



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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**Application Period Now Open**  
**For Interior Regional Housing Authority Homeowner Assistance**  
*Eligible tribal members are encouraged to apply.*

**FAIRBANKS, Alaska, Nov. 2, 2023** – Interior Regional Housing Authority has opened the application period for Homeowner Assistance, Oct. 30 - Dec. 1, 2023. Homeowners who are enrolled tribal members and live in select regions that have IRHA as their Tribally Designated Housing Entity are encouraged to check their eligibility and apply at <https://irha.org/>.

IRHA Homeowner Assistance utilizes federal Housing Assistance Funds to provide mortgage and/or utility assistance to homeowners who are enrolled tribal members in eligible areas of Interior Alaska. The program is designed to address financial challenges related to the COVID-19 pandemic, and prevent mortgage delinquencies and the loss of utilities and critical services inclusive of home fuel such as propane and firewood.

To be eligible, homeowners must demonstrate that difficulties are directly related to circumstances associated with COVID-19. Hardships must have occurred after Jan. 21, 2020. This may include a reduction or loss of income; delaying the purchase of essential goods to pay for home-related expenses; relying on credit cards or high-cost payday lenders; or depleting savings accounts to buffer the loss of wages, all of which can create or lead to housing insecurities.

Eligible participants must be affiliated with tribes who have chosen IRHA as their Tribally Designated Housing Entity and live in specific regions of Alaska. Specific to this program, this includes the communities of Alatna, Allakaket, Beaver, Birch Creek, Chalkyitsik, Chena Hot Springs, Delta Junction, Dot Lake, Eagle, Evansville, Fairbanks, Grayling, Holy Cross, Kaltag, Koyukuk, Manley Hot Springs, Minto, Nenana, Nikolai, North Pole, Northway, Ruby, Shageluk, Stevens Village, Takotna, Tanacross, Telida, Tetlin, and Tok.

According to Census Tract data for Fairbanks North Star Borough, Southeast Fairbanks Census Area, and Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area, there are more than 20,000 residents within the specified regional areas.

“The COVID-19 pandemic has had a devastating impact on our communities and we know that many of our stakeholders are struggling financially to make ends meet,” says Orié Williams, CEO of IRHA.

“The onset of winter makes these circumstances more challenging and this is a unique opportunity to lessen homeowner hardships associated with the pandemic and provide much-needed relief to our eligible tribal members.”

IRHA’s Homeowner Assistance is supported by more than \$5 million of pooled tribal federal funding. IRHA anticipates that distribution of funds will begin in December 2023.

Potential Coverage:

- After all applications are received, IRHA will assess need and determine allocation of funds. Assistance for eligible applicants may include unpaid mortgage payments and associated fees, utility bills and other homeowner expenses.
- Funds cannot be applied to past due balances that pre-date Jan. 21, 2020.

Eligible Owner-occupied Properties:

- Single-family attached and detached properties, and condominium units
- Manufactured homes permanently affixed to property and taxed as real estate
- Mobile homes not permanently affixed to real property
- Land contracts
- 1 to 4-unit properties where the homeowner is living in one of the units as a primary residence

Funds will be distributed directly to the mortgage servicer, utility/energy company, insurer, and/or tax authority, as appropriate.

“Once the application window closes and IRHA enters the review phase, our end goal will be to maximize the available funding to provide support for as many eligible tribal members as possible,” stated Williams.

Visit <https://irha.org/> for the most current information about IRHA Homeowner Assistance and to apply.

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Interior Regional Housing Authority is a non-profit organization with authority derived from both state and federal law. IRHA was formed in 1974 along with thirteen other Alaska housing authorities to administer programs of the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) throughout the state. IRHA serves the tribes of the Doyon region, encompassing remote traditional villages, and Alaska's second largest city, Fairbanks. It is larger in land area than the entire state of Texas.