

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 10, 2025

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New Community Center Constructed in Nikolski Under Tribal and CDQ Partnership

School reopening after 15 years sparks need for new facility

Nikolski, Alaska — The Native Village of Nikolski and the Aleutian Pribilof Island Community Development Association (APICDA) are pleased to announce the completion of a new Community Center in Nikolski.

This project was spurred by the reopening of Nikolski's school last fall, which was made possible by the growing student-aged population. Once a school closes in rural Alaska, it is very challenging to again meet the student enrollment threshold requirement to reopen, so this is a major milestone for the community, one that required significant collaboration.

With the former school building now serving as the grocery store and post office, and no other building available, the community offered the existing community center for classes. The need for a new, dedicated gathering space quickly became a top priority, and in response, the Native Village of Nikolski and APICDA partnered to ensure a public meeting space was restored for the closely knit community. Construction began this summer, with residents working alongside BKR Construction to assemble the prefabricated structures. Prefabrication was selected due to the unique logistics of delivering to Nikolski, which lacks dock service and requires delivery by landing craft.

"We are pleased to have a new center customized for Nikolski, including a large kitchen to support our subsistence way of life," said Tanya Lestenkof, Tribal Administrator for the Native Village of Nikolski. "We're grateful that the facility was replaced so quickly, and in under one year, due to the modules arriving pre-constructed. Projects in rural Alaska often take years to finish because of the logistical challenges with staging and shipping of materials, so the replacement was an incredible outcome for our community."

"APICDA is proud to support this important project through our Community Development Grant Program (CDGP); it's a great example of how the Community Development Quota (CDQ) program invests in infrastructure and helps to support the unique needs of our member communities," said Luke Fanning, CEO of APICDA. "We deeply appreciate everyone involved in this project for their hard work and collaboration in making the new community center possible, and we look forward to celebrating together."

An open house and ribbon cutting on August 22 will celebrate and recognize the many individuals who have contributed to the project. Community members, educators, supporters, and vendors are invited to attend and take part in this exciting milestone.

Event Details:

Open House and Ribbon Cutting

Friday, August 22, 2025, 2:00 p.m.

Nikolski Community Center

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The Native Village of Nikolski is a federally recognized tribe located on Umnak Island in the Aleutian Islands. The community is primarily composed of Unangan (Aleut) people who have lived in the region for thousands of years,

maintaining strong cultural traditions tied to subsistence activities.

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 whose purpose 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.