



# 2021 ANNUAL MEETING PACKET

AGENDA • 2019 & 2020 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES • ANNUAL REPORT



**Nome Eskimo Community**







# AGENDA

## 2021 VIRTUAL ANNUAL MEETING

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2021 • 10:00 AM

### 1. CALL TO ORDER & WELCOME

Gloria Karmun, President

### 2. ROLL CALL

Shelby Sinnok, Senior Administrative Specialist

### 3. INVOCATION

Pastor Bertha Koweluk, United Methodist Church

### 4. INTRODUCTION OF STAFF & GUESTS

Tiffany Martinson, Executive Director

### 5. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

### 6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. November 2, 2019

B. November 7, 2020

### 7. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

A. Tiffany Martinson, Executive Director

- Door prize: \$50 Amazon gift certificate

B. Stephanie Blanning, Finance

- Door prize: NEC Adventure backpack with fishing pole, hoodie and more!

C. Cathy Lyon, Human Resources

- Door prize: \$100 VISA Gift Card

### 8. PROGRAM REPORTS

A. Adrienne Dickson-Bahnke, Tribal Services

- Door prize: \$50 Amazon gift certificate

B. Theresa Kenick, Housing

- Door prize: NEC Adventure backpack with fishing pole, hoodie and more!

C. Lola Tobuk, Family Services

- Door prize: NEC Care Package

D. Jacob Martin, Tribal Resources & Transit

- Door prize: NEC Care Package

E. Shelby Sinnok, Youth Services

- Door Prize: Adult Atiqluk, male or female, up to size XL made by Crystal Lie, \$250 value

### 9. TRIBAL MEMBER QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION

- Door prize: 40,000 AK Air Mileage Certificate

### 10. 2021 ELECTION RESULTS

### 11. INFORMATION ON ELDER AND YOUTH REPRESENTATIVES TO THE TRIBAL COUNCIL

### 12. TRIBAL COUNCIL COMMENTS

- Door prize: 40,000 AK Air Mileage Certificate

### 13. ADJOURNMENT







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**MINUTES**  
**NOME ESKIMO COMMUNITY**  
**2019 ANNUAL MEETING**  
**NOVEMBER 2, 2019**

**1) CALL TO ORDER** – Tribal Council President Shane Smithhisler called the meeting to order at 10:09 A.M.

**2) ROLL CALL** – Cathy Lyon conducted the roll call. A quorum was established as follows:

<u>Member Name</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>Excused</u>
Shane Smithhisler	✓		
Kevin Bahnke	✓ (10:10 A.M.)		
Mathew Michels	✓		
Mary David	✓		
Gloria Karmun	✓		
Jeanette Koelsch	✓		
Amber Otton	✓		

**3) INVOCATION** – Pastor Bertha Koweluk, presented the invocation.

**4) INTRODUCTION OF STAFF & GUESTS**

- a. Tiffany Martinson, Executive Director; Cathy Lyon, Human Resources Manager; Shelby Sinnok, Administrative Specialist; Stephanie Blanning, Accountant; Toni Smith, Accounting Specialist; Edward Omedelina, Custodian; Jacob Martin, Tribal Resource Director; Teresa Trigg, Climate Adaptation Plan Assistant, Orlin Gologergen, Environmental Intern; Theresa Kenick, Housing Specialist; Paul Hukill, Carpenter; Bivers Gologergen, Foreman; Ali Wykis, ICWA Specialist II (based in Anchorage); Lola Tobuk, Family Services Director; Dawn Warnke, Tribal Services Director; Tara Richards, Tribal Services Specialist.
- b. Melanie Bahnke, President of Kawerak, Inc.
- c. Angie Gorn, President & CEO of Norton Sound Health Corporation
- d. Mike Heintzelman, Deputy Chief of Police; Sharon Sparks, DV/SA Advocate of the Nome Police Department

**5) HONORING ALFRED SAHLIN, PAST NEC COUNCIL MEMBER**

- a. Moment of Silence

**6) APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**MOTION:** Gloria Karmun moved to approve the agenda as amended. Mathew Michels seconded and the motion passed.

**7) Guest Presentations**

- a. Angela Gorn, President & CEO of Norton Sound Health Corporation
- b. Mike Heintzelman, Deputy Chief of Police; Sharon Sparks DV/SA Advocate
- c. Melanie Bahnke, President of Kawerak, Inc.
- d. Cheri McConnell, Tribal Affairs Program Director at Kawerak, Inc.

Pastor Bertha Koweluk of the United Methodist Church blessed the food.

Meeting recessed for a lunch Break at 12:11 P.M. and reconvened at 1:00 P.M.

**8) Approval of Meeting Minutes**

- a) November 3, 2018
  - I. Page 2 of 4, Line 41: Received to received

**MOTION:** Kevin Bahnke moved to accept the November 3, 2018 meeting minutes as amended. Mathew Michels seconded motion and the motion passed.

**9) NEC PROGRAM REPORTS:**

- a. Theresa Kenick, Housing
- b. Lola Stepetin, Family Services
- c. Dawn Warnke, Tribal Services
- d. Jacob Martin, Tribal Resources & Transit
- e. Ali Wykis, Tribal Court
- f. Tiffany Martinson, Youth Services

**MOTION:** Kevin Bahnke moved to approve all of the program reports as a block. Gloria Karmun seconded the motion and the motion passed.

**10) ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:**

- a. Tiffany Martinson, Executive Director
- b. Stephanie Blanning, Accountant
- c. Cathy Lyon, Human Resources

**MOTION:** Mathew Michels moved to approve all the administrative reports as a block. Kevin Bahnke seconded the motion and the motion passed.

**11) NEW BUSINESS**

- a. Mary David, US Census update
- b. Elder/Youth Representative to the Tribal Council





**MOTION:** Peggy Sherman-Luce moved to approve the Elder and Youth non-voting seats to the tribal council. Austin Ahmasuk seconded the motion and the motion passed.

**12) ELECTION RESULTS** – Presented by Tribal Council President Shane Smithhisler

**SHANE SMITHHISLER:** NEC has two (2) seats open for election. There were three (3) candidates who were eligible to run. There was a total of 72 votes tabulated. Kevin Bahnke received 61 votes, Shane Smithhisler received 55 votes, Louis Green Jr. received 20 votes.

The newly elected tribal council members are Kevin Bahnke and Shane Smithhisler.

**MOTION:** Mathew Michels moved to approve the election results. Mary David seconded the motion and the motion carried.

**13) MEMBERSHIP COMMENTS**

**Sharon Sparks:** Congratulated Shane and Kevin on the election and requested that tribal members be invited to internal trainings and be included in the strategic planning. She also stated it is important to advocate for tribal members to be foster parents.

**Austin Ahmasuk:** Congratulated Kevin and Shane on the election and stated he attends the City Council meetings Nome Eskimo Community is mentioned continually and contributes to our community. He stated the City is a destroyer of Alaska Native people, lands and the port expansion destroyed sand spit. The City tried to outlaw hunting at the Port and Nome should be a zone of peace. He also included the moose hunt is two-day's and does not respect our way of life.

**Barbara Amarok:** Thanked Sharon Sparks for her comments also I appreciate Charles Fagerstrom's request to send a statement to the City Council addressing the response to Sexual Assault cases in Nome. She also stated she appreciate Austin Ahmasuk for speaking about the port expansion.

**Charles Fagerstrom:** Stated he would like to hear from the Tribal Directors on the public safety issue and would like to see that done in two weeks.

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Charles Fagerstrom for the Tribal Council to have a special meeting to advocate for public safety in Nome and support the Nome Police Department and seek more funding to improve services and improve employee longevity. Barbara Amarok seconded the motion.



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1 **AMENDMENT:** A motion was made by Peggy Sherman Luce to amend the motion to  
2 include improved safety at the schools. Barbara Amarok seconded the motion and the  
3 motion passed.  
4

5 **Albert Johnson:** Stated that the annual meeting should be devoted to Nome Eskimo  
6 Community and questioned the reports provided by Norton Sound Health Corporation and  
7 Kawerak, Inc.  
8

9 **Edna Baker:** Stated to Albert Johnson, with all due respect NEC has representatives on the  
10 NSHC and Kawerak board and I appreciate hearing from them.  
11

12 **Robert Bahnke:** Asked does anyone ever check on the ocean bottom with all these miners  
13 sucking up the ocean ground and plant life?  
14

15 **Jacob Martin:** Replied by stating he reviews the land permits the state sends to Nome  
16 Eskimo Community and has contact information for the Department of Natural Resources  
17 person in Nome who is the person to direct any questions to.  
18

19 **Vanessa Tahbone:** Thanked NEC for supporting the Native Youth Olympics and asked if  
20 NEC would be interested in energy pilot project with Kawerak, Inc.  
21

22 **Louise Bauman:** Stated the Nome Nugget Newspaper reported the Community  
23 Development Quote for the crab was 78,000 pounds which is shy of the quota and would  
24 like to see if that could be investigated.  
25

26 **Charles Fagerstrom:** Stated last year we discussed assisting with funding for regalia attire  
27 for the youth dancers. He was confident that they could have received funding through the  
28 Rasmuson foundation but nothing has happened and would like to see this as a priority.  
29

30 **Tiffany Martinson:** Roy Agloinga from the Rasmuson Foundation was present and invited  
31 NEC to apply. Unfortunately, the funds were already depleted but NEC staff will continue to  
32 work with youth dance group to raise the funding.  
33

34 **Lola Stepetin:** Stated she is happy to see the positive changes to the election process and  
35 that 18 and over can vote. Positive things are happening that attribute to the current  
36 administration and council support.  
37

38 **Crystal Lie:** Stated she is thankful for NEC and all the support for housing, scholarships,  
39 preschool and summercise and to all the tribal council members who she trusts are here  
40 for the right reasons.  
41

42 **Dana Warnke:** Sated that it would be wonderful to bring back bingo.





**Beverly Tran:** Asked how can we get people who do not reside in Nome to vote?

**Shane Smithhisler:** Replied by saying the cost may be expensive and Tiffany Martinson has been working diligently to improve voter turnout.

**Jeanette Koelsch:** Also replied that the NEC ordinance that guides voting.

**Tiffany Martinson:** Stated NEC has staff available to help with those who need assistance to vote.

**Vanessa Tahbone:** Stated she would like to see a committee to increase voter turnout.

**MOTION:** Vanessa Tahbone moved to create a committee, open to tribal members, to increase voter turnout. Beverly Tran seconded the motion and the motion passed.

#### 14) TRIBAL COUNCIL COMMENTS

**Jeanette Koelsch:** Thanked Tiffany Martinson and NEC staff for the great work they are doing, would like to see united work with the city, need volunteers to reach out to people to help volunteer.

**Mary David:** Thanked everyone for attending the annual meeting, to those who voiced their concerns and recognized staff for their dedication. NEC has an awesome tribal council who look out for the best interest of our members. Tribal council members are citizens of Nome and consider public safety a great concern, particularly the cases sitting on a desk and not being addressed. Other organizations cannot handle issues all alone and public safety is one of those issues.

**Mathew Michels:** Thanked the staff and recognized indigenous women who are missing and encouraged those in attendance if you see something, say something as it shouldn't be a woman's responsibility to keep themselves safe. He also stated he appreciated the opportunity to represent NEC on the tribal council and NEC is doing a lot of great work.

**Shane Smithhisler:** Thanked everyone for attending and stated the annual meetings are improvement and members attending and providing feedback.

**Kevin Bahnke:** Thanked the membership for the turnout at the meeting. He stated there has been a lot of feedback and we do support the City. If you like to see things change, let your voice be heard.

**Gloria Karmun:** Thanked everyone for attending and congratulated Shane Smithhisler and Kevin Bahnke for winning the election. She stated we can support NPD and other entities. She also stated the council heard membership concerns about road construction. She appreciated the young people dancing, the small touches on the table and the reports provided by NSHC and Kawerak.

**Amber Otton:** Congratulated Shane Smithhisler and Kevin Bahnke for winning the election and stated she appreciated the comments made by Charles Fagerstrom and agree NPD needs a grant writer to help find more funding and liked the idea of having our members involved in strategic planning.

**MOTION:** Mathew Michels moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:00 P.M. Charles Fagerstrom seconded the motion and the motion passed.

PASSED and ACCEPTED on this 6th day of November 2021 with the following votes:

YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_ ABSENT \_\_\_\_\_ ABSTAIN \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Gloria Karmun, President  
NOME ESKIMO COMMUNITY

\_\_\_\_\_  
Amber Otton, Secretary/Treasurer  
NOME ESKIMO COMMUNITY





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**MINUTES**  
**NOME ESKIMO COMMUNITY**  
**2020 ANNUAL TRIBAL COUNCIL MEETING**  
**November 7, 2020**

**1) CALL TO ORDER** – Tribal Council President Shane Smithhisler called the meeting to order at 10:21 A.M.

**2) ROLL CALL** – Shelby Sinnok conducted the roll call. A quorum was established as follows:

<u>Member Name</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>Excused</u>
Shane Smithhisler	✓		
Kevin Bahnke	✓		
Mathew Michels	✓		
Mary David	✓		
Gloria Karmun	✓		
Jeanette Koelsch	✓		
Amber Otton	✓		

**3) INVOCATION**- Pastor Bertha Koweluk, United Methodist Church

**4) INTRODUCTION OF STAFF & GUESTS**

a. Tiffany Martinson, Executive Director; Lori Hughes, Deputy Director; Cathy Lyon, Human Resources Manager; Shelby Sinnok, Administrative Specialist; Adrienne Dickson-Bahnke, Office Assistant, Stephanie Blanning, Accountant; Toni Smith, Accounting Specialist; Drew McCann, Youth Services Manager; Jacob Martin, Tribal Resource Director; Theresa Kenick, Housing Specialist; Bivers Gologergen, Foreman; Lola Tobuk, Family Services; Cory Jackson, ICWA Specialist II.

**5) APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Agenda was accepted.

**6) APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Minutes were tabled to the 2021 annual meeting.

**7) ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

- A. Tiffany Martinson, Executive Director
- B. Stephanie Blanning, Finance
- C. Cathy Lyon, Human Resources



**8) NEC PROGRAM REPORTS**

- A. Lori Hughes, Tribal Services
- B. Theresa Kenick, Housing
- C. Lola Tobuk, Family Services
- D. Jacob Martin, Tribal Resources & Transit
- E. Andrew McCann, Youth Services

**9) ELECTION RESULTS**

Will be announced tentatively on November 13, 2020.

**10) ADJOURNMENT**

Shane Smiththisler adjourned the annual meeting at 11:11 A.M.

**PASSED and ACCEPTED on this 6th DAY OF NOVEMBER 2021 with the following votes:**

**YES** \_\_\_\_\_ **NO** \_\_\_\_\_ **ABSENT** \_\_\_\_\_ **ABSTAIN** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Gloria Karmun, President  
**NOME ESKIMO COMMUNITY**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Amber Otton, Secretary/Treasurer  
**NOME ESKIMO COMMUNITY**



# ADMINISTRATION

*Tiffany Martinson, Executive Director*

## ADMINISTRATION STAFF

- » *Tiffany Martinson, Executive Director*
- » *Cathy Lyon, HR Manager*
- » *Naomi Minix, Office Assistant*
- » *Ali Wykis, Tribal Court Specialist*

NEC staff continue to do our best to provide our regular services while also navigating and delivering services made possible by the federal emergency funding received as a result of the coronavirus pandemic. I'd like to recognize our amazing staff for their hard work and ability to find a balance in order to deliver regular programs while meeting the increased volume of work. You really make a tremendous difference. Thank you for all that you do! I would also like to recognize the tribal council members, who also had an increased workload, for their dedication and commitment to the tribe.

## ADMINISTRATION

NEC's Administration Department manages the inter-governmental affairs of the NEC tribe. This includes management of resources including finances, providing and improving services, and delivering quality services to those in need. The role of the executive director also includes providing a safe environment for employees to work and the ability for employees to accomplish goals set by the Tribal Council that are based on tribal priorities and funding requirements.

## TRIBAL ENROLLMENT

Tribal enrollment has increased by 134 members since the annual meeting in 2020. This is an increase of 82% compared to the previous year. Provided is tribal enrollment data effective October 27, 2021:

NEC TRIBAL ENROLLMENT	
Total	3,368
Nome	1,403
Alaska	2,603
Outside	765
18 years +	2,509
< 18 years old	859

## 2020 ANNUAL MEETING AND ELECTIONS

To minimize the spread of COVID-19, NEC offered its 2020 annual meeting virtually on November 7, 2020. A total of 74 people connected online compared to 140 who attended in person in 2019. In addition to in-person voting in Nome, mail-in ballots and online voting options were introduced for the 2020 annual election. This resulted in the greatest voting response to date. There was a total of 310 votes cast compared to 72 votes cast in 2019. These voting options will be available into the future.

## TRIBAL COURT ASSESSMENT

In 2019, NEC was awarded funding to undergo a Tribal Court Assessment. This is a lengthy process and NEC had been on a waiting list for two years. Work on the assessment began in the spring and NEC will likely receive a final report in early 2022. The assessment includes voluntary next steps that NEC can take in developing its tribal court. The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) contractor selected to assist NEC will review its assessment with the tribal council once the report has been approved by BIA. As part of this BIA program, NEC is also eligible for additional funds for tribal court development. Staff are working on a draft budget for a funding request to BIA which will be submitted by the end of 2021.

## TRIBAL TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM

NEC has a funding agreement with the Federal Highway Administration for comprehensive transportation planning, research, design, engineering, construction and maintenance of highway, road bridge, parkway or transit facility programs or projects located in our service area. The amount of funding varies; funding amounts are included in the finance report.

NEC has an active Transportation Committee, a subcommittee of the Tribal Council, to help guide our activities and goals. Members of the Transportation Committee are Shane Smithhisler, Mary David, and Kevin Bahnke. Here are a few important activities that occurred this year:

- (1) NEC received a Tribal Transportation Program Safety Fund grant to complete a safety audit near Nome Elementary School and to update NEC's Safety Plan.
- (2) NEC received a competitive Tribal Transportation Grant and finished an update to the Tribal Transit Plan.
- (3) NEC is actively involved in conversations regarding the Port of Nome Expansion Feasibility Study with Nome Port Director Joy Baker and the Army Corps of Engineers to ensure that the tribe's interests are recognized and addressed as the project progresses.

## NEC 2021 Accomplishments by Department

DEPARTMENT	ACCOMPLISHMENT
ADMINISTRATION	Upgraded email system from Google Workspace to Microsoft Exchange.
	Updated website with the help of Sundog Media, our web editor.
	Upgraded Progeny, NEC's tribal enrollment software.
	Anchorage Office Network connected to Nome.
	Tribal Transportation Safety Fund grant awarded.
	NEC's annual election offered new options for voting including online and mail-in ballots.
	Nome office phone system upgrade.
FINANCE	Alaska Community Foundation Youth Summer Camp Grant
	ANA Language Revitalization Grant
	CCDF CRRSSA and APRA Funds
	Treasury ERAP, HAF, SLFR, APRA Funds
	City of Nome Community Benefit Share funds for Youth
	Dept of HHS Title IV-B Supporting Foster & Youth Families through the pandemic
HOUSING	Served more clients across the U.S. in response to the pandemic.
TRIBAL SERVICES	In partnership with MyCache, NEC's higher education scholarship is now available electronically.
	In partnership with Kawerak, NEC offered the College Transition Program to NEC members who reside in Nome.
	Scholarships are now available for the driver's education program.
YOUTH SERVICES	Offered Outdoors Club to youth ages 6-12 in Nome June - July 2021.
	Outdoors Club was made available to non-tribal members.
	Offered Subsistence Adventure Kits to 57 families that included a fishing pole, tackle box, berry bucket, water bottle, hoody, and more!
	In-home Relative Care Provider Program begins.
FAMILY SERVICES	Moved to new office on Benson Boulevard in Anchorage.
	Approved to use \$10,000 of Title IV-B Prevention funds for new office renovation.
	Added four scopes of work SOA SSFA.
	Second year of three-year grant Title IV-E.
	Staff collaboration with Outdoor Club (Jadyn Otton).
TRANSIT	Updated Transit Plan with the help of Bristol Engineering.
TRIBAL RESOURCES	Collected over 7,000 pounds of scrap metal and garbage during beach cleanup.
	Completed water quality testing in 12 sites over a three-month period.
	Met with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers twice to discuss Army Corps permitting processes: IPOP and Port Expansion Project.



- (4) The City of Nome and NEC applied for a Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant for construction of the Snake River Moorage facility and are anxiously awaiting award announcements.
- (5) With the help of NEC's contractor, Bristol Engineering Services Company, LLC, and in partnership with the City of Nome, NEC is identifying future road improvement projects.

### **SALARY STRUCTURE REVIEW AND PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM**

NEC's current salary structure was adopted in 2015 and should be updated in order to reflect the current market to ensure NEC salaries are competitive to attract and retain the best staff. This review project began in July 2021 and is expected to be completed by the end of the year

### **2021 ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

See the facing page for a summary of NEC's accomplishments during the past year.

### **GOALS FOR 2022**

Our goals for the coming year are as follows:

- (1) Create and implement a strategic plan for use of APRA funding.
- (2) Ensure required CARES Act and APRA reporting is complete and all requirements are met.
- (3) Implementation of new projects and services, depending on whether NEC is awarded APRA grant award (described below).
- (4) Offer upgraded Tribal IDs to meet TSA requirements before the deadline of May 3, 2023.
- (5) Complete community housing needs and child care needs assessments.
- (6) Implement updated salary structure.
- (7) Develop and execute transportation projects using Federal Highway Administration funding.
- (8) Receive additional federal funding to support NEC's tribal court development.

### **COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

NEC is open for business, with all staff working full-time from the office. However, NEC offices have been closed to the public for safety reasons. Staff can be available for in-person assistance by appointment.

### **CARES ACT FUNDING**

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act was passed by Congress and signed into law on March 27, 2020. Through the Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF), the CARES Act provided payments to state, local and tribal governments, including NEC, to navigate the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak.

NEC made a number of emergency financial assistance grant programs available to all tribal members who were negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. NEC is currently offering a coronavirus emergency financial assistance grant of up to \$500 per tribal member for those in need. The deadline to apply is November 12, 2021, which is fast approaching. If you have not already done so, please apply today.

### **AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT FUNDING**

In 2021, NEC received emergency financial relief through the American Rescue Plan Act. These funds have the following objectives:

- » Support urgent COVID-19 response efforts to continue to decrease spread of the virus and bring the pandemic under control.
- » Replace lost revenue for eligible state, local, territorial, and tribal governments to strengthen support for vital public services and help retain jobs.
- » Support immediate economic stabilization for households and businesses.
- » Address systemic public health and economic challenges that have contributed to the inequal impact of the pandemic.

Allowable uses of ARPA funds include:

- » Support public health expenditures by, for example, funding COVID-19 mitigation efforts, medical expenses, behavioral healthcare, and certain public health and safety staff.
- » Address negative economic impacts caused by the public health emergency, including economic harms to workers, households, small businesses, impacted industries, and the public sector.
- » Replace lost public sector revenue, using this funding to provide government services to the extent of the reduction in revenue experienced due to the pandemic.
- » Provide premium pay for essential workers, offering additional support to those who have and will bear the greatest health risks because of their service in critical infrastructure sectors.

- » Invest in water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure, making necessary investments to improve access to clean drinking water, support vital wastewater and stormwater infrastructure, and to expand access to broadband internet.

Within these overall categories, recipients have broad flexibility to decide how best to use this funding to meet the needs of their communities.

The deadline to plan for the use of the funding is December 2024, and all funds must be spent by December 2026. Details about funding levels are provided in the finance report. The NEC Tribal Council will create a strategic plan in early 2022 for use of these funds. Tribal members are welcome to submit comments and suggestions on the use of these funds anytime. Please call us at 907-443-2246 or send an email to [covid.relief@necalaska.org](mailto:covid.relief@necalaska.org).

### MORE APRA OPPORTUNITIES

The APRA also offered additional funding opportunities for tribal communities, including the following:

**TRIBAL BROADBAND** In 2020, NEC applied for a 2.5 GHz FCC license within our tribal service area. The 2.5 GHz is suitable for both mobile coverage and fixed point-to-point uses, and is currently used to provide broadband service by educational licensees and commercial providers that lease the spectrum. The license should be awarded to NEC unless someone objects, and there have been no objections made so far.

With help from the team at MuralNet, NEC submitted a Tribal Broadband Grant application for nearly \$1 million to develop a tribal broadband program, starting with a feasibility project to ensure we develop a program that makes sense for our tribe and community. NEC's application included a program called the Stay Connected Fund, which would provide households with monthly financial assistance to cover internet costs. The application included creation of a tribal library to provide additional services to NEC members, such as a computer lab for educational and career development needs, client needs, etc.

**3D CONCRETE HOUSE PRINTING PROJECT** Nome is challenged by many issues related to housing security including overcrowding and homelessness. NEC applied for funding in the past to construct low-income housing development projects, but we were not successful due to the high cost of construction.

In partnership with Xtreme Habitats Institute (XHI), NEC applied for a U.S. Housing and Urban Development Indian Community Development Block Grant under the American Rescue Plan Act (ICDBG APRA) and funding

from the Denali Commission to support a 3D Concrete House Printing Project. The Alaska Housing Authority and Denali Commission completed a research and feasibility study on this opportunity for the State of Alaska in July 2021. This proposed project would build on the positive momentum this game-changing technology has gained in the state and allow for construction and deployment of one to two new homes in 2022. The end goal is to provide a more affordable housing development option for residential housing in the future. Denali Commission Funding for this project is contingent upon whether NEC is awarded an ICDBG APRA grant. Likewise, NEC's participation hinges on Denali Commission Funding.

NEC recently hosted a virtual community meeting to share details of the project. Thank you to those who attended and for your thoughtful feedback. Tribal members are welcome to submit questions and suggestions on this topic to administration at any time.

**ALASKA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GRANT** This entity offered an opportunity to apply for funding to support summer youth programs. NEC applied for and received \$15,000 to provide subsistence adventure kits for youth.

**APRA EMERGENCY LANGUAGE GRANT** NEC was awarded \$82,609 to support a second cultural studies teacher at NBHS (part time) and scholarships for students in grades 9-12 to attend the dual-credit Inupiaq class offered at Nome-Beltz High School in partnership with the University of Alaska Fairbanks Northwest Campus.

## FINANCE

*Stephanie Blanning, Accountant*

### FINANCE STAFF

- » *Stephanie Blanning, Accountant*
- » *Toni Smith, Accounts Payable Specialist*

### 2020 FINANCIAL AUDIT

Clay Tablet Accounting is in the process of completing NEC's 2020 single audit. The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has given a 6-month extension to the 2020 single audit period, so we have until March 31, 2022, to complete it. A request for proposals was sent out to secure another three-year contract for audit years 2021-2023 and the selection process is still underway.

### INDIRECT COST RATES

NEC charges an indirect expense to grants and awards, which is how our administration is funded. We go through a yearly negotiation process to secure these rates. Our

rates for 2021 are 69.23% BIA Compact, 26.26% “Other” grants, and 10% pass-through, which is for contracts, scholarships, client assistance, etc. Future rates can be expected to decline due to the increase in grant expenses since COVID. That is a normal effect when there are more grants contributing to the administration budget.

## INVESTMENTS

UBS is one of the largest wealth managers in the world. In May 2019 they were secured to manage NEC’s funds, which are distributed in three different fund types described below. Each of the three accounts has a different purpose for the funds, and along with that comes a different time horizon and risk tolerance. All three share a goal to achieve the highest return given the level of risk. By investing these funds, NEC plans to secure resources for future programs and services for our members and community.

Investments to date	\$2,288,617.44
Balance as of Oct. 22, 2021	\$2,578,754.60
Gain of	\$290,137.16

- (1) **SHORT TERM FUND.** This account was established for short-term needs and the goal is to earn a better interest rate on a short-term basis (under one-year time horizon). The current allocation is 100% certificates of deposit and institutional money market.
- (2) **CAPITAL FUND.** This account’s goal is to invest for a longer time period to take advantage of higher returns while having the fund available for potential use for opportunities that may arise. The investments have an intermediate-to-10-year time horizon. Currently the allocation is 35% equities, 60% fixed income, 4% other, and 2% cash.
  - *From when the account was established in May 2019 through October 2021, the Capital Fund has annualized 9.23% net of fees. Year-to-date through October 21, 2021, it was up 3.78% net of fees.*
- (3) **LONG TERM FUND.** This account’s goal is to invest for the longest time horizon, with slightly more weighting in equities to achieve a higher return over a longer period. For this perpetuity time horizon, the current allocation is 53% equities, 41% fixed income, 4% other, and 2% cash.
  - *From when the account was established in May 2019 through October 2021, the Long Term Fund has annualized 11.41% net of fees. Year-to-date through October 21, 2021, it was up 6.86% net of fees.*

UBS has expertise and longstanding relationships in Alaska with Alaska Regional Corporations, Foundations, Settlement Trusts, hospitals and tribal entities.

## TRAININGS

Training opportunities have been limited since the beginning of the pandemic, but fortunately organizations have started to gear towards virtual options. In August 2021 Toni and I were able to participate in a four-day Indian Tribal Government Employment Tax Workshop webinar. Usually held in person at the local IRS office in Anchorage, this training had not been offered since 2019. The training is important because it helps us stay current with employment tax changes. In December we are registered for a five-day NAHASDA Procurement 101 webinar that helps keep us current with any changes to federal spending guidelines.

## JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Due to the increase in funds and program activity we are currently seeking help in the accounting office and have two positions being advertised: accountant and accounting specialist. Job descriptions and applications can be found at [www.necalaska.org/jobs](http://www.necalaska.org/jobs)

## COVID RESPONSE FUNDS (CRF) ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

U.S. Treasury, Bureau of Indian Affairs and NAHASDA COVID Response Funds (CRF) were used to support NEC’s CRF assistance programs. At the end of 2020 we had approximately \$600,000 of the Treasury CARES funds remaining, so in an effort to spend them by the deadline the NEC Tribal Council approved a third Coronavirus Emergency Financial Assistance Grant Program. The deadline to apply for this program is Nov. 12, 2021. All other CRF programs are now closed to new applicants. The table at the top of page 18 details funds received and the number of payments made to recipients.

## COVID RESPONSE FUNDS (CRF) AWARDS

Three new bills were passed by Congress and signed into law in 2021. Those bills resulted in 11 more COVID-related grants being awarded to NEC. The lower table on page 18 reflects comprehensive details of all CRF funds awarded since 2020 and their balances at November 4, 2021.

## SCHEDULE OF AWARDS

I’ve included a schedule of NEC’s grant awards for years 2020-2022 (pp. 16-17) with a projected operating budget for 2022. We have had no major loss in our normal grant funds but we do have increases and decreases in award amounts from year to year, which is to be expected. Overall, our funding revenue from 2019 to 2020 saw a 214% increase, while 2019 to 2021 saw a 741% increase in revenue.



## Schedule of Grant Awards

GRANT AWARDING AGENCY	PROGRAM NAME	AWARD AMOUNT FY2020	AWARD AMOUNT FY2021	AWARD AMOUNT FY2022	ESTIMATED 2022 OPERATING BUDGET
Norton Sound Health Corporation	Wellness	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000
Bureau of Indian Affairs Office of Self Governance	Tribal Operations, Education & Training, ICWA, Welfare Assistance, JOM, Tribal Court	\$ 895,251	\$ 843,608	\$ 843,608	\$ 843,608
Alaska Dept of Health and Social Services	Title IV-E Reimbursement	\$ 93,996	\$ 66,054	\$ 90,000	\$ 90,000
Alaska Dept of Health and Social Services	Diligent Relative Search & Indian Child Welfare	\$ 88,094	\$ 81,290	\$ 81,290	\$ 81,290
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Children & Families	Title IV-B Child Welfare Social Services	\$ 23,022	\$ 23,125	\$ 23,125	\$ 23,125
Alaska Dept of Health and Social Services	Title IV-E Family 1st Prevention Services	\$ 94,987	\$ 94,987	\$ 94,987	\$ 94,987
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Children & Families	Title IV-B Family 1st Prevention Services	\$ 20,740	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 7,000
Bureau of Indian Affairs Office of Self Governance	Child/Elder Abuse Prevention	\$ 12,500	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 12,500
U.S. Dept of Housing & Urban Development	NAHASDA IHBG - Weatherization, Rental Assistance	\$ 755,686	\$ 857,717	\$ 857,017	\$ 800,000
Bureau of Indian Affairs Office of Self Governance	BIA Special Projects Reindeer Program	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 20,000
Environmental Protection Agency	NEC Environmental Program	\$ 117,580	\$ 117,206	\$ 117,350	\$ 142,350
Dept of Transportation Federal Highways Administration	Tribal Transportation Program	\$ 265,369	\$ 425,307	\$ 265,369	\$ 265,369
Norton Sound Health Corporation	Tribal Transit Program Support	\$ 15,851	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Federal Transit Authority	Tribal Transit	\$ 13,251	\$ 3,801	\$ 3,801	\$ 3,801
City of Nome	NSEDC Community Benefits Share	\$ 18,862	\$ 15,000	\$ -	\$ -
Institute of Museum & Library Services	Native American Library Services	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Children & Families	Child Care Development Fund	\$ 255,975	\$ 260,185	\$ 260,185	\$ 416,160
<b>STANDARD OPERATING FUNDS SUB-TOTAL</b>		<b>\$ 2,696,164</b>	<b>\$ 2,813,279</b>	<b>\$ 2,661,732</b>	<b>\$ 2,825,190</b>

## Schedule of Grant Awards (continued)

GRANT AWARDING AGENCY	PROGRAM NAME	AWARD AMOUNT FY 2020	AWARD AMOUNT FY 2021	AWARD AMOUNT FY 2022	ESTIMATED 2022 OPERATING BUDGET
U.S. Dept of Housing & Urban Development	NAHASDA Indian Housing Block Grant - CARES Act Funds	\$ 231,019	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Norton Sound Health Corporation	Coronavirus Aid, Relief & Economic Security Act (CARES)	\$ 10,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Children & Families	Child Care Development Fund CARES	\$ 68,108	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 68,108
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Children & Families	Child Care Development Fund Coronavirus Response & Relief Supplemental Appropriation Act	\$ -	\$ 194,588	\$ -	\$ 194,588
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Children & Families	Child Care Development Fund American Rescue Plan Act	\$ -	\$ 847,476	\$ -	\$ 365,412
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Children & Families	ANA American Rescue Plan Act Language Revitalization	\$ -	\$ 82,609	\$ -	\$ 82,609
Alaska Community Foundation	Summer Youth Camp	\$ -	\$ 15,000	\$ -	\$ -
U.S. Treasury	CARES	\$ 5,389,400	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
U.S. Treasury	Emergency Rental Assistance Program	\$ -	\$ 963,950	\$ -	\$ -
U.S. Treasury	Home Owners Assistance Fund	\$ -	\$ 573,277	\$ -	\$ 573,277
U.S. Treasury	State, Local Fiscal Recovery	\$ -	\$ 18,194,654	\$ -	\$ 500,000
BIA Office of Self Governance	CARES	\$ 1,257,413	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 200,000
BIA Office of Self Governance	American Rescue Plan Act	\$ -	\$ 2,189,497	\$ -	\$ 400,000
Federal Transit Authority	Tribal Transit CARES	\$ 3,497	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Federal Transit Authority	Tribal Transit American Rescue Plan Act	\$ -	\$ 6,210	\$ -	\$ 6,210
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Children & Families	Title IV-B Child Welfare Services COVID Response	\$ 1,234	\$ 3,616	\$ -	\$ 2,000
<b>SUBTOTAL: COVID-19 RELATED FUNDS</b>		<b>\$ 6,960,671</b>	<b>\$ 23,070,877</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 2,392,204</b>
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>\$ 9,656,835</b>	<b>\$ 25,884,156</b>	<b>\$ 2,661,732</b>	<b>\$ 5,217,394</b>

## ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

COVID RESPONSE FUNDS (CRF) ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS	NUMBER OF PAYMENTS TO RECIPIENTS	TOTAL
Coronavirus Emergency Financial Assistance Program	2,616	\$ 4,230,329
Emergency Housing Assistance	699	\$ 911,545
Emergency Welfare Assistance	58	\$ 46,660
Student & Post-Secondary Student Support Program	239	\$ 428,293
Small Business & Artisan Relief	50	\$ 308,982
<b>Total assistance provided as of Nov. 4, 2021</b>	<b>3,662</b>	<b>\$ 5,925,809</b>

COVID RESPONSE FUND AWARD	RECEIVED	SPENT	BALANCE	DEADLINE
Child Care Development Fund CARES	\$ 68,108	\$ -	\$ 68,108	9/30/2022
Child Care Development Fund Coronavirus Response & Relief Supplemental Appropriation Act	\$ 194,588	\$ -	\$ 194,588	9/30/2022
Child Care Development Fund American Rescue Plan Act Stabilization	\$ 529,271	\$ -	\$ 529,271	9/30/2022
Child Care Development Fund American Rescue Plan Act Supplemental	\$ 318,205	\$ -	\$ 318,205	9/30/2023
Alaska Community Foundation	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000	\$ -	10/15/2021
NAHASDA HUD CARES	\$ 231,019	\$ 231,019	\$ -	12/31/2020
Title IV-B Child Welfare CARES	\$ 1,234	\$ 1,234	\$ -	9/30/2021
Title IV-B Child Welfare Consolidate Appropriations Act	\$ 3,616	\$ -	\$ 3,616	9/30/2022
NSHC COVID-19 Wellness	\$ 10,000	\$ 7,751	\$ 2,249	N/A
Administration for Native Americans American Rescue Plan Act Language Revitalization	\$ 82,609	\$ -	\$ 82,609	9/30/2022
U.S. Treasury CARES	\$ 5,389,400	\$ 5,389,400	\$ -	12/30/2021
U.S. Treasury Emergency Rental Assistance Program	\$ 963,950	\$ 877,594	\$ 86,356	9/30/2022
U.S. Treasury Homeowners Assistance Fund	\$ 573,277	\$ 8,230	\$ 565,047	Pending
U.S. Treasury State & Local Fiscal Recovery	\$ 18,194,654	\$ 1,560	\$ 18,193,093	9/30/2026
BIA CARES	\$ 1,257,413	\$ 196,026	\$ 1,061,387	N/A
BIA American Rescue Plan Act	\$ 2,189,497	\$ -	\$ 2,189,497	N/A
Transit CARES	\$ 3,497	\$ 3,497	\$ -	N/A
Transit American Rescue Plan Act	\$ 6,210	\$ -	\$ 6,210	Pending
<b>Total for all CRF Awards</b>	<b>\$ 30,031,548</b>	<b>\$ 6,731,311</b>	<b>\$ 23,300,237</b>	



# HUMAN RESOURCES

*Cathy Lyon, Manager*

## CURRENT NEC STAFFING

Nome Eskimo Community currently has 16 FTE staff:

- » We employ 15 regular full-time employees and two regular part-time employees.
- » 69% of staff are NEC Tribal members.
- » 100% of staff are Alaska Native or Native American.

## YEARS OF SERVICE AT NEC

NEC would like to recognize all of our employees for their service!

- » Stephanie Blanning - 11 years
- » Lola Tobuk - 9 years
- » Cathy Lyon - 7 years
- » Edward Omedelina - 7 years
- » Jacob Martin - 6 years
- » Toni Smith - 5 years
- » Bivers Gologergen - 4 years
- » Theresa Kenick - 3 years
- » Tiffany Martinson - 3 years
- » Shelby Sinnok - 2 years
- » Cory Jackson - 2 years
- » Jady Otton - 2 years
- » Adrienne Dickson-Bahnke - 1 year
- » Allaryce Agloinga - 10 months
- » Keegan Bourdon - 10 months
- » Naomi Minix - 8 months

## ANNUAL HUMAN RESOURCES ACTIVITIES

- » Reviewed HR files to ensure documentation for all staff is complete and up-to-date for budgeting purposes. Assisted supervisors with providing evaluation due dates. Annual or every-other-year merit increases completed timely.
- » Completed recruiting process; assisted managers with background checks and employment interviews, and updating and revising job descriptions, re-evaluation of positions, job description updates, and posting of positions. Posted job information on NEC's website and nome-announce, and submitted it to the Nome Nugget and Job Service. Updated and reviewed our job application as needed.
- » Provided new employee orientation that includes policy review and ensuring all documentation for employment is completed. Assisted new employees with FEHB, VSP, dental and Principal enrollment forms and

with navigating on-line access.

- » Provided Safety Policy training, reviewed incident reports and conducted employee interviews to determine possible COVID exposure to other staff. Contacted individuals, if necessary, with recommendations for COVID testing, and informed them of safety precautions.
- » Worked with staff with personnel issues, assisting with interpreting and understanding policies.
- » Assisted employees with insurance claims, providing contact information for the plan and coordinating with medical provider specialists. Assisted staff with Workers' Compensation reports of injury, and completed Employer Report of Occupational injury or illness to Division of Workers' Compensation.
- » Updated and reviewed billing systems for all insurance providers. Assisted staff with access to websites and system administration with password changes. Initiated technical assistance as needed.
- » Completed annual insurance renewals, including health insurance, dental, vision, life/STD, liability, workman's compensation, and vehicle insurance. Informed employees of changes to insurance benefits during renewal process. Completed annual census for renewal rates. Filed and reported claims as needed for vehicle insurance. Provided information for amendments, invoice reconciliation and certificates of insurance.
- » Provided information to insurance carrier to complete liability audit for 2020 and preliminary audit for 1st quarter 2021. Assisted carrier to review workman's compensation information to complete class coding.
- » Provided overview of Tribal Services policies to staff. Submitted annual reports, reviewed and approved assistance payments. Provided coverage during vacancy as needed for General Assistance and Higher Education.
- » Coordinated building maintenance issues and annual checkup for boiler, fire alarm system and fire extinguishers.
- » Provided NEC Tribal Council support: drafting meeting minutes, phone polls as needed, and quarterly or special meeting support as needed.
- » Reviewed tribal enrollment applications for eligibility as needed, provided support to Tribal Enrollment Officer as needed. Provided coverage for Tribal IDs as needed.

## STAFF VACANCIES AS OF NOVEMBER 2, 2021

- » Accountant
- » Accounting Specialist
- » Deputy Director
- » Project Manager
- » Housing Specialist
- » Youth Services Specialist
- » Transit Driver
- » Carpenter or Laborer
- » ICWA Coordinator (Anchorage)

## HOW WE ADVERTISE FOR RECRUITMENT

- » In-house
- » Social media and NEC website
- » Alaska Job Center Network
- » *Nome Nugget* newspaper
- » nome-announce, a local email list for community trade or sales
- » Started testing indeed.com to evaluate responses

## TRIBAL SERVICES

*Adrienne Dickson-Bahnke, Tribal Services Case Manager*

### TRIBAL SERVICES STAFF

- » *Adrienne Dickson-Bahnke, Tribal Services Case Manager*
- » *Cathy Lyon, Acting Tribal Services Director*

The Tribal Services Department assists tribal members to become self-sufficient by providing financial assistance for general needs, higher education, vocational training, and employment services.

### FUNDING

Tribal Services programs are part of NEC's Compact of Self-Governance with the United States of America. The compact authorizes NEC to provide programs, activities, functions and services on behalf of the Bureau of Indian Affairs as determined by tribal priorities.

The Welfare, Burial, Emergency and Direct Employment Assistance reporting period is October 1–September 30 annually. The Higher Education and Vocational Training reporting period is January 1–December 31 annually.

- » **WELFARE ASSISTANCE.** This program provides temporary financial assistance to meet the essential needs for Alaska Natives/American Indians from out of our region and for NEC tribal members who reside in the Nome Service Area. There were 27 applicants, and 16

were approved. Eleven applicants were not approved because they were either over income, had no unmet need, or submitted an incomplete application.

- » **BURIAL ASSISTANCE.** This program provides financial assistance for funeral expenses for which other financial resources are unavailable. There were 10 applicants but none were approved; these applicants either were not enrolled with NEC, the deceased family members received assistance from other organizations, the applicants didn't apply as required at the Department of Public Assistance, or they withdrew their application because of the amount of personal documentation required.

- » **EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE.** This program is available in cases of a fire in a home or natural disaster situations like flooding. One application was received but the applicant was found to be over income and thus was not approved.

- » **DIRECT EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE.** This program is available to eligible applicants who require financial assistance for transitional needs to secure and/or retain employment in the Nome service area. Of our four applicants, two were approved. Two were not approved due to not demonstrating an unmet need or were found to be over the program's income limit.

- » **HIGHER EDUCATION.** This program provides scholarship funds to students who pursue education by enrollment in an associate or bachelor's degree program. Scholarships are made available to students enrolled in a master's degree program as long as funds are available. A total of 122 students were awarded scholarships in 2021.

- **Spring 2021 semester:** There were 59 applicants, and 54 were funded. Four withdrew their applications because they were not going to attend spring semester. One applicant was denied funds due to submitting an incomplete application despite multiple attempts in trying to contact.

- **Spring 2021 quarter:** Three students applied for scholarships; all were approved.

- **Summer 2021 semester:** Twenty-two students applied, and 21 were funded. One was not approved due to not being tribally enrolled with NEC. Two applicants were put on probation due to applying late application or having a GPA under 2.0.

- **Fall 2021 semester:** Of our 75 applicants, 65 were approved. Two applicants withdrew their request because they had sufficient funding for the semester. Eight applicants were denied due to not being tribally enrolled with NEC.

» **VOCATIONAL TRAINING ASSISTANCE.** This program is for students who wish to increase job skills necessary to obtain or retain employment through certified vocational programs. We received three applications. Two were approved for assistance, and one was denied due to receiving enough funding from other sources for training.

### NORTON SOUND WELLNESS GRANT

The NSHC Wellness Grant funds NEC's Condolence Program that offers \$150 when a tribal member passes away. In 2021, NEC assisted 20 families with this program.

### NSEDC FUNDS

NEC receives pass-through donations from NSEDC to distribute to regional residents for bereavement (\$500) and medical hardship (\$250). Ten families requested donations: eight for bereavement and two for medical hardship.

### KAWERAK COLLEGE TRANSITION PROGRAM

Partnering with Kawerak's college transition program, NEC was able to fund four of our Graduating High School Senior Scholarship awardees to get settled in at their colleges. The program also helped prepare these students to be on their own and for what to expect as a new college student. Of the four students funded, one went to the University of Alaska Southeast, one went to Fort Lewis College, one to California Lutheran University and one to the University of Hilo Hawaii.

### HIGHER EDUCATION MYCACHE UPDATE

We are very excited to announce that NEC joined MyCache as of February 2021. It is very beneficial to our enrolled tribal students to have access to the NEC's scholarship application online, where they can create a profile and upload and save required documents. MyCache offers students a one-stop-shop type of application process with other Bering Strait regional entities offering higher education funding. The MyCache entities are working with the web developer on a MyCache app so that students can also access this universal application on mobile devices. Students can still submit required documentation by email, since site upgrades have inadvertently created issues with document uploads. We continue to work to make the website as user-friendly as possible. At the site, students can check the status of their application, can see whether their application is incomplete, complete, or under review, and can request email notification that their application has been submitted.



## HOUSING

*Theresa Kenick, Housing Specialist*

### HOUSING STAFF

- » *Theresa Kenick, Housing Specialist*
- » *Bivers Golodergen, Foreman*

### FUNDING

The Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (NAHASDA) reorganized the system of housing assistance provided to Native Americans through the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The two programs authorized for Indian tribes under NAHASDA are the Indian Housing Block Grant (IHBG), which is a formula-based grant program, and Title VI Loan Guarantee, which provides financing guarantees to Indian tribes for private market loans to develop affordable housing. NEC participates in the IHBG. Regulations are published at 24 CFR Part 1000.

We received the NAHASDA award letter announcing \$857,717 for FY2021. This was an increase of \$102,031 over the \$755,686 received in FY2020.

### INDIAN HOUSING PLAN

Each year, NEC is required to submit an Indian Housing Plan (IHP) that identifies what programs NEC will offer in the upcoming year (January-December). The FY2022 IHP was submitted to the HUD office in October 2021. The 2021 Annual Performance Review (APR), which is an annual report of activities, is due by January 30 of the following year.

## RENTAL ASSISTANCE

NEC's Rental Assistance Program was created to assist low-income tribal members with monthly rent. To ensure program sustainability and affordability, eligibility is limited to members who are elders 62 and older, members with disabilities, or caregivers of members with disabilities. Currently we have 10 clients: eight elders, one caregiver, and one medical. We have no applications on the waiting list. One client will be moving out of town, which will free up a slot on the waiting list.

## ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROGRAM

This program offers \$100,000 for labor and materials to enhance the energy efficiency of eligible low-income homes in the Nome service area. NEC budgets for six projects per year if funding allows. Priority is based on three issues: (1) the date of the initial application; (2) the date the application is finally complete, and (3) the overall safety of the home. Currently we have one approved application, with no applicants on the waiting list.

## EMERGENCY HOMELESS SHELTER SUPPORT

NEC provides financial assistance to the NEST emergency homeless shelter in Nome. This is a co-operative venture to provide emergency homeless shelter assistance to individuals who are Alaskan Native and American Indian impacted by homelessness.

## EMERGENCY RENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

NEC received \$963,950 from the U.S. Department of the Treasury on March 26, 2021, to offer the Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP). This program provides financial assistance to eligible low-income tribal households for rent, utility, heating fuel/propane, and other housing-related expenses beginning March 13, 2020, that are due directly or indirectly to the COVID-19 pandemic.

NEC began advertising the program on April 2, 2021, and closed the program to new applications on September 10, 2021, because it appeared that the funding was going to be fully expended. When it became clear that there was not enough funding to fulfill all requests, NEC established a four-tiered preference system, based on guidance provided by the U.S. Treasury, to prioritize how the remaining funds would be distributed.

- » **Tier 1:** Clients with income levels 50% or below the median income and clients (or their household members) who have been unemployed at least 90 days.
- » **Tier 2:** Clients with income levels 50% or below the median income

» **Tier 3:** Clients who have been unemployed at least 90 days.

» **Tier 4:** All other clients.

NEC will review funding availability to determine if additional assistance can be approved.

DISTRIBUTION OF NEC ERAP FUNDS	
Number of approved applicants	95
Number of applicants who received rental assistance	94
Number of applicants who received utility assistance	58
Number of applicants who received hotel assistance	6
Number of applicants who received fuel/propane assistance	5
Number of applicants denied because they were homeowners, not renters	7
Number of applicants who withdrew their application after being approved for funding through AHFC	8
Number of applicants denied due to the household being over income	5
Number of applicants denied due to not having a rental by the deadline; all were referred to BSRHA	4
Number of applicants denied because they applied after the deadline; all were referred to BSRHA	3

## HOMEOWNER ASSISTANCE FUND PROGRAM

The Homeowner Assistance Fund (HAF) Program was created to prevent homeowner mortgage delinquencies, defaults, foreclosures, loss of utilities or home energy services, and displacements of homeowners experiencing financial hardship after January 21, 2020, for eligible low-income household applicants who are enrolled NEC tribal members. Program documents have been submitted to the U.S. Treasury for approval, and we are awaiting a response.

Under the program, assistance is available up to \$10,000. Applicants must be at least 18 years old and have at least one household member tribally enrolled with NEC. The applicant must be the property owner of record and the home must be the homeowner's primary residence. Applicant must attest they have experienced a COVID-19-caused financial hardship after January 21, 2020, such as job loss, reduction in household income, or increased costs due to healthcare or the need to care for a family member. The applicant must have income equal to or less than 150% of the median income for the area in which the household is located.



# FAMILY SERVICES

*Lola Tobuk, Director - Anchorage*

## FAMILY SERVICES STAFF

- » *Lola Tobuk, Director – Anchorage*
- » *Cory Jackson, ICWA Specialist II – Anchorage*
- » *Allaryce Agloinga, ICWA Specialist II – Nome*
- » *Jadyn Otton, ICWA Specialist I – Anchorage*

## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Jadyn Otton started working with NEC as an ICWA coordinator in the Anchorage office on November 10, 2020, and Allaryce Agloinga was hired as the Nome ICWA specialist II on January 19, 2021. Jadyn has since been promoted to ICWA specialist I after the resignation of Lindsey Marr, who filled the position briefly.

The Anchorage office moved from its location of five years to new office space on April 19, 2021. The new location is 101 W. Benson Boulevard, Suite 203. The landlord remains the Tatitlek Corporation.

Family Services receives funding from the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) to operate an Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) program; Title IV-B of the Social Security Act, Subparts 1 and 2, to provide a broad range of services designed to support, preserve, and/or reunite children and their families; the State of Alaska Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS) Office of Children's Services (OCS) Tribal-State Compact program; the State Title IV-E reimbursement program; and the State Title IV-E Family First Prevention Services (FFPS) program (second year of a three-year grant). Title IV-B funds were also supplemented for FY21 and FY22 to support families negatively impacted by COVID-19. Title IV-B funds are directed toward family preservation, reunification services, and intervention so that children will not have to be removed from their homes or so that reunification is expeditiously and safely achieved. Although funding under Title IV-B is modest, these funds are an integral part of the services for families who need assistance in order to stay together.

NEC entered into a compact agreement with the State OCS on December 15, 2017, to provide child welfare services to tribal children and families identified in its service population and delivery areas. For FY22, NEC received funding for one full-time position to perform four scopes of work: Diligent relative search, ongoing placement searches, foster care licensing assistance and safety evaluation walk-throughs of unlicensed relatives. The State of Alaska added a one-time appropriation for



co-signers to provide prevention services during FY22. The prevention scope of work was approved during FY22 negotiations in August 2021.

Family Services received a three-year State of Alaska Title IV-E Prevention Services grant beginning in FY21 to provide culturally-appropriate prevention services to tribal children and families that strengthen and preserve the family unit while alleviating barriers that prevent caregivers from keeping their children safe in the home. Our staff will accompany OCS investigation workers to assess protective capacities and determine appropriateness for NEC intervention to prevent the break-up of the tribal family. This program has had implementation issues that limit its potential to meet the needs of tribal children and families. These issues are currently being worked out.

The number of ICWA Notices and Protective Services Reports from the State Office of Children's Services, January 1-September 30, 2021:

Quarter 1	52
Quarter 2	44
Quarter 3	49
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>145</b>

NEC formally intervened in ten cases since January 1, 2021. Currently, there are 54 tribal children in state or out-of-state custody for a total of 39 cases. In addition to CINA cases, Family Services staff prepare cultural adoption packets for the NEC Tribal Council.

# TRIBAL RESOURCES

*Jacob Martin, Program Director*

## PROGRAM FUNDING

The Tribal Resources Program operates with funding under an EPA/Indian General Assistance Program (IGAP) grant, with an operating budget of \$124,000 annually. The program director successfully negotiated continued EPA/IGAP funding through 2021.

## PROGRAM FUNCTIONS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

NEC's Tribal Resource Program follows an approved work plan under the EPA/IGAP, and within this work plan are the following three components:

### (1) INCREASE TRIBAL ENVIRONMENTAL CAPACITY

- Jacob Martin was hired as subsistence specialist in May 2015, then as program director in October 2016.
- Program staff participated the following meetings, conferences and trainings:
  - » Bering Strait Norton Sound Migratory Bird Council meeting.
  - » Regional EPA/IGAP teleconferences.
  - » ANTHC Local Environmental Observer (LEO) Network teleconferences.
- Staff successfully completed the UAF Water Quality Certification program.

### (2) ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH

- Staff collected environmental and water quality data for 12 sites identified in the EPA work plan, and collected water quality data for several other sites in conjunction with UAF water quality courses.
- Data reflected average, cooler water temperatures and many instances of high-water levels with near neutral (pH 7 range) and good oxygen levels. While conditions all summer would have been excellent for fish that made it up the rivers, very few to no fish were recorded at multiple sites while recording or investigating.

### (3) POLLUTION PREVENTION/RECYCLING

- Program staff assisted the City of Nome and Kawerak with recycling, backhaul of toxics, and spring cleanup activities.
- Tribal Resources hired one intern, Devan Otten, who conducted the beach cleanup, assisted with water quality sampling, and assisted with Kawerak backhaul and e-waste.



- Beach Cleanup project gathered an estimated 7,000 pounds of scrap metal and eight large bags of trash.
- Set up two trash receptacles—one at East Beach and one at the mouth of the Nome River. Checking them every three days for two months, we brought twelve 55-gallon drums' worth of garbage to the landfill. Thanks to Aaron Cooper for providing the 55-gallon drums and to the City of Nome's landfill for waiving fees for beach cleanup trash.

### (4) GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION

- Met with the U.S. Army Corp of Engineer's Alaska District Commander Colonel Damon Delarosa, tribal liaison Kendal Campbell, Alaska Chief of Regulatory Division David Hobbie, along with North Section Chief Ellen Lyons and Project Manager Tiffany Kwakwa regarding the IPOP, LLC, proposed case study and the proposed port expansion.
- Wrote one comment letter in opposition to the IPOP, LLC, mining operation in POA-2018-Bonanza Channel/Safety Sound Public Notice and further revision by IPOP and their contractors.
  - » NEC believes this operation to be harmful to the Safety Sound/Bonanza Channel environment, as it would impact numerous NEC and local Nome residents' ability to subsist throughout the year.
  - » Copies of NEC's comment letter are available by request.



## TRIBAL TRANSIT & TRANSPORTATION

*Jacob Martin, Program Director*

### PROGRAM FUNDING

The NEC Tribal Transit Program is funded by the Federal Transit Administration under the U.S. Department of Transportation. NEC's Transportation Program is funded by the U.S. Department of Transportation.

- » Over the last year, NEC has worked with Bristol Engineering to update our Tribal Transit Plan. The goal of this Transit Plan is to evaluate the existing program and provide recommendations for future growth and improvement. The TTP manager, transit staff, and other employees can reference this plan as needed for background data, transit resources, operations and procedures, training requirements, safety considerations, budgeting, and more.
- » Currently, we are also working with Bristol Engineering to update our Tribal Transportation Safety Plan. The safety plan evaluates crash data and community priorities to identify and implement strategies that will reduce the risk of injuries and fatalities on the local transportation system.

## YOUTH SERVICES

*Shelby Sinnok, Youth Services Manager*

### YOUTH SERVICES STAFF

- » *Shelby Sinnok, Youth Services Manager*
- » *Keegan Bourdon, Youth Services Specialist*

### PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Youth Services provided youth K-12 the opportunity to make their own ice fishing jigger and then go ice fishing once they had finished their jigs. Eight kids attended and caught over 80 tomcod in three days. Over 40 of those tomcods were donated to Quyanna Care Center, with the remainder going home with all children who participated.

NEC provided funding for two basketball clinics this year: the Permafrost Youth Clinic in March for grades 4-12, and the Challenge Life Foundation clinic in August for grades 3-12.

NEC was able to safely bring back the Outdoors Club in 2021. A total of 33 children attended and activities included picking greens, fishing, berry picking, hiking and more.

Youth Services distributed 58 Nome Recreation Center/ Swimming Pool passes to tribal member children in Nome.

NEC was excited to bring back the Youth Subsistence Adventure Kits in 2021 through a grant received from the Alaska Community Foundation. Following granting rules and regulations, we distributed 57 kits to Nome-based, tribally-enrolled children ages 3 through high school seniors. The kits included a backpack, fishing rod, berry bucket, water bottle, first aid kit, hoodie and snacks.

### FUNDING AND PARTNERSHIPS

In addition to AK CARES funds, the department operated in 2021 on two main grants and one pass-through grant: Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF), Johnson O'Malley Fund (JOM), and Institute of Museums and Library Services (IMLS). More information on the grants and how we now use them and would like to use them in the future appears below. We have collaborated with several partners, including Norton Sound Health



Corporation, Kawerak, Nome Public Schools, Nome Preschool Association, and Kegoayah Kozga Public Library, to name a few.

### CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT FUND (CCDF)

**BACKGROUND ON GRANT.** The Child Care and Development Fund is authorized by the Child Development Block Grant and helps low-income families obtain childcare so they can work or attend training/education. The funding is intended to improve the quality of childcare and promotes coordination with early childhood development and after-school programs. This funding serves ages 3-12 and the goal is to ensure staff are well trained in providing quality childcare in a safe environment, and to promote literacy and cultural competency. We want to ensure that NEC tribal children are offered engaging and culturally-relevant activities.

**OUTDOORS CLUB** is a five-week program for youth ages 6-12 in Nome. A total of 33 children participated in 2021. Outdoors Club activities include picking greens, fishing, berry picking, hiking and more.

**RELATIVE CHILDCARE PROGRAM.** This program provides childcare for parents who work or subsist 20 hours per week and will pay the provider to care for the child. Currently, eligible relatives include great-grandparents, grandparents, aunts, uncle or siblings (who live in a separate household). This program is one of the first of many steps we will be taking over the coming years to enhance childcare and child development in our Nome service area.

**PRESCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM.** This program received fewer scholarship requests over the past year because the Migrant Education Program is covering our youths' cost to attend. We have provided funding in instances where MigrantEd cannot. Due to the pandemic and a surplus of CCDF funds, we have been able to cover full tuition for students in the Preschool Scholarship Program and we are extremely happy with that. Normally we have a co-pay that the parent would be responsible for, and we will go back to that eventually. So far, for the 2021-22 school year we have covered one Nome Preschool student under this program.

**PRESCHOOL MINI-GRANT.** We amended a \$12,500 grant we had awarded the Nome Preschool Association in the past, giving them an additional \$1,038.55 for classroom materials and supplies, gravel, books, and continuing education for staff.

### JOHNSON O'MALLEY FUND (JOM)

**BACKGROUND ON GRANT.** The Johnson O'Malley Fund grant results from NEC's Compact of Self-Governance



with the United States of America. The compact authorizes NEC to provide programs, activities, functions, and services on behalf of the Bureau of Indian Affairs as determined by tribal priorities. This program serves ages 3 through graduating high school senior. The main goal is to provide supplemental educational, cultural, and linguistic support for our tribal students.

**USE OF JOM FUNDS.** We are excited about expanding JOM programs in coming years based on successful models from tribes around Alaska. In partnership with Nome Public Schools and Kawerak, NEC helped fund the salary for a college and career guide position at Nome-Beltz High School (which ended in May 2021) and the Challenge Life basketball camp. We also provided funds to support the afterschool tutoring program at NPS during the 2020-2021 school year. In addition, two staff were able to attend a JOM conference where valuable information was shared about the program and how NEC can leverage its resources more effectively for the benefit of our tribal students. We also look to use this fund to support Native Youth Olympics and also the Nome Native Youth Leadership Organization.

### INSTITUTE OF MUSEUM AND LIBRARY SERVICES (IMLS)

NEC partners with Nome's Kegoayah-Kozga Library to receive a \$10,000 pass-through grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). The library used these funds to purchase craft and summer reading program materials as well as t-shirts designed in partnership with NEC to promote literacy and reading throughout the summer.

There were 161 registrants for the 2021 summer reading program. The library gave out 500 craft kits between June and August. Children enrolled in the summer reading program received T-shirts with the logos of NEC and the library.