

TRIBAL PROGRAM NEWS

Housing Finance Program Funds First Down Payment Grant

by Dave Litchy, Housing Finance Specialist

The Siletz Indian Housing Finance Office in Salem (a branch of the Siletz Indian Housing Authority) has funded its first down payment grant. After processing the 43 applications that were received the first day that they were accepted, the program funded its first down payment grant in March for Tribal member Sam Potter in Independence, Ore. Since then, the program has funded five grants to Tribal members for a total of \$102,780.

The SIHA-Housing Finance Program was created to assist first-time homebuyers with down payments. A unique part of the program, approved by the SIHA Board of Commissioners, is that Tribal members do not have to live in the 11-county service area to be eligible for the grants.

The second grant went to Tribal member Dan Pearson, who purchased his home in Springville, Utah, and another grant went to Tribal member John Gardner in Seattle, Wash. Applications are pending for other Tribal members who live in Oregon, Washington, and California. The program has received more than 100 applications.

The Housing Finance Office also conducts First-Time Homebuyer Training Classes for Tribal members, and 33 people attended the first class in April in Salem. Classes also have been held at the Portland Area Office and the Housing Authority Office in Siletz.

To qualify for assistance, Tribal members' annual household income should be below 80 percent of median income limits, based on family size. The amount of assistance is 20 percent of the home purchase price, with a maximum of \$20,000. First-time homebuyers are defined as having never owned a home or those who have not owned a home in the last three years.

The Housing Finance Office staff includes Dave Litchy, housing finance specialist, and Bunni Snook, administrative assistant. In addition to the down payment program, they also help with emergency housing assistance in the Salem area.

The down payment and emergency housing programs are funded by HUD's Indian Housing Block Grant Program and are included in the Indian Housing Plan for the Confederated Tribes of Siletz. Copies of the plan are available from the Siletz Indian Housing Authority in Siletz and also is available for public review at HUD's web site on the Internet.

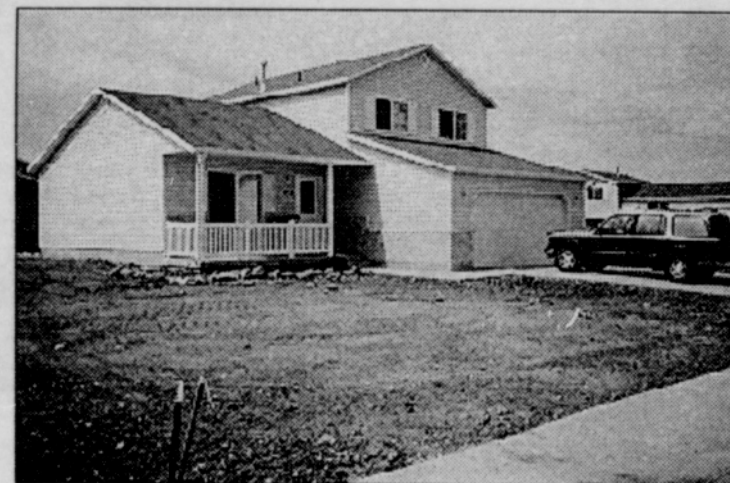
For more information about the down payment program, contact the Housing Finance Program Office in Salem at 1-888-870-9051 or 503-304-4064; fax 503-304-4065; PO Box 21773, Keizer, OR 97307.

For more information on programs
operated by the Siletz Indian Housing Authority,
call 1-800-922-1399 or 541-444-8313.



Dave Litchy
congratulates
Sam Potter on
his home
purchase.

Dan Pearson's
home in
Springville,
Utah.



Thank you,

I have to thank everyone from myself, my wife, my son, and my daughter for the beautiful home that we all live in now. I would like to thank Connie Hoffman for initiating the Housing Assistance Program. I would like to also thank Bunni for taking my application and asking questions every other day that I called. Thank you, Dave, for making sure all the t's were crossed and the i's dotted, and for taking time out of your schedule to make sure we closed on time. Thank you from us!

Thank everyone for my house that our Tribe assisted me with here in Springville, Utah. I just wish I had this much help with my yard.

Thanks again,

Dan, Dena, Kadan and Cassidy Pearson

Sign Up for Cultural Camp

Siletz Cultural Day Camp

August 17-20, 1999

Government Hill

Sponsored by Cultural Dept. and
Cultural Heritage Committee

Activities will include basketweaving, shell necklace making, flintknapping, storytelling, leather tanning, introduction to tribal language, traditional salmon bake, and more.

Programs are asked to help with the planning and funding of the camp. Overnight camping is available for Tribal members who live outside of Siletz. You must have a chaperone, however, if you are under 18. No exceptions.

Questions? Call Selene Rilatos or Craig Whitehead at 1-800-922-1399, ext. 230 and 246.