

Alaska Federation of Natives

Statewide Briefing



Week of September 6-10, 2021

In This Briefing...

- **THE ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD ADOPTS TWO PROPOSED REDISTRICTING PLANS — DEADLINE FOR THIRD PARTY MAP PROPOSALS IS WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15**
- **INTERIOR SEEKS TRIBAL INPUT ON NOT INVISIBLE ACT OF 2019 — WRITTEN CONSULTATION DEADLINE SEPTEMBER 17**
- **FEMA OFFERS FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR COVID-19 FUNERAL EXPENSES**
- **INTERIOR SECRETARY DEB HAALAND POSTPONES TRIP TO ALASKA DUE TO VIRUS SURGE**
- **INTERIOR DEPARTMENT TO HOST TRIBAL BROADBAND SUMMIT**
- **COVID-19 UPDATE — ALASKA SETS RECORD IN COVID-19 HOSPITALIZATIONS**
- **ALASKA CHAMBER LAUNCHES VACCINE INCENTIVE PROGRAM**
- **AFN MEETING SCHEDULE**

The Alaska Redistricting Board Adopts Two Proposed Redistricting Plans — Deadline for Third-Party Map Proposals Is Wednesday, September 15

On September 9 the Alaska Redistricting Board adopted two proposed redistricting plans and is now accepting testimony and additional proposed plans.

“We have fulfilled our constitutional obligation and I’m pleased to begin the process of hearing from the public over the next 60 days as we develop our final plan,” said Board Member Nicole Borromeo.

Alaskans wishing to present their own map to the Board must submit by noon on September 15, 2021 to testimony@akredistrict.org. The Board will be meeting on Friday, September 17, 2021 to review maps created by third parties and consider adopting additional proposed plans.

The Alaska Redistricting Board will then hold public hearings statewide on all adopted proposed plans prior to the proclamation of a redistricting plan no later than November 10, 2021.

To access regional PDF files for both board composite plans, please follow this link: www.akredistrict.org/maps. For the Redistricting Board homepage click [here](#).

The Board would like to hear from you! Please send feedback on these proposals to testimony@akredistrict.org.

Interior Seeks Tribal Input on Not Invisible Act — Written Consultation Deadline September 17

The U.S. Department of the Interior (Department), in coordination with the U.S. Department of Justice, is seeking Tribal and stakeholder input related to the implementation of the Not Invisible Act of 2019 (Act). The Act aims to increase intergovernmental coordination to identify and combat violent crime on Indian lands and against Indians. See Pub. L. No. 116-166, 134 Stat. 766 (2020).¹ Section 4 of

the Act requires the Secretary of the Interior, in coordination with the Attorney General, to establish a joint Commission on reducing violent crime against Indians.

The Department wishes to consult with Tribal governments to solicit input on the formation of the Commission and what the Commission should consider when developing recommendations that will have lasting impacts on Indian Country and further address the missing and murdered Indigenous people crisis. Consultation will increase the transparency of the Commission's work, solicit information from Tribal stakeholders and provide direction to the Commission as it addresses additional issues identified in the Not Invisible Act in an effort to combat the missing and murdered indigenous people crisis.

The questions enclosed with this letter will be presented to Tribal governments to facilitate discussion during consultation.

While the public consultation sessions are completed, the Department will accept written comments. You may provide your written input to consultation@bia.gov by Friday, September 17, 2021.

If you have any questions regarding this effort, please feel free to contact Heidi Todacheene, Senior Advisor to the Assistant Secretary - Indian Affairs at heidi_todacheene@ios.doi.gov or (202) 208-7163.

FEMA Offers Financial Assistance for COVID-19 Funeral Expenses

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is offering financial assistance for individuals who have incurred funeral expenses on or after January 20, 2020 from COVID-19. The website with full information is: <https://www.fema.gov/disaster/coronavirus/economic/funeral-assistance>

To Apply: Call 844-684-6333 from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. ET, Monday through Friday. The application is by phone (no online option), and will take 20 minutes to apply. After you have applied by phone, FEMA will send you a letter with the documents needed for submission, and how to submit them.

Eligible Expenses: Eligible expenses may include, but are not limited to: funeral services, cremation, interment, casket or urn, burial plot or cremation niche, marker or headstone, arrangement of the funeral ceremony, use of funeral home, and more. Reimbursement of expenses already paid is not eligible. View the [FAQs](#) for more information.

Amount: Individuals may receive a maximum of \$9000 per deceased individual.

As of September 13, \$426,535 have been awarded to 75 Alaskan applicants, but a minor percentage of Alaskans who have been affected by the loss of a loved one due to the COVID-19 pandemic have applied. Please share widely with your networks and in your newsletters to help ensure our families, relatives and friends are receiving the most amount of support possible, during these challenging times.

If you have questions, you may call FEMA at the COVID-19 Funeral Assistance Helpline: 844-684-6333.

Interior Secretary Deb Haaland Postpones Trip To Alaska Due To Virus Surge

U.S. Interior Secretary Deb Haaland is delaying her plans to visit Alaska in mid-September because of the current COVID-19 surge and will instead visit later this year. AFN in the meantime will continue briefing Interior officials on issues and concerns of importance to Alaska Natives.

Interior Department to Host Tribal Broadband Summit

The U.S. Department of the Interior will host a three-day National Tribal Broadband Summit, to take place virtually on Sept 17, Sept 24, and Oct 1. You can find more information and register here: <https://www.doi.gov/tribalbroadband>

This conference is FREE and the highlighted topics are:

- Implementing the Tribal Broadband Connectivity Grant
- Planning for long term success and developing a local tribal workforce
- Technical Solutions for middle mile
- Broadband Use and Adoption
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COVID-19 UPDATE — ALASKA SETS RECORD IN COVID-19 HOSPITALIZATIONS

As Alaska’s hospitals grapple with short staffing, limited capacity and a health care system under serious strain, the state has reported ever-rising record numbers for COVID-19 hospitalizations. For up-to-date information, visit the [State of Alaska’s COVID-19 page](#).

Data Dashboard Update

New Resident Cases Yesterday 277 Updated Daily by Noon	Total Resident Cases 92,363 <small>Cumulative (includes recovered cases)</small>	Currently Hospitalized 210 <small>Confirmed COVID Positive</small>	Total Resident 445 Deaths Statewide
New Nonresident Cases Yesterday 3 Updated Daily by Noon	Total Nonresident Cases 4,272 <small>Cumulative (includes recovered cases)</small>	Total Hospitalizations 2,135 <small>Cumulative (does not reflect current stays)</small>	Total Nonresident 14 Deaths Statewide



Misinformation about vaccinations and how well they work and the downplaying of the seriousness of COVID-19 continues to be a big factor in why so many Alaskans remain unvaccinated. There is a lot of misinformation out there, particularly on social media. Click [here](#) for CDC's helpful page for [mythbusting](#). For facts, guidance, and data at the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services' main COVID page, click [here](#).

YOU CAN TAKE ACTION – Choosing to get vaccinated is the single most important action you can take to protect yourself and your community and to reopen our economy. Check with your local health care provider to get the facts about vaccines, wearing masks and protecting your families. If you haven't been vaccinated yet, [find a vaccine](#).

For more information about vaccines, visit covidvax.alaska.gov.

CDC's new guidelines on safer activities for you and your family:

- [If you are fully vaccinated](#), you can participate in many of the activities that you did before the pandemic.
- To maximize protection from the Delta variant and prevent possibly spreading it to others, wear a mask indoors in public if you are in an [area of substantial or high transmission](#).
- Wearing a mask is most important if you have a weakened immune system or if, because of your age or an underlying medical condition, you are at [increased risk for severe disease](#), or if someone in your household has a weakened immune system, is at increased risk for severe disease, or is unvaccinated. If this applies to you or your household, you might choose to wear a mask regardless of the level of transmission in your area.
- You should continue to wear a mask where required by laws, rules, regulations, or local guidance.

Learn more about the CDC's recommendations for fully vaccinated people at www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated.html.



The banner features a yellow background on the left with icons of a money bag and a graduation cap. Text includes '49K Cash Prize For Alaskans 18+' and '49K Scholarship For Alaskans 12-17'. A map of Alaska is in the center with 'GIVE AK SHOT' and 'win \$49K' text. The Alaska Chamber logo is on the right, and a dark blue box contains the text 'Enter today for your shot to win the weekly 49K giveaway'. The website 'giveAKashot.com' is at the bottom.

Alaska Chamber Launches Vaccine Incentive Program

Healthy people are the foundation of a healthy economy, and our economy is suffering. The Alaska Chamber firmly believes that one of the most important tools in realizing economic recovery is vaccinating for COVID-19. It is the single easiest and safe thing that individual Alaskans can do to help get our economy back on track. Why? Because [recent studies](#) show that vaccinating for COVID-19 is highly effective at preventing serious illness, hospitalizations, and death.

This is why the Alaska Chamber is launching the Give AK a Shot Sweepstakes set to give out nearly a million dollars to vaccinated Alaskans. Now through Oct. 30, Alaskans vaccinated for COVID-19 are eligible to enter the Alaska Chamber's "Give AK a Shot" drawing for a chance to win \$49,000. A total of 18 prize drawings split between two categories (Alaskans aged 18 and older and Alaskans aged 12-17) will be awarded.

Winners will be selected randomly and announced each week. Winners in the 18 and older category will receive a \$49,000 cash prize. Winners in the 12-17 category will receive a \$49,000 scholarship presented as an Alaska 529 education savings plan plus \$10,000 cash for their parent or guardian if their parent or guardian is also vaccinated.

We're asking Alaskans to get vaccinated for COVID-19 to protect our economy and give Alaska a shot at recovery. The COVID-19 vaccine protects lives and jobs, which is why we're presenting rewards to Alaskans who get vaccinated. All Alaskans can protect themselves, their families and Alaska businesses to get our economy back on track, all while being entered to win \$49,000.

To enter, participants are asked to provide their basic information at GiveAKaShot.com, this includes name, date, COVID-19 vaccination date, COVID-19 vaccination location, and if the entrant is an Alaska resident. 18 drawing pools will be created during the eight-week sweepstakes period. Two drawing pools will be created per week for those newly vaccinated for COVID-19. All entrants will be placed into the drawing pools according to their date of vaccination and age at the time of entry.

It is incumbent upon the individual to enter timely so as not to miss the weekly drawing for which they are eligible; entries are accepted and valid only for the week in which they received their COVID-19 vaccine.

Eligibility requirements include:

- Entrant must be an Alaska resident age 12 or older.
 - Must be in receipt of the first dose of any COVID-19 vaccine at any time before or during the promotion period.
 - Must have received a vaccination in Alaska.
 - Give our businesses a shot at recovery.
 - Entries accepted and official rules are available at www.GiveAKaShot.com.
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AFN Meeting Schedule

AFN Legislative & Litigation Committee — Thursday, September 16

AFN Executive Committee — Tuesday, September 21