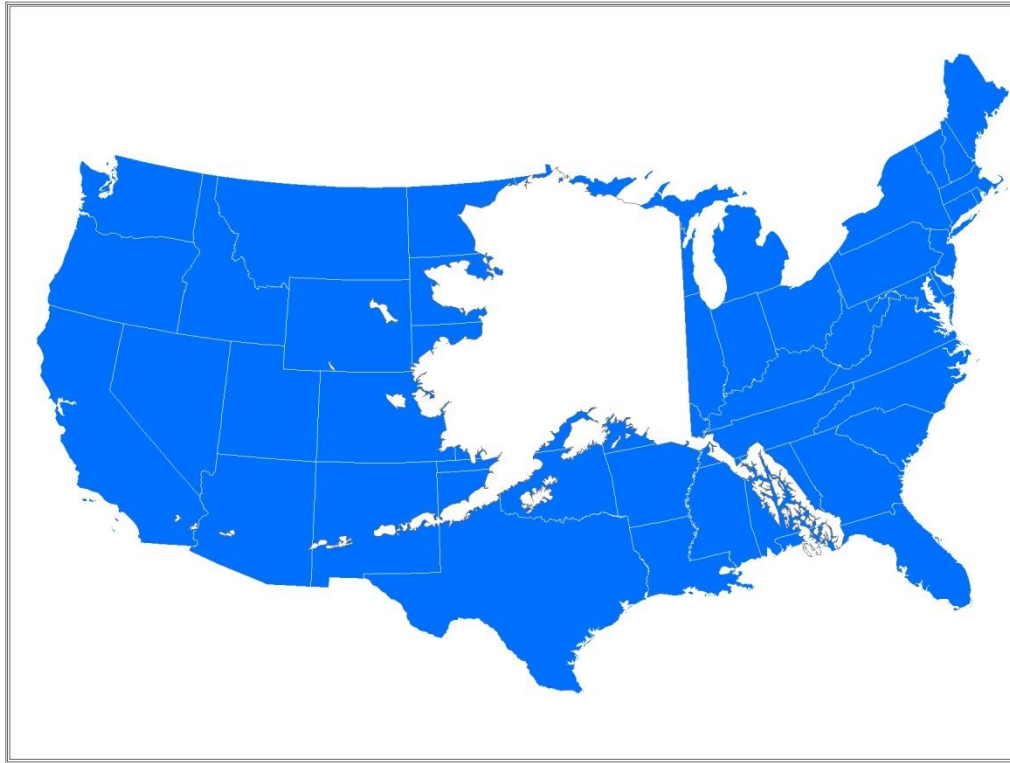


FY 2016 -ALASKA TRIBAL BUDGET PRIORITIES

TRIBAL INTERIOR BUDGET COUNCIL

Alaska Region

- Weldon “Bruce” Loudermilk, Regional Director
- Edward “Sam” Thomas, Tribal Representative/Craig Tribal Council
- Rick Harrison, Tribal Representative/Chickaloon Nation



Alaska Region has 229 federally recognized tribes spread across the State of Alaska, which is approximately 663,000 square miles. Alaska Natives own 44 million acres in fee simple, the State of Alaska owns 104 million acres and the feds own the rest. Very little land in Alaska (less than 1%) is in private ownership.

FY 2016 Alaska Tribal Budget Priorities

- Aid To Tribal Government –

Additional funds will aid to improve customer service, provide tribal court, technical assistance and collaboration for Alaskan Native Villages. Needed additional increases for the operation of programs, utilities, heating, and staff. The lack of increases-only cause reduction in program services – for example, programs are sometimes back in a corner with making decisions on whether to provide a critical service to it's tribal citizens or pay a higher utility or heating cost, and which results in having no staff-to provide the service. Small/Needy is also needed – this has flat-lined more than two decades and 80% of the Tribes in questions have received less than required. \$200K per Tribe is needed. Many consortium tribes live in remote areas and have difficulty in gaining access to immediate professional services – and causes hardship because of the inadequate funding.

- Alaskans spend 80% of their household income paying their electrical and heating expenses.
- For an example – in Kotzebue (rural Alaska) heating oil is \$6.88/gallon.

FY 2016 Alaska Tribal Budget Priorities –

Social Services (ICWA, Welfare Assistance) – Strengthen families, prevention of domestic violence and child abuse. Alaska is so large, particularly in the remote, predominantly Native communities in the State. Without increases – welfare assistance payments are denied; and child welfare cases will go unaddressed. This only makes it difficult for meeting the needs of the programs. Many isolated villages are in desperate need, and most tribal members live under the poverty level.





FY 2016 Alaska Tribal Budget Priorities - Scholarships/Adult Education/JOM - Additional funds are our future incentives to retain students for graduating. Without adequate funding-school children will lose essential supplies and tutoring; and the denial of scholarships funding will cause students to drop out of college. Employment is already scarce in many villages, and it's very important for our young people to further their education.



FY 2016 Alaska Tribal Budget Priorities -

Job Placement and Training: Due to high unemployment within many Alaska Native Villages, training development is critical in today's competitive job markets. Additional funds are needed to assist for examining weaknesses and implements a curriculum that will strengthen our workforce and become self-sufficient. Because of our young population and need for employment, our training needs are great, and presently doesn't cover the needs for obtaining acceptable wages in many isolated locations in Alaska.

FY 2016 Alaska Tribal Budget Priorities

Trust Services – Additional funds are needed to ensure the major responsibilities of the program include the Trust and restricted federal Indian owned lands are protected, managed, and utilized in a timely and efficient manner. Need of geographic information systems to provide maps of allotments and assist in forestry related activities.

For fulfilling the BIA's Trust responsibility – Realty requires the protection for the rights of the landowners- with proper support, we can continue to advise, counsel and offer technical assistance on all matters related to restricted land.

The Department has the responsibility to fund Trust Programs – Including - Wildlife Management, Forestry and Land management all must receive adequate funding.



Cost of Basic Food & Household Items

	Akiak	Chilkat	Kodiak	Kwethluk	Kwigillingok	Marshall	Mekoryuk	Port Heiden	Togiak
Sugar	\$17.50 10 lbs.	\$5.15 5 lbs.	\$3.92 4 lbs.	\$12.60 5 lbs.	\$14.07 10 lbs.	\$5.92 Box of cubes	\$18.50 10 lbs.	\$18.25 10 lbs.	\$40.79 25 lbs.
Flour	\$17.40 10 lbs.	\$3.39 5 lbs.	\$2.86 5 lbs.	-	\$47.52 20 lbs.	\$39.09 25 lbs.	\$13.99 10 lbs.	\$12.85 10 lbs.	\$29.26 25 lbs.
Milk	-	\$4.99 Gal.	\$3.92 Gal.	\$4.15 Qt.	\$3.11 Qt.	-	\$3.21 12 oz.	\$3.75 Qt.	\$6.01 ½ Gal.
Loaf of Bread	\$5.00	\$1.99	\$1.90	\$6.46	\$4.17	\$4.36	\$6.75	\$3.50	\$3.35
Sailor Boy Pilot Bread (2 lb. box)	\$10.00	\$8.49	\$6.14	-	\$8.56	\$10.39	\$11.64	\$8.40	\$7.13
Rice	\$17.70 10 lbs.	\$18.45 10 lbs.	\$3.49 32 oz.	\$40.20 20 lbs.	\$45.79 20 lbs.	\$18.09 10 lbs.	\$13.05 5 lbs.	\$27.75 10 lbs.	\$40.79 20 lbs.
Diapers	-	\$31.69	\$19.07 40 ct.	-	\$29.63 60 ct.	\$22.14 23 pk.	\$11.33 36 ct.	-	-

Data collected by the BIA Alaska Region for the Welfare Assistance Report.

Most Alaska Natives continue to rely on subsistence caught foods for much of their nutrition. Our cultures are based on hunting, fishing and gathering off the land – which is still practiced extensively in rural Alaska. These Shishmaref ladies are cutting up dried oogruk to put away in seal oil.

Subsistence hunting and fishing are important not only for cultural, but also for economic reasons. There may be a correlation between the high cost of fuel and need to rely more on subsistence. Many Alaska Natives cannot afford to buy much at local stores and need to rely more on subsistence, but can no longer afford as much fuel to hunt and fish.



Because Alaska Natives are surrounded by federal lands and waters, and resources that federal and state governments want to regulate (particularly during this time of global warming) , we increasingly find ourselves inundated with policies, regulations and resource use plans which are contrary to and inhibit our ability to live off the resources of the land and sea. Our way of life needs protection and we need access to natural resources funding to be engaged in the forums which seek to regulate us. The below pictures represent some of the ways of life that need protection.



Road Systems in Alaska

The majority of Alaska villages are not on a road system, resulting in high transportation and shipping costs.



Additional Recommendations

We respectfully are requesting :

- The minimum TPA funding level for Alaska Small and Needy tribes need to be increased to \$300,000.

- The Alaskan Tribes are not fully funded to begin with, so many Tribes found this to be difficult to choose what programs to decrease. Tribal Priority Allocation Funding is important because it supports tribal self-determination contracts. Many Tribes, especially those that do not have significant sources of tribal revenue depend on TPA funding for the operation of tribal government functions in the areas of human services, tribal operations, natural resources and economic development.

- Many Tribes within the Alaska Region, that are part of a Consortium – are having to expend their funds, and getting reimbursed through their consortium. (For instance – that is the case for the Craig Tribal Association). We are in survival mode – and if we do not get additional small and needy funds, the many rural Tribes in Alaska will no longer be in existence.

- In reviewing where increases have been made to the BIA Budget over the years, much of the increases have been in areas of the BIA Budget, which Alaska Region was not eligible to access nor receive; such as Public Safety, School Operations/BIE; Central Office operations; and Reservation Roads. While we support the needs of all Native Americans in the lower 48, we respectfully request your assistance and leadership in insuring that our Alaska Tribal needs are addressed within the context of the BIA Budget.



Thank you for your attention – any questions?

*Qāgaasaku quyana igamsiqanaghalek quyanaq quyanaa háw'aa way danko
mahsi' gunalchéesh 'awa'ahdah tsin'aen dogedinh baasee' maasee' chin'an
tsin'ęe quianna (Thank you in different Alaska Native language dialects).*

