

Native Village of ██████  
Traditional I.R.A. Council  
P.O. Box ██████  
██████, Alaska. 99████  
907-████-████ Fax 907-████-████

#### Organization Background and Need:

The Native Village of ██████ (██████) is a federally recognized Tribe organized pursuant to the Indian Reorganized act of June 18, 1934, as amended by the acts of June 15, 1935 and May 1, 1936. The ██████ offices consist of Health and Human Services, Environmental Services, Housing Dept, Village Public Safety Officer, ██████ Tribal Operations, and Administration. In addition, the Native Village of ██████ Council has sponsored and provided office facilities for the VISTA ██████ Office. This is where I, an Americorps Member, work to help the community. The population of the Dena'ina Athabascan Indians here in ██████ is ██████.

The ██████ People (██████) are facing many challenges. Unemployment is extremely high. Approximately 87% of the children at school are eligible for free/reduced lunch. The price of gasoline is \$6.00 a gallon. Quarts of milk are \$2.00. Fresh vegetables and fruits are usually unavailable at the general store. Some individuals in the community have electric bills as high as \$800.00 a month in the winter months. Subsistence activities provide salmon, moose, beluga whale, porcupine, and waterfowl. Twenty residents hold commercial fishing permits. Traditional berry picking still thrives and some still use traditional Indian medicine.

This community has planned The ██████ Community Garden. Many years ago, the ██████ Indians grew their own vegetables and this is a way to continue with the tradition. The children will learn from the elders not only how to produce vegetables for the community but this project will teach the kids how to save fossil fuel. An eight foot by eight foot, build it yourself, wooden tool shed is needed to store wheelbarrows, hoses, and smaller gardening tools. Tribal members have volunteered to construct the shed upon arrival. This item and air shipping are quite costly. The funds are greatly needed for this project to be successful.

#### Project Description:

A formal site-control was requested from The ██████-Native Corporation for The ██████ Community Garden for 500 feet by 500 feet. The area is located on the road from the sub-division to the airfield just right of the lake on ██████ Road directly across from ██████ Road. The area has lots of sunshine. The ██████ have a vision of a Recreational Area on the left side of the lake. Nature Trails, Picnic tables, Trout Fishing, and possibly a greenhouse are our dreams. So, the big picture includes: The ██████ Community Garden, The Park & Trails, Greenhouse, and the already present playground. We will be able to hook up a small portable water pump to access water from the nearby lake for the daily watering of the vegetable plants. The ██████ Roads crew is generously donating their time on a Sunday, to clear the area of trees, debris, large rocks, and turn the soil. Fence enclosing an area of 400feet by 400feet is planned. The material has been ordered and paid for and the 18,000 pounds of fencing material has been loaded on to a barge and delivered to the village recently. The donations, materials, person-hours, and transportation, were requested by myself, from this office, and greatly appreciated.

Benefits:


This plan is also important to the issue of fuel shortage; it saves the plane-fuel, which is used to deliver the food. Since the village is only accessible by air or water, there is the added cost of paying for the food to be flown into the village at 35 cents a pound from Anchorage or Kenai. Fresh fruits and vegetables are a luxury. The elders are teaching us about Traditional Indian medicine and the plan is to transplant a few of the plants with a small, weather resistant sign, explaining; what the plant is, what it looks like, and its medicinal use. An elder stated, "We had to learn how to help ourselves in case we got hurt and there were no planes or an EMT in the village". The children will learn about not only about their culture, but also about how to start growing vegetables from seedlings to maturity in February 2008. The plan is to have the area cleared, the fence constructed, equipment set and prepared to plant in the early spring. When it comes time to harvest the vegetables, the needy elders will come first and then the rest of the community. The first community garden meeting was held to discuss plans and ideas. Residents have expressed a desire for this project for some time now and continue to provide support for this project on a daily basis. A monthly garden newsletter has been started to let residents know about upcoming events and accomplishments.

Budget: \$ 1109.05

8 by 8 foot Build it yourself wooden tool shed	\$849.00
Air Freight Shipping 743 pounds@ .35cents a pound	<u>\$260.05</u>
	\$1109.05

Reporting: VISTA/RurAL CAP Member [redacted] will submit a 1-page final report on the results of the garden along with photo's. A sign will be posted, with the names of the project donors for display.

Approvals:


8/30/07  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Date  
 Tribal Council President  
 Native Village of [redacted]  
 IRA Council  
 P.O. Box [redacted]  
 [redacted], Alaska, 996[redacted]  
 907-[redacted]-[redacted]