



**Assistant Secretary - Indian Affairs
Office of Indian Energy and Economic Development (IEED)
DIVISION OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

**THE NATIVE AMERICAN BUSINESS
DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE GRANT
(NABDI GRANT)**



Hála Café

Hydaburg, AK



Project Description: Hála Café is the only restaurant located in Hydaburg, Alaska. In the Haida language, Hála means “to give a feast or host a social event.” The café has been doing exactly that since it opened its doors in July 2019.



In 2018, IEED’s Division of Economic Development awarded the Hydaburg Cooperative Association a Native American Business Development Institute (NABDI) grant (\$30,000) to complete a feasibility study for a café/laundromat.

The NABDI-funded feasibility study was then used, in part, to secure a \$600,000 Housing and Urban Development Indian Community Development Block Grant (HUD-ICDBG) to construct the café/laundromat.

The Hydaburg Cooperative Association is one of only two federally recognized Haida tribes in Alaska and is home to



400 residents, of whom 84% are Alaska Native/American Indian.

Like many Tribes in Alaska, Hydaburg is remote and accessible only by boat or small plane. The creation of a café is especially important, since there are no other social gathering places in the community.

“There are no movie theaters or restaurants,” says Jonathan Wunrow, program manager for the Tribe. “This concept has been in our Strategic Plan for several years. The NABDI grant has afforded us the opportunity to finally develop a plan that pencils-out.”

The final NABDI study proved invaluable. It contained a comprehensive evaluation that allowed the Tribal management to make informed decisions. The report considered business operations, start-up, and several other key factors to consider.

“The NABDI grant provided the opportunity for the community of Hydaburg to sit down and really bring the concept to life,” Wunrow described.

The tribe committed \$60,000 in start-up expenses for components to make the restaurant fully functional.

Hála café employs five community members, including a manager, a chef, and even a barista. It has begun to host a weekly elders’ lunch and other important community events such as language classes, training, and game nights.

“It has become a hotspot in the community,” Marita Tolson, Hála Café manager said. “We couldn’t be happier.”



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The Native American Business Development Institute Grant is provided by the Division of Economic Development, to conduct feasibility studies for potential economic development.