



YK CEDS: August 2020 Work Session

Housing Working Group Breakout: Action Planning Results

Wednesday, August 12, 2020; 10am – 12pm

Link to recording: [Click here](#)

Facilitator: Seth O'Brien, Community Development Coordinator, Association of Village Council Presidents (AVCP)

Team Support: Shelly Wade and Molly Mylius, Agnew::Beck Consulting

Participants:

First Name	Last Name	Organization
Alba	Brice	Calista
Andrew	Beaver	Koyukuk
Bessie Lea	Weston	Lower Kuskokwim School District
Bonnie	James	Yupit School District
Brent	Lannen	USDA Rural Development
Clarence	Daniel	Association of Village Council Presidents
Deborah	Vo	Senator Lisa Murkowski's Office
Dewayne	Cooper	Bureau of Indian Affairs
Diane	Sam	Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium, Center for Environmentally Threatened Communities (CETC)
Eric	Evon	Association of Village Council Presidents
Erik	O'Brien	Denali Commission
Fatima	Ochante	Alaska Dept. of Environmental Conservation Village Safe Water Program
Greg	Stuckey	US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Alaska Office of Native American Programs
Jennifer	Hooper	Association of Village Council Presidents
Kendra	Krenz	Association of Village Council Presidents
Leila	Johnson	Calista
Michael	Black	ANTHC, Division of Environmental Health and Engineering
Molly	Mylius	Agnew::Beck Consulting
Nicholai	Joekay	Bethel Housing and Homelessness Coalition and Tundra Women's Coalition
Peter	Evon	AVCP Regional Housing Authority
Rahnia	Boyer	Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation
Ramona	VanCleve	Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
Robert	Chambers	USDA Rural Development
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First Name	Last Name	Organization
Samantha	Angaiak	Donlin Gold
Seth	O'Brien	Association of Village Council Presidents
Shelly	Wade	Agnew::Beck Consulting

Objective: Work as a team to develop a clear 1 to 2-year action plan for YK CEDS priority strategies and actions.

Agenda:

A. Welcome, Logistics, Roll Call, Breakout Purpose & Agenda Review

B. Strategy/Action Introduction & Knowledge Sharing

Q#1: What are we focusing on?	
<i>CEDS Strategy #13:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase housing affordability and housing sanitation for homeowners and renters.
<i>CEDS Actions:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase residential access to clean water through piped or hauled water systems and increase regional housing authority access to funding or partnerships for water and sewer infrastructure to help offset construction/installation costs for new homes.
Q#2: Why is this topic important? What is happening now that we should consider, want to support and/or change?	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding for housing often does not cover the cost of water and sewer expansion and vice versa; funding sources all come with different regulations that make it difficult to collaborate. Villages are experiencing overcrowding. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is especially critical to address overcrowding now with COVID-19. Some Tribes have successfully used CARES Act funds to build isolation homes. Fully compacted Tribes can reach out to AVCP tribal services for more information on CARES Act restrictions, requirements. In light of COVID-19, it is especially important to have access to clean water and plumbing to stay healthy and allow for regular handwashing. Many homes in the region require leveling to remain habitable. Many communities do not have the equipment or the trained personnel to level homes. 	

C. Action Planning

Q#3: To make measurable progress on this strategy/action, what tasks must happen over the next 1 to 2 years? Who will lead that task? Who will partner with the lead to take action?

Task	Lead & Partners
<p>a. Expand toilet implementation projects from Village Safe Water and Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC) into more YK communities.</p> <p><i>Possible funding includes: CARES Act funds; U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Housing now allows funding for in-home water sewer systems; Indian Community Development Block Grant (ICDBG) funds can be used.</i></p> <p>Click here for a flyer with more information about the VSW Separating Dry Toilet Pilot Project.</p>	<p>Leads: Alaska Village Water Sewer (Fatima), Association of Village Council Presidents (AVCP) (Seth), ANTHC (Michael)</p>
<p>b. Convene collaborator meeting to discuss how to create a partnership funding model that better leverages funds to construct homes with appropriate water-sewer systems.</p> <p><i>Specific funding includes Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) funded Housing Improvement Program (HIP), Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)'s Office of Native American Programs (ONAP), Indian Health Service (IHS) (through ANTHC), USDA and others.</i></p>	<p>Lead: AVCP Regional Housing Authority (AVCP RHA) (Peter)</p> <p>Partners: BIA (Dewayne), HUD (Greg), ANTHC (Michael), USDA (Robert) Denali Commission (Erik) can help cover IHS match; may be able to financially assist in other ways</p>
<p>c. Provide home ownership financial education to position YK residents to apply for and purchase a home. AVCP RHA used to have a home ownership education program (including credit education) and could potentially reinstate it.</p>	<p>Lead: AVCP RHA; This could also be a topic to discuss within the YK CEDS Financial Education Working Group.</p>
<p>d. Expand communications via quarterly meetings between departments/agencies to ensure the planning and delivery of construction projects, infrastructure investments, services and maintenance providers are better coordinated. (includes housing, utilities, transportation, communications, etc.)</p>	<p>Lead: AVCP Partners: BIA, AVCP RHA, ANTHC</p>

<p>e. Encourage Tribes to apply for FEMA’s upcoming Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities; allows grant funding for writing hazard mitigation plans; can fund project scoping; \$20 M tribal set aside plus \$100 M competitive. 4-month application window, opening in late September</p>	<p>Opportunity will be announced on FEMA.gov, grants.gov; Ramona to share with Shelly and Clarence for distribution</p>
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<p>f. Support individuals and communities in securing equipment and training needed to level homes. (entrepreneurship opportunity?)</p>	<p>Lead: need to identify</p>
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Q#4: How will we measure our success? What data will tell us we’re making a difference? A year or two from now, what SPECIFIC positive change do we want to make?

Indicator of Success/Positive Change	2-Year Target
<p>Jobs or internships created or retained. Methodology for a more precise estimate should be based on the number of new homes that will be constructed and current/anticipated water-sewer projects in the region. Agencies could report their new construction in the region which could be used to estimate new jobs. Known projects include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CVRF: 7 homes (Toksook Bay) Donlin: 3 homes (Sleetmute) AVCP, AVCP RHA, USDA, ONC: <i>need to identify</i> 	<p>In 2 years, 250 additional jobs will be created to study, plan for and construct additional homes and install/maintain water-sewer infrastructure in homes throughout the region.</p>
<p>Number of homes with water-sewer infrastructure. Creating a meaningful target for this indicator requires baseline information that is not readily available. Need to identify current construction numbers and quantify the estimated need. For reference, the YK CEDS Annual Update includes an objective to construct and/or rehabilitate 1,800 housing units toward the region’s goal of 3,000 affordable, quality homes by 2022.</p>	<p>In X years, # number of newly constructed, affordable, quality houses with appropriate water-sewer infrastructure.</p>
<p>Creating a meaningful target for this indicator requires baseline information that needs to be collected. Home ownership information from the U.S. Census and American Community Survey could be used to help establish targets.</p>	<p>In X years, X number of new homeowners who own homes in the YK region.</p>

Decline in the number of hospital visits related to wash water diseases. Creating a meaningful target for this indicator requires baseline information that needs to be collected. Demonstrating above-average hospital visits due to wash water diseases may also be helpful to advocate for water sewer projects in the region.

In 2 years, a 10% decline in the number of hospital visits related to wash water diseases due to lack of water.

Q#5: What funding opportunities and/or other resources can support our action plan? (see below for “Potential Funding Sources”)

- Ramona (Federal Emergency Management Agency, or FEMA) encourages Tribes to apply for FEMA’s upcoming Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities. This grant funding can be used for writing hazard mitigation plans and project scoping. There is a \$20 M tribal set aside plus \$100 M competitive. It will be a four--month application window, opening in late September. The opportunity will be announced on FEMA.gov and grants.gov.

D. Summarize, Closing Comments & Adjourn

Q#6: (After summary of key tasks, leads & partners by facilitator) – What final comments, questions or concerns do we have as individuals/as a group?

Other housing topics, not discussed in detail:

- Child and elder abuse and neglect remains an issue in the region. These challenges are exacerbated by COVID-19 and overcrowding, and a lack of shelter in many communities.
- School districts are experiencing a shortage of housing in remote villages for teachers.

Full Group Work Session Discussion Notes from Friday, August 14th

- Under indicators: “appropriate” infrastructure may vary from community from community – each village has unique needs and this might look different in different communities.
- Q. Hooper Bay is struggling with their new water-sewer systems; has this been considered/ is it being addressed?
 - A. One of the biggest challenges with piped water and sewer systems is they rely on dependable electricity; in homes/communities without reliable energy, the systems may not run as well.
- Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Village Safe Water Program has a list of contacts for water-sewer improvements: <https://dec.alaska.gov/water/village-safe-water/contacts/>
- Bethel Housing and Homelessness Coalition is looking at overcrowding, would be helpful to share data via an MOU.

Other Potential Funding Sources – Research Conducted by Agnew::Beck Consulting Prior to Work Session

Opportunity Name	Description	Eligibility and Typical Release Date
U.S. Department of Agriculture, Utilities Programs, Revolving Fund Program	https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=325090 Helps qualified non-profits create a revolving loan fund (RLF) that can provide financing for the extension and improvement of water and waste disposal systems in rural areas.	Recurring funding opportunity, most recently due June 12, 2020
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	https://www.epa.gov/grants The EPA offers grant opportunities that may be appropriate for water and sewer infrastructure.	
Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation Village Safe Water Program	https://dec.alaska.gov/water/village-safe-water/ The State of Alaska offers grant opportunities that may be appropriate for water and sewer infrastructure.	