



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NSED C to provide \$500 household utility subsidy

NOME— Recognizing that high energy costs impact nearly every aspect of life in the Norton Sound region, the Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation Board of Directors voted December 7 to provide a \$500 utility subsidy for the region's residents.

The program will essentially mirror NSED C's 2008 initiative that paid \$500 toward the residential electricity accounts for each household in NSED C's 15 member communities. That effort led to NSED C applying \$1.18 million to accounts representing 2,368 households.

Both this year and in 2008, the idea for the subsidy was proposed to the full board by Koyuk representative Elvina Naranjo. The motion enjoyed unanimous support from the NSED C Board of Directors.

As in 2008, the 2012 subsidy is an isolated contribution to residents of NSED C's member communities and not constructed to be an ongoing or yearly program. The subsidy complements NSED C's long-term efforts to bring down energy costs in the region which include NSED C's Community Energy Fund, its bulk fuel purchasing program and region-wide energy planning efforts in coordination with other entities.

"NSED C's Board of Directors realize that high energy costs eat up a disproportionate and excessive amount of our residents' income compared to other regions of our state and nation," said NSED C Board Chairman Dan Harrelson. "As NSED C's energy programs take hold and start to make a difference—like the Community Energy Fund which allots \$1 million for renewable and efficiency projects in each member community—we hope this assistance helps families address other immediate priorities."

As with the 2008 subsidy, households will be required to sign up directly with NSED C rather than their utility provider. NSED C plans to launch its effort to sign up households in January and will soon be distributing information to each member community on the details of the subsidy. Please direct any questions regarding the subsidy to the NSED C Community Benefits Department and not *your* local utility company. For more information, contact Paul Ivanoff III in Unalakleet at 1-800-385-3190 or pivanoff@nsedc.com.

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About NSED C: Norton Sound Economic Development Corp. is a private 501(c)4 non-profit corporation representing 15 member communities and more than 8,490 people in the Bering Strait Region of Northwestern Alaska. NSED C is one of six Community Development Quota organizations in Alaska. NSED C maintains a balance between distant-water fisheries in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands. Key to that balance is the establishment of programs designed to provide immediate benefits to the residents of the region along with the continued pursuit of longer-term investments that provide a stable source of economic strength. For more information, see www.nsedc.com.

"NSED C will participate in the Bering Sea fisheries to provide economic development through education, employment, training and financial assistance to our member communities"