



Wrangell, Alaska – December 15, 2024 – Wrangell, Alaska – December 15, 2024 – The Wrangell Cooperative Association (WCA) has been awarded a grant from FEMA to bring a 9-month Crisis Counseling Program (CCP) to Wrangell. As the first Tribal CCP in the USA, WCA will tailor the initiative to meet the needs of the Wrangell community, focusing on healing and support through culturally relevant activities and small-group sessions.

"From the very beginning of our discussions with FEMA and SAMHSA, we made it clear that Wrangell's healing is deeply rooted in our culture," said Esther Reese, Tribal Administrator. "We explained that our community heals best through shared experiences, like talking circles, berry-picking, and weaving—practices that are deeply embedded in our Tlingit traditions—rather than through checklists or conference calls."

The Crisis Counselor positions (up to four will be hired) will serve a role similar to that of State Public Health Workers, reaching out to residents and checking in on their emotional and mental well-being. Whether the challenges are related to the recent landslide or other aspects of life, the new team members will provide vital emotional support, resources, and guidance. These counselors will work closely with WCA, FEMA, SAMHSA, and other regional partners to connect community members with necessary services and healing opportunities.

The CCP Director (to be hired) will oversee the program's operations, manage team resources, and coordinate community events and cultural healing opportunities funded by the FEMA-SAMHSA grant. This includes organizing talking circles, art classes, and other gatherings where community members can come together for healing in a culturally respectful and accessible environment.

"It's exciting to have the opportunity to build this program from the ground up, shaping it specifically for our community," said Reese. "As the first Tribe in the United States to implement this program, we have both the flexibility and the responsibility to ensure these resources are used in a way that respects our traditions and maximizes the impact for everyone in Wrangell."

While Wrangell is the first Tribal community to be awarded this grant, FEMA officials noted that another Tribe (on Navajo land) was offered the grant but chose not to implement it. In addition, all personal information collected through the program will be securely stored in a confidential and anonymized database to ensure privacy.

For more information on the nationwide Crisis Counseling Program, visit www.samhsa.gov/dtac/ccp. Job descriptions for the Crisis Counselor and CCP Director positions are attached to this press release. All qualified community members and friends of Wrangell are encouraged to apply for this important, time-limited project.

For more information, contact: Kevin Gadsey, Domestic Violence Prevention Specialist, at 907.305.0719 or 907.874.4304 or dvp.specialist.wca@gmail.com.



WRANGELL COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 2021 • Wrangell, Alaska 99929
Telephone: (907) 874-4304
www.WCATRIBE.org

POSITION DESCRIPTION: Crisis Counselor

INFORMATION

Department: Crisis Counseling Program
Location of Work: Wrangell, AK
Salary Grade(s): \$24/hour for 7 months

Type of Position: Non-Exempt
Approved By: WCA Council
Full-time: 37.5 hours / week

PURPOSE

The Crisis Counselors operate in teams of two to assist community members in identifying their most pressing difficulties and needs, as well as prioritizing how to best solve problems and find supports in Wrangell. Crisis Counselors keep no individual records or case files.

REPORTING RELATIONSHIPS

Reports To: Wrangell Cooperative Association Crisis Counseling Program Manager

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS

General Responsibilities:

- Use active listening skills to provide emotional support and reassurance to community members experiences challenges, loss, or trauma.
- Educate community members about behavioral techniques for coping with stress and trauma.
- Refer community members to SE Alaska resources and programs that may assist them.
- Facilitate or co-facilitate small groups focused on topics such as grief and loss.
- Network with other agencies, attend public meetings, and develop public relationships with the community.
- Assist with set-up and facilitation of both Tribal and Community Healing and Educational workshops, sessions, and events.
- Assist with marketing of program, both electronically and physically. (sign-posting, advertisement creation, etc.)

Meetings, WCA Reporting, Professional Conduct:

- Attend administrative staff meetings, WCA all-staff meetings, and other meetings as requested by the Tribal Administrator.
- Participate in WCA all-staff events (which may occur after hours or on weekends).
- Maintain strict confidentiality of all Tribal information.
- Must maintain a professional, neat appearance.
- Other duties as assigned by Tribal Administrator.

NECESSARY SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE

- Strong written and oral communication skills.
- Ability to handle confidential information with tact and discretion.
- Knowledge of the history of Wrangell and a solid understanding of the Native community in Wrangell, including clan structure, or willingness to learn.
- Demonstrated computer skills, including MS Office, Gmail, and data entry via the SAMHSA Mobile Reporting App.
- Ability to work independently and in teams.
- Demonstrated ability to be a reliable worker (show up on time, consistent with the required work schedule).

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS (education, experience, skills)

- High School diploma or G.E.D.
- Two years of Human or Social Services program experience, as employee or volunteer.
- Valid Driver’s License.

UNUSUAL PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS OR RESTRICTIONS

Much of the work is performed in a professional office setting and is generally sedentary, requiring routine walking, standing, bending, and carrying of items weighing less than 40 lbs. At other times, work will occur in the community – at local events, public facilities (library, etc.), or outdoors.

CONDITIONS OF HIRE

- All employment at WCA is “at will”. This means that the employee or WCA may terminate employment at any time and for any reason. Unless specified in writing, no term of employment is expressed or implied for this position.
- WCA is a no tolerance workplace. All regular employees must pass an initial and random drug screening and potentially a random alcohol screening to be eligible for and maintain employment.
- WCA has several positions which require a criminal background check for the safety of our clients. All employment offers in the “covered” classification are conditional until WCA has received a Federal criminal background check verifying eligibility to work in these programs.
- Native preference in hiring applies as outlined in the WCA Hiring Policy and Procedure.

This Job Description describes the essential functions and qualifications of the job described. It is not an exhaustive statement of all the duties, responsibilities, or qualifications of the job. This document is not intended to exclude modifications consistent with providing reasonable accommodation for a disability. This is not a contract. Your signature indicates that you have read this Job Description and understand the essential functions of and qualifications for the job.

Employee Signature Date

Tribal Administrator Date



WRANGELL COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION

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Telephone: (907) 874-4304
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POSITION DESCRIPTION: Crisis Counseling Program Director

INFORMATION

Department: Crisis Counseling Program

Type of Position: Non-Exempt

Location of Work: Wrangell, AK or Hybrid/Remote

Approved By: WCA Council

Salary Grade(s): \$40/hour for 8 months

Full-time: 37.5 hours / week

PURPOSE

The Crisis Counselors operate in teams of two to assist community members in identifying their most pressing difficulties and needs, as well as prioritizing how to best solve problems and find supports in Wrangell. Crisis Counselors keep no individual records or case files.

REPORTING RELATIONSHIPS

Reports To: Tribal Administrator

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS

General Responsibilities as Program Director:

- Supervise day-to-day operations of the Crisis Counseling Program and the Counselors daily schedules, filling in for missing team members, if needed. Coordinate with Tribal Administrator with regards to HR decisions.
- Manage, tabulate, and report cumulative data, qualitative and quantitative, to SAMHSA and FEMA via government portals.
- Attend weekly meetings with FEMA with a prepared verbal status report.
- With the CC team: 1) Schedule all CC-funded Tribal events and classes and ensure that staff are scheduled to provide support and coverage. 2) Schedule CC team members to also be present at other Tribal and Community events, if possible.
- Manage CCP grant financials and budget in conjunction with Tribal Bookkeeper.
- With the CC Team, develop and implement a branding strategy. Will oversee all marketing and signage creation including social media posts.

Additional Responsibilities if filling for Crisis Counselors:

- Use active listening skills to provide emotional support and reassurance to community members experiencing challenges, loss, or trauma.
- Educate community members about behavioral techniques for coping with stress and trauma.
- Refer community members to SE Alaska resources and programs that may assist them.
- Facilitate or co-facilitate small groups focused on topics such as grief and loss.
- Network with other agencies, attend public meetings, and develop public relationships with the community.

- Assist with set-up and facilitation of both Tribal and Community Healing and Educational workshops, sessions, and events.

Meetings, WCA Reporting, Professional Conduct:

- Attend administrative staff meetings and other meetings as requested by the Tribal Administrator or Council.
- Participate in WCA all-staff events (which may occur after hours or on weekends).
- Maintain strict confidentiality of all Tribal information.
- Must maintain a professional, neat appearance.
- Other duties as assigned by Tribal Administrator.

NECESSARY SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE

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- Ability to handle confidential information with tact and discretion.
- Knowledge of the history of Wrangell and a solid understanding of the Native community in Wrangell, including clan structure, or willingness to learn.
- Demonstrated computer skills, including MS Office, Gmail, and data entry via the SAMHSA Mobile Reporting App.
- Ability to work independently and in teams.
- Demonstrated ability to be a reliable worker (show up on time, consistent with the required work schedule).

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS (education, experience, skills)

- 4-year degree (Human Services Preferred)
- Two years of Human or Social Services program experience, as employee or volunteer.
- Valid Driver's License.

UNUSUAL PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS OR RESTRICTIONS

Much of the work is performed in a professional office setting and is generally sedentary, requiring routine walking, standing, bending, and carrying of items weighing less than 40 lbs. At other times, work will occur in the community – at local events, public facilities (library, etc.), or outdoors.

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Employee Signature

Date

Tribal Administrator

Date