



2015 Winter Convention Lincoln City, Oregon

RESOLUTION #15 - 14

“RECOMMENDATION OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT/VETERANS AFFAIRS SUPPORTIVE HOUSING DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM”

PREAMBLE

We, the members of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians of the United States, invoking the divine blessing of the Creator upon our efforts and purposes, in order to preserve for ourselves and our descendants rights secured under Indian Treaties, Executive Orders, and benefits to which we are entitled under the laws and constitution of the United States and several states, to enlighten the public toward a better understanding of the Indian people, to preserve Indian cultural values, and otherwise to promote the welfare of the Indian people, do hereby establish and submit the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians (ATNI) are representatives of and advocates for national, regional, and specific tribal concerns; and

WHEREAS, ATNI is a regional organization comprised of American Indians/Alaska Natives and tribes in the states of Washington, Idaho, Oregon, Montana, Nevada, Northern California, and Alaska; and

WHEREAS, the health, safety, welfare, education, economic and employment opportunity, and preservation of cultural and natural resources are primary goals and objectives of the ATNI; and

WHEREAS, ATNI supports the designated tribal housing entity to develop new policies related to the eligibility and distribution of Housing and Urban Development/Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD/VASH) Distribution Program vouchers that allows for maximum flexibility to support the homeless or at risk of homelessness Native veterans in accessing permanent housing and supportive services; and

WHEREAS, ATNI does not support HUD/VASH counting Veteran's disability compensation rating as part of their income for determining their eligibility; and

WHEREAS, ATNI supports the same definition used by the Department of Veterans Affairs under eligibility for medical benefits that includes "other than honorable discharge" to be determined by each individual tribe; and

WHEREAS, ATNI supports using the Tribal HUD/VASH Distribution Voucher Program to provide permanent housing and supportive services within the bounds of their own reservation; and

WHEREAS, ATNI supports the inclusion of additional administrative funds to provide support for outreach to homeless Native veterans; and

WHEREAS, ATNI supports waivers under the HUD/VASH Distribution Voucher Program when necessary to support surviving spouses and dependents; and

WHEREAS, ATNI recommends extreme flexibility with the Tribal HUD/VASH Distribution Voucher Program to account for unexpected barriers or obstacles that might arise in the administration of this program; and

WHEREAS, ATNI recommends that HUD complete a follow-up assessment of the Distribution Voucher Program after the first year of operation to ensure feasibility of the current appropriation and need for additional vouchers; and

WHEREAS, ATNI recommends that Tribal Veterans Representatives work with HUD to quantify the current native veteran population; and

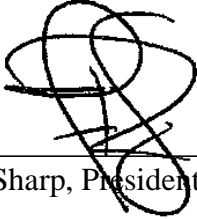
WHEREAS, ATNI recommends utilizing supportive services currently existing on reservations and if need be, supplementing services with our local Work Source programs, Disabled Veterans Occupational Program, local clinics, health care providers, social services, Department of Veterans Affairs, and VA Homeless Caseworkers; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that ATNI does hereby support the appropriation of HUD/VASH Distribution Program Vouchers to tribal housing authorities in representation of veteran's needs; and

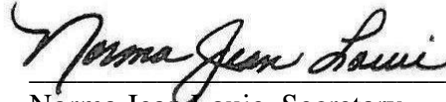
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians hereby support tribal housing authorities having the greatest flexibility in utilization of these vouchers for veterans and their family (ie: surviving spouse and/or parents of a deceased veteran), and that by definition both are considered by federal CFR 38 as eligible for Dependent Indemnity Compensation (DIC) and to be included in the opportunity for benefits of the Distribution Program rental vouchers from HUD/VASH.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 2015 Winter Convention of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, held at the Chinook Winds Casino Resort, Lincoln City, Oregon on February 2-5, 2015, with a quorum present.



Fawn Sharp, President



Norma Jean Louie, Secretary