



## YK Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) 2021 Work Session

### Climate Adaptation Focus Area Action Planning Results

Thursday, October 21, 2021 | 1:30-3:30pm

Link to recording: <https://www.avcp.org/tribal-resources/community-development/regional-comprehensive-economic-development-strategy/>

Facilitator: Joel Neimeyer, Neimeyer Consulting

Team Support: Heather Stewart, Agnew::Beck Consulting

Participants:

First Name	Last Name	Organization
Samantha	Angaiak	Donlin Gold
Mike	Brubaker	Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC)
Vernon	Chimegalrea	Donlin Gold
Clarence	Daniel	Association of Village Council Presidents (AVCP), Community Development Division
Jocelyn	Fenton	Denali Commission Village Infrastructure Protection Program Contact: <a href="mailto:jfenton@denali.gov">jfenton@denali.gov</a> or 907-271-4714
Krista	Heeringa	Alaska Climate Adaptation Science Center (AK CASC)
Adelheid	Herrmann	Alaska Center for Climate Assessment and Policy (ACCAP)
Corbyn	Jahn	Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC), Department of Environmental Health and Engineering (DEHE)
Nicholai	Joekay	The Tundra Women's Coalition (TWC)
Florence	Kargi	Coastal Villages Region Fund (CVRF)
Tisha	Kuhns	Calista Corporation
Erin	Leaders	State of Alaska Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management (DHS&EM), Hazard Mitigation
Deanna	Latham	Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation (YKHC)
Terry	Murphy	State of Alaska Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management (DHS&EM), Hazard Mitigation
Max	Neale	Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC)
Joel	Neimeyer	Neimeyer Consulting
Seth	O'Brien	Association of Village Council Presidents (AVCP), Community Development Division
Jaci	Overbeck	State of Alaska, Division of Geological & Geophysical Surveys (DGGS)
Sally	Russell Cox	State of Alaska, Division Community and Regional Affairs (DCRA)
Jennifer	Schmetzer	DOWL Engineering
Mark	Springer	City of Bethel
Bill	Stamm	Alaska Village Electric Cooperative (AVEC)
Miranda	Strong	Calista Corporation, Government Relations
Bessie Lea	Weston	Merkoryuk resident
Michael	Williams Sr	Chief of Akiak Native Community, Chair Kuskokwim Inter-Tribal Fish Commission and Akiak resident

**Objective:** Review progress on priority CEDS actions, define next steps for implementation, and track progress toward key indicators.

**Agenda:**

**A. Welcome, Logistics, Roll Call, Breakout Purpose and Agenda Review**

**B. Strategy/Action Introduction and Knowledge Sharing**

**CEDS Action(s):** Ensure all YK communities have active hazard mitigation plans and climate adaptation plans.

**C. Action Planning**

Action Plan Task	Lead and Partners	Funding Sources	Next Steps
<p><b>Task A.</b> Complete risk assessments, FEMA Hazard Mitigation Plans, and associated reports (e.g., Preliminary Engineering Report) for communities to address near-term and long-term threats.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encourage universities and research institutions to better collaborate and share relevant data with communities who are conducting assessments.</li> <li>Encourage universities and research institutions to build tools that are relevant and accessible to communities.</li> <li>Incorporate local knowledge of and prioritization of threats.</li> <li>Provide technical assistance/guidance to communities to evaluate their needs because the needs vary by community (Task C).</li> </ul>	<p><b>Lead:</b> Communities</p> <p><b>Partners:</b> ANTHC, Calista, CETC, academic institutions, FEMA, DHSEM</p>	<p>Existing funding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BIA Tribal Resilience</li> <li>FEMA</li> <li>Alaska Village Erosion Technical Assistance Program</li> <li>Economic Development Administration</li> <li>National Coastal Resilience Fund (NCRF). This NOAA funding is administered by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF).</li> </ul> <p>Possible funding to explore:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>academic institutions (e.g., UAA)</li> <li>Transportation Research Board</li> <li>National Science Foundation</li> </ul> <p><b>Other Implementation Resources:</b></p> <p>American Planning Association PAS on integrating FEMA Hazard Mitigation planning into local government planning.<sup>1</sup></p> <p>Alaska RiskMap Program.<sup>2</sup></p> <p>Communities may be unaware that they already have some of these plans. The State of Alaska DCRA website includes a Community Plans and Infrastructure Library, which</p>	<p><b>Tribes:</b> apply for BIA Tribal Resilience funding to develop or update FEMA Hazard Mitigation Plans.</p> <p><b>Working group:</b> Explore additional potential funding sources. At a future meeting, determine whether they should stay on the list or be removed.</p> <p><b>Working group:</b> In future years, check on the status of addressing FEMA HMP 5-year expiration.</p>

<sup>1</sup> [www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/2020-10/fema\\_integrating-hazard-mitigation\\_case-studies\\_tools-community-officials.pdf](http://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/2020-10/fema_integrating-hazard-mitigation_case-studies_tools-community-officials.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> [www.commerce.alaska.gov/web/dcra/PlanningLandManagement/RiskMAP.aspx](http://www.commerce.alaska.gov/web/dcra/PlanningLandManagement/RiskMAP.aspx)

Action Plan Task	Lead and Partners	Funding Sources	Next Steps
		communities can use to inventory their existing plans. <sup>3</sup>	
<p><b>Task A. Progress Update:</b> The Working Group updated the Action Plan Task to strategically work through FEMA Hazard Mitigation Plans. These plans allow the community to make annual updates to incorporate new elements, which may include other plans and reports. For example, a community can bring its Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), which includes prioritization, into the FEMA HMP. FEMA also allows Tribes to directly seek a Federal Disaster Declaration, without having to go through the State.</p> <p>The Alaska Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (DHSEM) is working on and discussing a regional approach to Hazard Mitigation Planning with FEMA.</p> <p>Terry Murphy (DMVA, DHS&amp;EM) explained that the FEMA HMPs have a 5-year expiration, which has been a limitation some. The annual FEMA HMP updates are a requirement. Though few plan owners do annual updates, it does not change the requirement for the 5-year expiration. That said, there might be a way coming in the next few years to address this issue. Checking on the status of this in future years.</p> <p>BIA Tribal Resilience Grants are much simpler than FEMA grant applications. Tribes should apply for \$60,000 BIA Tribal Resilience Grants for funding to update their FEMA HMPs.</p> <p>As of 2019, 28 Y-K communities are in the highest risk category per the Statewide Threat Assessment. At least 3 likely already have completed needs assessments, with 25 still needed. CETC is currently identifying assessment status across communities.</p>			

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<p><b>Task B.</b> Develop map-based climate adaptation community profiles that describe threat assessment status, relevant plans, and links to other agency data. Include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• an interactive map,</li> <li>• an identification of threat assessment status (continuously updated),</li> <li>• links to available data,</li> <li>• status of planning efforts, and</li> <li>• integration with other agency (e.g., CETC) data collection efforts.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Lead:</b> Communities</p> <p><b>Partners:</b> DCCED, CETC, Alaska Division of Geological and Geophysical Surveys (DGGS)</p>		<p><b>Sally, Jaci and Max:</b> Review and update this action plan task. Bring back to Working Group for approval.</p> <p><b>Working group:</b> At a future meeting, review and approve revised Action Plan Task.</p>
<p><b>Task B. Progress Update:</b> ANTHC's Center for Environmentally Threatened Communities (CETC) created a tool to map the status assessment of current assessments in the Y-K in partnership with the State of Alaska Division of Geological &amp; Geophysical Surveys (DGGS).<sup>4</sup></p> <p>Community-status tracking data sheet.<sup>5</sup></p> <p>This task may be related to ongoing work by DGGS to map hazards. New publications could be added:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="https://dggs.alaska.gov/pubs/id/30672">https://dggs.alaska.gov/pubs/id/30672</a></li> <li>• <a href="https://dggs.alaska.gov/pubs/id/30573">https://dggs.alaska.gov/pubs/id/30573</a></li> </ul>			

<sup>3</sup> [www.commerce.alaska.gov/web/dcra/PlanningLandManagement/CommunityPlansAndInfrastructure.aspx](http://www.commerce.alaska.gov/web/dcra/PlanningLandManagement/CommunityPlansAndInfrastructure.aspx)

<sup>4</sup> <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/2a0d221e55ca48dd8092427b50a98804>

<sup>5</sup> <https://soa-dnr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/ba8ebf93adec4b6d9f601e2d59179fdd>

Action Plan Task	Lead and Partners	Funding Sources	Next Steps
<p><b>Task C.</b> Provide technical assistance and training to communities to obtain federal funding, conduct assessments and manage ongoing communications around climate change response.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encourage communities to partner to complete assessments collaboratively and spread funding across years.</li> <li>Educate communities and leadership on the anticipated timing of funding opportunities and position them to respond before funding is released.</li> <li>Encourage communities to build local employment opportunities and/or internships into BIA Tribal Resiliency applications.</li> <li>Convene representatives who have successfully built climate change response capacity in their own communities to share recommendations and act as technical advisors for other communities in the region.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Lead:</b> AVCP Community Resilience Division, Alaska Climate Adaptation Science Center</p> <p><b>Partners:</b></p> <p>CETC (<i>help identify funding for AVCP</i>)</p> <p>Tribal liaisons</p> <p>DCCED (<i>help with technical assistance</i>)</p> <p>Raychelle, Pew Charitable Trusts (<i>may be able to assist with identifying funding for the convening component</i>)</p> <p>BIA Tribal Resiliency Program</p>	<p>BIA Tribal Resiliency Program</p> <p>Sustainable funding will have to be researched by working group members and/or task leads.</p>	<p><b>Task Lead(s) and Working Group:</b> Think about how this resource could be structured, implemented and sustainably funded.</p> <p><b>Working Group:</b> Attend December BIA listening session(s) and make a recommendation.<sup>6</sup></p> <p><b>Working Group:</b> At a future meeting, confirm whether Lead and Partners need to be updated.</p>

**Task C. Progress Update:** Individual Tribes could apply for BIA-TRP funds to do individual projects, and AVCP’s Resilience Division (anticipated to be fully developed by the end of 2022) may be able to act as a convening organization. However, it is unclear how to sustainably fund a more region-wide technical assistance and training program.

Working Group members suggested:

- The fundamentals of emergency management planning and response could be taught at UAF-Kuskokwim Campus and through distance-learning.
- FEMA has an education program, though it is unclear how applicable it is to Alaska at this point.<sup>7</sup>
- Mike Williams, Sr. is on the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) Board. NCAI is doing a lot of good work on climate and workforce development issues. Multiple agencies must work together, especially HUD, BIA and IHS to provide technical assistance collaboratively. Many communities are stuck without the capacity to move forward.
- Can we develop multi-disciplinary technical assistance teams and build local capacity?

The BIA is hosting a series of listening session, there will be one specifically be focused on Relocation, Managed Retreat, Protect-in-Place in Alaska (likely December 1 or 2, 2021). These listening sessions will inform Department of Interior-wide initiatives.

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.bia.gov/guide/tribal-climate-listening-sessions>

<sup>7</sup> FEMA Emergency Manager Training: <https://www.fema.gov/emergency-managers/national-preparedness/training>

FEMA higher education program: <https://training.fema.gov/hiedu/>

Action Plan Task	Lead and Partners	Funding Sources	Next Steps
<p><b>Task D.</b> Strengthen links among traditional knowledge, technical models and data collected throughout the region. Better tie these to state and global bodies of knowledge.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Integrate with LEO network.</li> <li>Ensure that community, traditional knowledge, and local monitoring are incorporated into community profiles, the HMP process, threat assessments and other planning efforts such as the statewide threat assessment.</li> <li>Track outcomes and recommendations from the Sustaining Arctic Observation Network.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Lead:</b> Varies.</p> <p><b>Partners:</b> Western Alaska Partnership (<i>help with state/global linkages</i>)</p> <p>Raychelle, Pew Charitable Trusts (<i>can help refine focus of this overall action</i>)</p>	<p>To be identified.</p>	<p><b>Working Group:</b> At a future meeting, confirm whether Lead and Partners need to be updated, and clarify roles and responsibilities for carrying out this task. (Is this more of an overarching strategy than a task with clear and manageable beginning-middle-end, assignable roles and responsibilities?)</p>
<p><b>Task D. Progress Update:</b> None provided during meeting.</p>			

Action Plan Task	Lead and Partners	Funding Sources	Next Steps
<p><b>Task E.</b> Build capacity among communities and tribes to advocate for more flexible FEMA regulations and among other agency programs to meet the immediate needs of communities and make programs more accessible. Examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduce cost-sharing requirements</li> <li>Create less cumbersome application and reporting requirements</li> <li>Eliminate or increase caps for BIA assessment funds.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Lead:</b> AVCP</p> <p><b>Partners:</b> ANTHC, Climate Adaptation Science Center, CETC</p> <p>Alaska Center for Climate Assessment and Policy (trying to build local capacity through educational institutions and projects).</p>	<p>BIA Tribal Climate Resilience and Community Relocation Appropriations.</p> <p>FEMA Disaster Relief Fund</p> <p>Congress funds HUD CDBG Disaster Resilience Fund, which allows a portion for mitigation. This is not formula funding; it is awarded at Congressional discretion.</p> <p>Innovative Readiness Training is another military opportunity gaining increased funds and can include relocation projects.</p>	<p><b>Working Group:</b> Attend December BIA listening session(s) and make a recommendation.<sup>8</sup></p> <p><b>Working Group:</b> At a future meeting, confirm whether Lead and Partners need to be updated, and clarify roles and responsibilities for carrying out this task.</p>

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.bia.gov/guide/tribal-climate-listening-sessions>

**Task E. Progress Update:** AVCP submitted AFN Resolution 20-20, which passed at the AVCP Annual Convention in September, then at AFN last year. People are finding that it takes more people to advocate for this level of change than 1-2 regional agencies.

This is an equity issue, and the Biden Administration is committed to increasing equity right now, so it should be a **top priority**.

Lack of broadband is one of the biggest social injustices in rural Alaska.

BIA Tribal Climate Resilience and Community Relocation Appropriations provides \$216M from FY2022 to FY2026 for tribal climate resilience, adaptation, and community relocation planning, design, and implementation of projects. Of that, \$130M will be allocated towards community relocation and \$86M will be allocated for climate resilience and adaptation projects, with \$43.2M to be expended each year. Deadline to expend funds: end of FY2026.

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<b>Task F.</b> Implementation task to be developed.	TBD	TBD	<p><b>Miranda, Joie and Clarence:</b> invite school districts, others to develop this task. Bring back to Working Group for approval.</p> <p><b>Working group:</b> At a future meeting, review and approve revised Action Plan Task.</p>
<b>Task F. Progress Update:</b> TBD			

#### D. Indicators of Success

Indicator of Success/Positive Change	2-Year Target	Priority Indicator?	Next Steps
<b>Task A.</b> Number of FEMA Hazard Mitigation Plans completed for Y-K communities.	In 2 years, every Y-K community has an up-to-date FEMA Hazard Mitigation Plan.	(yes/no) Confirm at future Working Group meeting.	<p><b>Where to find the data:</b> Alaska Homeland Security tracks which communities have assessments and can report back to the Climate Working Group.<sup>9</sup></p> <p><b>Who will collect it:</b> TBD at future Working Group meeting</p>
<p><b>Tasks A-F.</b> Jobs or internships created or retained (e.g., in community planning, research, hazard mitigation activities or environmental remediation).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Creating a meaningful target for this indicator requires baseline information that is not readily available. Identify which jobs to track.</li> </ul>	In 2 years, hire 6 new Community Coordinator positions (Who will hire these positions? Tribes or a regional organization?). These positions can be built into funding opportunities like the <a href="#">BIA Tribal Resilience Program</a> .	(yes/no) Confirm at future Working Group meeting.	<p><b>Where to find the data:</b> TBD at future Working Group meeting. (Employers of new Community Coordinator positions report to Working Group? Would this be tracked by the Workforce Development or Business Development Working Groups, a regional organization?)</p> <p><b>Who will collect it:</b> TBD at future Working Group meeting</p>

<sup>9</sup> **Note:** BIA has an online map that shows the number of awards and gives a synopsis of the funded project, but it might not list whether an assessment has taken place.

<b>Indicator of Success/Positive Change</b>	<b>2-Year Target</b>	<b>Priority Indicator?</b>	<b>Next Steps</b>
<p><b>Task C.</b> The AVCP Community Development Division has sustainable funding to provide technical assistance for disaster resilience.</p>	<p>Sustainable funding has been secured by AVCP to provide services.</p>	<p>(yes/no) Confirm at future Working Group meeting.</p>	<p><b>Where to find the data:</b> AVCP <b>Who will collect it:</b> AVCP</p>
<p><b>Tasks A-F.</b> Amount of public and private funding invested in Y-K climate adaption projects (e.g., foundation grants awarded, investments in a local/regional environmental remediation business).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Creating a meaningful target for this indicator requires baseline information that is not readily available. Agencies are currently assessing estimated costs of mitigation planning and implementation.</li> </ul>	<p>In 2 years, \$# in public funding is invested in Y-K climate adaptation projects.</p> <p>In 2 years, \$# in private funding is invested in Y-K climate adaptation projects.</p> <p>In 2 years, \$# in total funding is invested in Y-K climate adaptation projects.</p>	<p>(yes/no) Confirm at future Working Group meeting.</p>	<p><b>Where to find the data:</b> Agencies funding and/or recipients of funding for Y-K climate adaption projects. <b>Who will collect it:</b> TBD at future Working Group meeting</p>

#### E. Summarize, Closing Comments and Adjourn

<p><b>What final comments, questions or concerns do we have as individuals/as a group?</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Could mentorships also be added? The young men speaking in the plenary highlighted how important mentorships were to them.</li> <li>• Explore VISTA Corps Volunteers for capacity building/internship-type workforce.</li> <li>• <b>Facilitator’s Note:</b> Education, mentorship and job placement in climate-related careers is the focus of several Subsistence and Food Security Focus Area Tasks.</li> </ul>
<p><b>When should we meet again?</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quarterly: Dec/Jan next meeting</li> </ul>