

Proposed by:	Assemblymembers Hylton & Potter
Attorney Review:	11.1.2021
Vote:	5 Aye _ Nay 1 Absent

MUNICIPALITY OF SKAGWAY, ALASKA
RESOLUTION NO. 21-32R

A RESOLUTION OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF SKAGWAY, ALASKA ESTABLISHING AN UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM TO MITIGATE THE IMPACTS OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC ON THE COMMUNITY OF SKAGWAY.

WHEREAS, on June 17, 2021, the Skagway Borough Assembly declared a financial emergency due to the substantial economic risk that the COVID-19 pandemic continues to pose to the community; and

WHEREAS, the widespread cancellation of cruises to Alaska has and will continue to have a detrimental impact on the Skagway community; and

WHEREAS, the Skagway community relies upon the tourism industry for financial stability, and relies on seasonal workers who are integral to ensuring the success of this industry; and

WHEREAS, the Municipality understands the importance of financially supporting seasonal workers affected by the financial emergency; and

WHEREAS, the Municipality of Skagway accepted a \$2,000,000 donation from Norwegian Cruise Lines (NCL) for the purpose of providing economic relief to the community due to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, and allocated or earmarked \$450,000 of these funds for unemployment assistance, pursuant to Ordinance No. 21-11 and the upcoming FY22 budget process; and

WHEREAS, the Municipality of Skagway wishes to implement an Unemployment Assistance Program to mitigate the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the financial stability of the community of Skagway; and

WHEREAS, the proposed grant program will be managed and administered by the municipal Administration Department following the guidelines adopted in this resolution;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Borough Assembly of the Municipality of Skagway establishes an Unemployment Assistance Program, to be administered as follows:

General Program Guidelines:

- Total funding: \$450,000.
- Up to \$112,500 will be allocated for qualified applicants each month beginning in December 2021 and concluding March 2022. This allocation will be disbursed each month following the qualifying month.
- Applicants must apply separately for each month the program is available.

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- Individual disbursements to individuals who are not on unemployment but who are not working due to COVID-19 related closures or illnesses will not exceed \$1,680 each month.
- Individual disbursements will not exceed \$2,400 each month.
- The allocated funding each month will be split equally among qualified applicants.
- The program will conclude at the end of April 2022, and any remaining funds for the program will be reallocated by the Assembly.

Eligibility:

- Must be a resident of Skagway and pick up checks each month in person.
- Must provide proof of receipt of any form of unemployment assistance for the qualifying month (federal, state, railroad, including pandemic unemployment assistance); this includes partial unemployment.
- If an individual was receiving unemployment but has timed out of their benefits as of September 1, 2021, the individual is still eligible but must provide proof of such benefit status.
- Individuals who are not on unemployment but who are not working due to COVID-19 related closures or illnesses are eligible for funding as follows:
 - Must provide written proof from employer of inability to work due to business closures or COVID-19 related illness;
 - Individuals may receive \$120 per day (8 hours at \$15 per hour) for a maximum of \$1,680 (14 days) per month;
 - Individuals may apply for funding after returning to work; funding will not be provided until duration of closure or illness has ended or after 14 days, whichever is sooner.
- Individuals are ineligible if they have been denied unemployment by turning down a job offer during the applicable month.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this resolution shall be effective immediately upon adoption.

PASSED AND APPROVED by a duly constituted quorum of the Borough Assembly of the Municipality of Skagway this 4th day of November, 2021.

ATTEST:

Steve Burnham Jr., Borough Clerk

(SEAL)

Andrew Cremata, Mayor

