

BARANOF ISLAND HOUSING AUTHORITY



STUDENT HOUSING VOUCHER PROGRAM

As with all BIHA programs, the Baranof Island Housing Authority Student Housing Voucher Program, is subject to the same income eligibility requirements as BIHA's General Admissions and Occupancy Policy for the sole purpose of determining eligibility for students. This does **not** include, Credit History.

Funds for this program are limited and will be awarded based on the date of completed application and preferences.

This program has been developed to increase opportunities and encourage tribal members to seek higher education and professional training. BIHA shall provide up to \$1,000.00 per school year to income qualifying full-time students, and \$500.00 per academic year to part-time students. The purpose is to assist students by reducing housing costs associated with obtaining higher education or professional training. A new application must be submitted each year.

Applications will be accepted for the applicable academic year until funding for the program year is exhausted.

Application:

To verify federal eligibility requirements, a standard BIHA application form must be filled out and certified as complete by a staff member. Incomplete applications will not be considered when awarding funds. The closing date for acceptance of applications and verifications will be established annually and will provide sufficient time for applicants to provide required forms and documentation.

Following the closing date, applications will be reviewed by the BIHA screening committee, who will confirm the applications are complete, and the applicant meets all eligibility criteria.

Local residency is required. Enrolled members of Sitka Tribe of Alaska will receive preference for available funding. Preference will be applied as follows: Applications received from Tribal members who have been deemed eligible under this program will be considered before applications received from non-tribal members who are otherwise eligible.

Eligibility:

Applicants for this program must be at or below 80% of the Area Median Income as determined by HUD (see Attachment A). Calculation of annual income for applicant students shall be based on independent student status or dependent student status. See the definitions for each, below.

Student:

A student is an individual who has been accepted for enrollment, or who is enrolled, as a degree (diploma, certificate, etc.) seeking student in an accredited technical or vocational school, 2-year or 4-year college or university, or graduate or professional school.

Independent Students:

To determine income, only the independent student's income and that of his or her household shall be counted. The income of his or her parents is not counted when determining the eligibility of an independent student.

A student is considered by Federal standards an independent or self-supporting student if he or she meets one of the following conditions:

1. Is at least 24 years of old by December 31st of the award year;
2. Is a student that has children who receive more than half of support from the student;
3. Is an orphan or ward of the court;
4. Is a veteran of the Armed Forces of the United States or on active military duty;
5. Is a married student;
6. Is a graduate or professional student;
7. Is a student who has legal dependents other than a spouse;
8. Is a student who is no longer claimed as a dependent by a parent or guardian on the current year's federal income tax return, and has filed his or her tax return the year;

Dependent Student:

A student who does not meet the federal definition of an independent student is considered a dependent student and must submit his/her parent's income and asset information on the application form.

Independent and Dependent students will be required to provide documents to verify their income and their parents' (or legal guardian's) income for the applicable year. To verify earned income, signed copies of students' and parents' most recent Federal Income Tax Return (1040) must be submitted. Non-taxable income can be verified by submitting the appropriate agency letter for the applicable year.

The type of income that will be counted for the purpose of this program shall be determined in line with the BIHA General A&O Policy, Section XII, Income and Deductions.

Payment:

Funds granted are to be used for payment of school provided dormitory housing or rental of off-campus housing only. Payment shall be made directly to the school or landlord in a single payment. A current phone number and the physical address of the student will be kept on file. It is the responsibility of the student to ensure this information is current and correct

Required Academic Performance:

Students receiving assistance must maintain passing grades in all classes to remain eligible for this program. Should the student fail in any one of his or her classes, they will no longer be eligible for the Student Housing Voucher Program.

Addendum A

Annual income limits per HUD
FY 2018

	1 person	2 persons	3 persons	4 persons	5 persons	6 persons	7 persons	8 persons
80%	50,350	57,550	64,750	71,900	77,700	83,450	89,200	94,950
50%	32,100	36,700	41,300	45,850	49,550	53,200	56,900	60,550
30%	19,250	22,000	25,980	31,380	36,780	42,180	47,580	52,980

Sitka Borough

Effective 04/01/18 these income limits to be updated annually