



CENTRAL COUNCIL
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 18, 2008

Southeast Communities Get a Helping Hand with Strategic Planning

The Central Council Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska's (Central Council) Business and Economic Development Department (BEDD) has been awarded a \$50,000 grant to continue its *Strategic Planning for Communities* workshops for 2008-2009. The U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration Technical Assistance grant covers the expenses of providing the workshops to communities as part of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies (CEDS) development.

Workshops are conducted as a joint project of Central Council and Southeast Conference in an effort to assist communities in developing their priority project lists in the CEDS process. Organizations involved in the process include the local Tribe, municipality, ANCSA Corporation, local institutions and non-profits as well as local businesses. The workshops include the introduction of an online planning and project management tool called *ActionStrategy* to assist organizations with their in-house work. The tool also provides a standard format for organizations to share their priorities with other groups in the community thereby identifying common priorities. These common priorities most often form the foundation for the communities' CEDS priority project lists.

In 2007, the workshop was conducted in six Southeast communities. With the additional funding from this grant, BEDD and Southeast Conference can provide six additional communities with the workshop. All workshops under the grant will be completed by March 2009.

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