

# First Alaskans Institute

FIRST ALASKANS INSTITUTE  
2021 ANNUAL ELDERS AND YOUTH  
RESOLUTION 21-04

- TITLE:** Training and Technical Support for Alaska Native Elders and Youth
- WHEREAS:** The First Alaskans Institute Elders and Youth Conference is the largest statewide convening of Alaska Native Elders and youth representing our diverse Alaska Native cultures and language groups in order to enhance and perpetuate the unique spirits and identities of our peoples; and
- WHEREAS:** The purpose of the Conference is to connect Elders and youth for cultural knowledge transmission, strengthen statewide relationships, amplify the power of our participants as leaders today, and advance solutions to challenges faced by our Native peoples and our communities; and
- WHEREAS:** The Conference is a 4-day event starting on a Sunday and ending on a Wednesday and previously held at various locations in Alaska which allowed Elders and presenters to adequately engage with our youth to teach, and to learn from youth what issues are worth fighting for. This was done by in-person attendance, socializing, programs, events and activities that support health, language, education, laws and policies and more; and
- WHEREAS:** Numerous other conferences, activities, events and programs are held online and require computer knowledge, skills and abilities to fully express our thoughts, feelings, emotions and ideas to sustain our lives, and educate our own minds. This online environment can also make it harder to understand the full true meaning of our Elder and youth experiences, and in some instances, lack of this knowledge and access to technology could contribute to the end of a people's cultural and traditional ways; and
- WHEREAS:** The Indigenous people of Alaska are represented by 229 tribal governments, 12 ANCSA corporations, 198 village corporations, 11 non-profits and many Native allies who can collaborate and support this need; and
- WHEREAS:** Tribal governments across Alaska and ANCSA Corporations could provide funding to organizations and businesses to train Elders and Youth at various dates and times, coordinated with events, for this and future generations.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the participants of the 2021 First Alaskans Institute Elders & Youth Conference request our Tribal Governments, ANCSA regional and village corporations, non-profits, and Native allies provide funding and training to Alaska Native Elders and youth across the state to ensure they are comfortable using and accessing technology to continue to learn and teach our Native languages, cultures, and ways of life, and provide ongoing technical support to them so they can thrive in the online environment as tribal broadband is built out across the state.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the entities named above use COVID-19 and broadband funding to cover costs for this training and support.

Submitted by: Tommy Gamble, Tlingit, Sitka, Alaska

CONFERENCE ACTION: PASSED ON OCT. 20, 2021