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*For immediate release.*

## **COOK INLET TRIBAL COUNCIL TO PROVIDE TICKETS HOME**

*Partnership with Lutheran Social Services will help prevent homelessness*

Cook Inlet Tribal Council, Inc. (CITC) is partnering with Lutheran Social Services of Alaska (LSSA) to help Alaska Native people who are stranded in Anchorage get back home. CITC is donating \$25,000 in support of LSSA's travel program for rural Alaskans who are homeless or at risk of being homeless in Anchorage and wish to return to their home villages.

"CITC has been actively engaged with the homeless for decades, through our Recovery Services and Employment and Training programs," said Gloria O'Neill, CEO. "We believe there are opportunities to serve this population in Anchorage, but we also recognize that some people may prefer to move back to their home village. LSSA programs foster hope, promote well being, and honor human dignity, and we are proud to support their efforts."

The problems of homelessness and public inebriation in Anchorage have existed for decades, taking a toll on individuals and families and disproportionately burdening community resources. CITC and LSSA will work together to leverage resources and provide coordinated services to Alaska Native people who are homeless or at risk of being homeless. CITC programs will provide referrals to LSSA, who utilizes screening criteria to help ensure individuals are returning to a safe and healthy environment.

CITC is committed to the prevention of homelessness and the treatment of homeless alcoholics and substance abusers. CITC offers treatment and recovery services, job training and career development, and financial assistance. CITC collaborates with local housing authorities to help provide affordable homes. Supporting Lutheran Social Services is another opportunity for CITC to support our community. CITC's mission is to "work in partnership with Our People to develop opportunities that fulfill Our endless potential."

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About Cook Inlet Tribal Council, Inc.

Cook Inlet Tribal Council, Inc. (CITC) is a tribal non-profit organization in Anchorage, Alaska, that offers opportunities to Alaska Natives and American Indians in the Cook Inlet region. CITC is an innovative leader in the social service arena, helping program participants pursue opportunities to develop their personal potential and self-reliance.