

# Relocation Guide

March 2007



## Bering Strait Region Relocation Guide

Kawerak, Inc. has prepared this informational pamphlet to help residents of the Bering Strait Region prepare for relocating to Nome and within our village communities. Our goal is to promote jobs for region residents and to prevent homelessness.

Nome has a growing economy with many job opportunities but is currently experiencing a housing shortage and a rising cost of living. There are also social differences between the communities that may affect the transition for children in school and adults in employment. Being aware of these social and economic differences before relocating will help families prepare for the transition between communities.

This guide was prepared by Kawerak staff based on their experiences working with village-based residents that have relocated to Nome. We hope that you find it helpful.

### Finding Jobs In Nome



There are plenty of jobs in Nome, many which require general skills and a willingness to work.

- To live independently in Nome, heads of household should aim for a \$16-\$18.00 job if possible, which might require some level of experience or education.
- Most of the jobs in Nome are service-oriented and are subject to laws requiring criminal history background checks.
- Most employers in Nome will do phone interviews so applicants do not need to move to Nome first to look for work.
- Most job openings are posted on the State of Alaska web page ([www.jobs.state.ak.us](http://www.jobs.state.ak.us)) and are accessible

from anywhere in Alaska.

- Time management skills are important in order to keep a job.
- Many employers require drug tests as a condition of hire.
- Many employers will require a criminal background check which is paid by the applicant.
- Employers will seriously consider an applicant's work history and work habits before hiring.
- Employers expect employees to show up for work ready and on time, regardless of personal issues or other reasons.



#### Inside this Guide:

Planning Ahead	2
Local and State Laws	2
Getting Around	2
Living Costs	3
Housing	2
Transitioning with Children	3
Leaving Employment	4
Contacts	4

**The Food Bank is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5:00 pm—7:30 pm. It is located near the corner of Bering and Seppala Streets**

# Planning Ahead Before Moving To Nome



Move with awareness. There are many things to arrange for ahead of time.

- Before moving, start the application processes for the services that you may need to get established in Nome, such as for HUD housing, school enrollment, child care assistance, Kawerak Employment and Training Services, and the Alaska Department of Labor employment assistance.
- Work closely with a case manager, such as the (DOL Work Services, Kawerak, etc.) to ensure that there is an organized plan to move.
- If you are receiving Alaska Temporary Assistance (ATAP) you may be eligible for relocation assistance to close your case for paid employment, this can include rental assistance, and some start up costs, child care, trans-

portation, work clothing and or tools to accept employment. Your Employment Security Specialist (Case Manager) can help you develop a Family Self Suffi-

ciency Plan to help you relocate when you have secured employment.

- If the whole family will need to relocate, it is best to have the working person get established for one or two months and then relocate the family.
- There is no need for using cash in Nome; using a check card or checks are safer.
- Everyone in the family should have an I.D. card; working adults will need a driver's license, even for ATV use.
- Call the Post Office to obtain a new box number so that you can mail items ahead of time.
- If you have friends or family in Nome, call ahead to arrange for temporary housing and transportation from the airport.

## *Did you know?*

*ATAP (Alaska Temporary Assistance Program) recipients who have an Alaska Dept. of Labor Work Services Case Manager can receive financial assistance for child care and other expenses related to finding regular, long-term employment.*

## Local and State Laws

There are more law enforcement agencies in Nome than in the villages, which means that law infractions result in penalties more often.

It is advisable to be aware of State and Municipal laws which are posted on the City of Nome and State of Alaska Websites.  
<http://www.nomealaska.org>



## Housing

Affordable housing is difficult but possible to find in Nome as people are often moving.

- Consider that you may move several times in the next six months.
- Put Renters with Furnished apartments on top of the list of renters to call.
- AMI & Novagold have rented most of the housing and lower-cost hotel space in Nome, so it is difficult to find affordable housing right now.
- Before purchasing a home, consider the responsibilities and costs associated with home ownership.
- Consider that there are no emergency shelters for men and the Bering Sea Women's Shelter is often filled to capacity.

- Unfurnished apartments are less expensive but not adequate for a family. Many apartments do not have laundering facilities so it is advisable to view the apartment before renting.
- Read the lease agreement and be aware of tenant responsibilities.
- There is usually a 30-day notice required before moving from a rental, and the lease agreement usually requires a thorough cleaning of the apartment before the rental deposit will be returned.
- There are long waiting lists for rent-controlled rentals with HUD housing; if you or a family member has unresolved legal issues it may prolong the application process.

*Workforce Investment Act Programs provide counseling, employment planning, and financial support for individuals who are transitioning to full-time, long-term employment. There are two WIA programs in the Bering Strait Region through the Nome Job Center (800) 478-2626 and Kawerak, Inc. (800) 450-4341.*

## Getting Around

There is no bus system in Nome and cabs are very expensive. Investing in a vehicle might not be an option right away.

- All family members should bring warm clothes for walking in Nome; children should have reflective tape.
- Information on driver's licenses can be obtained through the AK Div. of Motor Vehicles Nome office.
- If working adults will need to walk to work, consider that Nome is spread out; extra time is needed for getting to work.
- There are school bus stops located throughout the City.

# Living Expenses



While the cost of groceries may be less than many of the villages in the Bering Strait Region, the housing and utility costs may not be. Here are some points to consider.

- Wait until you are settled in your apartment at least a month before hooking up cable and non-essentials so that you can see if you can afford it.
- Consider the price of food being high in your budget.
- It might cost \$10-\$50 per month for coin-operated laundry machines.
- Depending on the cost of expenses, it is probable that both parents will have to work in order to support a family in Nome.
- The initial cost of an apartment is higher because it usually entails collection of the first month's rent, security deposit, and sometimes last month's rent.
- Housing costs are a lot higher in Nome than in the villages.
- Beware of credit cards and accumulating debt by making a budget and stick to it as much as possible.
- Agencies like Kawerak and the Nome Job Center can provide assistance for one month. It's a good idea to save at least two months worth of expenses before you move, if possible.
- Limit non-essentials in your budget such as cigarettes and pull tabs.

First Month Expenses In Nome	Cost
Airline Ticket (round trip)	\$ 300
Monthly Rent for a Two-Bedroom Apartment	1,100
Security Deposit for Rental	500
Utility Deposit for Rental	145
Monthly Utilities for an apartment (higher cost for homes)	60
Local Telephone Service (no long distance)	30
Telephone Deposit	130
Groceries for a family of four	600
Transportation (Car Loan)	355
Liability Insurance	70
Cable Television (Basic Service) & Hookup Fee	50
Other Expenses (clothes, freight, appliances)	600
<b>Total Cost: First Month</b>	<b>\$ 3,940</b>

# Transitioning With Children

Children and young adults may find that relocating is an exciting experience, but also intimidating. There are many social differences that may require adjustments and extra parental support.

- Communication with the school is essential to your child's success.
- Special Education classes are often full.
- Teachers and school should be informed of any special needs, medical considerations, medicines, or any type of limitations your child may have.
- The curriculum for Nome Public School is different from the Bering Strait School District. It is important to understand what your child is supposed to be learning and how to help your child transition smoothly.
- Many children that are new to Nome are bullied or teased in school.
- Parents need to be involved with the school and work with the teachers.
- It is a good idea to request to stay with your child in school for the first day or so until he/she is comfortable.

- Children under 12 years cannot "baby-sit" infants or young children without an adult present in Nome.
- Kawerak Childcare Program has childcare and or daycare assistance for your child care needs and also operates a day care center.
- There are a lot of "whistle-blowers" for child welfare in Nome.
- There are often conflicts that arise



when families without a working parent move into another family's home; these arrangements create a stressful situation for everyone and usually don't last.

- Children should beware of fast moving cars and playing on streets.
- City and State laws are enforced

- Nome has a curfew that is enforced, which is 10:00 pm on school nights.
- Nome has local ATV laws, and all persons in automobiles and trucks have to wear a seatbelt or use a child seat for children under four years.
- Offenses by youth could result in court hearings.
- Know where your children (and teens) are at all times; find out where their hangouts are and go there.
- Consider volunteering for various community groups and organizations as healthy activities, such as the Boys and Girls Clubs, Scouts, churches, PTSA, after-school programs.
- Set your child up with healthy activities, such as Boys & Girls Clubs, swimming, playgrounds, sports, band, or recreation center activities. Focus on wellness.
- Consider changing any personal habits that tend to cause financial and family stress.
- Ask questions for advice from other parents, service programs, teachers, and friends; this will help you get your family's basic needs met.



## KAWERAK, INC.

P.O. Box 948  
 Nome, Alaska 99762  
 (907) 443-5231  
 (800) 450-4341  
 www.kawerak.org

**Affordable, used quality clothing and other items are available through the Methodist Clothing Closet, which is open Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7:00 pm—8:30 pm. Located on 3rd Avenue West**

# Useful Contact Numbers

Aurora Inn	443-3838
Nanuaq Manor/Sitansuak Apt	443-5296
Weeks Apartments	443-3194
Wells Fargo	443-2223
Credit Union 1	800-478-2222
Nome Boys & Girls Club	443-2424
Nome Employment Service	443-2626
Nome Joint Utilities	443-5288
Nome Police Department	443-5262
Nome Recreation Center	443-5431
Visitor Information	443-6624
Bering Sea Women's Group Shelter	443-5444
Alaska Division of Public Assistance	443-2237
Food Bank	443-4150
Methodist Clothing Closet	443-2865
Uiviilat Play & Learn Center & Kawerak Child Care Program	443-9072
Kawerak Education & Training	443-5231
Kawerak Adult Basic Ed.	443-4399
Nome/Beltz High School	443-5201
Nome Elementary School	443-5299
Nome Preschool	443-2943
Nome Public Schools	443-2231
UAF - Northwest Campus	443-2201
Bonanza Fuel	443-2561
Crowley Marine Services	443-2219
Alaska Commercial Company	443-2243
Hanson's Trading Company	443-5454
Norton Sound Health Corp.	443-3311
City of Nome Recreation Center	443-5431
Kawerak, Inc.	443-5231
Alaska Housing Corporation	443-2888
Bering Strait Housing Authority	443-5256

## Leaving Employment

Some advice before considering to end your employment...

- Don't quit a job without giving the proper notice as determined by the employer's policy (usually two weeks).
- Don't quit a job without having a plan.
- Consider that your work history will be affected by why you left a position and how long you have spent in any one position.
- Employers will consider how often you change from job-to job and why.
- When considering leaving a job, it is best if you are leaving for a better-paying, longer term job with more hours per week.



*The Nome Recreation Center offers many healthy activities for all ages!*

*Cost per month:*

*Adults \$55.00*

*Children & Youth \$45.00*

*Hours of Operation:*

*Monday—Friday 5:30 am—10:00 pm*

*Saturday—Sunday 2:00 pm—10:00 pm*