

**Assessment of Housing Needs of American Indians, Alaska Natives  
and Native Hawaiians in Washington State**

Notes from the Conference Call on Thursday, June 25, 2020

**Next Call: July 9, 2020; 10:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m. for survey Q&A**

**Call Participants:**

Kevin Klingbeil, Big Water Consulting  
Rachel Kramer, Big Water Consulting  
Harry Maher, Big Water Consulting  
Nancy Pindus, Urban Institute  
Lonny Macy, Akana  
Megan Knox, Akana  
Nathaniel Corum, MASS Design/Sustainable Native Communities Lab  
Joanna Donohoe, 7 Sisters  
Ed Goodman, Hobbes, Straus, Dean & Walker, LLP (Tribal Law)  
Benjamin Baker, Moku'aina A Wakinekona Hawaiian Civic Club  
Mike Tulee, United Indians of All Tribes  
Jenna Gearheart, United Indians of All Tribes Labateyah Youth Home  
Patricia Allen, Chief Seattle Club, Coalition to End Urban Indigenous Homelessness  
Jacqueline Martin, Samish Indian Nation  
James Gutierrez, HDS  
Katie Symons, BeauxSimone Consulting  
Rebecca Sutch, Kalispel Tribe of Indians  
Linda Brenner, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe  
Kirsten Franklin-Temple, HUD NWONAP  
Lorna Fogg, RTHawk Housing Alliance  
Claire Petersky, Washington State Housing Finance Commission  
Wendy Lawrence, Opportunity Council in Bellingham, WA  
Darkfeather Ancheta, First Tribal Lending  
Larry Winters, Skokomish Tribe Housing Authority  
Brenda Bunker, Quileute Housing Authority  
Ed Davis, Craft3  
Janet Hren, Lower Elwha Housing Authority

[If you participated in the call and are not listed above, please contact [kevin@bigwaterconsulting.net](mailto:kevin@bigwaterconsulting.net); an updated version will be posted at [nativehousingwa.org](http://nativehousingwa.org).]

1. Draft Housing Provider Survey and Advisory Group Member Surveys
  - a. Thank you to everyone who supplied feedback on the draft surveys! **Big Water will be hosting a Q&A session about the surveys on July 9, 10-11am PST.**

- b. When surveys go on-line, links will be sent out via email and also put on the website: [nativehousingwa.org](http://nativehousingwa.org). **We are asking surveys to be completed by August 7.** We will begin calling folks in late July to encourage them to respond and to answer any questions.

#### Links to Online Surveys

Housing Provider Survey:

<https://ourcommunitydata.com/limesurvey/index.php?r=survey/index&sid=745884&newtest=Y&lang=en>

Advisory Group Survey:

<https://ourcommunitydata.com/limesurvey/index.php?r=survey/index&sid=514163&newtest=Y&lang=en>

- 2. Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Request: HUD has sent 10-day notices to 10 tribes to allow them to object to disclosure of information related to request for IHPs and APRs. This information will supplement data collected via the project's surveys and will be analyzed in combination with other existing data sources. In combination, this data will give us a more complete picture of Native housing needs in WA.
- 3. Open-ended discussion of key issues, trend, opportunities, and challenges concerning **emergency shelter, transitional housing, and permanent supportive housing**
  - a. Kevin begins discussion with Emergency Shelter perspective: In Seattle, we have Eagle Village in SODO, which has modular trailers broken out into small individual apartments. Developed by Chief Seattle Club, Eagle Village provides capacity for ~30, with private bathrooms for COVID distancing and sanitation
  - b. **Patricia Allen of Chief Seattle Club and Coalition to End Urban Indigenous Homelessness offers perspectives:**
    - i. One of the primary concerns in Emergency Shelter discussion is that there have been police sweeps of encampments recently. These sweeps cause separation from encampment community and aggravate existing trauma. Chief Seattle Club and the coalition are advocating for adequate shelter during COVID for intergenerational groups, as well as long-term sustainable housing
    - ii. Working on 80 units in Pioneer Square built in the Coast Salish tradition, which will serve to join traditional housing design with the natural

environment and community. Designs indicate layers of natural environment, including salmon migrations, duck hunting, trees, and traditional matriarch designs. This structure is being built in partnership with Seattle Indian Health Board, who will work on a ground floor clinic and will also have a gallery showcasing the Native Works entrepreneurship program. The roof will have a garden for food sustainability and will provide access to traditional food and medicine ingredients, and the front area of the building will offer community space open to the greater Seattle Indigenous community.

- iii. Chief Seattle Club currently serves just members of the American Indian and Alaska Native communities due to restrictions in government funding and who is qualified to receive funded services, but they are working to be more inclusive of the Native Hawaiian and Oceanic communities and have a certain amount of leeway in providing day services (mostly hygiene-related services) to members of these communities.

**c. Rebecca Sutch of the Kalispel Tribe shares perspectives and experiences:**

- i. Kalispel currently working on addressing overcrowding, as there is a general housing shortage in the county and this has led to a major hurdle in providing emergency shelter during COVID. The tribe owns RV units and cottages that are reserved for relief for families during the COVID outbreak and they are also sending members to Spokane for either short-term or transitional housing.

**d. Katie Symons of BeauxSimone (Denver) shares perspectives:**

- i. "Denver is not a model for housing right now" but is looking to other cities for more effective ways. Denver is going through similar encampment sweeps despite sweeps being in direct contradiction to CDC recommendations
- ii. They are trying to advocate in city government for more outdoor and open-air housing spaces. City has procured hotel rooms for the most vulnerable populations and those who have tested positive for COVID.
- iii. Denver is looking at modular housing for longer-term housing development. There is a promising modular housing company out of Idaho called indieDwell, which creates modular homes out of old shipping containers and can built units in a matter of days. These units are low-cost as well as designed using trauma-informed principles.

**e. Nathaniel Corum of MASS Design and Sustainable Native Communities Lab shares perspective:**

- i. “Temporary becomes permanent” in relation to housing. MASS Design is looking for the healing gesture in architecture and emphasizes designs that are healthy and culturally responsive.
- ii. MASS Design website has resources that may be helpful to housing providers in COVID crisis: <https://massdesigngroup.org/covidresponse>
- iii. Currently looking at new special designs and protocols that allow for social distancing in conjunction with community. Design considerations include separate entrances, outdoor spaces, ventilation, and gathering spaces that allow for large circles of people (e.g., a sport stadium which can allow for a very large circle gathering)

**f. Mike Tulee and Jenna Gearhart of United Indians share perspective:**

- i. United Indians currently finishing up a 2 year demonstration project looking at youth homelessness in partnership with HUD and local city and county offices. The project is called Bridge Housing, which is a new model for youth homelessness and was created by a board of people with lived experiences.
  - 1. Involves crisis housing and rapid-rehousing, as well as progressive engagement with youth to move as quickly as possible to stable and permanent housing. The program currently has 25 beds and multiple services, including a crisis housing case manager and a housing locator staff person. They provide meals, case management, youth mental health programs, and Indigenous medicine practitioners. The site has a large organic garden to help support food services. The program has reached over 100% of target enrollment!
- ii. Some of the major challenges United Indians is faced with include a general lack of affordable housing stock in Seattle, limited resources for housing subsidy assistance, and lack of resources for case management and crisis intervention. Currently they have 2 staff members for a case load of over 60. In addition, Bridge Housing and the county and city grants do not provide funding for food for crisis housing, so getting funding for food is difficult.
- iii. Current funding comes from HUD, city and county grants that help support case management and Indigenous youth mental health programs, as well as the Office of Housing for maintenance costs.

**g. Wendy Lawrence of Opportunity Council (formerly with Makah Tribe Housing Department) provides perspective re: Sail River Heights:**

- i. A major hurdle faced by Makah is that many people are not aware of the services available to them, specifically wellness programs. As a remote

Tribe, wraparound services can be difficult to access. Started with MOU with human services and health programs. There are onsite case managers to connect with services already available, but these are not being accessed by those with the highest need.

- ii. Overarching concept of permanent supportive housing is Housing First model--get people used to accessing and trusting services. It is an ongoing challenge to keep providers engaged and to expand services, especially mental health and chemical dependency. They have needed to reach outside reservation boundaries to fill these needs and bought a vehicle to transport members to providers because of the distance.

**h. Katie Symons of BeauxSimone (Denver) shares perspectives:**

- i. Trauma-informed design is very important! Makah tribe has provided a beautiful model for permanent supportive housing.
- ii. Some important design considerations in permanent supportive housing:
  - 1. Want housing to feel safe and welcoming for residents. One way to accomplish this is by having a welcome desk that is staffed 24/7/365.
  - 2. Shared courtyard with culturally relevant design from which you can enter individual units. Courtyard should offer clear line of sight across. This design should center the healing aspects of housing: safety and community.
- iii. You may have to get creative and leverage funding opportunities. Align budgets that inform each other. Tapping into Medicaid to bill for services is a great starting point, as well as using NAHASDA to support services.
  - 1. Cash flows: use VASH or other vouchers and see how much of that can go to service dollars
  - 2. Colorado has been able to tap into marijuana tax dollars to fund housing services (\$15 million for supportive housing services)
- iv. Advocates a 15:1 client to case manager ratio, as well as using strategies for engagement that are specific to the community served and aren't limited to on-the-books check-ins. These engagements should build meaningful relationships and community, and programming should be held in a space that reflects culture.
  - 1. 15:1 ratio echoed by **Claire Petersky** from the WA State Housing Finance Commission

**i. Claire Petersky from Washington State Housing Finance Commission and Kirsten Franklin-Temple from HUD NWONAP add in some updates on funding opportunities:**

- i. LIHTC can be used for supportive housing

- ii. Muckleshoot Tribe received IHBG competitive for \$5 million, which is focused on supportive housing modeled on housing developed by Lummi Tribe.
- iii. CARES Act funding can be used for emergency housing, including tiny home villages, housing rehab on structures to be used during COVID, and even WiFi wagons for connectivity.

**Closing remarks:**

- New intertribal housing non-profit along Columbia River: **N'Chi Wana Housing**
  - Serves Columbia River Tribes, mostly in Oregon, but also Yakama Nation
  - Executive Director: Debra Whitefoot
  - <https://www.facebook.com/pg/ColumbiaRiverIntertribalHousingEntity>
- Homestead Unit Self-Quarantine (HUSQ) program in Hawaii through Homestead Community Development Corporation
  - Referred to as “comfort sheds,”
  - [https://kawaiola.news/kanaka-forward-on-the-homesteads/6906/?fbclid=IwAR1a9ehnsGD25KLiCS\\_gdOMM\\_sq4rZE0xYHquDh1Cp-LzKJl6cXyWsUJTm0](https://kawaiola.news/kanaka-forward-on-the-homesteads/6906/?fbclid=IwAR1a9ehnsGD25KLiCS_gdOMM_sq4rZE0xYHquDh1Cp-LzKJl6cXyWsUJTm0)