

CENTRAL COUNCIL *Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska* Office of the President • Edward K. Thomas Building 9097 Glacier Highway • Juneau, Alaska 99801

## Executive Council of the Central Council TLINGIT & HAIDA INDIAN TRIBES OF ALASKA

Resolution EC 24-106

Title: Authorization to Apply for the National Telecommunications and Information Administration Digital Equity Capacity Grant

WHEREAS, the Central Council of Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska (Tlingit & Haida) is a federally recognized tribe with more than 37,000 citizens; and

WHEREAS, under Article X of the Tlingit & Haida Constitution, the Executive Council is the governing body of Tlingit & Haida when the Tribal Assembly is not in session; and

WHEREAS, the Tribal Assembly is not in session; and

WHEREAS, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) has made approximately \$1.44 billion available through the State Digital Equity Capacity Grant Program to promote digital inclusion activities and achieve digital equity for Covered Populations, with a portion of these funds set aside for Native Entities; and

WHEREAS, Covered Populations, as defined by the Digital Equity Act, include lowincome households, aging populations, incarcerated individuals, veterans, individuals with disabilities, those with language barriers, racial and ethnic minorities, rural residents, and individuals living in Tribal areas; and

WHEREAS, NTIA will allocate at least \$42,000,000 to federally recognized tribes; and

WHEREAS, NTIA expects to make awards between \$500,000 - \$2,000,000 for digital equity and inclusion activities; and

WHEREAS, Tlingit & Haida plans to apply for \$2 million in funding to support a fiveyear project, but such funding does not include the full amount of Tlingit & Haida's federally approved indirect rate, creating a \$640,000 shortfall; and

WHEREAS, the project will be focused on enhancing digital equity through expanded helpdesk support, digital literacy workshops, and targeted subsidies for underserved tribal citizens; and

WHEREAS, Tlingit & Haida's primary goal is to support and build up a dedicated helpdesk team to provide technical support, coaching, and digital literacy assistance to tribal citizens; and

WHEREAS, Tlingit & Haida aims to further promote digital equity by providing targeted subsidies, capped at ten percent of the total grant, for a maximum of \$200,000, to support selected Covered Populations in accessing broadband services;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Executive Council of the Central Council of Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska hereby authorizes the Tlingit & Haida President, or designee, to submit, negotiate, execute, and administer any and all documents, including any subsequent amendments, that are required by National Telecommunications and Information Administration for granting funds to Tlingit & Haida for the proposed projects.

ADOPTED this 20<sup>th</sup> day of September 2024, by the Executive Council of the Central Council of Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska, by a vote of 5 yeas, 0 nays, 0 abstentions and 1 absence.

**CERTIFY** 

President Richard J. Peterso

ATTEST

Tribal Secretary Jacqueline L. Pata