



Ninilchik Traditional Council

P.O. Box 39070

Ninilchik, AK 99639

PH: 907-567-3313 *FAX: 907-567-3308

Email: ntc@ninilchiktribe-nsn.gov

Website: <http://www.ninilchiktribe-nsn.gov/>

January 28, 2010

US Department of HUD/ ONAP
Attn: William Zachares III
3000 C Street, Suite 401
Anchorage, AK 99503

Re: HUD Consolation Policy

Dear Mr. Zachares,

The Ninilchik Tribe would like to thank you for the opportunity to comment upon potential changes to your current "HUD Government to Government policy".

Following are our suggestions and when appropriate, reasoning behind our suggestions.
Legend: [remove] (replace with)

On Page 2, III. Principles D. HUD [shall] (**will**) take appropriate steps to remove existing legal and programmatic impediments to working directly and effectively with tribes on housing and community development programs administered by HUD.

Page 2, III. Principles E. HUD [shall] (**will**) encourage states and local governments to work with and cooperate with tribes to resolve problems of mutual concern.

Page 2, III. Principles F. HUD [shall] (**will**) work with other federal departments and agencies to enlist their interest and support in cooperative efforts to assist tribes to accomplish their goals within the context of all HUD programs.

The Ninilchik Tribe does not know what wording it would take to insure that HUD would follow though in the spirit of the above-mentioned language.

A regulatory part of NAHASDA states that Tribe's will verify income, and will insure that applicants are low income before administering any services. HUD is aware of agencies such as the Social Security Administration and the Alaska State Department of Labor, which are key agencies for verifying income are now informing the Ninilchik Tribe, that in order to obtain any information through their offices, we will pay them for their services. The Ninilchik Tribe has corresponded this problem with the local ONAP, and was told that they are aware of the problem, and said we are to document what we are were told and to include it within the files. Furthermore at an annual NAIHC meeting I met with other Tribal representatives from around the country and found that they too were experiencing the same problems with SS and other agencies. And when they informed their local ONAP offices they received the same reply as we did.

The Ninilchik Tribe does not believe this to be an adequate form of carrying out the NAHASDA income requirements. Using these agencies in the past has allowed us to catch people that were applying for Housing services, which had not fully disclosing all their income information and therefore were found to be over the income limits. It is only because these agencies were in cooperation with us at one time, that we were able to find that the applicants were over the income limits and not eligible for our services.

