

PENOBSCOT NATION ELDER APARTMENT BUILDING RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY (BANGOR, MAINE), JANUARY 15, 2020



The Penobscot Nation recently celebrated the opening of the brand new 24-unit elderly apartment building. Designed for Penobscot elders seeking to age in place, the building features river views from all sixteen one-bedroom apartments, while the eight 2-bedroom apartments face away from the river. Located on Nohkomess Street, the building replaced a previous 8-unit apartment building that was beyond repair. The new building features radiant flooring, great accessibility, walk-in showers, and a large common room on the second floor, as well as Senior Meals on the first floor. Lunch is served Monday to Friday in the first-floor dining area for all Penobscot elders older than age 55. Future plans call for various activities to be hosted in the large open spaces, and within the activity room.

Rent is determined on a sliding scale, based on the household income, and ranges from 20 to 30% of household income. The maximum eligible income for a single person household is \$31,080 and \$35,520 for a two-person



household. Additional amenities include: four laundry rooms, heat and hot water, trash pickup, snow removal, camera security system, and an intercom in each unit to speak with guests seeking to enter at the front door. Chief Kirk Francis thanked all in attendance at the ribbon cutting, and especially members of the Council and Housing Commission that have supported the development of this facility over the past five years. Project supporters including Maine Housing, Hunt Capital, HUD, Federal Loan Home Bank, Genesis, Four Directions, Bangor Savings Bank and others were also in attendance and thanked for their support. The goal is to fill all 24 units no later than March 1, 2020.



Penobscot's new 24-unit elderly apartment project is part of an estimated \$4,000,000 project. Construction began in October 2018 and was completed in December of 2019. HUD's Eastern/Woodlands Office of Native American Programs awarded the Penobscot Nation \$600,000 towards the completion of the project under the Public Facilities and Improvements component of the 2017 Indian Community Block Grant Program (ICDBG) application. Project outputs and outcomes include 24 new apartments constructed, 24 low-income elders will be housed/served, \$3.9 million dollars were invested, seven full time jobs were created. Through these efforts, an entire community's viability has been enhanced. This directly ties into HUD's mission "to strengthen the



housing market to bolster the economy and protect consumers; meet the need for quality affordable rental homes; utilize housing as a platform for improving quality of life; and build inclusive and sustainable communities free from discrimination". EWONAP Office congratulates the Penobscot Nation for the successful completion of this project and is looking forward to working together on future projects.