Rural Community Assistance Corporation

Tribal Housing Excellence Academy

Accomplishments (RCB FY 2012 and RCB FY 2015)

Short Blurb 1:

In 2014, Rural Community Assistance Corporation (RCAC) launched the Tribal Housing Excellence Academy (THE Academy), which is a multi-year training and technical assistance initiative to work with innovative Native organizations in the rural West to increase housing built on Native lands. As a result, participating tribal housing organizations have secured over $8 million in expanded federal funds and $13.8 million in non-federal funds to leverage against their Indian Housing Block Grant funding. To date, 141 new affordable homes have been completed, and 52 affordable homes rehabilitated.

Short Blurb 2:

Rural Community Assistance Corporation (RCAC) has offered the Tribal Housing Excellence Academy (THE Academy), which served two cohorts of Native housing organizations, from 2014-2017 and 2017-2021. Thirty staff from 15 tribal housing organizations have graduated from THE Academy.

“The Academy has assisted the Craig Tribal Housing Department tremendously.” – Kari Mackie, Housing Coordinator, Craig Tribal Association, Alaska.

Mackie told her fellow THE Academy participants at the graduation ceremony in July 2018 that it is challenging to build in Alaska, where materials are hard to get and building in a cold climate is not very easy. THE Academy helped her and the Tribe with market analysis, appraisals, procurement, funding sources and phases of construction.
During the class, participants discussed the complicated organizational structures used for tax credit financing and used hats to demonstrate the “many hats” a tribal housing agency might wear. The participants later supplemented the training hats with silly graduation hats and tiaras for the graduation celebration. There is a mix of both in the group photo.

Left to right: Eileen Piekarz, RCAC (top hat); Greta Armijo, RCAC; Jamie Navenma, Hualapai Housing Department (graduation cap); Angela Keiffer, CCRH Intern; Clyde Raymond, Puyallup Tribal Housing Department; Andreas Tziolas, Native Village of Barrow (hard hat); Audrey Gachupin, Pueblo of Zia Housing; Sheri Bozic, Pueblo of Zia Community Infrastructure (tiara); Katy Morgan, Cheyenne River Housing Authority; Sam Okakok, Native Village of Barrow (red hat); Kari Mackie, Craig Tribal Association; Michelle Running Wolf, Cheyenne River Housing Authority; Moriah McGill, Northern Circle Indian Housing Authority; Kevin Davidson, Hualapai Planning Department; Eunice Brower, Native Village of Barrow; Sonny Matheson, Puyallup Tribal Housing Department; Anna Guthrie, Craig Tribal Association; David Murray, Native Capital Access; Cielo Gibson, Trainer. (Photo by Dustin Love, RCAC)