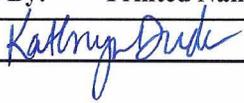


Pub. L. 102-477 Statistical Report

Tribal Nation: Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association		Report Period	
		From: 10/01/2013	To: 09/30/2014
I. Participants Served	Adults	Youth	Cash Assistance Recipients
A. Total Participants	4	23	22
B. Total Terminees	3	23	5
C. Total Current Participants	1	0	17
II. Terminee Outcomes	Adult	Youth	Cash Assistance Recipients
A. Total with Employment Objective	1	20	2
1. Entered Unsubsidized Employment			2
2. Other Employment Outcomes	1	20	
3. Employment Objective Not Achieved			
4. Earnings Gain	\$	\$	\$14.50
B. Total with Educational/Training Objective	2	2	3
1. Degree/Certificate Attempted/Attained	2/2	2/2	3/3
2. Other Education Outcome			
3. Education Objective Not Achieved			
4. Literacy Gain – # of participants attempted/attained			
5. Numeracy Gain– # of participants attempted/attained			
C. Misc. Objective Achieved		1	
D. Other (Non-Positive)			
III. Terminee Characteristics	Adult	Youth	Cash Assistance Recipients
A. Female	2	10	
B. Male	1	13	
C. Education Level:			
1. Dropout		1	
2. Student		18	4
3. High School Diploma/GED		2	1
4. Post High School	3	2	
D. Veteran			
IV. Participant Activities	Adult	Youth	Cash Assistance Recipients
A. Employment	4	17	14
B. Education/Training	2	8	10
C. Misc. Objective/Supportive Services	4	1	14
D. Other/Service Referral	4	1	14
V. Child Care Development Activities	Adult	Youth	Cash Assistance Recipients
A. Families Receiving Child Care	3		
B. Children Receiving Child Care		4	
1. Ages 0 to 3 years		2	
2. Ages 4 to 5 years			
3. Ages 6 and above		2	
C. Care Received – Type of Provider			
1. Tribal Center Based			
2. Other Center Based			
3. Group Home			
4. Other Care		4	
VI. Jobs Creation/Economic Development	Jobs Created	Indians/Alaska Natives Employed	Businesses Assisted
A. Number	20	20	30
Report Prepared By:	Printed Name & Signature	Phone Number	Date
Kathryn Duder		907-222- 4242	12/10/14

Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association (APIA)

P.L. 102-477 Annual Report

Reporting Period: 10/01/2013 – 09/30/2014

Introduction

The Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association (APIA) is a Native non-profit consortium representing 13 federally-recognized tribes (Agdaagux Tribal Council, Akutan Tribal Council, Atka IRA Council, Belkofski Village Council, False Pass Tribal Council, Nelson Lagoon Tribal Council, Nikolski IRA Council, Pauloff Harbor Tribe, Qagan Tayagungin Tribe, Qawalangin Tribal Council, St. George Traditional Council, Aleut Community of St. Paul Island, and Unga Tribal Council) in ten communities which stretch over approximately 100,000 square miles along the Aleutian Chain and the Pribilof Islands in the Bering Sea, off of Alaska's western coast. A 13-member Board of Directors governs APIA. Each member is appointed by the community's tribal organization and represents one of the 13 constituent Aleut Tribal Governments.

Our 3,531 Tribal members primarily reside in the municipality of Anchorage, and 10 remote communities (Akutan, Atka, False Pass, King Cove, Nelson Lagoon, Nikolski, St. Paul, St. George, Sand Point, and Unalaska) which are located on the Aleutian and Pribilof Islands in the treacherous Bering Sea. This chain of 300 small volcanic islands are some of the most remote locations in the United States, and lie along the notorious *Pacific Ring of Fire*, an area where frequent earthquakes and volcanic eruptions occur. This archipelago is a treeless and windswept land of steep cliffs, alpine meadows, and wide beaches which are home to sea lions, otters, seals, and seabird colonies.

The APIA region is immense, and consists of an area over 100,000 square miles of land and sea, with many accessibility barriers. For example, there is no road access between any of our communities, and travel to (and within) the region is only possible by air and very limited seasonal maritime transportation. Access to and from the communities is hindered due to the extreme weather conditions. This region, also called 'the birthplace of the winds', is known for its volatile weather conditions and violent storms characterized by high winds, driving rain, sleet, snow, and heavy seas. Winds are consistently 15 – 20 miles per hour, and storms coming off of the Pacific Ocean and Bering Sea often batter the region with winds in excess of 75 miles per hour. When the wind is not blowing, heavy fog blankets the area. Cellular phone service and internet service in the region is limited, and the electricity frequently fails in a majority of the communities. It is not uncommon for our communities to be isolated from outside contact for three or four days at a time.

Our mission is to promote self-sufficiency and independence of the Unangax through advocacy, training, technical assistance, and economic enhancement; to assist in meeting health, safety, and well-being of each Unangax community; and to promote, strengthen, and preserve the Unangax cultural heritage.

We provide (among other services) employment and training services to eligible Alaska Native/American Indian residents throughout the Aleutian and Pribilof Islands region.

All services are provided with the knowledge that cultural traditions continue to be tied to the sea and the land for traditional foods, practices, and inspiration. The concept of a respectful and tradition-based harmony within an individual, and harmony with the community is at the heart of the Unangan. Elders are greatly respected and teach younger generations about these Unangan traditions, and instill in them the appreciation of the land and sea. The tradition of subsistence hunting, fishing, and gathering, as well as the relationship with and respect for the land and the sea is a foundation of the Alaska Native culture. While “subsistence” as a way of life is not often understood by Western cultures, it is part of the traditional lifestyle for Tribal members who reside in the APIA area, and promotes self-sufficiency for our people.

Residents often participate in subsistence hunting and gathering to help meet their family’s essential needs. Cultural ties to the land and sea are significant aspects of their lives. Family activities are directly related to meet their cultural needs. Cultural heritage is preserved through these activities and passed from adults to their children.

In following with the holistic vision of APIA’s Employment, Training, and Related Services (ETR) Division, we collaborate with State and local agencies to assist Tribal members. When Tribal members are in need of services that we are unable to provide, referrals are made to other agencies such as Social Security and State Public Assistance.

The central APIA office is located in Anchorage, AK. There are nine staff members in the ETR Division: six in the Anchorage office, one in Sand Point, one vacant position in Unalaska, and one vacant position in King Cove. Drop-in AANG Centers (‘Aang’ means ‘Welcome’ in Aleut; in its use for our centers, AANG also stands for Aleuts Achieving, Nurturing, and Growing) are located in three of our communities; these spaces house computers which participants can use for work or school related tasks. Foot traffic through these offices generate additional interest in our programs, and provides the opportunity for outreach. The AANG Centers are staffed by Human Services Specialists, who provide face-to-face services to Tribal members in the region. They have a presence in the communities and participate in activities such as Red Ribbon Week (a campaign to keep children, families, and communities safe, healthy, and drug-free), Culture Camp, Community Picnics, Health and Wellness Fairs, and Job Fairs. The integrated services we provide to our tribal citizens are provided in a holistic manner, and are supplemented by other services APIA provides, such as Energy Assistance and Tribal Vocational Rehabilitation.

Elements of APIA’s P.L. 102-477 Program

APIA’s P.L. 102-477 program provides quality services to our tribal members by promoting self-sufficiency through employment and educational opportunities, which sustain cultural values and reflect economic trends within our region. Our programs offer a variety of opportunities for education and employment goals which support individuals and families in becoming self-sufficient. We help families look at opportunities to help them balance this goal throughout their entire year. This may mean balancing seasonal fishing and other seasonal employment opportunities in and around our region. Our programs help individuals with this shift in lifestyle to lessen the strain on individuals, families and elders in the small communities. The stress of making ends meet distracts from community involvement with children, families, and elders. Our program recognizes the shift in lifestyles and helps participants cope with these difficulties and become positive role models in their communities.

Our programs also support efforts in creating opportunities in our communities and supporting local and native hire, while respecting each community's needs. We target specific job training opportunities to help businesses hire community members, and strive to develop new business opportunities in anticipation of creating more jobs, which helps to relieve the potential out-migration of families from our region.

We serve the 13 Tribes with a variety of programs depending on the authorizing resolutions. Some Tribes manage a selection of their own programs, while others provide APIA with resolutions to provide all of these services. While some programs may have separate management entities, the overall goal of APIA's 477 Program is to integrate services. Currently these services include:

Department of Labor:

Workforce Investment Act (WIA)

Health and Human Services:

Native Employment Works (NEW)

Child Care Development Fund (CCDF)

Bureau of Indian Affairs:

Job Placement and Training (JPT)

Higher Education (HE)

General Assistance (GA)

The goal of our 477 services is to provide participants with effective and appropriate employment and educational activities leading to self-sufficiency. Our Case Workers and Case Managers assist Tribal members with career counseling and assessments, career exploration, job readiness activities, job development, and job placement through Higher Education and Job Placement and Training funding.

APIA's 477 Program provides post-secondary services. It is our goal to provide eligible students with the ability, via financial assistance and career counseling, to pursue all levels of higher education. The focus is to assess, counsel, and assist clients in preparing for self-sufficiency through provisions of a variety of educational opportunities. During this fiscal year, we provided scholarships to eligible Tribal members enrolled full-time in a four-year accredited college or university. These higher education students are currently working towards degrees in fields such as Nursing, Teaching, and Biology.

We also provided short-term training scholarships under Job Placement & Training for non-degree programs, vocational schools, and for situation-specific training. Participants pursued certification in a variety of fields, including Commercial Drivers Licenses, Cosmetology Certification, HazWopper Certification, North Slope Training Card, and Alaska Food Worker Card. Under this program, we were also able to assist individuals with supportive services such as the purchase of tools or clothing needed for work. This allowed individuals to accept a job they might otherwise not have been able to accept due to lack of proper attire or equipment.

APIA is fortunate to be able to provide child care subsidies to eligible parents and/or legal guardians. Access to affordable and safe child care removes a barrier that may prevent tribal members from

obtaining employment or pursuing educational goals. Parents have successfully obtained jobs with employers such as the local school and the Post Office. Without this valuable program, these parents would be unemployed due to lack of affordable child care. An additional benefit of this program are the jobs created for home-based child care providers.

We also provided educational materials and safety equipment to Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) providers in the region. APIA's Head Start Program offered a variety of provider trainings in this reporting period, and 477 CCDF Providers and Parents were offered participation. This, in combination with webinars, provide the opportunity to learn more about the resources available to them in the community as well as access to vital information about childhood development, and health and safety.

Direct Assistance

In order to help our Tribal members become self-sufficient, we provided Supportive Services such as bus passes, interview/work clothing, tools/equipment for a job, and assistance with obtaining a Driver's License. In addition, we provided General Assistance in order to help individuals meet their essential needs such as food, clothing, and shelter. We also assisted with applications for services APIA does not provide, such as Food Stamps, Social Security, and Unemployment.

Individuals or families relocating for a new job may experience challenges trying to adjust to city life while addressing many new and different barriers. Extensive support is offered to help them be successful, as they may become vulnerable to urban pressures that they did not face while living in their home community.

Barriers

Remote Communities: The isolation and vastness of our region continues to drive up the price of fuel, food, other sundries, and daily living expenses. All goods (groceries, produce, medication, fuel, etc.) must be delivered by air or by barge. Due to the unpredictable weather and high winds in the region, flights rarely occur as scheduled, and it is not uncommon for weeks to pass without an airplane able to safely land.

A cargo barge travels from Seattle, WA twice a month to deliver goods to some of our larger communities, and less than once per month to the Pribilof Islands, which are in the Bering Sea. Air cargo is an option, but is prohibitively expensive. Air cargo rates are charged per pound. Fuel must be delivered by barge, and costs nearly \$9.00 per gallon in some of our communities. Fuel deliveries are often cancelled due to poor weather and sea ice, leaving our communities with significantly low levels of fuel to survive on.

It is often difficult to serve the remote communities adequately because of limited resources in the villages and the high cost of travel. These trips take time and money to plan and administer effectively. In addition, a community trip may be one to two days, which is not enough time to work with the village residents and provide them with a full range of services and benefits.

Limited Employment Opportunities: Our region has been based on a seasonal fishing industry that continues to decline. Fishing quotas have been cut dramatically, and the loss of income that has come with this has affected every facet of life for families in our region. Local residents who were able to gain year-round employment on fishing boats or in fishing canneries, or were able to make enough money

fishing in a summer to support them for the year, now find that they are unable to maintain financial stability through the year.

The economic status of some of our communities struggle to support multiple 'cottage industry' jobs such as taxi services, hair salons, and cleaning services, as they simply do not have the economic base for those businesses to survive. Some communities have only one general shop where individuals can purchase food, clothing, various sundries, and fuel. The lack of small business development continues to leave a much smaller pool of employers in our region and limit our participants' prospects for employment. Employment opportunities are also focused around skilled businesses such as schools, clinics, City offices, Tribal offices, and law enforcement. Often, there are construction projects that occur in our communities, but employers tend to bring in workers who have specific trade skills, as there are insufficient certified individuals living in the region.

Substance Use/Abuse: Many of our Employment & Training participants face addiction issues that are difficult to overcome. Employers can be hesitant to hire a participant based on their history or reputation in the community. We have partnered with the Health Department in order for interested individuals to receive Substance Abuse treatment in order to help overcome addiction and move towards self-sufficiency.

Success Stories

We assisted 22 youth with summer work experience, which allowed them to learn the soft skills needed to be successful members of the work force. Youth learned the importance of (and had the opportunity to demonstrate) workplace communication skills, strong work ethics, time management, self-confidence, the ability to accept and learn from feedback, flexibility, being part of a team, and working well under pressure. Worksites included the local Radio Station, Tribal Offices, City Offices, and Health Clinics. This experience also provided exposure to a variety of potential career fields. Certificates that these youth obtained included a Personal Care Attendant Certificate, and a Food Service Worker Card.

Three individuals graduated from College; one with a BSN/RN, one achieved a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration, and one achieved a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration Management.

The following note from one of our participants, who is a single mother, demonstrates the impact that our program has on our Tribal members: *Greetings Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association ETR Program! I wanted to extend a special thank you to this organization and your Human Services staff for supporting me in my journey to become a Registered Nurse. I am excited to share that I have graduated from the University of Alaska Anchorage School of Nursing Program on December 13th, 2013. Although I plan to continue on with my education within the nursing field, this has been a milestone of achievement and thank you for being a part of it! Without your financial support, I could not have made it this far. I was able to focus on my studies without stressing over excessive school expenses. Thank you very much!*

Summary

In FY 2014, we conducted a Needs Assessment with the communities in our region to ensure that we continue to serve our tribal members in a manner complimentary to APIA's mission: To promote self-sufficiency and independence of the Unangax by advocacy, training, and technical assistance, and

economic enhancement; To assist in meeting health, safety, and well-being of each Unangax community; to promote, strengthen, and preserve the Unangax cultural heritage.

The results of the Needs Assessment indicate that tribal members are interested in increasing the availability of Vocational/Technical training in the communities, making college courses more accessible, opportunities for self-employment (in particular, Restaurants), and industry-specific training in the fields of Book Keeping/Accounting and Information Technology.

In FY 2015, we will travel to the region to meet with tribal and community leaders, and employers. In addition, local staff will continue to have a visible presence at community events, utilizing handouts and posters, and initiating contact with individuals who may benefit from our services to be sure that they are aware of the assistance available to them. We will ensure that the training and education provided meets the needs of local employers willing to hire our participants.

Operating our programs together under P.L. 102-477 is vital to maintaining our success and providing quality, culturally appropriate services to our tribal members. APIA is fortunate to have dedicated staff members who are committed to helping our tribal members move towards self-sufficiency. Through the continued successful operation of P.L. 102-477 Demonstration Project, APIA will maintain efforts assisting our tribal members with becoming job-ready, employed, and self-sufficient.