



Aleutian Pribilof Island Community Development Association

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APICDA Board Awards Over \$5.6 Million to Support Infrastructure and Priority Initiatives in CDQ Member Communities in 2021

Juneau, Alaska – The Aleutian Pribilof Island Community Development Association (APICDA) funded a broad range of community projects and economic development initiatives in their Community Development Quota (CDQ) member communities in 2021. The revenue generated from its investments in federal groundfish fisheries allows APICDA to offer millions of dollars in direct assistance each year to some of Alaska’s most remote and high cost of living communities. These programs are designed to support small boat fishermen; employment opportunities; infrastructure projects such as housing and health clinics; high-cost utilities; and scholarships and vocational training.

APICDA awarded \$500,000 per community for 2021 under its Community Development Grant Program (CDGP), making \$3 million in grant funding available. This program is designed to support high-priority local initiatives identified through a collaborative community-wide strategic planning process and has funded 32 grants for community development projects in the Aleutian-Pribilof region since 2019. The APICDA board also approved a supplemental funding allocation to the annual Community Dividend, providing \$1.2 million in discretionary funding to be used towards a community betterment purpose. Governing entities frequently use these funds to help make the cost of energy more affordable for residents.

Nearly \$1.5 million in funding was committed for two large-scale infrastructure projects. The Atka IRA Council was awarded \$989,000 for a small boat harbor feasibility study, and the Nelson Lagoon Tribal Council received a pledge for \$500,000 for the Nelson Lagoon Rural Power System Upgrade Project spearheaded by the Alaska Energy Authority.

The community of False Pass has used APICDA’s Infrastructure Grant and the CDGP to support the construction of a harbor house. As Nikki Hoblet, Mayor of the City of False Pass, explains, “The new harbor house project in False Pass is designed to provide support services to the local fishing fleet. It will create employment opportunities to ensure the safety, functionality, and maintenance of the harbor with consistent moorage collection. The facility will also support additional services such as laundry and shower access for the transient fleet, generating additional revenue for the city.”

In addition to the \$5.6 million in direct monetary support for community initiatives, APICDA provided commercial and subsistence fishing gear grants, scholarships and job training programs, and community development programs for the residents of the Aleutian-Pribilof region. Furthermore, APICDA had a successful season in its sport fishing and trophy hunting camps, while keeping our communities and

clients free of COVID-19 and providing job opportunities to local residents.

“Although the volatile year in the seafood industry and the pandemic impacted our communities in many ways, we were able to sustain a very meaningful level of support and are proud of what has been accomplished this year,” said Luke Fanning, APICDA’s CEO.

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APICDA is a non-profit dedicated to strengthening local fisheries-based economies through increasing direct fisheries participation in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands, building support infrastructure, and offering programs to assist the advancement of priority initiatives in its six member communities in the Aleutian-Pribilof region of Alaska. APICDA is one of six western Alaska Community Development Quota (CDQ) organizations. The CDQ Program allocates a percentage of all Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands quotas for groundfish, prohibited species, halibut, and crab to eligible communities. The purpose of the CDQ Program is to provide eligible western Alaska villages with the opportunity to participate and invest in fisheries in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands, alleviate poverty and provide economic and social benefits for residents of western Alaska.