We started to develop a strategic plan in April 2020. We have a document that identifies our strength in building homes, we work together as a team, we have longevity and continuity of staff, identified the need to work on availability of land, infrastructure planning and funding, house design to meet individual family needs, and working on community outreach and planning.

Homelessness. Climate Change. Relocation. Other issues that affect families and communities are surfacing and put pressure on the housing authority and the local communities to address them and to fund projects from current funding source. We need to let funding agencies provide additional funding to address these issues.

Apprenticeship Program. In 2000 we used an apprenticeship program to address the need for trained men and women for the force account program. A very successful program in which the current crew came from this training, who got the experience and skills in working in the new housing and modernization projects. Due to reduction in or the lack of funding we have not done any training or offered apprenticeship programs. In fact the staff at the state level has been reduced even no longer funding.

Useful Life. We are in initial and early discussion of reviewing the current useful life language and term in the AVCP RHA Indian Housing Plan. We want to explore the possibility of a shorter useful life term than the current 25 year term currently used.

And I look forward to working with the tribes, the board, the staff and our partners to work on: Our Past is Our Future.
NEW DEVELOPMENT PROCESS: INDIAN HOUSING BLOCK GRANT

Continuing from our Summer edition, we are going through the full process and procedure from beginning to end detailing the steps required to get a new home built in your community. With this full understanding of the process, the efficiency in the quantity and quality of homes being built for your Tribe will be greatly improved.

The next step in the process after gathering information and planning housing activities is the submission of the Indian Housing Block Grant (IHBG) Indian Housing Plan (IHP) to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Office of Native American Programs (ONAP) for review and approval.

After the approval of the program activities and the budget, deployment of activities is started within AVCP RHA administration and the applicable departments for a plan of action to ensure we reach and complete all stated projects and goals listed in the IHP. The first step is to begin notifying all tribes that are included in the Four-Year Plan for new development in their communities to start the process of planning for site control, infrastructure planning and partnership development, funding resources planning, and other areas that are worked through for the project.

TECHNOLOGY UPGRADES

AVCP RHA has worked throughout 2021 to upgrade and improve the Information Technology (IT) capacity to better serve our Tribes and clients. The COVID-19 pandemic has caused and increased need to conduct day-to-day on a remote basis to limit person to person to reduce the spreading of the virus.

The significant upgrade was to switch from GCI to ACS/OneWeb to increase the capacity in all aspects inside and outside the office. This upgrade will lead the way to move toward a more electronic-based data and record-keeping system that will improve speed and accuracy in our operations and financial tracking.

Another upgrade involved the software that we use internally also being heavily improved to keep up with the new abilities and capacities that are available for organization our size, and with the very large region that we serve.

RECENT MOVE-IN'S

This is a report on the move-ins for the 2020 and to date. The report covers move-ins to new houses, vacated units and to rental units. Due to COVID-19 and the travel mandates majority of the move-in and the orientations were conducted over the phone and using mail service to obtain signed documents. New development Move-Ins
Alakanuk 2 units; Platinum 1 unit; Upper Kalskag 1 unit; Chuathbaluk 1 unit; Aniak 1 unit; Stony River 1 unit and Crooked Creek 1 unit; Tuluksak 1 unit; St. Mary’s 2 units; Scammon Bay 2 units
Vacate Move-Ins
Kongiganak 1; Toksook Bay 1; Chefornak 1; Kipnuk 1 unit; and Kwigillingok 1 Rentals
AVCP RHA BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Officers: Wayne Morgan, Aniak, Chairman; Moses White, Kasigluk, Vice-Chairman; Ron Alstrom, St. Mary's, Secretary/Treasurer; Tim Kaganak, Scammon Bay, Sergeant At Arms; and Robert Nick, Nunapitchuk, Member.

Contact Us

Give us a call for more information about our services and programs.

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