



# Tlingit-Haida Regional Housing Authority

Working Together Constructing the Foundation for our Future

Long Term Care Conference



“Woocheen” working together.

Tlingit-Haida Regional Housing Authority’s primary mission is to provide affordable housing throughout southeast Alaska. Understanding the need for senior services, Tlingit-Haida Regional Housing Authority has partnered with Southeast Senior Services in Klawock, Alaska to provide elderly services to senior residents. Southeast Senior Services works throughout southeast Alaska and is a recognized senior service provider through their multiple programs. The collaborative effort between Southeast Senior Services and Tlingit-Haida Regional Housing Authority has resulted in each organization working together to do what they do best! Each organization brings their expertise and works together through a senior service coordinator as liaison to deliver services to the community. For more information on Tlingit Haida Regional Housing Authority visit

**THRHA.ORG**

## Collaboration and Partners Working Together

Tlingit-Haida Regional Housing Authority (THRHA) secured HUD funding from the Resident Opportunities and Self Sufficiency grant to hire a Service Coordinator who coordinates supportive services for elderly and persons with disabilities residing at the Klawock Senior Center. The program's objective is to help the senior resident population continue to live in place, independently, without having to move to more expensive assisted care environments. Grant funds are used to pay for the position of Service Coordinator, Beverlee Tyner, who is responsible for functions such as: working with community service providers to tailor services to the needs of eligible residents, establishing a system to monitor and evaluate service delivery and outcomes, and coordinating with other independent living programs.

In addition to the successful collaboration results in Klawock, THRHA is currently working with Southeast Senior Services to repeat this same model of collaboration with construction to begin on new senior facilities in other rural Alaska communities including Yakutat and Saxman. The community of Yakutat provides an excellent example of how we work in a collaborative effort.

The Yakutat Tlingit Tribe has focused their Senior Housing development on *planning, articulating the need, and Citizen Participation.*

The reason that the Yakutat Tlingit Tribe is successful in securing funding is due to years of collaboration and working in a grassroots effort to determine the best solutions to address the needs of their treasured community elders.

The planning in Yakutat started about ten years ago with a small group of people who anticipated seniors' needs ten years and beyond. Multiple meetings continued with elders, and solutions were explored. Assistance was sought through surveys to demonstrate the need that existed based on statistical research and data.

The Yakutat Tlingit Tribe commissioned a Community Facility study to assess the population, the community needs, and depict cost effective options for solution and sustainability.

*see next page for continuation of Yakutat’s success*



In memory of Nathan Bremner



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*Yakutat Senior Center (Con't)*

The Community Facility Plan resulted in community members continuing in earnest to secure infrastructure funding through the support of the Tribally Designated Housing Entity.

The success of Yakutat's effort is based on community leadership and working together, *woocheen*, in the Lingit language. Elders remain actively involved with the Tribe to provide input and continual encouragement.

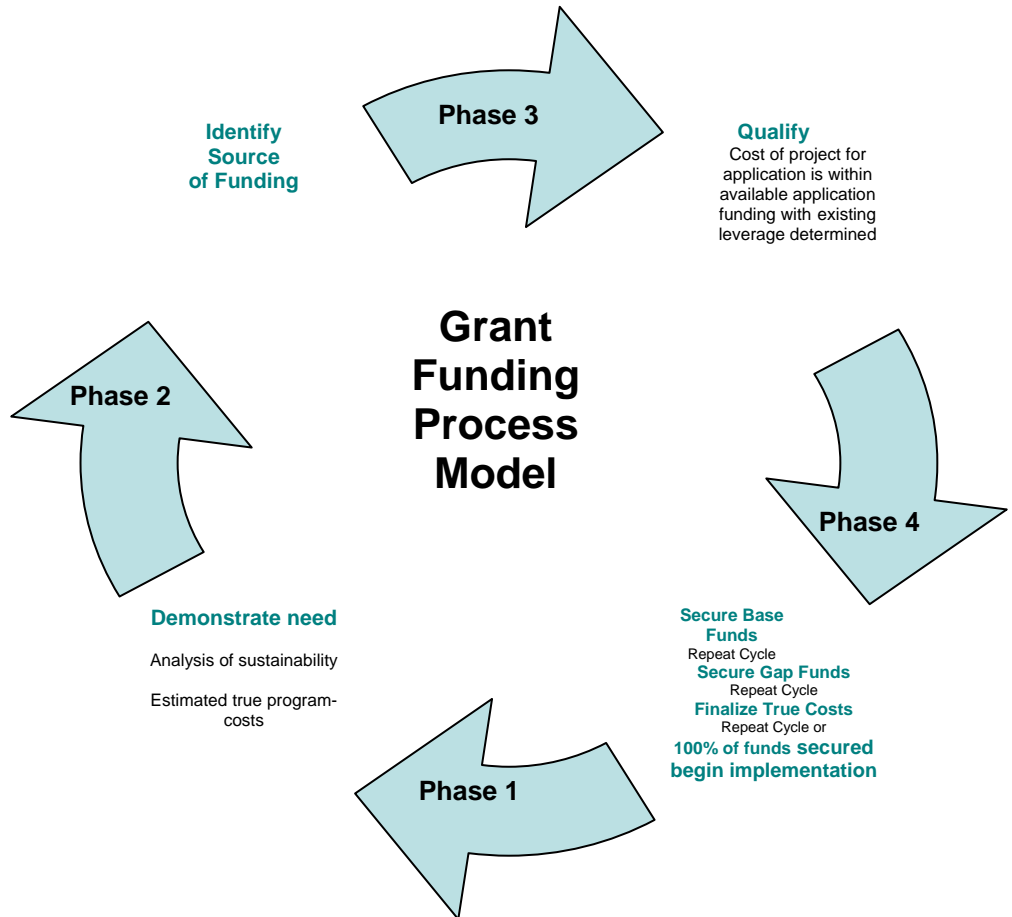
The greatest benefit is that elders are intimately involved in the design of the building that will include Native food preparation stations on the exterior of the building and the kitchen is designed for the Lingit way-of-life and preparing, *haa at. xayee*, our food. The entire community including city leaders, Tribal leaders, youth, elders and the medical community have been involved throughout the process.

# Continuing Success For All Tribes

We encourage Tribes to contact your local HUD office to request that ROSS program funds for Indian Housing Service Coordinators continues. The following describes the program.

The purpose of the ROSS Service Coordinator program is to provide funding to hire and maintain Service Coordinators who will assess the needs of residents of Indian housing and coordinate available resources in the community to meet those needs. "This program works to promote the development of local strategies to coordinate the use of assistance under the Public Housing program with public and private resources, for supportive services and resident empowerment activities. These services should enable participating families to increase earned income, reduce or eliminate the need for welfare assistance, make progress toward achieving economic independence and housing self-sufficiency, or, in the case of elderly or disabled residents, help improve living conditions and enable residents to age-in-place."

## How The Funding Process Works



Getting started is easy! Focus on *articulating the need, planning, and building citizen participation*. Once you have your plan, work your plan! The ongoing funding and development process is made for people and organizations who have determination, staying power, and grace!