A Message from Jana George, CEO, Interior Regional Housing Authority

It has been my pleasure to work with tribes on projects to improve housing conditions whether through one of our many programs, or by providing valuable resources to benefit individuals and families. As funding has declined, we have taken a hard look at how we deliver services and are evolving in many ways to maintain quality services. We have implemented cuts within our administration while seeking opportunities to network and provide much needed services to the communities of Interior Alaska. While 2016 has brought budget challenges, IRHA is committed to community development and providing safe, affordable housing for our clients. I look forward to many successful partnerships.
The following outlines the application process and point selection criteria to determine eligibility and for placement on a waiting list for these programs.

1. When a completed application packet is submitted, it is date and time stamped. The application packet is then reviewed with the client to ensure that they provided complete information on all forms.

2. IRHA requires the following documentation:
   - Tribal enrollment or Certificate of Indian Blood
   - Picture ID for each adult
   - Most recent bank statement
   - Income verification:
     - Pay stubs for the last 2 pay periods
     - Other income (SSI, retirement, dividends, etc.)
     - Last year Federal Tax Returns for each applicant
   - Proof of Ownership (Quitclaim) to be filed with State of Alaska Recorder’s Office
   - Proof of Homeowners Insurance for Fairbanks

3. Income is verified and calculated to determine eligibility. Household income must meet the HUD Income Limits. IRHA follows the IRS Guidelines in determining income: Employment Income, Dividends, Social Security and Disability Benefits, Unemployment, and Retirement.

4. Once IRHA determines an application/applicant to be eligible, the application is ranked using the following point system in accordance with the Eligibility, Admission, and Occupancy Policy.

5. After IRHA ranks an eligible applicant, they are placed on a waiting list and notified in writing of their eligibility. The entire process with a complete application takes two to four weeks.

IRHA works in partnership with the Tribes of the Doyon Region to improve rural and urban housing conditions through planning, design, and affordable and safe construction, and to seek opportunities to promote community self-sufficiency through energy and infrastructure advocacy and community projects.
Happy New Year to all!

IRHA is looking forward to another productive year. At our first meeting after the 2015 Convention, we worked on a 5-year plan with more homes in the villages being our top priority. IRHA is now licensed to do contracting work not only for homes but for commercial construction as well. The Planning Department can answer any questions about money available for new construction in your village—you can call IRHA’s office any time for this information.

I know everyone is looking forward to Convention so please have safe travels and we will see you there. This will be a busy time as during Convention the two expiring seats on our Board of Commissioners will be filled (3-year terms), along with a third seat to be filled with one year remaining. I am available to talk to anyone with questions or concerns. You can leave a message on my home phone 907-927-2235. Thanks again!

Robert Albert, Board Chair

Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act (NAHASDA)

In 1937, the federal government enacted laws to provide housing for low-income people. The Mutual Help Program was started in the 1960s, to introduce Native Americans to affordable homeownership. In 1996, the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act (NAHASDA) was enacted by Congress and is the current federal statute that governs HUD’s Indian Housing Program. NAHASDA is the vehicle to provide Federal assistance for Indian tribes in a manner that recognizes the right of tribal self-governance and is the regulation IRHA is required to follow.

Under NAHASDA, there are the Indian Housing Block Grants (IHBG)—an annual allocation from HUD provided for the purposes of affordable housing activities to participating Tribes and Tribally Designated Housing Authorities (TDHE). IRHA receives this funding from HUD, and each year is designated as a TDHE through tribal resolution. We currently have 29 tribes under the IRHA umbrella and also serve the Fairbanks area. IRHA also works with tribes who have not designated us as their TDHE through partnerships, networking, and collaboration.

Eligible NAHASDA Activities include, but are not limited to:

- New Housing
- Home Weatherization and Rehab
- Title VI Loan Guarantee Program
- Rental Assistance
- Mortgage Buy Down Assistance
- Community/Teen Centers (model activities)
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Selection Criteria</th>
<th>Point Breakdown</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Enrolled local tribal member, Spouse or Head of Household</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First time participant in an IRHA Housing Program</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enrolled Indian Children in Household</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Veteran Head of Household</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Need for Housing Accessible to a Person with a Disability</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exceptional Circumstances</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elders Preference</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Possible Points</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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