

# BARANOF ISLAND HOUSING AUTHORITY



## STUDENT HOUSING VOUCHER PROGRAM POLICY

Amended September 28, 2022  
BIHA BOC Resolution #2022-14

## A. Purpose

It has been determined that a Student Housing Voucher Program is beneficial to the provision of housing for Sitka's tribal citizens. This program has been developed to help make housing more affordable for students while working towards obtaining higher education or professional training, thereby promoting self-sufficiency and advancing the purposes of NAHASDA.

## B. Amount of Assistance

BIHA shall provide up to \$2,000.00 per academic year to full-time students, and \$1,000.00 per academic year to part-time students. Funding for this program will be defined in BIHA's annual Indian Housing Plan and fiscal year operating budget.

## C. Application Process

Application forms will be made available annually on April 1<sup>st</sup>. Completed applications must be received by May 31<sup>st</sup> to be considered. An application will be deemed incomplete (and therefore not be considered for assistance) if it is not accompanied by all required documentation as listed on the BIHA Student Housing Voucher Application form.

Submitted applications will be reviewed by the BIHA Housing Department to determine eligibility. Eligible applications will then be forwarded to the BIHA screening committee to determine final award selection. Award notifications will be issued on or before July 31<sup>st</sup>.

## D. Eligibility

### i. Indian Preference:

Assistance will be limited to students who are members of a federally recognized tribe.

### ii. Student Status:

An individual will be considered a student if they are enrolled in an accredited technical or vocational school, 2-year or 4-year college or university, or graduate or professional school and are working towards a degree, diploma, or certificate, etc.

#### *a. Independent Students*

An Independent student is one who files their own tax return and no other person can claim them as a dependent on their tax return.

#### *b. Dependent Student*

A Dependent student is one who does not file their own tax return and whom someone else can claim as a dependent on their tax return.

### iii. Income Eligibility:

Applicants for this program must demonstrate income that does not exceed 100% of the Area Median Income for Sitka, Alaska as determined by HUD annually. Priority will be given to Low Income applicants (at or below 80% of the Area Median Income). Moderate Income applicants will be awarded assistance if funds allow.

Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) on IRS Form 1040 (Individual Income Tax Return) will be used to determine income eligibility. For Independent students, the AGI from their personal tax return will be used. For Dependent students, the AGI from the tax return on which they are claimed as a dependent will be used.

## E. Selection Preference

Selection preference for this program will be implemented on a two-tier basis. Income Preference shall be the primary tier of selection, followed by a secondary tier of Indian/Tribal Preference.

Selection Preference will be implemented as follows:

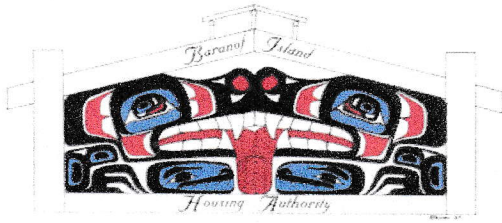
- i. Priority #1: Low Income applicants as defined in Section D.ii of this policy.
  - a. Sub-Tier 1: Low Income tribal citizen applicants who are enrolled with Sitka Tribe of Alaska.
  - b. Sub-Tier 2: Low Income local tribal citizen applicants who are enrolled members of another federally recognized tribe.
  - c. Sub-Tier 3: Low Income applicants who are enrolled members of Sitka Tribe of Alaska who have established residency outside of Sitka, Alaska.
- ii. Priority #2: Moderate Income applicants as defined in Section D.ii of this policy.
  - a. Sub-Tier 1: Moderate Income tribal citizen applicants who are enrolled with Sitka Tribe of Alaska.
  - b. Sub-Tier 2: Moderate Income local tribal citizen applicants who are enrolled members of another federally recognized tribe.
  - c. Sub-Tier 3: Moderate Income applicants who are enrolled members of Sitka Tribe of Alaska who have established residency outside of Sitka, Alaska.

## F. 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.

## G. Required Academic Performance

Students receiving assistance must maintain passing grades (minimum 2.0 Grade Point Average or equivalent Pass/Fail determination) in all classes to remain eligible under this program. Students who fail to do so may be deemed ineligible for future assistance under this program.



# Baranof Island Housing Authority

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## BIHA Resolution #2022-014

### **Approval of Revisions to Student Housing Voucher Program Policy**

**WHEREAS**, Baranof Island Housing Authority has been appointed the Tribally Designated Housing Entity (TDHE) for the Sitka area by Sitka Tribe of Alaska Resolution #97-49, Sitka Tribe of Alaska being a federally recognized Indian Tribe pursuant to the Indian Reorganization Act of June 18, 1934; and

**WHEREAS**, Baranof Island Housing Authority was established as a Regional Native Housing Authority for Baranof Island by Alaska Statute 18.55.996, possessing the primary powers, rights and functions specified for the Alaska State Housing Authority; and

**WHEREAS**, Baranof Island Housing Authority, as the TDHE for Sitka Tribe of Alaska, and as the Native housing authority established by Alaska State Statute has the responsibility of assisting tribal citizens, Alaska Natives, and American Indians to attain affordable, decent, safe, and sanitary housing; and

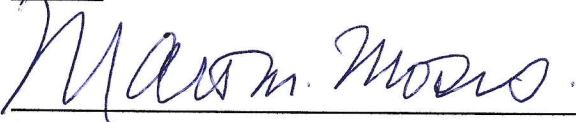
**WHEREAS**, Baranof Island Housing Authority adopts policies to provide for the safety and security of its employees, program participants and the general public;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Commissioners of Baranof Island Housing Authority hereby approves the revisions to the Student Housing Voucher Program Policy dated September 28, 2022.

**PASSED, ADOPTED AND APPROVED** by the Board of Commissioners of Baranof Island Housing Authority this 28 day of September, 2022 by a vote of 4 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstaining, 1 Absent.

  
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Chairman, Board of Commissioners

**ATTEST**

  
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Secretary