



National
American Indian
Housing Council



Housing Our Relatives Summit

Collaborative Solutions for Native Communities

DENA'INA CIVIC AND CONVENTION CENTER
600 W 7TH AVE, ANCHORAGE, AK 99501



Anchorage, Alaska

May 7-8, 2026

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Summit Objectives

Strengthening collective learning, relationships, and action across the Native health and housing ecosystems.

- Explore strategies through an Indigenous lens to address the full spectrum of housing opportunities in Native communities
- Engage in peer learning through profiles of strength, shared experience, and resource exchange
- Strengthen relationships across the health and housing ecosystems to deepen connection, break down silos, and build collective momentum
- Identify actionable strategies that support Native-led housing, health, and wellness priorities
- Align partnerships as a collective action to map out a path forward beyond the Housing Our Relatives Summit



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Day 1 Agenda

Summit Registration Opens
Dena'ina Convention Center, 2nd Floor Landing

8:30am

Tikahtnu Ballroom A/B

COFFEE AND GATHERING

(breakfast on your own)

9:00am

Tikahtnu Ballroom
(A/B) | Third Floor

WELLNESS LOUNGE

Wellness Lounge (open from 8:30 am to 4:00 pm)

OPENING PLENARY

- Cultural Opening and Grounding
- Overview of Housing Our Relatives Ecosystem

10:30am

BREAK

10:45am

HOUSING OUR RELATIVES COMMUNITIES OF PRACTICE PANEL

Garron Yepa, Senior Designer, MASS Design Group

Maria Danz, Training & Technical Assistance Director, NAIHC

Paul Lumley, Chief Advancement Officer, NAYA Family Center

Jacqueline Pata, President & CEO, Tlingit Haida Regional Housing Authority

Mel Willie, Senior Director, Native American Partnerships & Strategy, NeighborWorks America

Gwen Packard, Director, STTARS Indigenous Safe Housing Center

Joanna Donohoe, Partner, Seven Sisters Community Development Group (moderator)

Noon

Tikahtnu Ballroom
(A/B) | Third Floor

Buffet Lunch Provided

Luncheon Speakers: Vision into Strategy

- Ray Oen, CFO, Seattle Indian Health Board
- Abigail Echohawk, CEO, Urban Indian Health Institute

1:15pm

Break

1:30pm-4:00pm

Off-site / On Own

LEARNING LABS Participants must pre-register. Space is limited.

Revitalizing Community: Mountain View Walking Tour
(meet in First Floor Lobby to catch bus)

Join us for an immersive tour of the Cook Inlet Housing Authority's (CIHA) scattered-site redevelopment in Mountain View. Once suffering from severe disinvestment, this neighborhood has been transformed over the past 26 years through CIHA's strategic investments in affordable rental housing and homeownership opportunities. Following a short bus ride from the convention center, participants will walk alongside CIHA staff to observe these catalytic developments and discuss the lessons learned in community-led revitalization. We will walk approximately 0.6 miles on flat terrain. Please dress comfortably for the outdoors and wear walking shoes.

Placemaking in Action: Spenard Walking Tour
(meet in First Floor Lobby to catch bus)

Explore the intersection of housing, entrepreneurship, and safety in Anchorage's Spenard neighborhood. Over the past 16 years, CIHA has developed 165 affordable housing units here, alongside supportive commercial spaces and a vibrant community hub, The Nave. After a brief bus ride, participants will tour the CIHA campus and Ch'bala Corners development to see firsthand how creative placemaking can transform busy traffic corridors and address community challenges. We will walk approximately 0.5 miles on flat terrain. Please bring your questions for CIHA staff, wear comfortable walking shoes, and dress for the weather for the outdoors and wear walking shoes.

Healing Through Housing: ANTHC Patient Lodging Tour
(meet in First Floor Lobby to catch bus)

Housing is healthcare, particularly for rural Native populations. Join us for a guided visit to the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium's (ANTHC) patient lodging at the Alaska Native Medical Center campus. Following a short bus ride, participants will tour the facilities designed to provide safe, culturally responsive, and comfortable accommodations for patients and their escorts traveling to Anchorage for medical care. Discover how ANTHC's compassionate design allows customer-owners to focus on healing, and engage directly with the ANTHC team during an insightful concluding Q&A session.



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Day 1 Agenda Continued

Summit Registration Opens
Dena'ina Convention Center, 2nd Floor Landing

1:15pm

Off-site / On Own

LEARNING LABS CONTINUED

Pathways to Stability: Covenant House & Covey Campus Walking Tour (starts in Tubuhgneq 4, Second Floor)

Step outside the convention center for a guided walking tour of Covenant House Alaska's downtown campus, dedicated to ending youth homelessness. We will walk approximately 0.5 miles from the Dena'ina Center to explore a transformational model of care. Participants will visit the primary Youth Engagement Center, followed by Covey Academy—an innovative vocational training center—and Covey Lofts, which provides supportive micro-apartments for young adults. Learn how wrapping housing with education, workforce development, and absolute respect empowers vulnerable youth to transition safely into adulthood. Please dress comfortably for this urban walking tour for the outdoors and wear walking shoes.

Truth and Healing: The Alaska Blanket Exercise (Tubuhgneq 5, Second Floor)

Located entirely within the Dena'ina Convention Center, the Alaska Blanket Exercise is a profound, interactive learning experience developed by ANTHC in collaboration with Alaska Native Elders and knowledge keepers. This workshop provides a psychologically safe space to explore the history of colonization and its lasting impacts. Practitioners will gain a deeper understanding of historical trauma and how it intersects with modern housing challenges, including homelessness, addiction, and the foster care system. By fostering truth, respect, and reconciliation, this session equips housing professionals with the deep empathy necessary to better serve Native communities.

Beyond the Blueprint: On-the-Land Practices for Native Housing (starts in Tubuhgneq 3, Second Floor)

This learning lab invites participants into a shared experience of what we call "third spaces" – places of connection, belonging, and relationship that exist beyond home and work. Many of us already know these spaces through our own communities, whether around a kitchen table, in ceremony, or gathered outdoors. We will begin together at the Dena'ina Convention Center with a brief grounding and conversation

to introduce the concept. From there, we will move outside to Town Square Park, where participants will engage in a guided, on-the-land experience designed to help us notice, feel, and reflect on what creates connection in space and place. For the outdoors and wear walking shoes.

Through simple, relational practices, we will explore what it means to create and hold spaces where people feel seen, connected, and at ease – and how these experiences might inform our work in housing and community development. Please dress comfortably for a short walk and outdoor time. Bring a notebook or something to capture reflections, though the primary invitation is simply to be present and engage with one another.

4:00pm

Off-site/On Own

TRAVEL TO ALASKA NATIVE HERITAGE CENTER

Learning Labs #1, #2, & #3 will end at the Alaska Native Heritage Center.

All others should meet in the First Floor Lobby to catch a shuttle bus to Heritage Center.

4:30pm

8800 Heritage
Center Drive

ALASKA NATIVE HERITAGE CENTER VISIT

Walking Tour: Stroll on a short self-guided walking tour through six authentic life-sized Native dwellings situated in a wooded area around beautiful Lake Tiulana.

Museum Visit: Explore a newly updated Hall of Cultures that features a number of unique and dynamic exhibits that will teach you about each of the five major culture groups of Alaska. (No food or drink allowed in the museum.)

5:30pm-7:30pm

8800 Heritage
Center Drive

RECEPTION AT ALASKA NATIVE HERITAGE CENTER DRIVE

- Welcome from local hosts and sponsor Wells Fargo
- Evening reception and gathering
- Cultural entertainment - I!aku's Dance Group

Shuttle buses begin at 7 pm to return to Convention Center and last bus departs at 7:45 pm.



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Day 2 Agenda

Dena'ina Convention Center, 2nd Floor Landing

8:30am

Tikahtnu Ballroom A/B

COFFEE AND GATHERING

(breakfast on your own)

K'enakatnu (Knik)

Executive Boardroom,
Second Floor

WELLNESS LOUNGE

Wellness Lounge (open from 8:30 am to 4:00 pm)

9:00am

Tikahtnu Ballroom
A/B | Third Floor

PLENARY SESSION

Day One Reflections and Grounding

9:45am

TRANSITION TO COMMUNITIES OF PRACTICE BREAKOUT ROOMS

10:00am

COMMUNITIES OF PRACTICE (CoP) WORK SESSIONS

Expanding Our Housing Supply (Tikahtnu D, Third Floor)

What are the paths to increasing the supply of culturally relevant, safe, and sustainable housing stock in Native communities? Join this CoP to consider approaches for greater and more innovative housing supply. Strategies include acquisition and rehabilitation, new construction, manufactured housing, and sustainable design. Explore strategies for tribes to build and preserve more housing, adopt modern efficiency standards, and ensure supply remains true to Indigenous design and cultural identity. Concrete examples of such innovation will inform facilitated working sessions and identify pathways to implementation.

10:00am

COMMUNITIES OF PRACTICE (CoP) WORK SESSIONS CONTINUED

Strengthening Our Housing Solutions with Statewide Strategies (Kahtnu 1, Second Floor)

This CoP will bring together Tribal housing leaders and partners to explore how states can strengthen support for Native communities. Participants will engage in guided discussions and state-based breakout groups to identify priorities, build relationships, and begin shaping early pathways for action. While participation may include federal and state agency representatives, the session is designed to be flexible and productive across varying group compositions, with a focus on pre-planning and alignment for advancing Tribal housing strategies at the state level.

Advancing Housing for Our Off-Reservation Relatives (Kahtnu 2, Second Floor)

This CoP focuses on innovative strategies to develop housing solutions for Native people living in urban or other off-reservation areas, who now represent about two-thirds of our Relatives. This session brings together tribal and non-tribal housing providers, social service agencies, and healthcare providers to develop innovative housing options. By working across sectors, these practitioners aim to leverage diverse resources and create housing that is not only accessible but also culturally relevant and responsive to the unique needs of those living away from tribal lands.

Leveraging Our Partnerships for Homeownership (Tubughneq 3, Second Floor)

This CoP is a dedicated forum for exploring and advancing community-focused strategies that foster sustainable homeownership, specifically tailored to align with the cultural values of Native communities. This is a collaborative space where homebuyer practitioners, tribal housing leaders, and lenders can come together to discuss successful and culturally-informed approaches across the entire homeownership journey. Key areas of discussion will include: developing community mindset shifts about Native homeownership, preparing homebuyers for mortgage financing, and leveraging resources and partnerships to sustain affordable homeownership including through statewide Native homeownership coalitions.



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Day 2 Agenda Continued

Dena'ina Convention Center, 2nd Floor Landing

9:45am

COMMUNITIES OF PRACTICE (CoP) WORK SESSIONS CONTINUED

Elevating Housing as Our Economic Driver (Tubughneq 4, Second Floor)

This CoP will explore how housing can serve as a foundation for economic opportunity and self-determination in Native communities. Through peer exchange and real-world examples, participants will examine strategies that center housing within economic development: supporting local workforce development, circulating wealth within communities, and strengthening long-term resilience. This session will highlight practical tools, partnerships, and approaches that align housing development with broader Native community priorities.

Centering Our Health and Wellness (Tubughnenq 5, Second Floor)

This CoP will bring together housing, health, and cross-sector partners to explore how stable housing can serve as a foundation for holistic wellness—grounded in culture, safety, and community-defined health. Participants will examine integrated models that connect housing with supportive services and systems of care. We will move from learning to action by identifying practical strategies, partnerships, and financing approaches to strengthen alignment and advance housing solutions that truly support relatives in thriving.

Noon

Tikahtnu Ballroom
A/B | Third Floor

BOX LUNCH PROVIDED

1:00pm

**COMMUNITIES OF PRACTICE
STRATEGY SESSIONS**

Return to Communities of Practice breakout rooms

2:45pm

Tikahtnu Ballroom
A/B | Third Floor

**BREAK AND RETURN TO CLOSING PLENARY
IN TIKAHTNU BALLROOM**

3:00pm

Tikahtnu Ballroom
A/B | Third Floor

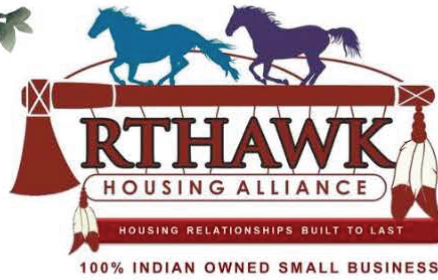
CLOSING PLENARY

- Sharing Communities of Practice Outcomes
- Building Our Collective Recommendations and Identifying Next Steps
- Giveaways and Cultural Closing

4:30pm

ADJOURN





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Housing Our Relatives Summit: Collaborative Solutions for Native Communities

Hosted by NeighborWorks, Co-Hosted by NAIHC and Oweesta Corporation



Wilbur Red Tomahawk

President, CEO & Founding Owner
 Enrolled member of the Standing Rock Sioux Nation
 35+ Years of Tribal Executive Leadership

Growing Stronger Communities Together

Proudly Supporting Native American communities for over 35 years by developing affordable housing programs and providing trusted asset management services throughout Indian Country.

.....Specializing in LIHTC and Tribal Housing Programs.....

Serving Native American, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian communities through AHP, HOME, HTF, Homeownership, and Tribal HUD-VASH Programs.

RTHawk provides development, financial, asset management, and compliance assistance. Our team also provides trainings on LIHTC Tax Credit, NAHASDA, AHP, HOME, HTF, Homeownership, and Tribal HUD-VASH Programs.

Experience you can count on

Our Team: 16 Dedicated Team Members & 60+ Years of combined experience.

We would love to meet you!

Please stop by our booth in the Exhibitors Hall and visit with our team.

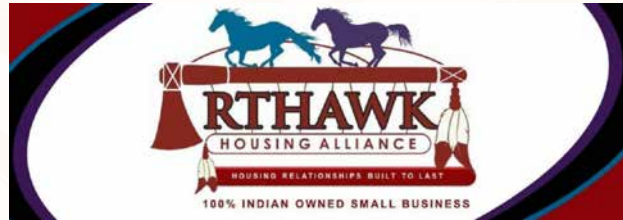


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LEARNING LABS



WELLNESS LOUNGE



MUCH GRATITUDE TO OUR “HOUSING OUR RELATIVES” ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Dede Devine, retired CEO, Native American Connections
Colleen Dushkin, Vice President, Culture & Strategy, Cook Inlet Housing Authority
Colleen Echohawk, CEO, Community Roots Housing
Lucille Echohawk, retired Executive Director, Denver Indian Family Resource Center
Chelsie Evans, CEO, Hawaiian Community Assets
Jeff Gilbreath, CEO, Hawaii Community Lending
Susan Hammond, Relationship Manager, Native Lending Program, Fahe
James Lovell, Chief Community Development Officer, Chief Seattle Club
Paul Lumley, Chief Advancement Officer, Native American Youth and Family Center
Gwendolyn Packard, Director, STTARS Indigenous Safe Housing Center
Jackie Pata, President/CEO, Tlingit Haida Regional Housing Authority
Jeff Tickle, President/CEO, Cook Inlet Lending Center
Garron Yepa, Senior Designer, MASS Design Group

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**National
American Indian
Housing Council**

