

TRIBAL PROGRAM NEWS

The Housing Improvement Program

by Howard Roy

You must fill out a new housing application every year in order to be eligible for service. The deadline for the year 2000 Housing Improvement Program Applications is December 1, 1999. Please note that applications turned in after this date will not be accepted for funding in the year 2000 but will be placed on the list for 2001.

Remember it is important to know that if you have not received an award letter it is not official that you are being served. An award letter will state the category of service that you are approved to receive as funds become available. If there is false or inaccurate information of your Housing Improvement Program application, that information may affect your eligibility and can lead to other remedial action at anytime during the process.

We have all the Home Improvement Program applications for 1999 ranked and rated. Award letters or letters with your standing have been mailed. We will be going down the list in numerical order. It will take several months to complete all 19 projects so please be patient with us. Feel free to call if you have any concerns.

We are happy to announce that we will be able to serve all 19 of the eligible Home Improvement repair applicants this year due to the funds we received from NAHASDA, plus have enough funds to provide for 12 more clients. It will be a great year. We are also working on a new Building Department and accepting applications for any Tribal members interested in learning building codes so they can become on-call Building Inspectors. We have only received a few applications from Tribal members so call if you are interested. Completion of the training would lead to state certification as a Building Inspector. Applications from Tribal members who would like to obtain this training are available with Tammy Wagner, Home Improvement Program Secretary.

We have also started doing some fund raising. We are hoping to raise money to start an elder's emergency home repairs fund for small repairs. Wal-Mart in Newport has donated 3 bicycles for us to raffle off. We will have raffle tickets available soon. We are also looking into having a booth at the pow wow in August. We will need several volunteers to set up, cook, clean, break down, etc.. Please contact Tammy Wagner if you will be willing to help out with this. The elders need all our help to get this project going.

We encourage clients to ask for a Housing Improvement Program application if you live outside the service area and are interested in NAHASDA repair assistance. **Please note that NAHASDA grants are based on income.** You may call us to find out if you meet the income guidelines or to obtain an application. The details are not complete on our construction processes. This is the first time the

Siletz Tribe has had a Housing Program that would allow the Siletz Tribal members' housing repair needs to be addressed outside the 11-county service area.

Also for the first time, we have funding for home improvements on rental property that is privately owned or tribally owned in the Siletz Area. However, it must be rented to low-income Tribal members with an agreement not to raise the rent for 5 years. Please do not wait until the last minute to apply for Housing Improvement Program or NAHASDA service.

The Indian Health Service supplies water and sewer disposal systems in the 11-county service area of Oregon. However, in some cases we have been able to provide service in other areas of Oregon with the assistance of other Oregon Tribes and I.H.S. working cooperatively. If you have been denied by Indian Health Service and you meet our guidelines, we may be able to fix a water pump or septic repair with NAHASDA funds.

Any Siletz Tribal member in the 11-county service areas is eligible for this program. You must obtain an Indian Health Service application from one of the area offices or the HIP office in Siletz. Fill out and sign it and send it to the HIP office in Siletz. **Septic Systems that are spilling onto the ground present a health hazard and should be reported to the Housing Improvement Program immediately** for site evaluation from Indian Health Services.

It is important to get your application request to us as soon as possible for scheduling purposes. There is a waiting list. New septic systems can only be installed between the months of May through October. The sooner you let us know about your problem or upcoming project, the easier it is to maintain and schedule service for everyone. Home Improvement Program, Indian Health Service Water & Septic and Building Inspector training applications are at all area offices or contact Tammy Wagner at (541) 444-8261 or 1-800-922-1399.

The purpose of the Home Improvement Program is to provide grant assistance to Tribal members to improve their housing situations and to give them the opportunity for a safe, standard home and a suitable living environment.

Siletz SBIC News

by Lisa Brown

The SBIC does not have funds available for start-up costs, but we provide counseling and referrals to financial lending institutions for clients of the SBIC. ONABEN provides classes that educate clients. Completion of the education component will make you eligible to apply for a \$5,000 business loan.

The Siletz Business Information Center (SBIC) serves as an educational resource and a

business lab. As a client, you have access to computers, fax machines and copies of reference materials. We would like to be able to offer business classes several times throughout the year. Unfortunately, the SBIC is currently in the midst of a budget shortfall and access to funding is not yet clearly defined, so no classes are currently available.

I recommend the following for individuals who wish to pursue funding to expand or start a business:

a) Apply for a copy of your credit report (establish credit if you have none)

b) Apply for membership at a credit union (request loan information if you are a member)

The following is a partial list of information available, upon request from the SBIC:

- SBIC Request for Counseling Form
- Start-Up Business Guide Index
- Credit Report Article
- December ONABEN Newsletter
- ONABEN Loan Criteria
- Monthly Cash Flow - sample
- Minority Business Enterprise Packet
- Business Plan Packet
- Individual Financial Statement Form
- SBA & Cascades West Pamphlets
- Return Envelope

In closing, I would like to mention that the SBIC hours have been decreased. Operation is currently on an appointment and telephone message basis -- you call in, I check messages and get back to you. I can schedule appointments for computer training and business counseling as needed. The SBIC will be requesting funding to continue operation of the program. Clients will be notified when funding is received and normal program hours are implemented.

To schedule an appointment, contact Lisa Brown at 1-800-922-1399, ext. 255; or e-mail: lisab@ctsi.nsn.us.

Dysfunctional Family Systems Children - The Innocent Victims

by Lisa Brown

There is little doubt that being reared in an environment with dysfunction born of substance abuse, physical, sexual, emotional abuse and/or child neglect can have a detrimental impact on the growth and development of children and adolescents. It has long been known that the emotional scars linger on for a lifetime. No child or adolescent who is regularly and/or severely abused or neglected goes unaffected. Some victims of abuse and neglect seem to be capable of adapting to their hostile environment better than others.

Dysfunction in these families puts pressures on family members to adopt patterns of behavior designed to maintain, deny, or cope with the problems. These patterns of behavior have been classified into family roles and are labeled by the function they perform.