



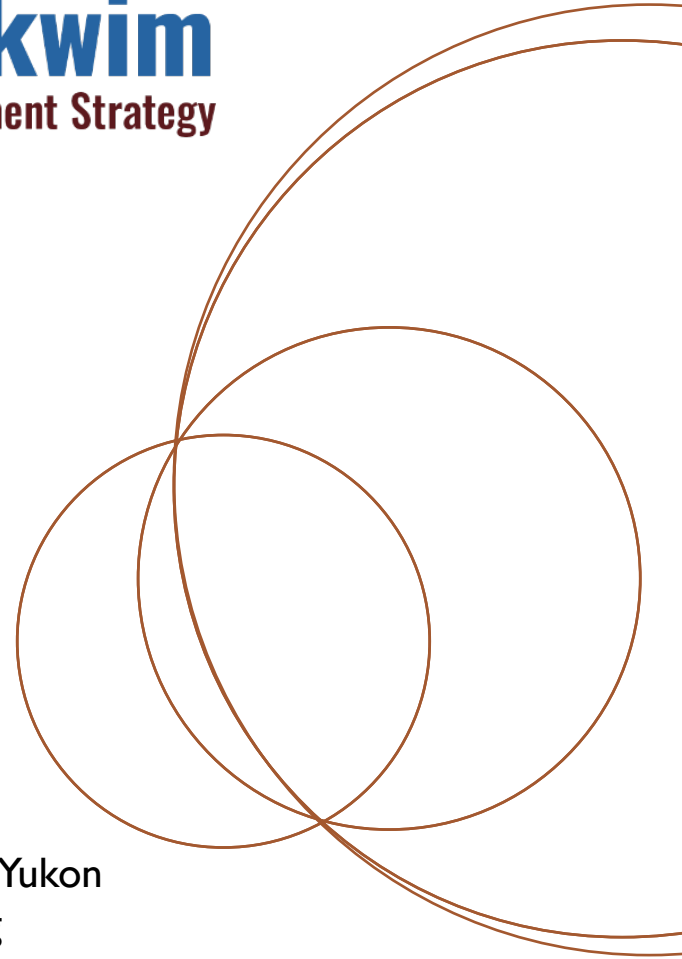
# Yukon Kuskokwim

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy

## Community Assessment Tool Analysis of 2023-2024 Results

Prepared for the Association of Village Council Presidents and Yukon Kuskokwim (YK) regional partners by Agnew::Beck Consulting

March 2024



# Overview of Tool Purpose and Timeline

- **Purpose:** Understand YK community priorities. The results will be referenced alongside other YK Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) feedback, including results from the YK CEDS Work Session focus area breakouts (available [here](#)).
- **How Responses will be Used:** The responses are used to update the YK CEDS and consistently identify needs so the Association of Village Council Presidents (AVCP) and partners can assist with advocacy and programming.
- **Content:** The survey asks communities about their priorities and barriers in eight key focus areas and an additional “other” category for all topics not addressed.
- **Timeline:** The survey was open from October 2023 – February 2024. AVCP hopes to conduct the assessment annually.

# Tool Methodology

- 1. Response Options:** Communities could submit responses via mail, fax, over the phone, electronically through SurveyMonkey, PDF fillable form, or by email.
- 2. Promotion:** AVCP promoted the Tool through direct mail to each community's Tribal Administrator (TA), email, calls, partner outreach, and through YK CEDS working groups and February Work Session.
- 3. Process:** Most TAs completed the tool based on their experience with leadership and through community input gathered at community meetings. Another common way TAs filled out the tool was through referencing current and past plans.
- 4. Incentives:** AVCP offered communities the opportunity to win \$1,000, \$500, or \$250 from a pool of the communities who responded to the Community Assessment Tool.

# Tool Limitations

- **Representation:** Only one-third of YK communities responded to the tool (17 out of 51). Therefore, results are not representative of the entire region.
  - The responses were completed by Tribal Administrators and may not represent the viewpoints of all residents in each community.
  - While respondents were asked to share their top priority in each category, some opted to include more than one.
- **Potential Bias:** The tool provided examples of potential topics within each focus area (see copy of slides at end of this results summary). This may have prompted some respondents to use/reference examples instead of craft a unique/relevant response, potentially biasing results.



# Guide to Reviewing Assessment Tool Results

- Each focus area slide lists findings for all themes where two or more communities expressed a priority or barrier. For individual responses please see the raw results.
- All highlighted results were mentioned by at least 6 communities.
- ★ All starred results were mentioned by more than 9 communities.
- In the following slides, quotes are included to highlight significant ideas and content mentioned by survey participants.

# Housing – Key Findings

Housing	Alkiak	Alakanuk	Eek	Georgetown	Kasigluk	Kwigillingok	Lower Kalskag	Mertarvik/Newtok	Napaskiak	Nunapitchuk	Ohogamiut	Oscarville	Paimut	Pitka's Point	Quinhagak	Stony River	Tuntutuliak	Mentions
	★ Lack of Housing	•	•				•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•				•
★ Lack of Funding	•	•	•	•	•				•				•	•			•	9
Overcrowding in Homes		•	•			•			•		•	•					•	7
Need Repairs/Weatherization						•						•				•	•	4
Support with Land Development		•		•									•					3
Lack of Affordable Living						•					•							2

KEY  = mentioned by 6+ communities

★ = mentioned by 9+ communities

# Housing

## *Quotes from Assessment Respondents*

“The Tribe would like to be able to purchase houses or build houses due to overcrowding and lack of housing, but land development is a challenge.”

“Climate change and global warming affecting foundation issues and erosion... Need to apply for funding to help everyone with foundation issues. Some of these homes are too old to fix.”

“Housing issue- more than 3 families under one roof.”



# Water-Sewer – Key Findings

Water-Sewer	Alkiak	Alakanuk	Eek	Georgetown	Kasigluk	Kwigillingok	Lower Kalskag	Mertarvik/Newtok	Napaskiak	Nunapitchuk	Ohogamiut	Oscarville	Paimut	Pitka's Point	Quinhagak	Stony River	Tuntutuliak	Mentions
★ Lack of Funding	•	•	•	•	•	•	•				•		•	•		•	•	11
Lack of Water-Sewer System in Homes	•	•				•	•				•	•	•	•				8
Need Water-Sewer Repairs		•			•	•								•		•		5
Need Updated Laundry Facility	•							•	•								•	4

KEY  = mentioned by 6+ communities ★ = mentioned by 9+ communities

# Water-Sewer

## *Quotes from Assessment Respondents*

“We have been waiting for several years for the extension of water and sewer services to a part of the village that has our local clinic, Headstart building, and now six new homes are without water and sewer services.”

“Bringing households who do not have water and sewer onto the water and sewer system.”

“The biggest barrier is FUNDING.”

# Food Security – Key Findings

Food Security	Alkiak	Alakanuk	Eek	Georgetown	Kasigluk	Kwigillingok	Lower Kalskag	Mertarvik/Newtok	Napaskiak	Nunapitchuk	Ohogamiut	Oscarville	Paimut	Pitka's Point	Quinhagak	Stony River	Tuntutuliak	Mentions
★ High Grocery Costs	•		•	•	•	•	•		•		•		•	•			•	11
Need Increased Subsistence Access (Salmon)	•	•	•	•		•						•				•		7
Lack of Funding			•	•										•				3

KEY  = mentioned by 6+ communities

★ = mentioned by 9+ communities

# Food Security

## *Quotes from Assessment Respondents*

“Some families cannot afford or have the means for subsistence activities like boats, nets, and Sno-gos that could help offset high grocery costs.”

“Solutions to high grocery costs could include Subsistence Food Bank or Tribal Food Bank with donations from local subsistence hunters and gatherers.”

# Connectivity – Key Findings

Connectivity	Akiak	Alakanuk	Eek	Georgetown	Kasigluk	Kwigillingok	Lower Kalskag	Mertarvik/Newtok	Napaskiak	Nunapitchuk	Ohogamiut	Oscarville	Paimut	Pitka's Point	Quinhagak	Stony River	Tuntutuliak	Mentions
★ Need Reliable Phone/Internet Access	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	13
Lack of Funding		•					•				•		•					5
High Internet Costs					•						•						•	3

KEY  = mentioned by 6+ communities ★ = mentioned by 9+ communities

# Connectivity

## *Quotes from Assessment Respondents*

“Some people here are hard to get a hold of because they do not have cell phones and there are about 1/3-1/2 homes that do not have internet access.”

“(We) are getting Starlink for all households but need more cell service carriers in our region.”

# Education and Jobs – Key Findings

Education and Jobs	Alkiak	Alakanuk	Eek	Georgetown	Kasigluk	Kwigillingok	Lower Kalskag	Mertarvik/Newtok	Napaskiak	Nunapitchuk	Ohogamiut	Oscarville	Paimut	Pitka's Point	Quinhagak	Stony River	Tuntutuliak	Mentions
★ Lack of Job Availability	•	•	•			•	•	•	•		•	•	•	•		•	•	13
Lack of Funding		•	•						•		•		•	•			•	7
Need Increased Training Opportunities	•		•	•	•					•				•			•	7
Need for Training/Educational Scholarships	•				•	•			•	•								5

KEY  = mentioned by 6+ communities  = mentioned by 9+ communities

# Education and Jobs

## *Quotes from Assessment Respondents*

“Tribal members are wanting to move back to the village but are paying attention to the social media and news and high cost of moving with no job in place to help them move.”

“The Tribe would like to create jobs and become self reliant to provide jobs to the community members.”

“Relocate the day care or Headstart to the training school.”



# Energy – Key Findings

Energy	Alaiak	Alakanuk	Eek	Georgetown	Kasigluk	Kwigillingok	Lower Kalskag	Mertarvik/Newtok	Napaskiak	Nunapitchuk	Ohogamiut	Oscarville	Paimut	Pitka's Point	Quinhagak	Stony River	Tuntutuliak	Mentions
	★ High Fuel/Power/ Renewable Energy Costs	•	•	•	•		•			•					•		•	•
Need Renewable Energy Infrastructure		•					•				•	•	•	•	•	•		8
Lack of Funding	•	•		•			•	•			•		•					7
Need Fuel Tank Upgrades						•		•							•	•		4
Lack of Trained Personnel (Operators, Administrators, etc.)		•				•								•				3
Need Wiring Repairs in Homes							•										•	2

KEY  = mentioned by 6+ communities    ★ = mentioned by 9+ communities

# Energy

## *Quotes from Assessment Respondents*

“(Pursue) solar energy for buildings to reduce electricity costs. The Tribe would like to become energy efficient/sufficient to reduce amount of fuel costs and utility costs.”

“Price of fuel is high, we need to get together and help out in any way possible.”

“Most qualify for energy assistance, but a lot of people rely on those programs due to lack of jobs in community. Most barely get enough assistance for the long, cold winter.”

# Transportation – Key Findings

Transportation	Akiak	Alakanuk	Eek	Georgetown	Kasigluk	Kwigillingok	Lower Kalskag	Mertarvik/Newtok	Napaskiak	Nunapitchuk	Ohogamiut	Oscarville	Paimut	Pitka's Point	Quinhagak	Stony River	Tuntutuliak	Mentions
	★ Lack of Funding	•	•		•		•				•			•	•		•	•
Need Road/Boardwalk Repairs	•	•			•	•	•	•				•					•	8
High Airfare Costs			•				•		•		•					•		5
Need Maintenance Equipment		•					•							•			•	4
High Fuel Costs			•								•					•		3

KEY  = mentioned by 6+ communities ★ = mentioned by 9+ communities

# Transportation

## *Quotes from Assessment Respondents*

“The priority is to fix existing roads and trails to be safer.”

“The Tribe wants to be able to maintain roads, summer & winter roads.”

“Due to climate change, it now takes forever for the river to freeze up which causes issues down the line for getting off of the island. Many people have been cutting trees on the island and it's degrading the environment due to the high cost of fuel and snowmachines.”

# Health, Wellness, Safety – Key Findings

Health, Wellness, & Safety	Alkiak	Alakanuk	Eek	Georgetown	Kasigluk	Kwigillingok	Lower Kalskag	Mertarvik/Newtok	Napaskiak	Nunapitchuk	Ohogamiut	Oscarville	Paimut	Pikka's Point	Quinhagak	Stony River	Tuntutuliak	Mentions
	<b>Need VPSOs/VPOs/TPOs</b>	•	•	•		•	•	•		•		•	•	•				
<b>Lack of Funding</b>		•		•		•			•	•		•	•	•			•	9
<b>Need Community Health Aides</b>	•	•	•				•					•				•		6
<b>Need Emergency Equipment (Fire, Medical, Search &amp; Rescue)</b>		•		•		•										•	•	5
<b>Improve Search &amp; Rescue</b>		•				•							•		•		•	5
<b>Need Training (VPSOs, Health Aide, Fire, etc.)</b>			•	•	•		•											4
<b>Improve Fire Response</b>		•							•						•		•	4
<b>High VPSO Turnover Rates</b>					•				•		•							3

**KEY**  = mentioned by 6+ communities  = mentioned by 9+ communities

VPSO: Village Public Safety Officer; VPO: Village Police Officer; TPO: Tribal Police Officer

# Health, Wellness, Safety

## *Quotes from Assessment Respondents*

“Public safety is number 1 priority. Turn over rates are very high and the training is limited for our TPO’s.”

“Purchase emergency medical equipment (i.e. CPR stuff, first aid kit, etc.) for the community building. Provide CPR/First aid training for Council, staff & tribal members.”

“Tribe would like to see our Tribal members, healthy, safe, and well in mind, body, spirit, physical. Tribe wants a Tribal cop, money for search & rescue and emergency response vehicle or equipment to respond to fires or medical emergencies. Need local Health Aids.”

# Other Key Findings

Other	Akiak	Alakanuk	Eek	Georgetown	Kasigluk	Kwigillingok	Lower Kalskag	Mertarvik/Newtok	Napaskiak	Nunapitchuk	Ohogamiut	Oscarville	Paimut	Pitka's Point	Quinhagak	Stony River	Tuntutuliak	Mentions
<b>Need Increased Cultural Community/Youth Engagement</b>			•	•		•	•						•		•			6
<b>Develop New Facilities</b> Church, Museum, School, VPO Station, Clinic, etc.								•				•			•	•		4
<b>Need Childcare/Preschool</b>			•					•				•						3
<b>Negative Land Erosion Impacts</b>		•			•					•								3

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# Other

## *Quotes from Assessment Respondents*

“Students need to engage in more cultural activities, i.e. hunting, camping, and gathering. Need to identify traditional medicine and types of food to gather.”

“Engage in youth and elder engagement to pass on traditional and ecological knowledge. At the same time, recording these interactions with voice and/or video devices.”

“Gathering greens. Fish cutting, egg hunting, camping, fishing, hunting, food processing. Educate young adults.”



# Next Steps

1. You can submit feedback or questions about the Community Assessment Tool or the YK CEDS to Diane Atti at [datti@avcp.org](mailto:datti@avcp.org).
2. You can find more information about the YK CEDS at this [website page](#).



# For Reference – Screenshots of the Tool

# View the Tool – Pages 1-2 of 6



**Yukon Kuskokwim**  
Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy

## YK Community Assessment Tool

Updated January 12, 2024

### 1. Contact Information

Have a question or need assistance completing the tool? Contact:

- o Diane Atti, Association of Village Council Presidents Economic Development Manager
  - o Phone: 907-543-7424, Email: [datti@avcp.org](mailto:datti@avcp.org)
- o Molly Mylius, Project Manager, Agnew::Beck Consulting
  - o Phone: 907-782-8787, Email: [mmylius@agnewbeck.com](mailto:mmylius@agnewbeck.com)

### 2. About this Tool

- The **Community Assessment Tool** is meant to help Tribal, Municipal, and Village Corporation leaders identify **community needs and priorities**.
- Your responses to this tool will help communities and regional partners identify advocacy and project priorities, pursue relevant funding opportunities, and plan our future together.
- After you complete the tool, we will use the information to develop a “snapshot” for each YK community.
- The snapshot will help tell the story of your community, including what we know about the population, housing, employment numbers, and your biggest challenges, opportunities, and near-term priorities.
- The combined results for all YK communities will contribute to an update of the **Yukon Kuskokwim Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDs)**, a 5-year plan that includes a regionwide vision, goals, and priority strategies that support the economic vitality of the YK Region.
- As a key partner in the CEDs process, the Association of Village Council Presidents (AVCP) aims to update these profiles each year.

### 3. How to Complete the Assessment Tool

- The tool focuses on nine topics.
- Under each topic there are three questions for communities to answer about their top priorities. Please write in **one** project for each topic. If you choose to include more than one project for any topic, please rank them in order of priority.
- The answers to some questions might already be available in existing plans or documents your community has, like hazard mitigation plans, climate resiliency plans, or capital improvement project (CIP) lists.

Yukon Kuskokwim (YK) Community Assessment Tool, December 2023

Page 1

### 4. How To Involve Your Community

We recommend engaging your community leadership in discussing and answering these questions. Here are some ways to get people involved:

**Council meetings:** Use time during a scheduled City and/or Tribal Council meeting to complete the tool. Ask to be on the agenda for the meeting and offer to help with guiding questions or other materials. Publicize the meeting and provide an opportunity for the community to share their thoughts on priorities.

**Community meeting or workshop:** Hold a community meeting to discuss the topics and questions in the tool. Identify a facilitator who can lead the discussion and a notetaker or print off the pages of the tool and allow people to provide written feedback.

**Conversation:** Sit down with community leaders, such as the Tribal Council President and/or City Manager, to talk through the topics and fill it out together.

### 5. How to Respond

Please complete **ONE RESPONSE** on behalf of your community. You have three options to respond – pick one!

1. Print this document, handwrite your responses, and email, mail, or fax it to us:
  - a. Email to [datti@avcp.org](mailto:datti@avcp.org)
  - b. Mail: AVCP c/o Diane Atti, PO Box 219, Bethel, AK 99559
  - c. Fax: 907-543-7455
2. Download and complete a fillable PDF, and email or mail to us. To download the PDF, visit the AVCP CEDs website: <https://www.avcp.org/regional-comprehensive-economic-development-strategy> or
3. Respond online. Go to the following link to access the assessment electronically: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ykcommunityassessment>

### 6. Deadline

Please respond no later than Friday, February 9, 2024. If we don't hear back from your community, we will follow up by phone and email.

### 7. Prizes

Respond and be eligible to win funds for your community!

All communities who respond will be entered to win one of three prizes: \$1,000, \$500, or \$250 toward your Tribe's general fund. Please only submit one response for your community. The drawing will be held after the February 9, 2024 deadline.

Yukon Kuskokwim (YK) Community Assessment Tool

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# View the Tool – Pages 3-4 of 6

## 7. Community Assessment: Your Response

1. Name of community: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Date completed: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact information if we have questions:

3. Name: \_\_\_\_\_

4. Organization: \_\_\_\_\_




5. Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Email: \_\_\_\_\_

7. In a few sentences, please describe the method used to collect this information. What information or processes did you use? For example, did these priorities come from existing community plans or documents, from community leadership, or did you do interviews or have a community meeting?




\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_



8. How can AVCP support your community in addressing your priorities?

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

<b>TOPIC</b> IMPORTANT: Please complete Questions #1, 2, and 3 for each topic.	1. What is your top community priority or project for this topic? This should be the project you want to make progress on over the next year.	2. What are you doing currently or what steps have you taken to address that priority project?	3. What is the biggest barrier to making progress on your top priority project?
<b>A. Housing</b>  This topic may include issues about new housing, overcrowding, housing costs, and others.			
<b>B. Water-Sewer</b>  This topic may include issues about water, sewer, washeteria, and related issues.			
<b>C. Food Security</b>  This topic may include grocery costs, food storage, subsistence, greenhouse opportunities, and other food related issues.			

# View the Tool – Pages 5-6 of 6

<b>TOPIC</b> <b>IMPORTANT:</b> Please complete Questions #1, 2, and 3 for each topic.	1. What is your top community priority or project for this topic? <i>This should be the project you want to make progress on over the next year.</i>	2. What are you doing currently or what steps have you taken to address that priority project?	3. What is the biggest barrier to making progress on your top priority project?
<b>D. Communications</b>  This topic may include landline and cell phone coverage/quality, internet access/quality, and related issues.			
<b>E. Education and Jobs</b>  Things like schools, training, job availability, and other similar issues.			
<b>F. Energy</b>  This topic may include power or fuel costs, renewable energy, fuel tank farms and other energy-related issues.			

<b>TOPIC</b> <b>IMPORTANT:</b> Please complete Questions #1, 2, and 3 for each topic.	1. What is your top community priority or project for this topic? <i>This should be the project you want to make progress on over the next year.</i>	2. What are you doing currently or what steps have you taken to address that priority project?	3. What is the biggest barrier to making progress on your top priority project?
<b>G. Transportation</b>  This topic may include air, water, roads, and trail access, availability, maintenance, and related issues.			
<b>H. Health, Wellness, and Safety</b> This topic includes issues about VPSOs, VPO/TPOs, search and rescue, fire, emergency medical services, and related issues.			
<b>I. Other</b>  This topic(s) may include childcare, cultural activities, quality of life, and other issues not covered by the other topics.			