

News Release

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Millions of Dollars For Rural Housing Seeks Home Alaska Housing Finance Corporation soliciting grant applicants for FY15

ANCHORAGE, AK, April 9 - AHFC today announced up to \$6 million in eligible awards for small, rural communities to construct new teacher, health professional or public safety officer housing. Awards are granted through a competitive process and communities are encouraged to follow the three-step process for application:

- 1) Register for access to the online system between April 1 and June 1, 2014. Form available at www.ahfc.us/pros/grants/development-grants/thhp/.
- 2) Submit a pre-application using the online system between June 9, 2014 and June 29, 2014.
- 3) Candidates who meet minimum program requirements will be invited to submit a full application via the online system beginning early July 2014, and ending October 19, 2014.

AHFC recognizes the shortage of safe, quality, affordable rental housing is an obstacle to providing necessary education, health care and public safety services in rural Alaska. Public service employees leave positions in rural Alaska for a variety of reasons; however, lack of quality, affordable housing is typically listed as a significant factor.

“The challenges in the recruitment and retention of nurses, public safety officers and teachers in rural Alaska negatively impact the health and finances of a community in far-reaching ways. AHFC is committed to doing its part to reduce the high rate of turnover and consequences that come from it,” commented AHFC CEO and Executive Director Bryan Butcher.

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The program provides funding to construct or rehabilitate rental housing for Teachers, Health Professionals, or Public Safety Officers, in small communities within the State of Alaska. Applicants may represent school districts, health corporations, local governments, tribal councils, regional housing authorities or other non-profits.

AHFC's Teacher Housing and Health Professional, Public Safety Officer Grant program has since its inception in 2004 funded new construction, rehabilitation, and acquisition of nearly 400 units of housing in Alaska's most remote communities and has proven itself an important community asset. AHFC's ongoing support of Governor Sean Parnell's "Choose Respect" campaign includes increasing the number of Village Public Safety Officers to reduce domestic violence, sexual assault and child sexual abuse incidents. Funds supporting the program come from the Alaska State Legislature.

Alaska Housing Finance Corporation (AHFC) is a public corporation with a long history of providing Alaskans access to safe, quality and affordable housing through home financing programs, energy efficiency and weatherization programs, public housing and more. Since 1986, AHFC has contributed almost \$2 billion to the State of Alaska's General Fund.

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