Attachment A Partner Documentation

State of Alaska

Attachment A Partner Documentation.pdf
March 26, 2015

U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)
National Disaster Resilience Competition
FR-5800-N-29

RE: CDBG-NDR DMVA/DHS&EM Intent to Participate

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter confirms the mutual intent of the State of Alaska Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (DHS&EM), Division of Community and Regional Affairs (DCRA), the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation (AHFC), and the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) to collaborate and complete an application for HUD’s Community Development Block Grant-National Disaster Resilience (CDBG-NDR). This partner agreement is contingent upon the award of funds from the competition to carry out eligible activities as provided in the State of Alaska’s CDBG-NDR application. DHS&EM will act as the lead agency on behalf of the State of Alaska.

Per Alaska Statute (AS) 26.23.010, the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMVA) provides critical services to Alaskan communities to prepare for, respond to, and recover and reduce vulnerability from disasters. Further, per AS 26.23.040, it is DHS&EM’s duty to execute those services, which include emergency preparedness, training, exercise, planning, response, recovery, risk reduction mitigation, and managing associated grants. Since the implementation of the Alaska Disaster Act in 1977, DHS&EM (formerly Division of Emergency Services) has effectively executed the emergency management mission for the State of Alaska, its communities, and tribes for over 246 local, state, and federal disasters.

DHS&EM is part of a State Interagency Working Group (SIWG), also consisting of DCRA, AHFC, DEC, other partners, and stakeholders. The SIWG has agreed that DHS&EM will be the lead agency for the CDBG-NDR application phase. Should funding be made available through this grant, the SIWG reserves the right to leverage the capability of its core members and partners as appropriate to implement the proposed activities for the CDBG-NDR with the support of the Governor’s office.

As an emergency response and recovery agency, in addition to emergency management subject matter expertise, DMVA and DHS&EM bring leadership, federal and State grants management, project management, planning, and procurement capabilities to the SIWG. We also lead and participate in several interagency working groups, from which we may leverage support and capabilities as appropriate. These groups include the State Hazard Mitigation Advisory Committee, the Alaska Partnership for Infrastructure Protection, the Disaster Housing Task Force (when activated), and the US Army Corps of Engineers’ sponsored Alaska Chapter of Silver Jackets.

We commit $50,000 in cash contribution for CDBG-NDR related application development, planning, general administration, architecture and engineering, and initial soft costs from the date of the NOFA (September 17, 2014) through the performance period of any award received.
March 26, 2015
Page 2 of 2

It is understood this letter is only an expression of our intent, and binding partner agreement detailing the terms and conditions of the proposed partnership must be executed before the use of any CDBG-NDR funds, if awarded.

Please contact Ann Gravier at 907-428-7045 or by email at ann.gravier@alaska.gov if you have any questions or need further information.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

John W. Madden
Director
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development  
National Disaster Resilience Competition  
FR-5800-N-29  

Re: Intent to Participate  

This letter is to confirm the mutual intent of both the Alaska Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (MVA) and the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation (AHFC) to collaborate and enter into a partner agreement, contingent upon the award of funds from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development for the Community Development Block Grant National Disaster Resilience (CDBG-NDR) competition, to carry out eligible activities as provided in the MVA's CDBG-NDR application.  

AHFC is the state housing finance agency and the only public housing authority in Alaska. Our organization is the largest affordable housing provider in the state with over 1,600 units and assisting another 4,000 families through Housing Choice Vouchers. We maintain the state thermal design standard, invest in housing and energy efficiency research and arctic housing design; in fact, we lead the nation in homeowner energy efficiency; investing $600 million of state funds in weatherization and energy efficiency rebates in the last eight years resulting in ratings of 37,000 homes and weatherizng over 15,000 – with average thermal savings of more than 30 percent. We operate all major state and federal low income housing programs (Section 8, public housing, HOME, LIHTC, NSP, Continuum of Care homeless programs); Further, AHFC manages $65 million federal dollars per year using many different HUD/DOE electronic monitoring and drawdown systems (IDIS, DRGR, LOCCS). We have decades of experience with cross cutting federal requirements like Davis Bacon, environmental reviews, URA, and fair housing design standards and practices.  

AHFC is a committed partner in the development of the NDRC application and developing a new approach to building resiliency of Alaskan communities. We are committed to sharing data on housing needs and energy efficiency; leveraging existing planning and research; providing grant writing and administration expertise; technical assistance on state/federal housing programs that can be used to implement the approach methodology; if needed, fiscal management of the funds including drawdown and reporting to HUD and providing a direct cash contribution of $50,000 for the leveraging component over and above the administrative costs of application preparation.  

As a partner in this application we commit to using the designed approach to review AHFC’s current policies and procedures, insuring greater resiliency. It is understood that this letter is only an expression of our intent and a binding partner agreement detailing the terms and conditions of the proposed partnership must be executed before the use of any CDBG-NDR funds, if awarded.  

Sincerely,  

Bryan D. Butcher, CEO/Executive Director
March 17, 2015

Re: Intent to Participate

This letter is to confirm the mutual intent of both the State of Alaska, Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management and The Alaska Community Foundation (ACF) to collaborate and enter into a partner agreement [or other agreement], contingent upon the award of funds from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development for the Community Development Block Grant National Disaster Resilience (CDBG-NDR) competition, to carry out eligible activities as provided in the State of Alaska, Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management CDBG-NDR application.

Established in 1995, ACF cultivates, celebrates and sustains all forms of philanthropy in Alaska to strengthen Alaska’s communities forever. Over the past 20 years, thanks to generous donors and a strong investment performance our corpus has grown to over $80 million. Along with our nine community affiliate partners ACF has granted millions to Alaskans in over 40 communities around the state. These grants and scholarships help build local capacity, support post-secondary education and improve the quality of life across the state.

While ACF, is not a large funder in the area of disaster resiliency, we do manage some resources for this purpose. We are concerned about sustainable communities and improving the quality of life across Alaska. ACF is in support of this application and the important work of the applicant. We are committed to working with the applicant as they develop a long-range strategy and will look to any plan they develop as we explore strategic ways to distribute charitable dollars in the affected regions of the state.

It is understood that this is letter only an expression of our intent and a binding partner agreement [or other agreement] detailing the terms and conditions of the proposed partnership must be executed before the use of any CDBG-NDR funds, if awarded.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Candace Winkler MPA, MSW
President & CEO
The Alaska Community Foundation
Ann Y. Gravier  
State Hazard Mitigation Officer  
P.O Box 5750  
Fort Richardson, AK 99505-5750  

Re: Intent to Participate in CDBG-NDR Activities  

Dear Ms. Gravier:  

We understand the State of Alaska Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (DHS&EM) is preparing an application to compete for funds from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development for the Community Development Block Grant National Disaster Resilience (CDBG-NDR) program. This letter confirms the intent of the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC) to participate with DHS&EM in the development of an agreement by which ANTHC would carry out activities funded by the award if the State’s application is successful.  

ANTHC is a nonprofit tribal health organization whose mission is to provide the highest quality health services to Alaska Native and American Indians in partnership the Alaska Tribal Health System. ANTHC is governed by a board of 15 Alaska Native leaders from around the state with the vision that “Alaska Native people are the healthiest people in the world.” ANTHC is comprised of three functional divisions to provide full-spectrum health care to our communities across the state. These divisions are: (1) the Alaska Native Medical Center in Anchorage, which provides direct patient care, (2) the Division of Environmental Health and Engineering, which provides sanitation and health facilities design, engineering, and construction, and (3) the Division of Community Health Services, which provides community-focused preventive health services.  

ANTHC is proud to accept the State of Alaska’s invitation to partner in this effort. We have a long history of working with the State of Alaska and Federal agencies in pursuit of our common goals. The following are a few examples:  

- Sanitation Facilities: The ANTHC partners with the Indian Health Service, the Environmental Protection Agency, the United States Department of Agriculture, the State of Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation’s Village Safe Water Program, regional housing authorities, rural municipalities and Native villages to provide public health infrastructure planning, project management, engineering, and construction of sanitation facilities. These facilities include water treatment, storage, and distribution systems, sewer collection and treatment facilities, solid waste disposal facilities, and supporting infrastructure.
• Energy Efficiency: The ANTHC partners with the Alaska Energy Authority and the United States Department of Energy to provide project management, engineering, and construction of innovative projects focused on improving energy efficiency in our communities.

• Health Facilities: The ANTHC partners with the Indian Health Service and the Denali Commission to provide project management, engineering, and construction of health facilities (clinics) in our communities.

• Disaster Response Efforts: The ANTHC partners with the State of Alaska’s DHS&EM and FEMA to provide project management and planning, engineering, and construction to meet the needs of tribal communities during disaster response and recovery efforts.

This letter serves as an expression of ANTHC’s intent to work with DHS&EM to develop an agreement that will be mutually satisfactory to the parties; this letter does not presuppose that ANTHC is bound by any particular terms or conditions. To support the State of Alaska in its efforts associated with the CDBG-NDR grant opportunity, our engineering project managers, design engineers, and construction professionals can directly support project planning and delivery. In this capacity, our staff can provide planning, project identification and scoping, cost estimating, design, and delivery of projects directly related to our mission of health care and disease prevention. With our key knowledge about current community health issues and potential impacts, ANTHC can also provide expertise on environmental effects of climate change, act as a liaison for tribally relevant issues, and foster stakeholder relationship building.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Roald Helgesen
CEO and Administrator
December 22, 2014

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
National Disaster Resilience Competition
FR-5800-N-29

Re: Intent to Participate as Partner

To Whom it May Concern:

This letter is to confirm the mutual intent of both the Alaska Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMVA) and Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) to collaborate and enter into a partner agreement, contingent upon the award of funds from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development for the Community Development Block Grant National Disaster Resilience (CDBG-NDR) competition, to carry out eligible activities as provided in the DMVA's CDBG-NDR application.

DEC is Alaska's environmental regulatory department and has responsibility for environmental protection through implementation and enforcement of state and federal environmental rules throughout Alaska. Within DEC, the Division of Environmental Health focuses on the implementation and enforcement of solid waste, drinking water, food safety, and other environmental health-related rules in Alaska. The Division of Water operates the Village Safe Water program, which works to develop sustainable sanitation facilities in rural communities throughout Alaska.

As a partner with DMVA, the Department's proposed role is to provide technical expertise in the design and operation of drinking water and solid waste management systems, and authorization to construct or operate these facilities. This infrastructure is often adversely impacted by natural disasters. DEC has been involved in the response to several of the disasters that impacted communities that are eligible for assistance under the CDBG-NDR.

The Division of Environmental Health has both large project management experience as well as experience managing federal grants. Examples of this experience include the management of $1 million in National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) funds for the assessment and cleanup of marine debris resulting from the 2011 Japanese tsunami; and the management of $1.4 million in Coastal Impact Assistance Program (CIAP) funds for the study of eroding landfills and contaminated sites in western Alaska. Both of these projects included coordinating with state and federal agency partners and the use of subcontractors to complete project objectives. The Division of Environmental Health has sufficient receipt authority to receive federal funds and has financial mechanisms in place to manage such funding.
It is understood that this letter is only an expression of our intent and a binding partner agreement detailing the terms and conditions of the proposed partnership must be executed before the use of any CDBG-NDR funds, if awarded.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Elaine Busse Floyd
Division Director
Environmental Health Division
January 21, 2015

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
National Disaster Resilience Competition

Re: Intent to Participate

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is to confirm the mutual intent of both the Alaska Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management and the Alaska Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development (DCCED), Division of Community and Regional Affairs (DCRA) to collaborate and enter into a partner agreement [or other agreement], contingent upon the award of funds from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development for the Community Development Block Grant National Disaster Resilience (CDBG-NDR) competition, to carry out eligible activities as provided in the State of Alaska’s CDBG-NDR application.

DCRA is charged with meeting the constitutional mandate in Article X, Section 14 of the Alaska State Constitution that states “An agency shall be established by law in the executive branch of the state government to advise and assist local governments.” DCRA’s mission is to promote strong communities and healthy economies, which directly relates to community resilience. This mission and mandate applies not only to the day-to-day functions of Alaska’s communities, but also in times of disaster and to the long-term recovery period following disasters. DCRA has broad authority through Alaska Statute 44.33.020 to advise and assist local governments on a wide range of issues that impact community sustainability and resilience, including community planning and floodplain management.

Specific to community disaster resilience, DCRA coordinates the State of Alaska’s participation in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and the Risk Mapping, Assessment and Planning (Risk MAP) Program:

- **The NFIP** seeks to increase community resilience by reducing future flood damage through the implementation of local floodplain management ordinances while providing affordable flood insurance to participating communities.

- **The Risk MAP Program** seeks to increase community resilience by providing communities with quality hazard data, risk assessment tools and technical support to strengthen local ability to make informed decisions about reducing risk.
DCRA manages two additional programs designed to increase community resilience to natural hazards and climate change:

- **The Alaska Climate Change Impact Mitigation Program** provides technical assistance and funding for:
  - Hazard Impact Assessments which are conducted to identify and define the hazard impacts in the community, to assess how those hazards impact the community, and to develop recommendations for how the community might best mitigate those hazard impacts; and
  - Community Planning Grants which allow communities to carry out one or more of the recommendations from the Hazard Impact Assessment

- **The Alaska Community Protection Project** incorporates strategic resiliency planning, an interagency collaborative support structure and strong community leadership to develop comprehensive resiliency plans for the communities of Kivalina, Shaktoolik, and Shishmaref. These three communities are some of the most imminently threatened communities in Alaska.

Since 2006, DCRA has coordinated the **Newtok Planning Group**, an inter-agency working group providing assistance to Newtok, an Alaskan village imperiled by severe flooding, erosion and permafrost degradation, as it relocates to a new village site in western Alaska. This coordination is in response to two Alaska Administrative Orders (AO 231 and AO 239) which direct DCCED "to act as the state coordinating agency to coordinate with the other state and federal agencies to propose long-term solutions to the ongoing erosion issues in... affected coastal communities..."

DCRA has served as the State of Alaska’s lead agency for **Community Development Block Grant (CBDG)** funding for the State of Alaska since the early 1980s. DCRA staff has extensive experience in managing state and federal grant funds, ensuring compliance with federal requirements for environmental reviews, Davis-Bacon labor standards, and federal fund obligation and reporting rules. DCRA serves on the steering committee for the development of the State Housing and Community Development Plan which determines the allocation of CDBG, HOME and ESG housing and community development resources in Alaska.

DCRA maintains the Alaska Community Database Online (CDO) which provides comprehensive information for each community in Alaska. The CDO serves as the State of Alaska’s primary repository of data on Alaska communities. Published data is compiled from a variety of sources covering community location, population, taxes, climate, history, culture, demographics, utilities, schools, health care, economy, transportation, and major community contacts.

DCRA is part of a State Interagency Working Group (SIWG), consisting of the Department of Military and Veteran’s Affairs (DMVA), Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (DHS&EM); Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), and the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation (AHFC). DCRA is a committed partner in the development of the NDRC application and to developing a new approach to building resiliency of Alaskan communities. We are committed to sharing data on Alaska’s communities; leveraging existing community resiliency planning efforts; providing technical assistance on state/federal resiliency planning and risk assessment programs that can be used to implement the approach methodology; advising on the
management of state and federal grant funds, particularly the CBDG, and compliance with federal requirements for environmental reviews, Davis-Bacon labor standards, and federal fund obligation and reporting rules.

It is understood that this letter is only an expression of our intent and a binding partner agreement detailing the terms and conditions of the proposed partnership must be executed before the use of any CDBG-NDR funds, if awarded.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Lawrence Blood
Acting Director
March 8, 2015

Ann Y. Gravier
State Hazard Mitigation Officer
Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMVA)
Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (DHS&EM)
P.O Box 5750
Fort Richardson, AK 99505-5750

Dear Ms. Gravier:

RE: Denali Commission Intent to Participate

This letter is to confirm the mutual intent of our two agencies to collaborate and enter into a subsequent agreement, contingent upon the award of funds from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development for the Community Development Block Grant National Disaster Resilience (CDBG-NDR) competition, to carry out eligible activities as provided in the State of Alaska’s CDBG-NDR application.

As I have indicated in the past, the Denali Commission has hired a project manager with significant experience in standing up infrastructure projects in rural Alaska. The gentleman in question, Mr. Chris Allard, starts tomorrow on March 9, 2015. He will serve as a technical resource to the Commission, the State, other program partners and specific communities on disaster planning, mitigation and recovery. His scope of work includes activities that may arise from the CDBG-NDR application. I look forward to introducing you to Mr. Allard in the coming weeks. As you know, the Commission is exploring how we can best complement, but not duplicate, the work of other State and Federal agencies in this arena.

It is understood that this is letter is only an expression of our intent and a subsequent partner agreement detailing the terms and conditions of the proposed partnership must be executed before the use of any CDBG-NDR funds, if awarded.

I can be reached at 907-271-1440 should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Joel Neimeyer
Federal Co-Chair

cc: Joan Rave, FEMA
January 26 2015

Alaska Interagency Working Group
c/o Ann Gravier
PO Box 5750
DMVA-Homeland Security
JBER, AK 99505-5750

Re: Intent to Participate in U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development National Disaster Resilience Competition

To whom it may concern:

This letter is to confirm the mutual intent of both the State of Alaska Interagency Working Group and the Alaska Division of Geological & Geophysical Surveys (DGGS) to collaborate and enter into a partner agreement, contingent upon the award of funds from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development for the Community Development Block Grant National Disaster Resilience (CDBG-NDR) competition, to carry out eligible activities as provided in the State of Alaska’s CDBG-NDR application.

DGGS is a Division of the Alaska Department of Natural Resources that works to generate new, objective, and peer-reviewed information about the geology of Alaska and the potential geologic hazards to its people and infrastructure. We boast a highly qualified staff of over 25 research scientists and geologists with extensive field experience in a range of sub-disciplines relevant to interpreting Alaska geohazards (e.g., flooding, severe storms, landslides, earthquakes, tsunamis and ice jams). Our Division’s mission statement supports the goals of enhancing the natural disaster resiliency of Alaska communities:

* Determine the potential of Alaskan land for production of metals, minerals, fuels, and geothermal resources, the locations and supplies of groundwater and construction material; and the potential geologic hazards to buildings, roads, bridges, and other installations and structures. (AS 41.08.020)

Our staff have site-specific knowledge of many Alaska regions with unmet needs stemming from presidentially-declared major disasters and we look forward to contributing this subject matter expertise, any existing datasets, and appropriate technical assistance to disaster recovery and revitalization projects as a possible sub-recipient of any approved funding for projects in Alaska. DGGS has a documented track record of conducting geohazard assessments in support of infrastructure projects and public safety through Reimbursable Services Agreements with partner State agencies, for example, in 2014 DGGS
staff completed a study of landslide potential at the Yukon River bridge crossing for the Alaska Department of Transportation and we routinely provide coastal erosion vulnerability assessments for proposed infrastructure development in the coastal zone to partners such as the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation.

It is understood that this letter is only an expression of our intent and a binding partner agreement detailing the terms and conditions of the proposed partnership must be executed before the use of any CDBG-NDR funds, if awarded.

Thank you,

S. Masterman

Steve Masterman
State Geologist & Director
Alaska Division of Geological & Geophysical Surveys
3354 College Road, Fairbanks AK 99709-3707
Tel: (907) 451-5007 - Fax: (907) 451-5050
Email: steve.masterman@alaska.gov
Web: http://dggs.alaska.gov
January 22, 2015

Ms. Ann Y. Gravier, State Hazard Mitigation Officer
Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMVA)
Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (DHS&EM)
P.O. Box 5750
Fort Richardson, AK 99505-5750

RE: Intent to Participate

Dear Ms. Gravier,

This letter is to confirm the mutual intent of both the State of Alaska, Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (DHS&EM) and Economic Development Administration (EDA), Alaska Field Office (AFO) to collaborate and enter into a partner agreement, contingent upon the award of funds from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development for the Community Development Block Grant National Disaster Resilience (CDBG-NDR) competition, to carry out eligible activities as provided in the DHS&EM’s CDBG-NDR application.

The Economic Development Administration is a federal bureau under the United States Department of Commerce (DOC) agency. EDA investments build a foundation for sustainable job growth upon two key economic drivers: innovation and regional collaboration.

EDA’s proposed partner role is as follows: to consider actionable projects that encourage job growth and business expansion as related to natural disaster mitigation and resiliency, strengthen communities that have suffered disproportionate economic distress and act as leverage to complementary investments as a result of the CDBG-NDR competition. EDA investment considerations will be made directly to eligible applicants in the identified CDBG-NDR competition communities/regions for actionable projects under the EDA Federal Funding Opportunities in the Planning and Technical Assistance, Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance programs.

It is understood that this letter is only an expression of our intent and a binding partner agreement detailing the terms and conditions of the proposed partnership must be executed before the use of any CDBG-NDR funds, if awarded.

Economic Development Administration
Alaska Field Office

Shirley Kelly

Shirley Kelly, Alaska Economic Development Representative
February 19, 2015

Ms. Ann Y. Gravier, State Hazard Mitigation Officer
Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMVA)
Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (DHS&EM)
P.O Box 5750
Fort Richardson, AK 99505-5750

RE: Intent to Participate

Dear Ms. Gravier,

This letter is to confirm the mutual intent of both the State of Alaska, Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (DHS&EM) and Kawerak, Inc. to collaborate and enter into a partner agreement, contingent upon the award of funds from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development for the Community Development Block Grant National Disaster Resilience (CDBG-NDR) competition, to carry out eligible activities as provided in the DHS&EM’s CDBG-NDR application.

Kawerak, Inc. is the regional non-profit consortium serving the 20 federally recognized tribes in the Bering Strait Region of Alaska. Kawerak, Inc. is governed by a board of directors representing tribal leadership from the region, elders, and the regional health corporation. Services include economic and community development, Village Public Safety Officers, governance and management assistance, natural resource advocacy, education, workforce development, and children and family services.

Kawerak’s proposed partner role is as follows: act as the local liaison between the disaster affected communities and state and federal partners, assist in project planning, provide on the ground coordination assistance to facilitate effective use of funds to promote community resilience, and encourage and support small business in preparing for future hazard events.

It is understood that this letter is only an expression of our intent and a binding partner agreement detailing the terms and conditions of the proposed partnership must be executed before the use of any CDBG-NDR funds, if awarded.

Sincerely,

KAWERAK, INC

Melanie Bahnke
President
January 15, 2015

Ann Gravier, State Hazard Mitigation Officer
AK DHS &EM
P.O Box 5750
Fort Richardson, AK 99505-5750

Re: Intent to Participate in the CDBG-NDR

This letter is to confirm the mutual intent of both Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) and The State of Alaska to collaborate and enter into a partner agreement, contingent upon the award of funds from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development for the Community Development Block Grant National Disaster Resilience (CDBG-NDR) competition, to carry out eligible activities as provided in the State of Alaska’s CDBG-NDR application.

TCC is a tribal nonprofit consortium consisting of 37 federally recognized member tribes that provides health care, social services, and advocacy for member tribes’ needs. TCC tribes are located across the interior region of Alaska, an area nearly the size of Texas.

TCC will provide information about TCC Villages that will assist the State’s application for the CDBG-DR funds. TCC is also willing to assist in other ways if asked by the State in order to bring this much needed mitigation funding to TCC member tribes.

It is understood that this letter is only an expression of our intent and a binding partner agreement detailing the terms and conditions of the proposed partnership must be executed before the use of any CDBG-NDR funds, if awarded.

Sincerely,

TANANA CHIEFS CONFERENCE

[Signature]

Victor Joseph
President
February 9, 2015

Ms. Ann Y. Gravier, State Hazard Mitigation Officer
Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMVA)
Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (DHS&EM)
P.O. Box 5750
Fort Richardson, AK 99505-5750

Dear Ms. Gravier:

This letter is to confirm the mutual intent of USDA Rural Development (RD) to collaborate and partner with the State of Alaska on the Community Development Block Grant National Disaster Resilience (CDBG-NDR) efforts. It is understood that the partnership is contingent upon the award of funds from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development competition.

USDA RD is committed to helping improve the economy and quality of life in rural America. Through our programs, we offer loans, grants and loan guarantees to support essential services such as housing, economic development, health care, first responder services and equipment, and water, electric and communications infrastructure. We promote economic development by supporting loans to businesses through banks, credit unions and community-managed lending pools. We provide technical assistance to help communities undertake community empowerment programs. We help rural residents buy or rent safe, affordable housing and make health and safety repairs to their homes.

RD would look to work along with CDBG-NDR efforts to identify projects that may be eligible for our programs. The effort to work along with partners and leverage resources is a high priority for our current economic development initiative. In addition, 15 of the 16 proposed communities are located in a USDA StrikeForce initiative area. The StrikeForce effort is intended to increase investments and create opportunities in poverty-stricken rural communities.

Tasha Deardorff will be the main contact at RD. She will attend collaboration meetings and assist with identifying how RD can support this effort. She can be reached at 907-271-2424 ext. 118 or at tasha.deardorff@ak.usda.gov.

It is understood that this letter is only an expression of our support of this effort and our intent to collaborate, if any CDBG-NDR funds are awarded.

Sincerely,

JAMES R. NORDLUND
Alaska State Director

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form (PDF), found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form.
You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at program.intake@usda.gov.