



## Eastern Aleutian Tribes

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To Whom It May Concern:

Eastern Aleutian Tribes is honored to join you and other organizations in supporting Health Aide Appreciation Day as September 10<sup>th</sup>.

Eastern Aleutian Tribes provides medical, dental, and Behavioral Health services in federally qualified health centers in the Alaskan communities of Adak, Akutan, Cold Bay, False Pass, King Cove, Nelson Lagoon, Sand Point and Whittier. EAT service area comprises over 100,000 square miles of the most beautiful, remote, and challenging locations in the world.

As you have stated, the work of a Community Health Aide is tireless; they act as round-the-clock first responders, clinicians, travel coordinators, hospitalists, tribal liaisons, and are often related to or close to their patients. Since before statehood, Health Aides have organized and played an integral role in maintaining tribal health and community safety in Alaska. We too are deeply invested in celebrating Community Health Aides for their broad scope of practice and selfless contributions to their village communities.

To thank our Community Health Aides (CHA) adequately is impossible. They spend long hours training for the CHA program and long hours on providing care and community service, often after business hours. They take great care to see protocol is followed in each situation and their personal communication skills are invaluable when interacting with the communities. In some communities, CHAs are the sole providers of medical care. Recognition of their invaluable service would show them how much they are appreciated not only by us as an organization but would also show them how much they are appreciated by the state of Alaska.

I feel great pride for our Community Health Aides and feel very lucky to be able to work with them closely daily.

Sincerely,

Shanda Lohse, MD  
Medical Director  
Eastern Aleutian Tribes

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