FY20 CSBG Tribal CARES Act Plan

Kawerak, Inc.

**Determining eligibility**

Applicants must be Alaska Native or Native American and a tribal member of a federally recognized tribe and must reside in the Bering Strait region for at least 6 months prior to the application for services.

CSBG CARES Act requires that services be provided to those who meet specific CSBG income guidelines (not to exceed 200% of the federal poverty line).

1) Income eligibility will be based on household size and income, and maximum eligibility will be up to 200% of the current year's federal poverty limits for Alaska as provided by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

2) Household income - All income, earned or unearned, will be counted as income. Income will be calculated as annual income such that seasonal employment income will be divided appropriately across a 6-month period. Proof of income will be required and may include, but not be limited to: pay stubs; bank statements; letter from employer; and/or signed affidavit by participant.

**Describe policies and/or procedures when individual income verification is not possible or practical.**

When proof of income such as: pay stubs; bank statements; letter from employer; are not available and all efforts are exhausted Kawerak EESS will allow the participant to provide a signed affidavit.

**Describe how the Tribe or Tribal Organization ensures that services target and benefit low-income communities, for those services that provide a community-wide benefit.**

Applications for services will be received and processed for eligibility by the EESS. Kawerak Inc. is located in the hub community of Nome and serves regional residents and all 20 Alaska Native tribes (Brevig Mission, Council, Diomede, Elim, King Island, Gambell, Golovin, Koyuk, Mary's Igloo, Nome Eskimo Community, St. Michael, Savoonga, Shaktoolik, Shishmaref, Solomon, Stebbins, Teller, Unalakleet, Wales, White Mountain) located in Nome and the surrounding 15 communities. This project will benefit as many as (17) communities depending on individual needs; ***excluding Nome Eskimo Community, Stebbins and Savoong***a who are already provided services through RurAL CAP with the State of Alaska CSBG.

The Bering Strait region consists of around 97% Alaska Native in our surrounding communities and according to the American Community Survey, 2013-2017, the unemployment rate was on average 21 % with Gambell being the highest at 38% and Golovin at 8%.

**Provide a description of activities that assist low-income families/individuals in removing obstacles.**

1) Assist job seekers impacted by COVID-19 and remove barrier that hinder self-sufficiency: maintaining adequate housing, providing tools to reduce the digital divide, purchase cleaning products and/or personal protective equipment and food security.

2) Provide supportive services for job seekers to obtain or retain a job during the pandemic. These services will be provided when it is determined that they are essential in achieving the objective of employment entry, successful completion of training or educational programs and when the employability development requires them for goal achievement. Supportive services include but not limited to: transportation, training, child care, work clothing, tools and special equipment, licensing or professional fees, limited health and other assessments and financial assistance as necessary to identify/remove barriers to employment.

**Linkages to Fill Service Gaps:** *Provide a description of how funds were utilized to develop linkages to fill identified gaps in services.*

Work with internal and external partners to first utilize services and/or local state and federal resources to support individuals seeking employment. Development a plan to assess the need of the individual and families and provide supportive services. Supportive services include but not limited to: transportation, training, child care, work clothing, tools and special equipment, licensing or professional fees, limited health and other assessments and financial assistance as necessary to identify/remove barriers to employment.

**Public-Private Resource Coordination:** *Provide a description of how funds will be coordinated with other public and private resources.*

Nome Re-entry Coalition and Norton Sound Health Corporation's (NSHC) Re-entry Case Manager for re-entry support services. NSHC Behavior Health Service's Day Shelter and NSHC Social services.

Nome Emergency Shelter Team (NEST) began in response to several freezing deaths on the streets of Nome. Creating a shelter was a grass roots effort to prevent exposure related death by providing a warm, safe place to sleep for anyone in need. The shelter operates for six of the coldest months of the year. In addition, supporting housing and homeless prevention efforts assist individuals and families in finding permanent solutions to being homelessness.

Nome Community Center/N.E.S.T. Housing First Program to reduce homelessness.

Nome Community Center and XYZ. The XYZ Senior Center functions to offer much-needed services to our community’s elders. These services include meals, transportation, shower facilities, and laundry facilities.

Kawerak's Community Services and Children & Family Services Divisions.