



CENTRAL COUNCIL

*Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska*

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Tribal Vocational Rehabilitation Secures Continuation Grant**

The Tribal Vocational Rehabilitation (TVR) program of the Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska (Central Council) is pleased to report that on October 1, 2010 it secured a five year continuation grant from the Rehabilitation Service Administration. This federally funded discretionary grant will award \$481,705 a year, or 90% of the cost of the program, for five years. The TVR program is required to provide 10% of the total cost of the program or \$100,000.

"I am excited that our program has the opportunity to continue providing vocational rehabilitation services throughout Southeast Alaska. This grant will allow us to improve the quality of services we provide by traveling to many Southeast rural communities and offering more direct services to the constituents of Central Council and any American Indian meeting the eligibility requirements," said Teresa Sarabia, TVR Program Director.

The TVR program is a part of the Employment and Training Division and is located on the third floor of the Andrew Hope Building. Sarabia applied for the grant in early 2010. The TVR program operates within a P.L. 102-477 (self-governance) organization, which has allowed TVR to be flexible in meeting the unique needs of Southeast Alaska. The consolidated program has allowed the TVR program to provide innovative services to those difficult to serve by combining resources such as funds, staff, equipment and supplies. The consolidated program has also increased the TVR program's ability to reach more clients and provide direct services.

A TVR program goal is to increase the number Alaska Natives and American Indians with disabilities being served and rehabilitated in Southeast Alaska. The long term goal of the program will be an augment of Alaska Natives and American Indians being employed in the competitive labor market of their own communities.

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