



Kenaitze Indian Tribe Annual Report

2024



ABOUT THE TRIBE



Tribal Members pull the net from Cook Inlet in 1989, the first year of the Tribe's Educational fishery.

The Kenaitze Indian Tribe was federally recognized as a sovereign, independent nation in 1971 under the Indian Reorganization Act as amended for Alaska. Today, we have more than 2,000 Tribal Members who live across the Kenai Peninsula and beyond. We employ more than 400 full-time employees, part-time employees, and interns.

The Tribe delivers a variety of programs and services that promote the wellness of our people and the community.

In 2014, we opened the 52,000-square-foot Dena'ina Wellness Center, an integrated health care facility. Kahtnuht'ana Qayah, the Tribe's campus in

Old Town Kenai, also includes Tyotkas Elder Center, Qiz'unch' Tribal Court, and Chuq'eya Qenq'a (Birch Tree House), which houses the Tribe's Behavioral Health services.

The campus expanded in 2019 with renovations to the adjacent Toyon building to accommodate offices and workspaces for Na'ini Family and Social Services and the Kenaitze/Salamatof Tribally Designated Housing Entity office.

The Tribe's new Kahtnuht'ana Duhdeldiht Campus opened for in-person services in September 2023. The 67,259-square-foot building is home to the Tribe's Early Learning and

Yaghanen Youth Language and Culture programs. The College and Career Readiness Center's 130 North Willow Street location, next door to the Administration building, opened this summer, sharing the building with the Dena'ina Language Institute. The Tribe's new Cultural Resources program has moved into space at 120 North Willow.

The Tribe also operates an educational fishery from its beach site on the shores of Cook Inlet near the mouth of the Kenai River.

At our Annual General Membership Meeting on the first Saturday in October, we elect members to the Tribal Council



The fishery now features a pavilion, harvest shop and cleaning station, among other improvements.

to serve staggered terms. The seven-member Tribal Council governs the Tribe in accordance with our Constitution, by-laws, ordinances and resolutions.

The Council appoints a Chief Judge to oversee Qiz'unch' Tribal Court and uphold Tribal laws. The Tribal Council also hires an Executive Director to manage the day-to-day operations of the Tribe.

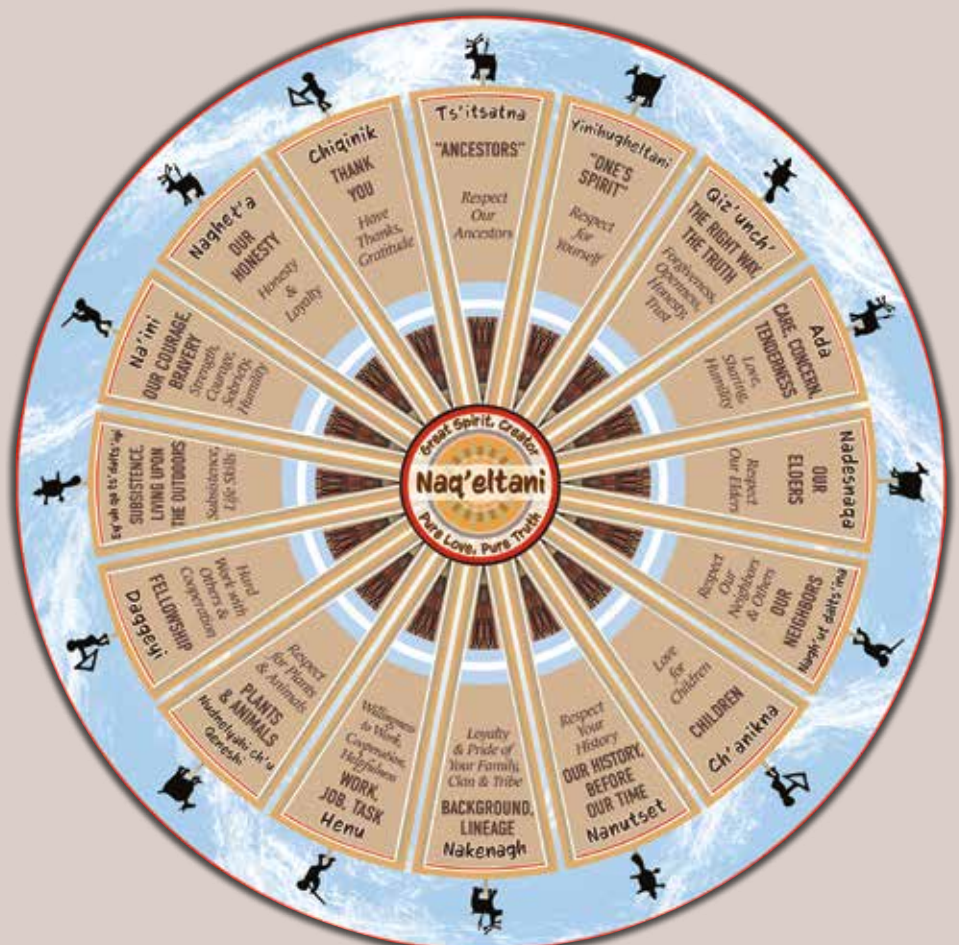
Our funding comes from federal, state and private grants, as well as third-party revenue generated by our health care programs.

Our Tribe is more than buildings and programs; it is our people, the Kahtnuht'ana Dena'ina. The Kahtnuht'ana Dena'ina have inhabited Yaghanen, the good land, since time immemorial.

Our vision, to assure Kahtnuht'ana Dena'ina thrive forever, continues to guide us in all that we do.

Kenaitze Indian Tribe

Traditional Values





MEET THE COUNCIL

Seven Tribal Council Members govern the Tribe in accordance with the Tribe's Constitution, bylaws, ordinances and resolutions. Council Members are elected at the Annual General Membership Meeting in October. The Tribal Council holds regular meetings open to Tribal Members. Dates and times are posted to the Tribe's website.



Bernadine Atchison
Chair



Mary Ann Mills
Vice-Chair



Ronette Stanton
Secretary



Gabe Juliussen Jr.
Treasurer



Michael Juliussen
Council Member



Jakob Kooly
Council Member



Wayne D. Wilson Jr.
Council Member



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR



Yaghalí du?

A little more than 10 years ago, when we first opened the doors to the Dena'ina Wellness Center, we used the word "naqa-tughedut," Dena'ina for "the tide is coming back in."

The rising tide continues to bring blessings to the Tribe.

This year, work is underway to open a Tribal charter school at the Kahtnuht'ana Duhdel-diht Campus. While the school, as proposed, would be part of the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District, the curriculum would be built around traditional Dena'ina language, culture and values.

Our culture and values continue to guide us.

Earlier this year, we celebrated Nanutset, our history, as we reopened the K'beq' Cultural Heritage Interpretive Site near Cooper Landing. The site was last open intermittently in 2019 due to wildfires, and closed from 2020 to 2023 because of the pandemic and spruce bark beetle mitigation work. It was good to once again see our traditional dances and hear Ggugguyni K'elik'a, Raven's Song, performed along the banks of the Kenai River.

In fact, we continue to deepen our connections with our culture. Over the past year, the Tribe has established a new Cultural Resources program to manage, preserve and share the places, objects and practices that tell the story of the Kahtnuht'ana Dena'ina. This includes the sacred work of repatriation of ancestral remains and funerary objects.

Our gatherings also are occasions to share our culture and traditions, whether it's the Annual Meeting, where we make important decisions about self-determination and self-governance, or the annual Opening of the Net, where we take part in an activity that has sustained our people for generations.

As Tribal Members, there is so much to be grateful for. Our programs and services continue to grow, evolve and adapt to meet our

changing needs. I have enjoyed seeing the progress on the community garden at Shanteh t'uh, our Ames Road property. I am excited to see plans coming together for a much-needed Elders housing project for the new Redoubt Avenue property. I look forward to seeing our Kahtnu Area Transit bus service begin transporting people, expanding access for employment, life activities, education, and social opportunities. And many Tribal Members are signing up for free or discounted internet service, made available through Nił Qenach'del-gshesh, our intertribal consortium with the Ninilchik Village Tribe.

Each of these projects is intended to help those we serve overcome a barrier, whether it's food insecurity, safe and affordable housing, reliable transportation, or high-speed internet access.

I am grateful to my fellow Tribal Council Members, who have put so much of their time and effort into finding ways to help those we serve to thrive.

I would like to thank those who have served on the Tribe's committees, boards and commissions for the insightful suggestions and recommendations. Your input has been invaluable as we chart a course forward.

I want to thank all of our employees who, day in and day out, are doing the work to support our Tribal community's health and well-being.

Lastly, I would like to thank all of our Tribal Members. We can talk about programs and policies, but it is the people who are the heart-beat of a Tribe, and the reason we do what we do. I am especially grateful to those who have participated in our annual meetings, quarterly meetings, and charter school and Constitution meetings. I use the word "participate" rather than simply "attend," because those gatherings have sparked important conversations about our Tribe. I appreciate all who have shared their ideas and experiences.

Chiqinik, thank you, to all whose work has helped the tide come back in, and "to assure Kahtnuht'ana Dena'ina thrive forever."

Duk'idli, respectfully,
Bernadine Atchison
Tribal Council Chair



EXTERNAL AFFAIRS



The Rasmuson Foundation's Board of Directors tour the Tribal fishery campus in June. The foundation has generously supported construction of several Kenaitze facilities.

Tribal Council Members participate in regional, state and national organizations in support of the Tribe's mission, vision and values.

Alaska Native Health Board

The Alaska Native Health Board (ANHB) is dedicated to enhancing the health and well-being of Alaska Native people. As a central hub for information, collaboration, and advocacy on Native health issues in Alaska, the ANHB plays a critical role in supporting and representing tribal health organizations. Ronette Stanton and Mary Ann Mills serve as the primary and alternate representatives for the Tribe on the board.

Key Functions and Focus Areas for 2024:

- **Supporting Tribal Health Organizations:** The ANHB represents tribal health organizations responsible for delivering health care services to Alaska Native communities. These organizations tackle the unique health challenges faced by Alaska Native people, including high rates of chronic diseases, mental health issues, and substance abuse.
- **Promoting Culturally Appropriate Care:** The board emphasizes the importance of health care practices that respect and integrate Native traditions and values. This approach ensures that health

services are culturally relevant and effective.

- **Advocacy and Resource Allocation:** The ANHB advocates for increased funding and resources for Native health care programs and services. This includes pushing for enhanced support at local, state, and federal levels to meet the specific needs of Alaska Native communities.
- **Knowledge Sharing and Best Practices:** The board provides a platform for tribes and organizations to exchange knowledge and best practices on Native health topics. This collaborative approach helps to improve health outcomes and foster innovation in

health care delivery.

- Policy Development and Advocacy: The ANHB is actively involved in policy development and advocacy. It works to ensure that the unique health care needs of Alaska Native people are addressed in health care policies and legislation across local, state, and federal levels.

Through these initiatives, the ANHB continues to make significant strides in improving health outcomes and supporting the well-being of Alaska Native populations.

Alaska Pacific University Elders Council

Alaska Pacific University invited Mary Ann Mills to sit on the Elders Council for the University along with other Alaska Native Elders from across the state. This Council collaborates with the APU Board of Trustees, its President and Professors.

The Elders Council supports, strengthens, and ensures the development, integration and prioritization of Alaska Native knowledge, language, values, perspectives, history, and concerns in education at Alaska Pacific University. The Council will be guided by our collective cultural and traditional wisdom, knowledge, and laws to continue to build on the many contributions of the men and women who preceded us.

The purpose of the Elders Council is to give guidance in many areas of curriculum and community needs.

The President of APU reports finances, programs, future programs and other areas of interest to the Elders Council. This also gives Mary Ann an opportunity to provide context for the legal status of Alaska and to present in APU classes.

Cook Inlet Tribal Council

The Cook Inlet Tribal Council is a tribal nonprofit organization serving Alaska Native and American Indian people residing in the Cook Inlet region of southcentral Alaska. Wayne D. Wilson Jr. and Jake Kooly serve on the Board of Directors.

CITC serves more than 12,000 people each year through an array of integrated programs and employs more than 400 people. CITC programs include education and youth services, employment and training services, career development, family preservation, and support for individuals recovering from addiction, substance abuse, or incarceration.

Through the Alaska Native Justice Center and Clare Swan Early Learning Center, CITC addresses the Alaska civil and criminal justice system and supports working families with childcare through an Early Head Start curriculum.

Council for Tribal Employment Rights Board of Directors

The Council for Tribal Employment Rights Board of Directors plays a pivotal role in advancing employment rights and opportunities for tribal communities.

In 2024, the board continues its mission to promote fair and equitable employment practices within tribal jurisdictions and enhance economic opportunities for Native workers.

This year, Ronette Stanton was appointed as the Alaska representative on the CTER Board, bringing valuable insights and advocacy for the unique employment challenges faced by Alaska Native communities.

The board has made significant strides in improving workforce development programs, securing increased funding for tribal employment initiatives, and fostering partnerships between tribal organizations and federal agencies. These efforts aim to strengthen tribal economies, ensure compliance with employment rights laws, and support sustainable job growth within Native communities.

Through its dedicated leadership and strategic initiatives, the CTER Board of Directors is driving impactful change and empowering tribes to achieve greater economic self-sufficiency.

GRAND Voices

Bernadine Atchison is involved with GRAND Voices, a national advocacy group from Generations United that is made up of caregiver advocates who raise children whose parents are unable to. The group includes grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, siblings, other relatives, and close family friends.



GRAND Voices' goal is to ensure that caregivers have a strong voice in shaping policies, programs, and strategies that improve outcomes for children. They do this by providing valuable insights into family needs, strengths, and service gaps, and by acting as strategic partners to shape policies and practices that affect grandfamilies.

Kenai Mountains-Turnagain Arm National Heritage Area board

The Kenai Mountains-Turnagain Arm National Heritage Area board consists of community members from within the Heritage area. The Tribe holds a seat as a recognized Tribe because of K'beq' Cultural Heritage Interpretive Site and our ancestral lands. Council Member Bernadine Atchison sits on the board as the Treasurer.

The organization's mission statement is "to recognize, preserve, and interpret the historic, scenic, natural resources, and cultural landscape of the Kenai Mountains-Turnagain Arm historic transportation corridor." One of the accomplishments of being on the board has been to help implement a Land Acknowledgment which is used at all of the meetings.

The Land Acknowledgment reads: "We respectfully acknowledge the Dena'ina people on whose traditional lands we reside on. We honor the Dena'ina who have been the stewards of

Alaska's lands and waters for centuries, the Elders who lived here before, the Dena'ina people of today, and future generations to come. We also recognize that Alaska Native people would traditionally gather here and harvest Native foods."

The board meets two to three times a year and approves grants up to \$20,000 to \$25,000 for projects that fulfill the mission and vision of KMTA.

To learn more please visit www.kmta-corridor.org

National Congress of American Indians International Committee

Mary Ann Mills sits on NCAI's International Committee. This gives her the opportunity to build support for the international rights of Alaska Native and American Indian people and access to the United Nations. NCAI is nationally and internationally recognized and carries weight in these venues via resolutions. This is an opportunity for our people to have a greater voice which often leads to positive action.

U.S. Government Accountability Office Tribal and Indigenous Advisory Council

In 2022, the U.S. Government Accountability Office established its first Tribal and Indigenous Advisory Council to offer insights and recommendations on issues impacting Tribal Nations and Indigenous communities. The Council, which includes

Ronette Stanton, Tribal Council Secretary, plays a crucial role in guiding the GAO's work on emerging and vital issues affecting these groups.

In 2024, the Advisory Council has continued to enhance its role in shaping GAO's approach to Tribal and Indigenous matters. The Council's key functions include:

- **Identifying Emerging Issues:** Advising the GAO on new and evolving topics of interest or concern within Tribal Nations and Indigenous communities.
- **Stakeholder Engagement:** Assisting in identifying relevant stakeholders to ensure a diverse range of tribal and indigenous perspectives are considered in GAO work.
- **Process Improvement:** Providing feedback on GAO processes for interacting with Tribes and ensuring that these interactions are respectful and effective.

The Council is composed of 16 members, including leaders from federally recognized Tribal Nations, a leader from a state-recognized Tribe, a leader from a Native Hawaiian organization, and experts on issues pertinent to Tribal Nations and Indigenous peoples. The GAO is dedicated to maintaining a government-to-government relationship with federally recognized Tribes while also valuing the perspectives of other Indigenous groups impacted by federal programs.



BOARDS, COMMITTEES, & COMMISSIONS

Child Welfare Review Board

Kathryn Rodgers, Chair

Audre Hickey

Brenda Smith

Ronette Stanton

Amanda Stroman

Virginia Wolf

Donna Juliussen

The purpose of the Child Welfare Review Board is to review any grievance filed by an un'ina after the Na'ini Family Services supervisor has reviewed the actions of Na'ini Family Services caseworkers. The Tribal Council may, in its discretion, delegate additional authority to decide specific limited matters to the board.

Constitution Committee

Ronette Stanton, Chair

Wayne D. Wilson Jr.

Sharon Isaak

Bernadine Atchison

Mary Ann Mills

Logan Wik

Elsie Maillelle

Samantha Singleton

Youth Seat (vacant)

As a sovereign, independent Nation, the Kenaitze Indian Tribe's Constitution establishes basic principles and rules that we use to self-govern, and ensures that the rights of our citizens are protected. The Constitution Committee meets on a regular basis to review and recommend revisions to the Constitution.

Beginning in June of this year, the Committee conducted Tribal Member Informational Meetings to discuss revisions to the Constitution and provide time for Tribal Members to comment or sug-



Tribal Members attend in June one of a series of Constitution Committee meetings to hear proposed amendments to the Tribe's Constitution.

BOARDS, COMMITTEES, & COMMISSIONS *CONTINUED*

gest revisions. The committee will be creating a process for the Tribal Membership to be able to vote and approve an amended Constitution.

Court Code Committee

Mary Ann Mills, Chair

Bernice Crandall

Bernadine Atchison

Ben Baldwin

Liisia Blizzard

Sharon Isaak

Russelle J. Wilson

Evelyn Dolchok, Tribal Court

Chief Judge, Ex Officio

Maria Guerra, Family Services

Director, Ex Officio

Kimberly Kirchner, Tribal Court

Code Attorney Advisor

Youth Seat (vacant)

The Court Code Committee recommended to Tribal Council the appointment of Michelle Kane as Tribal Judge. Her appointment was accepted and Tribal Court is fully staffed with the appropriate number of Judges to handle its many cases. The Judges are as follows: Chief Judge Evelyn Dolchok, Second Chief Judge Dale Segura, Judge Russell Wilson, Judge Samantha Singleton, and Judge Michelle Kane.

The Court Code Committee is in the preliminary stage of considering the implementation criminal jurisdiction. This can be achieved under the Tribal Law and Order Act. This would enable the Tribe to better protect our women in domestic violence cases.

The Tribal Court Committee continues to update its codes and reviews documents and agreements such as the Henu

Community Wellness Court Joint Jurisdiction Agreement and job descriptions and makes recommendations for Council's Approval.

Education Committee

Gabe Juliussen Jr., Chair

Lisa Huffman

Linda Ross

Mary Ann Mills

Jennifer Showalter Yeoman

Bernadine Atchison

Quinton Kimball

Sondra Shaginof-Stuart,

KPC Ex Officio

Youth Seat (vacant)

The Education Committee has been actively focused on completing the charter school application process for the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District. Throughout the last several months, the Committee has been instrumental in orchestrating collaborative efforts between Kenaitze Education staff, community members, and local educators to lead public meetings, gather stakeholder input, and organize weekly work sessions. This comprehensive process has included the development of the charter's mission, vision, goals, curricular and cultural programming, governance, parent/community engagement, and general logistics as outlined in Alaska's Department of Education and Early Development initial charter school application.

The continued work on this application demonstrates the Committee's and Tribe's commitment to enhancing educational opportunities and

reflects a strategic approach to addressing local educational and cultural needs.

Concurrently, the Education Committee has streamlined the organizational chart of the Education Division to promote more effective management and support of existing programs. These efforts are intended to reduce operational redundancies and establish a more efficient approach to communication and systems of operation throughout the division.

Elders Committee

Michael Juliussen, Chair

Katheryn Rodgers

Phyllis Bookey

Suzanne Jackson

Russell Wilson

Mary Lou Bottorff

Arnold Oskolkoff

Mary Ann Mills

The Kenaitze Indian Tribe Elders Committee remains committed in its honor and support to the Tribe's Elders while fostering community connections and preserving cultural traditions. During the last year, the Elders Committee has been a part of the following events and accomplishments:

The Elders Committee and Tribal Council have approved the creation of an Elders Memorial Wall. This tribute will honor the wisdom and contributions of the Tribe's Elders who have passed away, serving as a lasting reminder of their pivotal roles in shaping the Tribe's history. We are hoping to have the Memorial Wall completed by October 2024.

The Traditional Foods Potluck celebrates the culinary heritage of Alaska Native people. The Elders program participants contribute dishes made from traditional ingredients, showcasing the rich flavors and stories behind each recipe. The potlucks promote cultural exchange where we all appreciate the importance of traditional foods within the Tribe's way of life.

The annual Christmas Dinner is a festive celebration that brings together members of the Kenaitze Tribe across generations. It's a cherished tradition that embodies unity, joy, and the spirit of togetherness during the holiday season.

The Easter celebration blends traditional customs with contemporary activities, inviting Elders, families, and children to participate. The event includes an Easter egg hunt and craft workshops.

The Kenaitze Indian Tribe Elders Committee has made significant strides in its mission to honor, support, and celebrate the Tribe's Elders. Through a diverse range of events and fundraisers, the committee has strengthened intergenerational connections, preserved cultural traditions, and enhanced community cohesion. Looking ahead, the committee remains dedicated to continuing these initiatives and exploring new ways to engage Elders and the broader community.

Election Board

Bernice Crandall, Chair
Kathryn Rodgers
Krista Holloway
Gloria Wik, Alternate

The Election Board regulates all Tribal elections and resolves election disputes.

Enrollment Committee

Ronette Stanton, Chair
Bernice Crandall
Linda Ross
Katheryn Rodgers
Elsie Maillelle
Krista Holloway
Samantha Singleton

The Tribal Enrollment Committee receives and verifies eligibility of all applications for Tribal enrollment. All approved applications for Tribal enrollment are ratified on a yearly basis during the Kenaitze Indian Tribe's Annual General Membership Meeting.

The regular process for the ratification of enrollment applications by the general body will be followed during the hybrid Annual Meeting on Oct. 5.

Environmental Protection Committee

Wayne D. Wilson Jr., Chair
Mary Ann Mills
Nathaniel Juliussen
Julianne Wilson
Ronette Stanton
Virginia Wolf
Alana Shaw, Environmental Program Manager, Ex Officio
Sam Schimmel, Youth Seat

The Environmental Protection Committee's main purpose is to help ensure that the air, land and water are protected in and around Kenaitze tradi-

tional lands. Over the past year, the committee has focused on hearing presentations from various groups in the area that have done studies from water quality to fish habitat.

The committee continues to follow the 301(h) permit waiver that the city Anchorage is trying to obtain.

The Lake Clark Parks and Preserve has been giving the committee progress updates on the Johnson Tract Project which is on CIRI land.

The committee is currently partnering on a culvert grant with the city of Kenai that will help with fish passage. We are also partnering with the Kenai Watershed Forum on a water monitoring grant for a few locations along the Kenai River and the Tribal Fishery site.

Finance Committee

Gabe Juliussen Jr., Chair
Ben Baldwin
Krista Holloway
Linda Ross
Jared Juliussen
Maria Sweppy
Sharon Isaak
Youth Seat (vacant)

The Finance committee provides advice and makes recommendations to the Tribal Council regarding financial matters and financial policies. Responsibilities include review of financial audit reports and review of financial policies, annual draft budgets and budget amendments.

Head Start/Early Head Start Parent Policy Council

Brittany Miller, Chair

BOARDS, COMMITTEES, & COMMISSIONS *CONTINUED*

Holly Rust, Vice Chair
Nola Irwin
Kristina Loy
Jan LeFevre
Susanne Barbour
Janeth Ruiz
Michelle Teates
Kiersten Consiel, Community
Tanya Rocho, Community
Michael Juliussen, Tribal
Council Liaison
Gabe Juliussen Jr., Tribal
Council Liaison

The Head Start/Early Head Start Parent Policy Council partners with staff, governing bodies, parents and volunteers to facilitate compliance with Head Start Performance Standards; assists in accomplishing program missions; and serves as an advocate between the program and community.

Hunting Fishing and Gathering Commission

Kaarlo Wik, Chair
Sharon Isaak
Logan Wik
Liisia Blizzard
Gabe Juliussen Jr.
Michael Juliussen
Gary Corder
Mary Ann Mills,
Honorary Lifetime
Bernadine Atchison,
Honorary Lifetime
Clare Swan, Honorary Lifetime
Aliisia Tepp, Youth Seat

The Educational Fishery was established to teach and preserve the Dena'ina way of living and is made up of culture, tradition, and living with the land. Our educational fishery is a vital piece of who we are. It is a gathering place that brings together Elders, youth,

families, and communities. It is a place where our culture and traditions are taught, learned, and shared. We celebrated the Opening of the Net with a gathering on June 1.

Over the years, as our membership continues to grow, we work diligently to ensure our educational fishery is well equipped and prepared to meet the demands and needs of each and every Tribal Member. In recent years we have witnessed great change in our landscape by completing construction on our Kahtnuht'ana Dena'ina Community Hall and Harvest Pavilion, harvest shop, vacpack room, and cleaning stations.

Moving forward, we hope to create campsites above the Fishery for those Tribal Members traveling to the area to fish the net. These sites will be for motorhome or tent use and will include a picnic table and fire ring.

Kahtnuht'ana Dena'ina Health Board

Wayne D. Wilson Jr., Chair
Mary Ann Mills, Vice Chair
Ronette Stanton, Secretary
Samantha Singleton
Sharon Isaak
Michelle Kane
Maria Sweppy

The Kahtnuht'ana Dena'ina Health Board reviews and makes recommendations for the Tribe's Primary Care, Behavioral Health, Dental, Optometry and Wellness programs. The Board is collaborating with Tribal Council and the Executive Director to hire a new Health Systems Director.

KDHB Behavioral Health Committee

Mary Ann Mills, Chair
Diana Zirul
Alex Coxwell
Maria Sweppy

Kahtnuht'ana Development Corporation

Gabe Juliussen Jr., President
Bruce Gabriel, Vice President
Virginia Wolf, Secretary
Sagen Juliussen, Treasurer
Rudy Wilson
Michael Juliussen,
Council Liaison

Kahtnuht'ana Development Corporation is a federally chartered Section 17 corporation. KDC is for-profit and is wholly owned by the Kenaitze Indian Tribe. KDC's mission is to grow a profitable corporation that will eventually return a dividend stream back to the Tribe in the form of unrestricted investment dollars. These dollars will allow Council to reduce the Tribe's reliance on federal dollars.

KDC is pleased to report that the Kenaitze Council has approved a significant investment for economic development. Over the past 4 months the Council has been focused on identifying funds that are eligible for KDC to use. Working with our attorneys we have identified a portion of the ARPA Lost Revenue Replacement funds (COVID) that are eligible for KDC to use. Additionally, Council has approved a loan, which is secured by the Tribe's cash CDs, that will be used for business acquisitions.

As of the end of August the ARPA funds have been trans-



Representatives from Ninilchik Village Tribe, SPITwSPOTS and Kenaitze Indian Tribe sign an agreement to improve broadband internet access and cost for members of both tribes living in SPITwSPOTS service area through Nił Qenach'delghesh, an intertribal consortium formed in 2021. Nił Qenach'delghesh board members pictured from left: Maria Goins, B.Ed and Ninilchik Village Tribe Chief Finance Officer; Greg Encelewski, Ninilchik Village Tribe President; Aaron Larson, SPITwSPOTS owner; Wayne D. Wilson Jr., Kenaitze Tribal Council Member and Nił Qenach'delghesh Board Chair; and Ronette Stanton, Kenaitze Tribal Council Secretary.

ferred to KDC, but the loan is still being processed and is scheduled to be closed the first week of September. KDC has presented their business plan to Council and details of this will be shared at the annual meeting.

Nił Qenach'delghesh Board of Directors

- Wayne D. Wilson Jr., Chair*
- Ivan Encelewski, Vice Chair*
- Maria Goins,*
Secretary/Treasurer
- Greg Encelewski*
- Ronette Stanton*
- Sagen Juliussen*

Nił Qenach'delghesh, an intertribal consortium, was established in 2021 by the Kenaitze Indian Tribe and the Ninilchik

Village Tribe. Both Tribes have been licensed by the FCC to provide broadband deployment and delivery for the benefit of the Tribes and their Members within the Kenaitze and Ninilchik service areas.

With the \$7 million grant Kenaitze was awarded, NQD was able to partner with SPITwSPOTS which will provide internet for Tribal members who live in the Kenaitze and Ninilchik service areas.

Policies, Ordinances and Procedures Tribal Council Workgroup

The purpose of the Policies, Ordinances and Procedures Tribal Council Workgroup is to

review the Tribe's proposed and existing ordinances, policies and procedures in order to establish guidelines for the Tribe and to provide recommendations to the Kenaitze Tribal Council for approval.

Research and Review Board

- Bernadine Atchison, Chair*
- Virginia Wolf, Elder*
- Elizabeth Atchison,*
Cultural Representative
- Norma Johnson, Archaeologist*
- Logan Wik*

The Research and Review Board was established to protect and preserve the culture of the Tribe and to ensure that research activities are conducted in a way that does no harm to the culture of the Tribe.

BOARDS, COMMITTEES, & COMMISSIONS *CONTINUED*

Over the past year, we continued our partnership with the University of Illinois on our salmon DNA project. The final part of this project is to have a SING (Summer internship for INdigenous people in Genomics). We expect the SING to be in 2025.

We have continued our partnership with Kenai Peninsula College and working with Dr. Adam Dunstan on a salmon DNA project and researching the role of salmon in Dena'ina culture. Adam has interviewed Tribal Members about the role of salmon in the Kenaitze community, salmon in Dena'ina culture, and what their experience is with salmon fishing.

The board also has worked with Tribal Member Nick Jacuk, who is a graduate from the University of Alaska Fairbanks, as part of his research in fisheries for the Cook Inlet fisheries management and tribal representation in fisheries management and harvest. Nick has hosted circle discussions with Elders and knowledge holders about understanding the future of Tikahtnu and Kahtnu fisheries.

The board has worked on having our ancestral remains returned to us so we can respectfully bury them. This is an ongoing goal. We have also provided guidance on preserving Kalifornsky Village.

The board has worked with Tribal Programs in regard to cultural sites in Cooper Landing where the Sterling Highway is under construction at

Milepost 45-60. Expect more reports on this as our Cultural Observers finalize their end of year report.

We also review any research projects brought to the Tribe and make recommendations to the Tribal Council. To learn more please visit the Ordinance section on the Kenaitze website.

TDHE Housing Board

Kaarlo Wik, Chair

Maria Sweppy, Vice Chair

Ronette Stanton,

Secretary/Treasurer

Michael Juliussen,

Council Liaison

Mary Ann Mills

Gabe Juliussen Jr.

*Eric Morrison, Salamatof Tribe
Community Member*

Jennifer Showalter Yeoman,

Community Member

The Board of the Kenaitze/Salamatof Tribally Designated Housing Entity provides leadership and strategic planning and creates policies to fulfill our mission to assist our un'ina in achieving an elevated standard of living through home improvement, home ownership, and rental opportunities, while breaking down housing barriers experienced by Alaska Native and Indian American people and empowering Native families to achieve financial stability.

TDHE is in the planning and development stages for an Elder housing project.

TERO Commission

Lisa Huffman, Chair

Wayne D. Wilson Jr.

Bernadine Atchison

John Juliussen

Mary Ann Mills

The Kenaitze Indian Tribe Tribal Employment Rights Ordinance 2017-01 was adopted by the Tribal Council on Jan. 24, 2017. This ordinance established the Tribal Employment Rights Office and TERO Commission. The ordinance was amended and restated on Oct. 26, 2017 and again on Aug. 2, 2019.

The TERO Commission is composed of five Tribal Members with five-year staggered terms. The Commission follows the goals established by Tribal Council and has successfully established a Tribal Applicant Pool consisting of Tribal Members, Tribal Member spouses, and other Alaska Native and American Indian people seeking employment opportunities. From the TERO Pool, qualified applicants are identified for employment opportunities within the Tribe as well as with other companies and businesses for which TERO applicants are interested in pursuing a career.

Kenaitze provides hiring preference to eligible and qualified Kenaitze Tribal Members, Tribal Member spouses, and Alaska Native and American Indian applicants pursuant to the TERO Ordinance and P.L. 93-638 Indian Self-Determination Act. In addition to employment preference, Kenaitze provides preference to TERO employees for promotion, training, or retaining to the maximum extent permitted by Tribal law.



The TERO Commission reviews job descriptions to ensure barriers are removed and opportunities are made available to eligible and qualified TERO applicants. The TERO Commission also reviews variances to hiring preference to ensure TERO preference is applied when filling vacant positions or promoting individuals within the Tribe. Variance requests receive final approval from the Tribal Council.

The Tribal Employment Rights Office has been instrumental in connecting TERO applicants with jobs at Kenaitze Indian Tribe and with businesses in our communities. Additionally, the Tribal Employment Rights Office has assisted TERO applicants with education and training so that more opportunities become available to our Tribal Members in line with our vision “to assure Kahtnuht’ana Dena’ina thrive forever.”

The Tribal Council is currently reviewing the TERO Ordinance to bring the Ordinance into alignment with Tribal Council’s vision and goals for a Tribal Employment Rights Office.

Title IV-E Committee

Mary Ann Mills, Chair
Bernadine Atchison
Bernice Crandall
Liisia Blizzard
Brenda Smith
Samantha Singleton
Mandee Cogley

Title IV-E of the Social Security Act provides funds for

states and tribes to provide foster care, transitional independent living programs for children, guardianship assistance, and adoption assistance for children with special needs.

Kenaitze Indian Tribe’s Child Welfare program is Title IV-E certified and as such, through work from the Title IV-E Committee, the Child Welfare department staff and Tribal Court, set and negotiate rates for foster care stipends with the federal government that are higher than those of the state’s child welfare system. Also, the Tribal Child Welfare program is guided by the Tribally approved Title IV-E Plan developed to meet the Tribal community needs. The Tribe established rates for reimbursement and follows Tribally developed Foster Care Licensing Standards as well. This is an expression of Tribal sovereignty as the Tribe now has more financial means to support the Tribal community by serving more families through Tribal Court as opposed to state court.

Funds are available under Title IV-E for the following; Title IV-E Foster Care, Title IV-E Adoption Assistance, Title IV-E Guardianship Assistance and John H. Chafee Foster Care Independence Program. In the summer of 2024, the data system used to gather eligibility information as well as the Adoption Foster Care Analysis Reporting System (AFCARS) data points

needed to submit reports to the federal government was finalized. Also, in the summer of 2024, families eligible for the stipends when they care for Native children in our community received stipends nearly twice the amount previously available. The Tribe will submit the first reimbursement request to the federal government by the fall of 2024 retroactive for payments eligible, some administrative costs and eligible trainings.

The Child Welfare Review Board has been created, and is on track to begin required trainings in the fall of 2024.

Presently, the Child Welfare Program is working toward the development of a Family Prevention Plan that when approved, will provide funds from the federal government for prevention efforts in order to reduce the number of children placed out of their homes.

Tribal Council Charter Workgroup

The Tribal Council meets periodically to review and make revisions as needed to the Boards, Commission and Committee Charters.

Tribal Council Orientation Workgroup

The Tribal Council has created an orientation manual for new Tribal Council, Board, Commission and Committee Members, that would include, but is not limited to, the Traditional Values Wheel, Tribal Constitution, ordinances and policies.

Our Vision: To Assure

Kahtnuht'ana Dena'ina

Thrive Forever







HEALTH SYSTEMS



Kenaitze dancers perform in July during the 10-year anniversary celebration for the Dena'ina Wellness Center.

The Tribe celebrated the Dena'ina Wellness Center's 10th anniversary this year.

The Dena'ina Wellness Center's doors first opened to offer services for un'ina, those who come to us, in April of 2014. When it opened, the Dena'ina Wellness Center was staffed with about 80 people providing services for about 3,500 un'ina. The Dene' Philosophy of Care, an integrated approach to health and wellness, was new to our community.

Today, the Tribe's health systems includes about 150 employees providing services to more than 8,000 un'ina.

The Dene' Philosophy of Care takes a whole-person approach toward wellness, addressing physical, spiritual, emotional and social health as contributing factors to overall well-being.

The Dena'ina Wellness Center, along with Chuq'eya Qenq'a, is an integrated health care facility offering a holistic

approach to care. Un'ina have access to Primary Care, Dental, Behavioral Health, Chemical Dependency, Wellness, Physical and Occupational Therapy, Optometry, Pharmacy Support and Laboratory Services, all on one campus.

The Dena'ina Wellness Center also features a gym and classroom space.

At Chuq'eya Qenq'a, the chemical dependency program has integrated White Bison's training into its services, pro-

viding culturally based healing for recovery and sobriety.

The Behavioral Health Youth Services Summer Program saw one of its largest groups of participants, with 75 un'ina receiving services throughout the summer.

The Ch'k'denetyah yuyeh greenhouses and outdoor garden space at Shanteh t'uh, the Tribe's Ames Road property, produce fresh fruits, vegetables and greens for use in Elders' meals at Tyotkas. Produce is also provided for the Na'ini Food Cache for distribution to those in need.

A USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture grant will help the Tribe do more to address food insecurity. Construction began this summer on a community garden, with fruit trees, walking paths, and raised beds for accessible harvesting of traditional plants and healthy produce.

The Wellness gym has expanded hours and is open from 6:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., with a selection of group fitness classes, including yoga.

Arts and crafts workshops and traditional activities offered by Wellness staff continue to be popular.

The monthly Arts and Crafts sale is well attended, showcasing the work of Alaska Native artists.

These and other events are showcased in the What's Happening Tribal Member email and on the Tribe's Facebook page.

Dena'ina Wellness Center Timeline

- 1970s** • Tribe first offers health services at Wildwood
- 1980s** • Health services move into Kenai strip mall
- 2011** • Tribe receives Indian Health Service Joint Venture Award, covering Dena'ina Wellness Center operations costs for 20 years
- 2012** • Dena'ina Wellness Center construction begins
- April 2014** • Doors open for first un'ina to receive services at the new facility
- 2015** • Behavioral Health and Laboratory achieve accreditation
- 2017** • Optometry services first offered
- 2018** • Monthly arts and crafts sales start, providing support for healthy traditional activities
- Ch'k'denetyah yuyeh Greenhouse opens on Dena'ina Wellness Center campus
- March 2020** • The global COVID-19 pandemic impacts the Tribe's services.
- 2020-2021** • Areas of the Dena'ina Wellness Center are reconfigured to better meet un'ina needs
- January 2021** • In-person visits resume at the Dena'ina Wellness Center
- Spring 2021** • Changes to the facility include a new Optometry suite, expanded Dental suite, Physical Therapy treatment space, and expanded Laboratory and Imaging space
- Behavioral Health moves to Chuq'eya Qenq'a
- 2022** • Medical Massage Therapy services launched
- First seeds planted in Ch'k'denetyah yuyeh Greenhouses at new Shanteh t'uh location
- 2023** • Dental services expand to include implants
- 2024** • Construction begins on a community garden at Shanteh t'uh to enhance food security



EDUCATION



Young people from the Tribe's Education division drum in August for Elders during the Planting a Potluck gathering. The potluck was the final event of a summer-long partnership between Education, Elders and Wellness staff and participants.

As the Annual Report went to press, work was underway to submit an application to open a Tribal charter school at the Kahtnuht'ana Duhdeldiht Campus. If accepted by the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District and the state, the school could open for the 2025-26 school year.

The proposed Tuten Charter School will serve students in kindergarten through second grade, with the potential to expand as needed.

Tuten Charter School would provide a culturally based, academically rigorous education that empowers students to succeed in today's world by embracing Dena'ina traditional values, language, and culture. The curriculum would be built around traditional Dena'ina language, culture and values.

A notice of intent to apply to develop a charter school has been filed with the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District.

The Education department kicked off 2024 by hosting the Kahtnuht'ana Hey Chi'ula Native Youth Olympics Invitational, with more than 100 athletes from across South-central Alaska converging on Kenai to participate.

The Tribe's Early Learning programs serve pregnant mothers and learners from birth until they go to kindergarten.

The Yaghanen Youth Language and Culture programs provide after-school and



Young people gather around a moose that came to the Tribe during last fall's moose camp.

summer cultural activities for students from kindergarten through high school. Yaghanen participants receive academic support, develop life skills, and take part in the Del Dummi drum group, Jabila'ina dance group, and Ggugguyni Native Youth Olympics team. Summer activities include Yaghanen Culture Camp and Susten Archaeology Camp.

Yaghanen programs received more than \$15,000 in donations from the Hoka Hey Challenge, a cross-country motorcycle ride organized by Medicine Show LLC. Riders rode from as far as Florida to Homer and were encouraged to donate to the Tribe's

youth program or other cause of their choice. Chiqinik to the riders who supported the Tribe.

The Community Education program provides student support services, scholarships for students seeking two- or four-year degrees or other post-secondary education and training, Daggeyi youth internships, and career training and placement assistance.

This year, the Tribe opened the Tinitun College and Career Readiness Center at 130 North Willow Street, next to the Administration building. The Tinitun program provides a one-stop shop with resources for students to map their career paths.

\$266,500
Amount distributed in
scholarships in
2024

95
scholarships awarded
to Tribal Members

\$11,500
Increase to
scholarship funding
for
2024



NA'INI FAMILY AND SOCIAL SERVICES

Na'ini Social Services programs include general and emergency assistance; low-income home energy assistance; community services block grants to remove barriers to self-sufficiency; burial assistance; and low-income home water assistance. Programs are generally open to Tribal Members and Alaska Native and American Indian people in the Tribe's service area.

Na'ini Social Services also maintains the Food Cache, with food items available on a

monthly basis to those in need. The Food Cache is open to all members of the community and provides about 100 food boxes to individuals and families in need each month.

Na'ini Family Services include support for people affected by domestic violence and sexual assault. Family Services staff also assist with child protection, protection for vulnerable adults, foster care and family preservation.

Family Services staff attend court hearings and

monitor state compliance with the federal Indian Child Welfare Act.

Last fall, the Tribe was honored to receive the LeeShore Center's Anchor Award, which the organization presents to a community partner that displays an outstanding partnership to further the prevention of domestic violence and sexual assault in our community. Na'ini provides sexual assault and domestic violence services to about 200 un'ina.



QIZ'UNCH' TRIBAL COURT AND TS'ILQ'U CIRCLE



Talking pieces sit at the middle of a healing circle in the Qiz'unch' Tribal Court building.

Established in 1986, our Tribal Court ensures the efficient and fair administration of justice while honoring the Tribe's customs, history, traditions and experiences. Hearings are conducted in a culturally ap-

propriate manner with a panel of judges, including at least one Tribal Elder, or through a collaborative circle process.

The court hears a wide range of cases, including child protection and custody, domestic violence, tribal adoption, voluntary relinquishment and involuntary termination of parent rights, and conservatorship and guardianship.

The court also administers the joint-jurisdiction Henu Community Wellness Court with the State of Alaska Court System, which serves people facing legal trouble stemming from substance use.

As of Aug. 1, there were seven active participants in the Henu court. From Oct. 1, 2023 through Sept. 1, two participants have graduated from the court, which takes a minimum of 18 months to complete.

The Ts'itq'u Circle is a place where people come to have important or difficult discussions in a good way. Ts'itq'u means "coming together as one."

Many participants are teenagers facing legal trouble who are referred from the Alaska Division of Juvenile Justice or the State of Alaska Court System. The Circle gives them a chance to work with family, friends and community members on a plan to make amends for their offense.

The Ts'itq'u Circle collaborates with the Kenai Peninsula Youth Facility, Behavioral Health Summer Program, and ANTHC Alaska Blanket Exercise.

The Circle also is available to employees, families and other groups. It is administered at the Qiz'unch' Tribal Courthouse.

From Oct. 1, 2023 through Sept. 1, 54 circles have been completed.



HOUSING

The goal of the Kenaitze/Salamatof Tribally Designated Housing Entity is to alleviate the burden of not having suitable housing for Alaska Native and Native American families.

The Housing program typically assists more than 100 households with home repairs or financial assistance each month.

The TDHE assists un'ina through home improvement, home ownership and rental opportunities. It also seeks to break down cultural housing barriers experienced by Alaska Native and Native American people, and empower Native families to achieve financial self-sustainability.

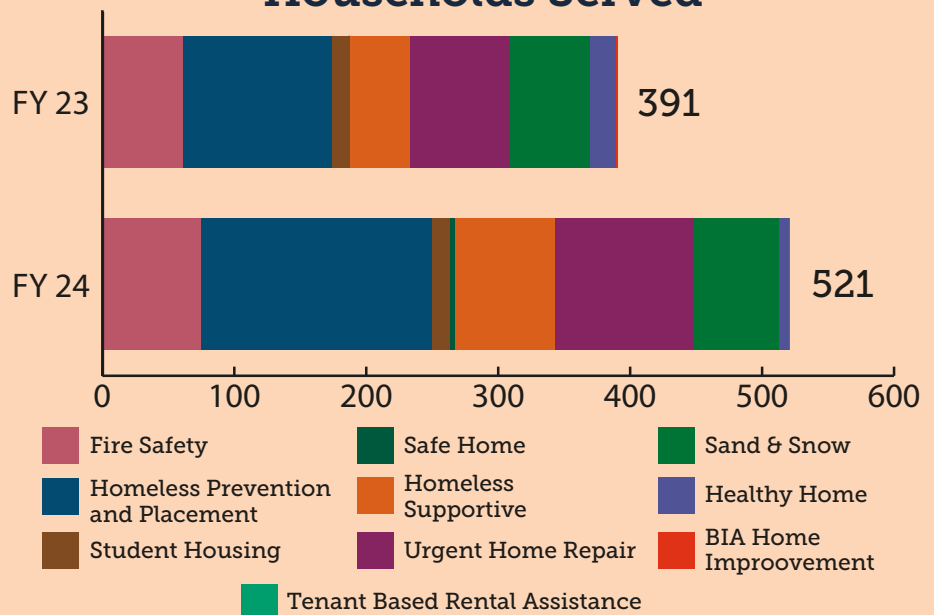
The Housing program serves Kenaitze and Salamatof Tribal Member households, and Alaska Native and American Indian households in the TDHE's service area, which includes Kenai, Soldotna, Sterling, Nikiski, Salamatof, Ridgeway, Kalifornsky, Kaslof, Funny River and Cooper Landing. Income qualifications apply.

Planning and design work continue for an Elders housing project, to be located near the intersection of Redoubt Avenue and North Forest Drive in Kenai. The Tribe and TDHE have received two Indian Housing Block Grants from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for the project.

The Kenaitze/Salamatof Tribally Designated Housing Entity has a number of programs available to help qualified people facing homelessness, in need of home repairs, or in need of assistance with rent, mortgage and utility payments.

- **Homeless Placement and Prevention:** Provides individuals and families at risk of or experiencing homelessness with assistance for expenses to prevent eviction or foreclosure, or to place a household into affordable housing.
- **Homeless Supportive Services:** Provides personal hygiene kits, outdoor shelter and equipment, and cold-weather clothing and gear for individuals and families experiencing homelessness.
- **Tenant-Based Rental Voucher:** Provides an income-based monthly housing voucher for qualified individuals and families.
- **Student Housing Rental Voucher:** For full-time students pursuing a degree or certificate and attending an accredited college, university or trade school.
- **ROSS Program:** Offers guidance for housing program participants to overcome barriers to safe, affordable housing and promote self-sufficiency.
- **Sanding and Snow Plowing:** For income-eligible Elders and disabled individuals.
- **Urgent Home Repair:** Provides assistance to homeowners with qualifying urgent home repairs and fire safety.
- **SafeHome:** Assists homeowners with rehabilitation and repairs for issues that threaten the health and safety of the family or property.
- **BIA-Housing Improvement Program:** For qualified individuals, funded through Kenaitze Indian Tribe, assists with home repair, renovation, replacement and new housing grants.

Households Served





TRIBAL PROGRAMS



Kenaitze's Andrew Wilson, second from left, and Robert Bearheart, right, conduct cultural observation work in June on an archaeological site along the Sterling Highway bypass route under construction near Cooper Landing.

Cultural Resources

There are many things that the Tribe considers cultural resources – sites, objects and practices that tell the story of the Kahtnuht'ana Dena'ina.

A new department is working to manage, preserve, and share those resources.

One of the most solemn aspects of the department's work involves the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act.

The Tribe is also part of a programmatic agreement with the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities to provide Cultural Observers for work on

the Sterling Highway Mile-post 45-60 Project in Cooper Landing. Cultural Observers are onsite to watch for any cultural resources that might be uncovered or disturbed during construction.

Among the cultural resources the Tribe manages is the K'beq' Cultural Heritage Interpretive Site in the Squilantnu Archaeological District near Cooper Landing. The Tribe operates the site in partnership with the Chugach National Forest.

K'beq' was closed for much of the 2019 season due to nearby wildland fires, and then due to COVID-19 and beetle-killed spruce mitigation work since

then. A Grand Re-opening Ceremony took place on June 7, and special cultural presentations were held throughout the season.

The Cultural Resources department has inventoried the Tribe's regalia, and has helped to put together materials for public presentations. They have recreated a number of traditional artifacts, such as a fishing spear and a fish trap.

The Cultural Resources team has also started an adult Dena'ina dance group, the Kahtnuht'ana Dancers, a drum group, and provides the cultural component to training for new employees.



Mary Fischer and Frieda Bean receive ice cream treats from Micah Flynn during the Planting a Potluck harvest meal in August.

Environmental Program

The Environmental Program has been active this year, building partnerships with other Tribal departments, as well as with outside organizations.

The Environmental Program partnered with the Wellness Department to address invasive species, cohosting workshops on the topic. They hosted an invasive plant removal event at the Dena'ina Wellness Center, partnering with the UAF Cooperative Extension Service to remove bird vetch that has been taking over some of the planting beds.

The Environmental Program has also participated in water quality monitoring projects with the Kenai Watershed Forum and the Alaska Ocean Acidification Network.

Wildwood remediation work continued this year with removal of contaminated soils as part of the Native American Lands Environmental Mitigation Program.

Tyotkas Elder Services

From the start of the fiscal year on Oct. 1 through July, Tyotkas staff have served an average of 2,098 meals each month, including an average of 697 meals delivered each month to Elders who are not able to come to Tyotkas.

Elders staff also provide advocacy services, which includes paperwork, transportation, doctor appointments, shopping, chore work, companionship, and connection to community resources.

The monthly Traditional Foods Potluck continues to draw a crowd. Members of the

Alaska Native, American Indian and Native Hawaiian communities are invited to attend and bring a favorite dish to share.

Tribal Member Services

The Tribal Member Services team provides support for Tribal Members, including enrollment, the Tribal Member Enrichment Program, Burial Assistance, and Funeral Assistance.

Snow plowing and sanding, and urgent minor home repair and maintenance services are available to Tribal Elders and Tribal Members with disabilities.

Tribal Member Services staff also assist Tribal Members with the educational fishery.

Free or Discounted Internet Service

Kenaitze Indian Tribe, Ninilchik Village Tribe and SPITwSPOTS, a Homer-based internet service provider, signed

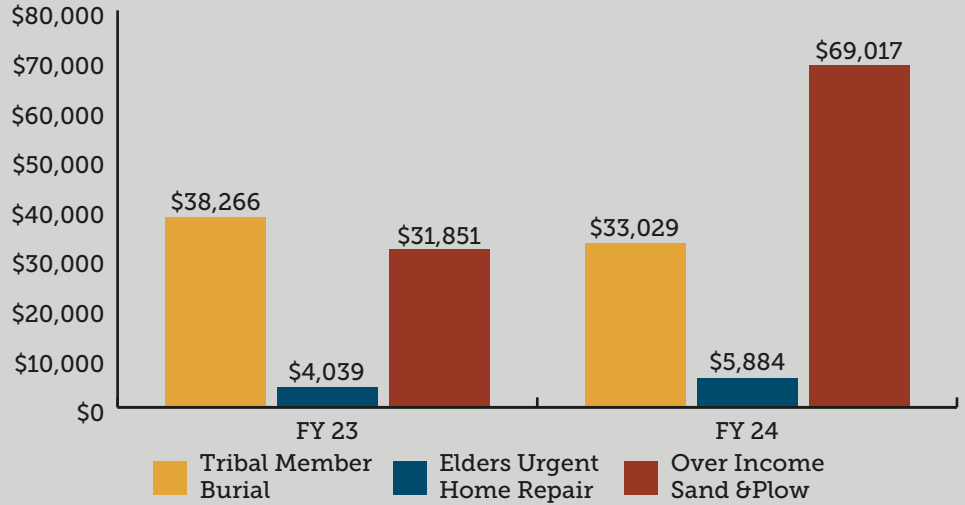
TRIBAL PROGRAMS CONTINUED

an agreement that will improve broadband internet access and cost for members of both tribes living in SPITwSPOTS service area through Nit Qenach'del-gghesh, an intertribal consortium formed in 2021.

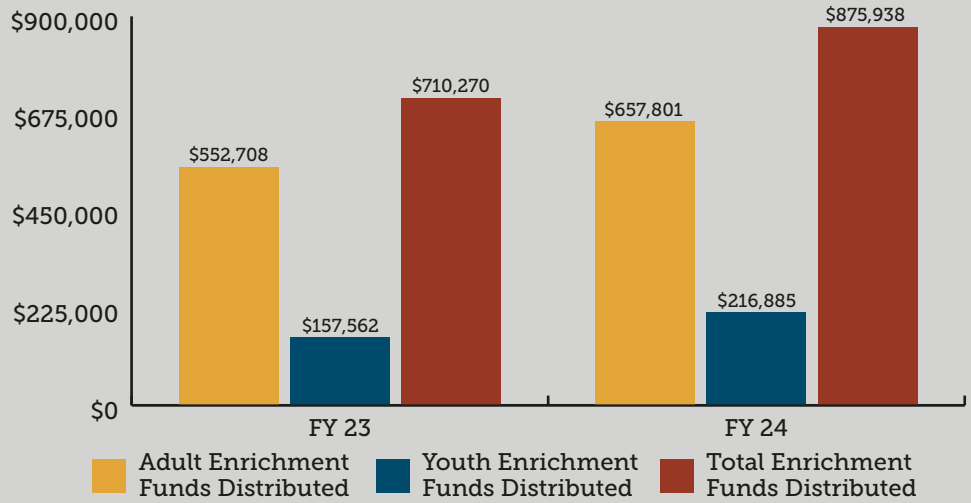
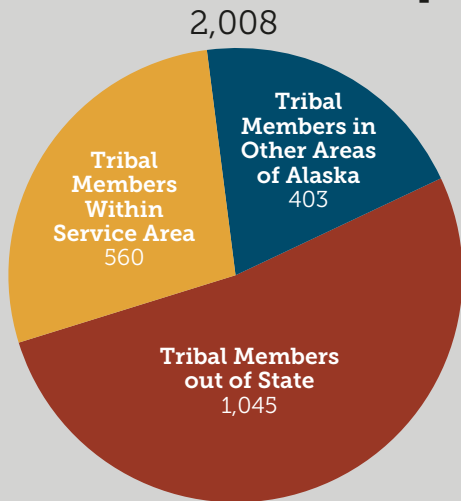
Tribal Member households are eligible to receive SPITwSPOTS standard internet service free of charge, or a comparable discount on a higher-level service. The SPITwSPOTS service area includes much of the central and southern Kenai Peninsula, Seward, and Fairbanks. Contact Tribal Member Services for subscription details.

Tribal Member Benefit Funds Distributed

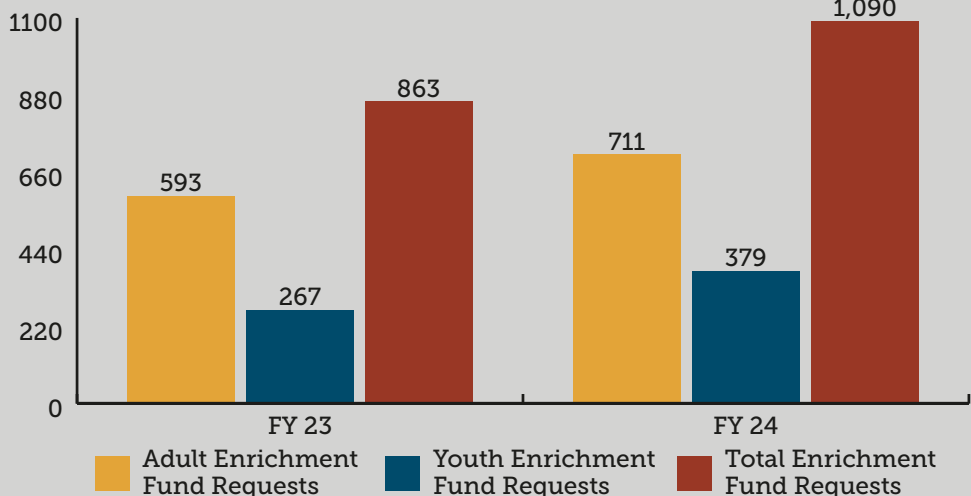
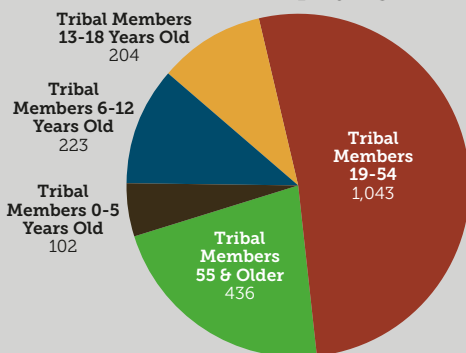
FY24 figures are current through Sept. 1, 2024.
Learn more about Tribal Member benefits funds at <https://www.kenaitze.org/tribal-member-benefits/>.



Total Tribal Membership



Tribal Membership by Age





TRANSPORTATION



Eldon Smith details a Kenaitze vehicle inside the Tribe's new transportation building, Hetl Qenq'a, "Sled House."

In February, the Tribe purchased the former Kendall Ford property in Kenai to serve as the home of its Transportation services.

The building is now called Hetl Qenq'a, which means "Sled House" in Dena'ina.

The three-acre parcel is located at 10288 Kenai Spur Highway in Kenai, at the corner with Marathon Road. The building has 20,177 square feet of floor space, as well as a 4,136-square-foot mezzanine.

The Tribe continues to work toward establishing a fixed-route bus service for the central Kenai Peninsula.

Kahtnu Area Transit will serve Tribal Members, Alaska Native and American Indian people, and the general public in the Kenai-Soldotna area. Plans call for an initial bus route from Nikiski to Sterling, passing through Kenai and Soldotna along the way.

The Tribe is working with a consultant to finalize plans for the route and location of bus stops. Kahtnu Area Transit is intended to fill gaps in the area's transportation network and complement existing transportation services.

The Tribe's Transportation program continues to grow. Transportation provides rides for those who receive care and services at the Dena'ina Wellness Center and participate in activities at Tyotkas Elder Center. Un'ina may also receive rides for life activities, such as trips to the post office, bank, or grocery store.

Transportation also assists with rides for students participating in Yaghanen Youth Language and Culture programs.

From the beginning of the fiscal year on Oct. 1 through July, Transportation services have provided an average of 1,154 rides each month.

The Tribe currently has 65 vehicles in its Transportation fleet, including vehicles used to transport un'ina, as well as vehicles used by Tribal departments. Vehicles range from SUVs and minivans, to full-size vans and shuttle buses, to trucks and buses.

4,481
Rides provided during Covid in
2022

12,840
Rides provided in
2023

12,197*
Rides provided in
2024

* as of September 1





TRIBAL FISHERY

The Tribe kicked off the educational fishery with the annual Opening of the Net Celebration on June 1. The celebration included traditional singing and drumming, and Kenaitze and Salamatof Tribal Members worked together to pull the net from the water after the morning tide.

Fishing in June was a little slower than expected, and families who came to the Waterfront to fish a tide found themselves keeping the net in the water through the outgoing tide for a full allotment of salmon to come to the net.

Rough weather in July also posed challenges to the Tribe's gear, at one point taking out the running lines and tearing the net in half.

However, fishing was reported to be productive throughout the summer. As of Sept. 1, 7,963 salmon had come to the net.

For the 2023 fishing season, a total of 8,526 fish came to the Tribe's net, including 8,164 sockeye salmon and 362 silver salmon. A total of 335 Tribal household participants received fish during the 2023 season.



Previous Page: Samiel Wilson cleans salmon at the Tribal fishery in August.
Above: Betty Gilcrist displays a silver salmon caught at the Tribal fishery in August.

Educational Fishery Productivity

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024*
Kings	4	0	0	0	0
Reds	7,040	10,758	8,199	8,164	7,393
Pinks	118	0	263	0	357
Silvers	506	568	648	362	213
Totals	7,668	11,326	9,110	8,526	7,963



The Kenaitze Indian Tribe's TERO office continues to help people find meaningful employment and improve their lives.

TERO stands for the Tribal Employment Rights Ordinance. The ordinance provides a way for the Tribe to exercise its sovereignty by giving preference to Tribal Members, spouses of Tribal Members, and Alaska Native and American Indian people in employment, contracting and other business activities.

The Tribe is working with a consultant to evaluate the ordinance and ensure it is meeting the needs of the Tribe.

One of the goals for the TERO department has been to establish a pool of candidates. As of September, there were 488 candidates in the pool, including 132 Tribal Members.

From the pool, candidates who are qualified for job openings with the Tribe can be identified. The TERO office also helps candidates find training and education opportunities, so that they are qualified for even more jobs.

This year, the TERO office began compiling a list of Tribal Member-owned businesses to share on the Tribe's website.

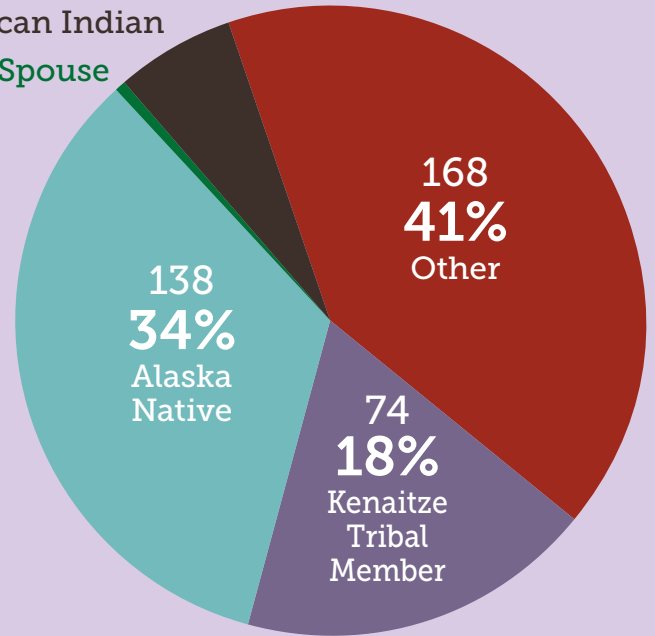
The TERO office serves Kenaitze Tribal Members, spouses of Tribal Members, and Alaska Native and American Indian people.

Staff Diversity

Total number of employees: 407

*As of Sept. 3, 2024

24 **6%** American Indian
3 **1%** Kenaitze Spouse



Kenaitze Indian Tribe TERO Office Services

- Career Development Support
- Workforce Development Training
- Resume Drafting
- Employment Search
- Job Application Assistance
- Job Referral
- College Search Assistance
- Scholarship Support Services

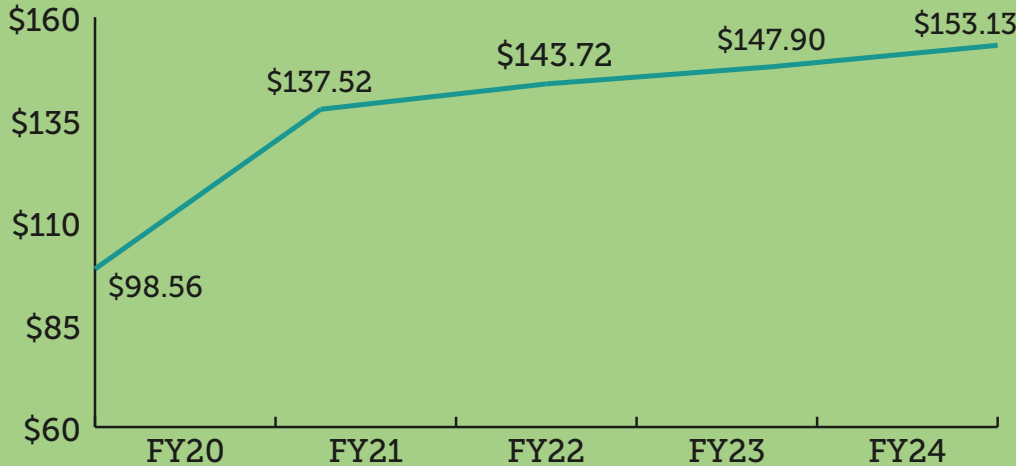
The TERO office serves Kenaitze Tribal Members, spouses of Tribal Members, and Alaska Native and American Indian people. Contact the TERO office by calling 907-335-7247 or visiting www.kenaitze.org/tribal-member-services/tribal-employment-rights-ordinance/.



FINANCIALS

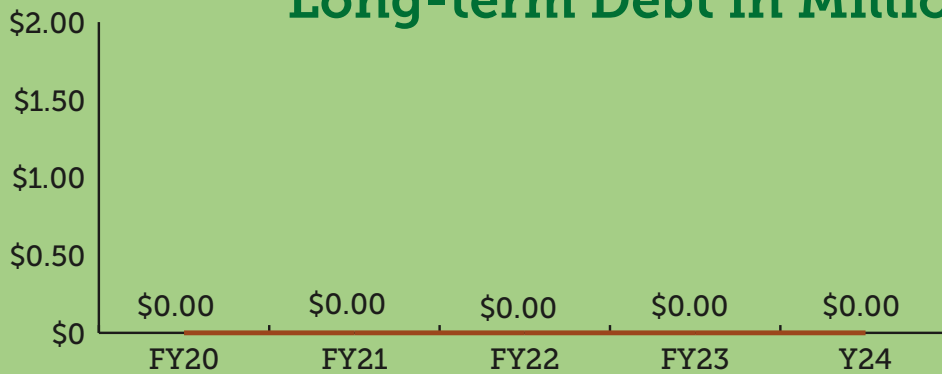
All figures presented in this report are derived from the Kenaitze Indian Tribe's audited financial statements. Fiscal Year 2024 figures are actual numbers as of June 30, 2024.

Total Assets in Millions



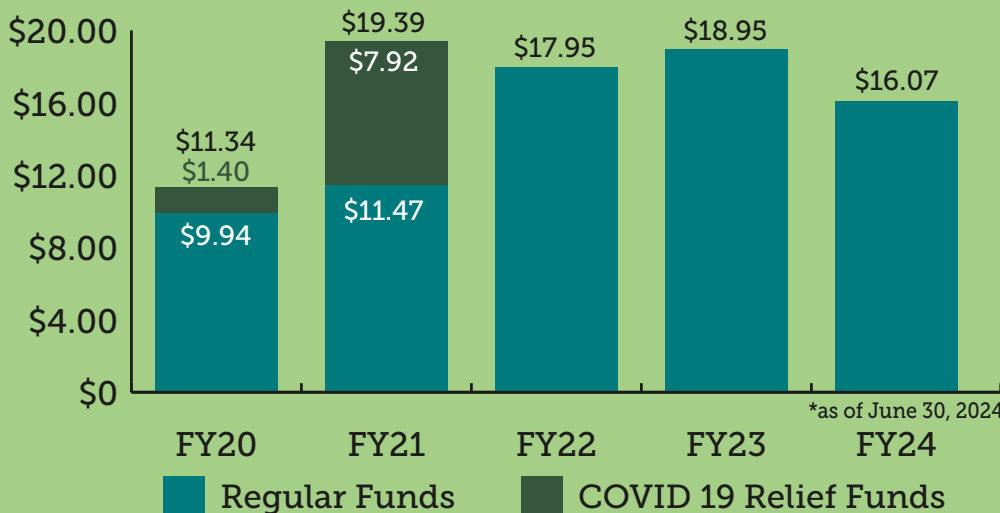
The Tribe's assets increased by \$5 million in FY24 due to interest and investment earnings as well as federal grant funded capital (Transportation Building and NTIA Grant).

Long-term Debt in Millions



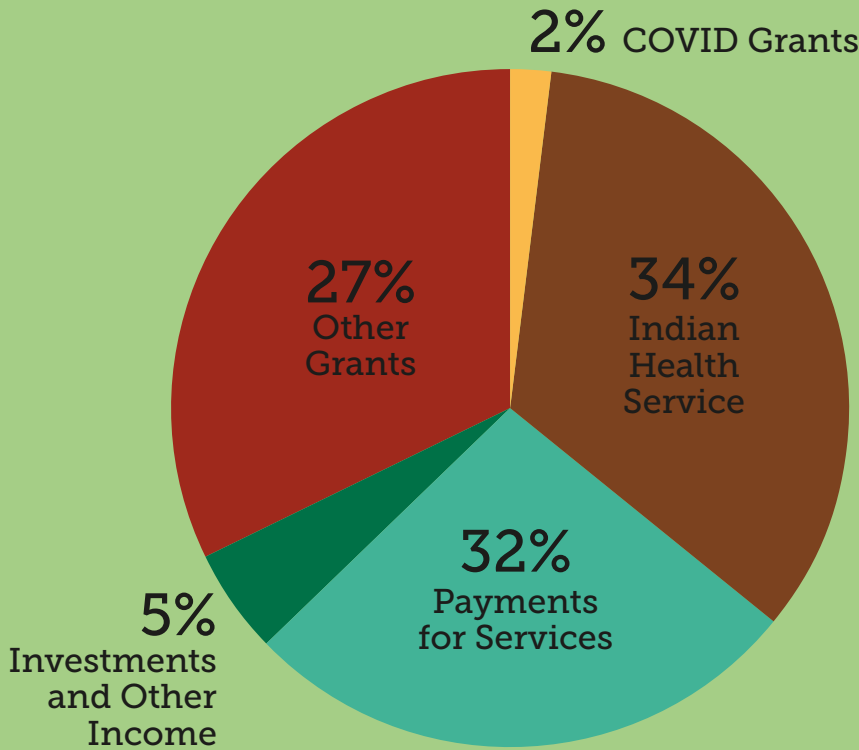
In FY24, the Tribe continued to hold no long-term debt and has been able to make additional investments in capital assets using grants and unrestricted Tribal funds.

Health Systems Billing in Millions



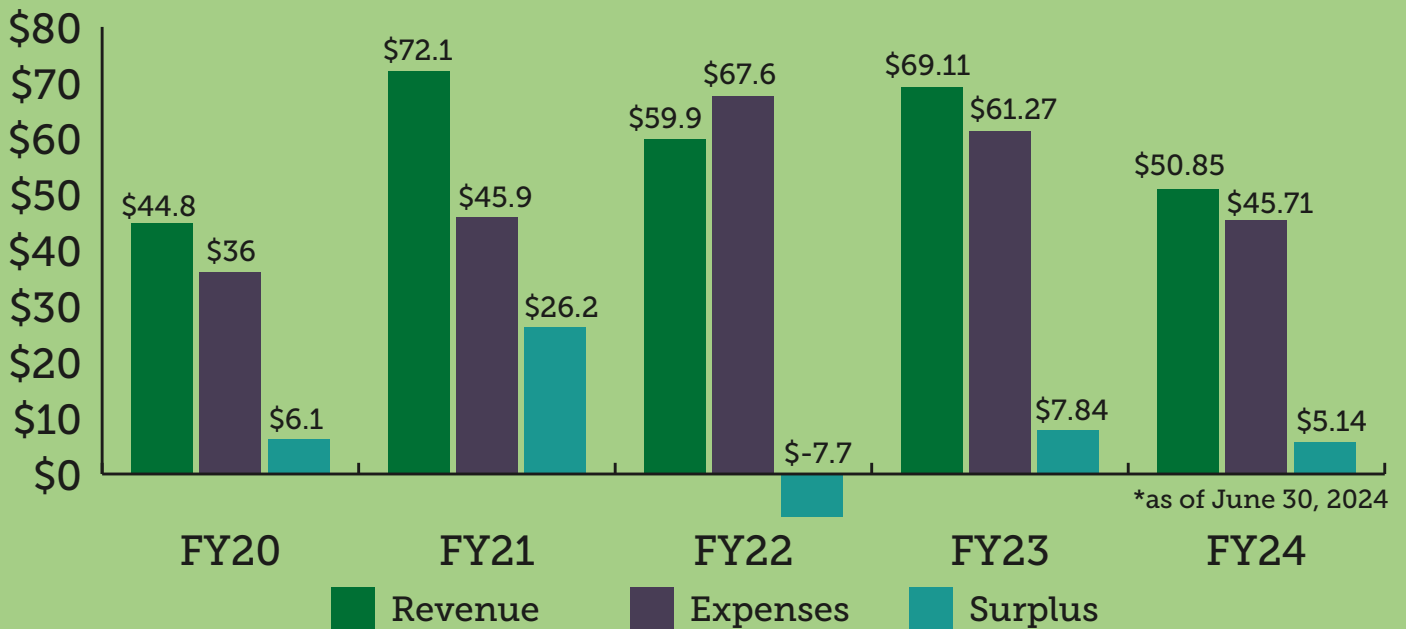
The Tribe has earned \$16 million from third-party health insurance payers. In FY24, the Tribe stayed focused on increasing revenues generated by its health and wellness programs. The Tribe expects to generate approximately \$21 million from third-party health insurance payers by the end of the fiscal year.

Funding Sources



As of June 30, \$17.5 million of the Tribe's total revenue came from Indian Health Service funding. About \$1.1 million came from COVID-related funds and additional \$13.9 million from other federal, state and private grants. Reimbursements for health services provided by Medicaid, Medicare, and private insurance have generated \$16 million. An additional \$2.3 million in revenue came from program user fees, donations, and interest income.

Revenue/Expenses in Millions

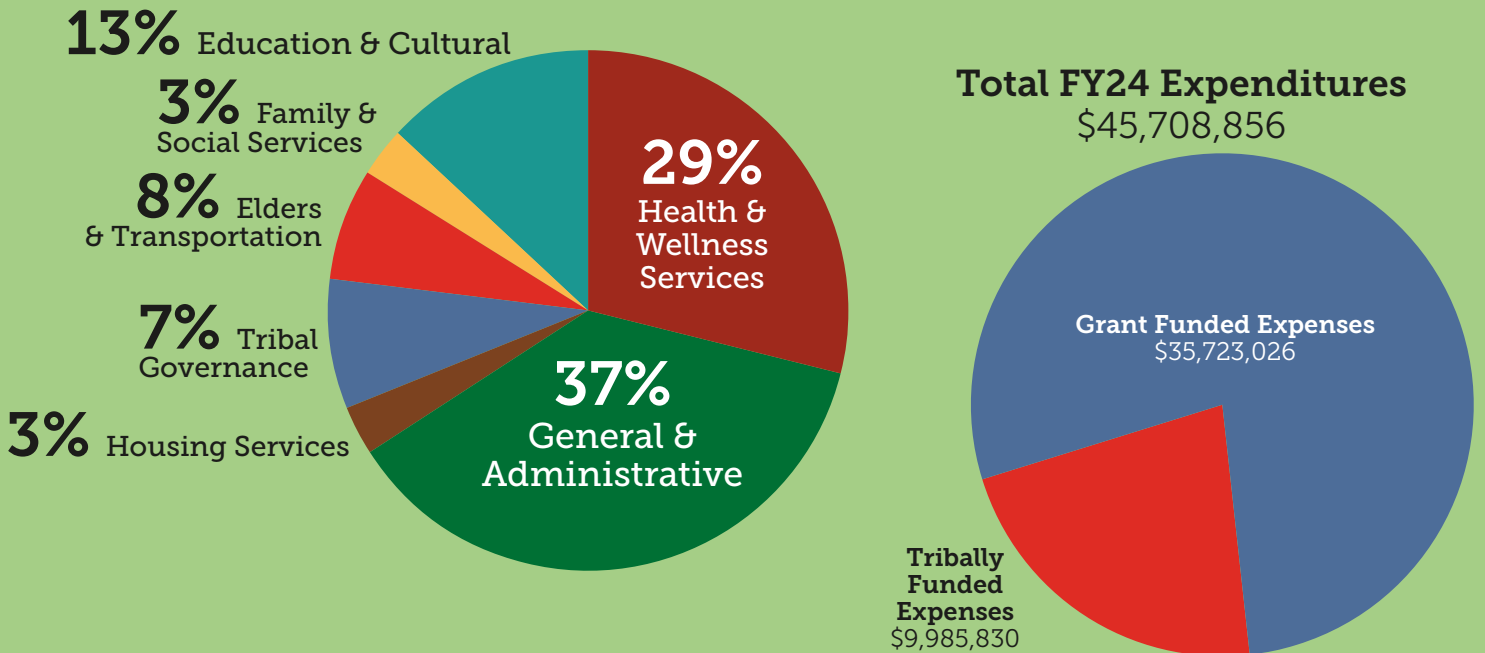


As of June 30, the Tribe earned \$50.85 million in revenues and expended \$45.71 million on operating expenses and capital outlays. The \$5.14 million surplus of revenues over expenses will be used to support the Tribe's ongoing capital projects and future investments.



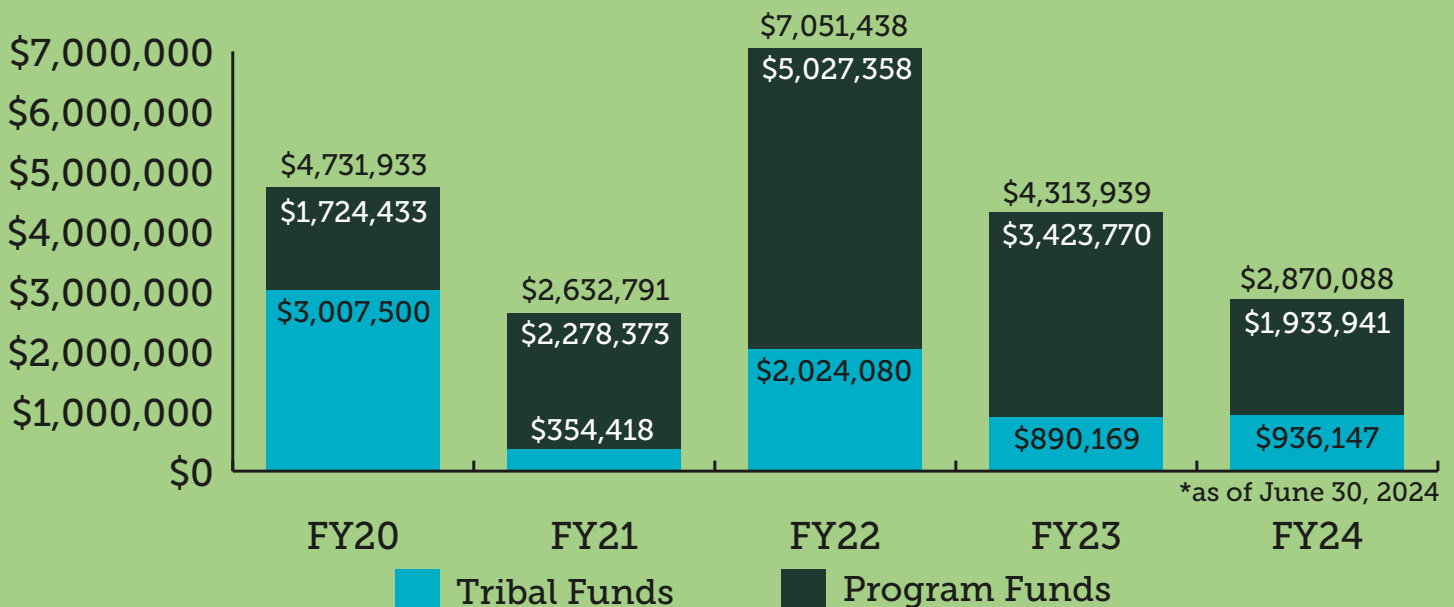
Operating Expense by Program

The Tribe has spent \$45.7 million on operations. Of the total, \$13.2 million will be spent on health and wellness services, \$5.8 million on education and cultural programs, \$1.5 million on family and social services, \$1.5 million on housing services, \$3.1 million on Tribal government services, \$3.7 million on Elders and transportation, and \$16.9 million on general and administrative services.



Financial Assistance

The Tribe has spent approximately \$2.8 million on direct payments to those we serve to assist with housing, education, training, transportation and emergency needs. About 1/3 of total assistance payments were made using Tribal funds.



Bequsilna, 'Those who are gone'

Robert J. Mamaloff II

August 26, 1985 – November 28, 2023

Harold L. Wik

March 19, 1938 – November 30, 2023

Dorothy E. Hermansen

December 4, 1927 – January 8, 2024

Glen M. Kooly

February 23, 1940 – January 18, 2024

Sean David Wilson

April 21, 1971 – June 2, 2024

Paul Alexander Shadura II

December 5, 1954 – July 7, 2024

Grace May Astad

July 24, 1957 – July 22, 2024

Violet May Sanders Young

November 28, 1937 – September 9, 2024



ADDRESSES AND PHONE NUMBERS



KENAITZE

INDIAN

TRIBE

150 N. Willow St.

Kenai, AK 99611

www.kenaitze.org

907-335-7200



Administration Building
150 N. Willow St., Kenai
907-335-7200



Na'ini Family and Social Services
1001 Mission Ave., Kenai
907-335-7600



Dena'ina Wellness Center
508 Upland St., Kenai
907-335-7500



Tyotkas Elder Center
1000 Mission Ave., Kenai
907-335-7280



Kahtnuht'ana Duhdeldiht Campus
12271 Kenai Spur Highway, Kenai
907-335-7667



Qiz'unch' Tribal Court
508 Upland St., Kenai
907-335-7219



**Chuq'eya Qenq'a
Birch Tree House – Behavioral Health**
510 Upland St., Kenai
907-335-7300



**Kenaitze/Salamatof Tribally
Designated Housing**
1001 Mission Ave., Kenai
907-335-7228

