



Department of Environmental Conservation

House Finance Committee

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Village Safe Water

Village Safe Water's mission is to support rural communities in their efforts to develop sustainable sanitation facilities

- ▶ Communities with a population less than 1,000 per AS 46.07.080

We accomplish this mission by:

- ▶ Funding planning, design and construction of water, wastewater and solid waste projects
- ▶ Providing project management and oversight for grant funded projects





Village Safe Water: Project Assessment

- ▶ Project grant applications are scored primarily on how they address critical public health needs and the community's capacity to operate and maintain facilities
 - ▶ Current level of service
 - ▶ Beneficial health impact provided by the project
 - ▶ Relationship to other project phases
 - ▶ Operation, maintenance, and management capabilities
- ▶ High scoring projects added to the Multi-Year Priority List



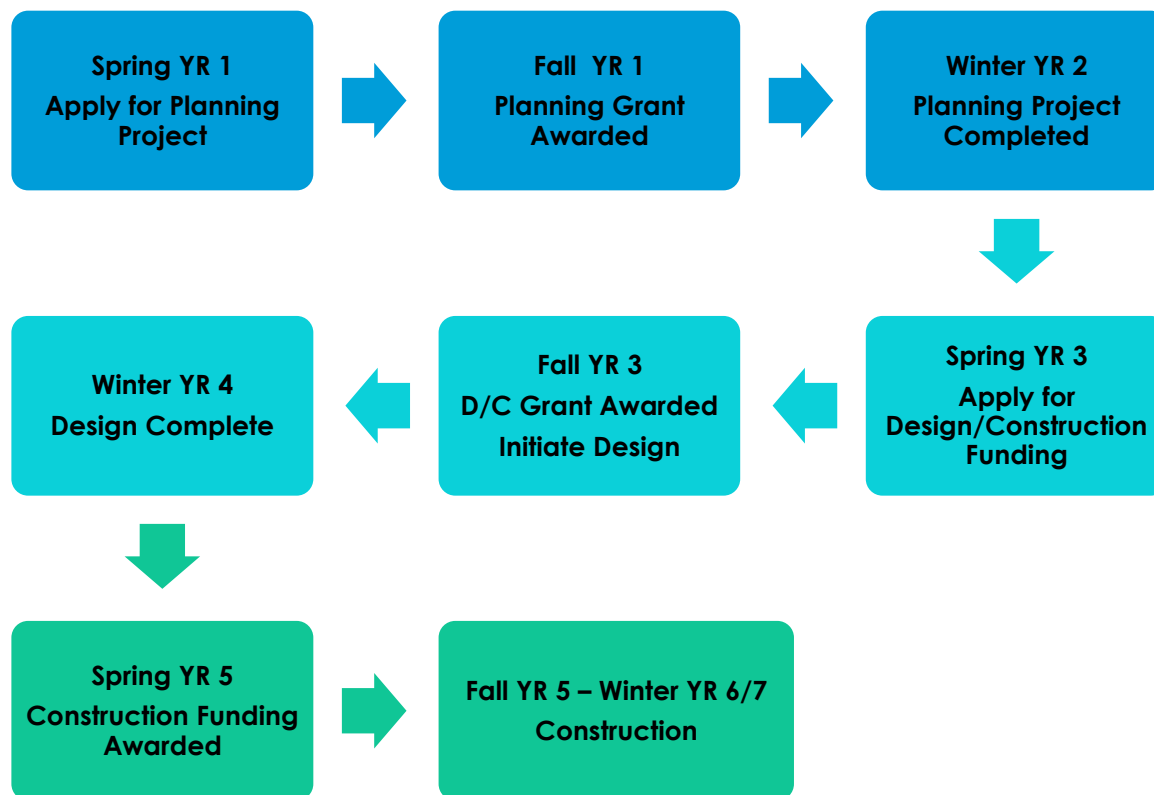
Village Safe Water: Average Project

- ▶ Cost to provide running water and sewer to individual homes in a village for the first time
 - ▶ \$350 - \$750 thousand per/home
- ▶ Projects typically last 5-10 years to completion, depending on
 - ▶ Size and complexity of the project
 - ▶ Availability of funds
 - ▶ Ability of community to meet ongoing construction funding conditions





Village Safe Water: Typical Project Timeline





Village Safe Water: FY2021 by the Numbers

- ▶ Planning Projects
 - ▶ \$1.9 million funding made available
 - ▶ 19 studies for 19 communities
 - ▶ Project range: \$25,000 - \$240,000
- ▶ Construction Projects
 - ▶ \$62.5 million funding made available
 - ▶ 19 ongoing construction projects and 13 new construction projects
 - ▶ Project range: \$300,000 - \$9.3 million
- ▶ IHS & EPA Tribal Construction Projects
 - ▶ \$48 million funding made available
 - ▶ 35 construction projects
 - ▶ Project range: \$65,000- \$7.1 million





Village Safe Water: Supporting Rural Sanitation

- ▶ Work with partners to support communities in their efforts to build technical, financial, and managerial capacity
- ▶ Provide water and wastewater system operator training and certification
- ▶ Remote Maintenance Workers
 - ▶ Funded through federal grants from EPA and USDA and associated state match in the operating budget
 - ▶ 15 Remote Maintenance Workers at DEC and regional health corporation provide onsite training and technical assistance
 - ▶ Emergency response and support
- ▶ Village Safe Water does not provide funding for ongoing maintenance and operations of systems



Village Safe Water: FY2022 Gov Amend Request (in thousands)

- ▶ \$70,812.0 FY2022 Governor's Amended
 - ▶ \$52,250.0 Fed
 - ▶ \$18,062.0 AHFC Bonds (match)
 - ▶ \$500.0 SDPR
- ▶ First Time Service
- ▶ Expansion, Upgrade, and Replacement of Existing Service
- ▶ Gov Amend is an increase of \$2,332.0 of match due to increased federal support



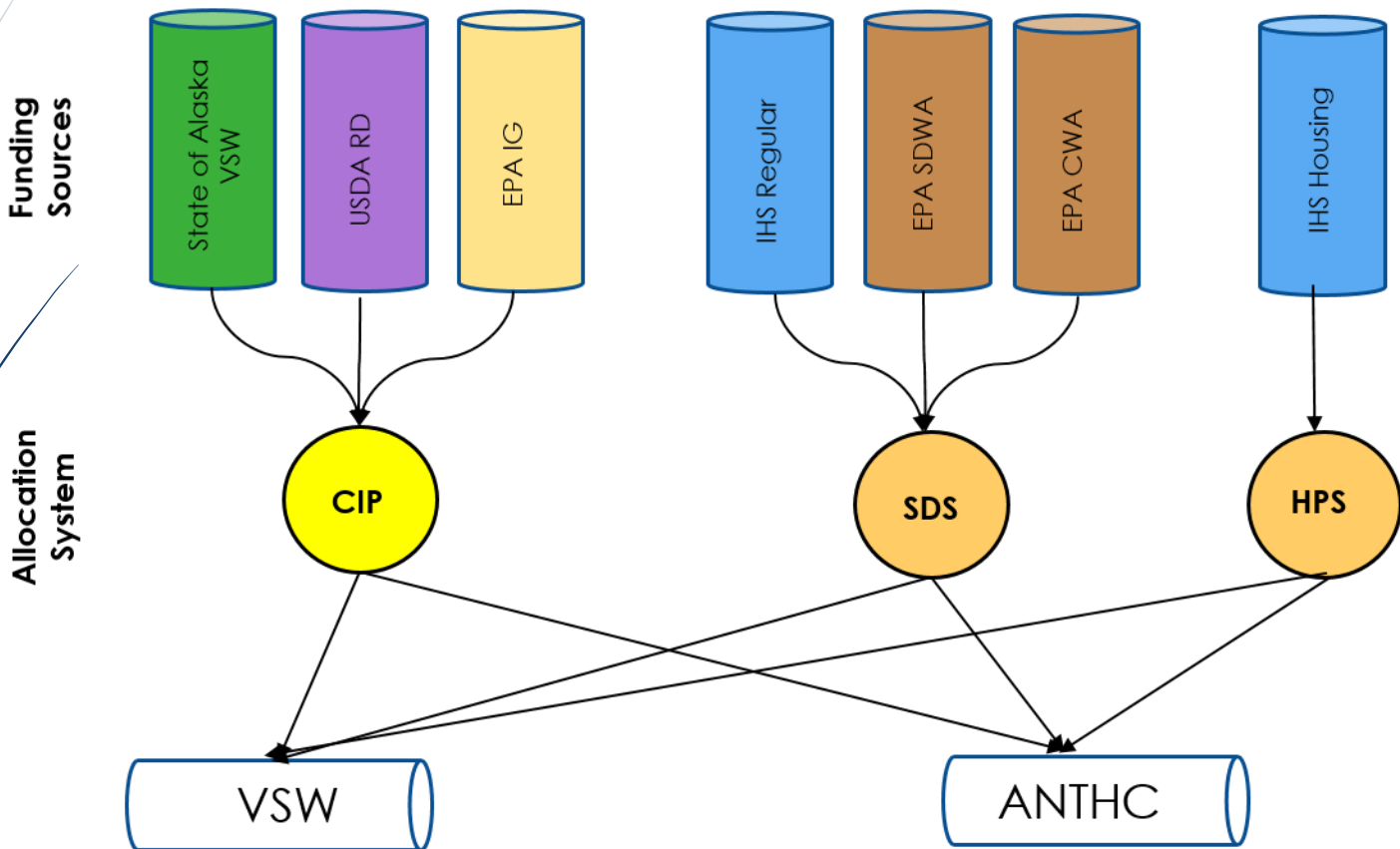
Village Safe Water: FY2021 Supplemental Request (in thousands)

- ▶ \$3,650.0 GF Match
- ▶ First Time Service
- ▶ Expansion, Upgrade, and Replacement of Existing Service
- ▶ Due to increased federal support





Village Safe Water: Funding Sources



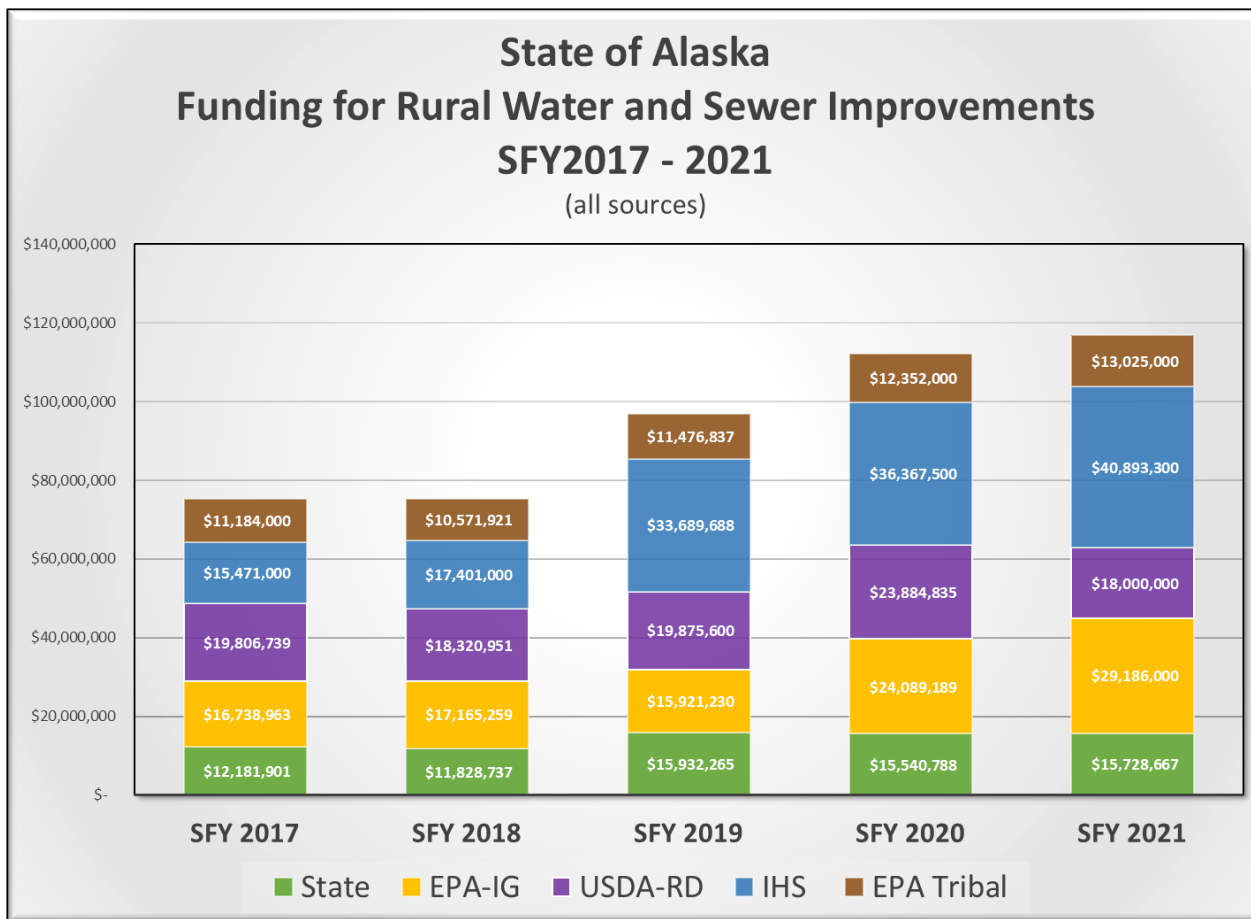
ANTHC: Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium
 CIP: Capital Improvement Project
 CWA: Clean Water Act
 EPA: Environmental Protection Agency

HPS: Housing Priority System
 IHS: Indian Health Service
 IG: Infrastructure Grant
 (Alaska Native Villages Grant)

SDS: Sanitation Deficiency System
 SDWA: Safe Drinking Water Act
 USDA RD: U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, Rural Development
 VSW: Village Safe Water

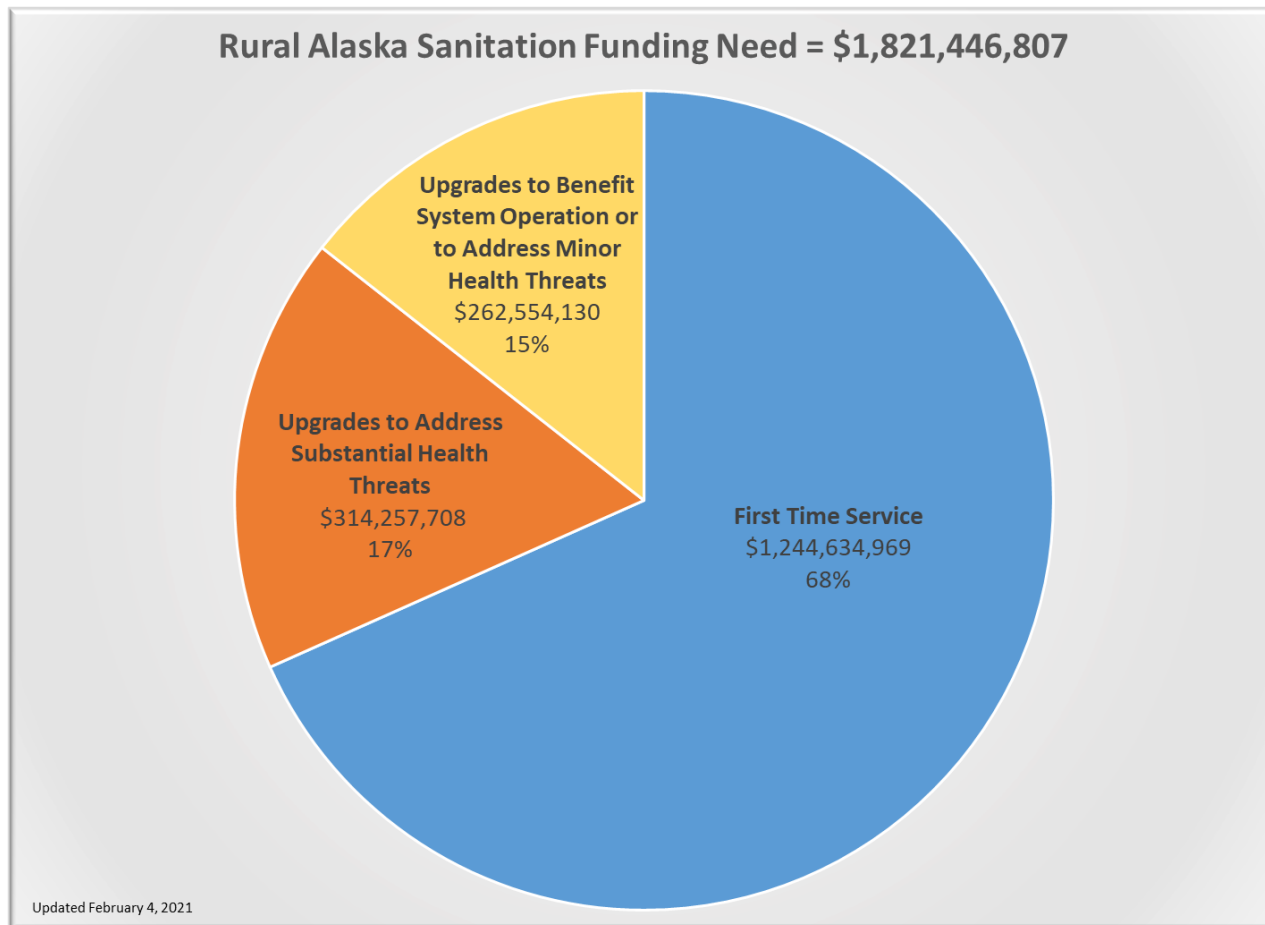


Village Safe Water: Funding History





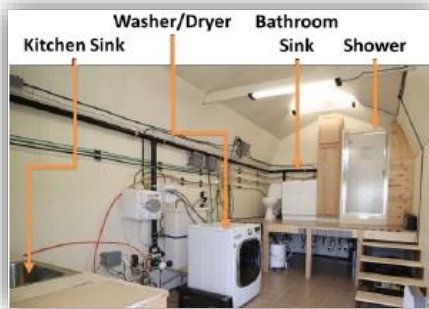
Rural Alaska Sanitation Funding Need





Alaska Water & Sewer Challenge Project

- ▶ Conventional systems are expensive to construct, maintain and replace
- ▶ Many communities cannot afford the high operation and maintenance costs.
- ▶ Available funding is not adequate to serve remaining homes and make needed improvements
- ▶ Innovative approaches are needed to address health problems associated with water and sewer system deficiencies
- ▶ Focus on decentralized systems that provide treatment, recycling, and water minimization
- ▶ Pilot testing at UAA delayed due to COVID, anticipated to begin in fall 2021





Other Water/Wastewater Infrastructure Funding at DEC

- ▶ Infrastructure Protection Funding
 - ▶ Grants to VSW eligible communities of up to \$150.0 for critical improvements that extend the life or improve operations of a water or wastewater system
 - ▶ One-time \$4,000.0 appropriation; all funds have been allocated
- ▶ Municipal Matching Grants (AS 46.03.030)
 - ▶ Grants to municipalities for public water supply, wastewater system, solid waste system, or water quality enhancement
 - ▶ Municipalities provide 15-40% match depending on population
 - ▶ Historically UGF funded program
 - ▶ No new projects funded since FY2016
- ▶ State Revolving Loan Funds (AS 46.03.032 & AS 46.03.036)
 - ▶ Low interest loans for clean water and drinking water projects
 - ▶ Capitalized by federal grant funds
 - ▶ Can be used to match Municipal Matching Grants
 - ▶ Newly created Micro Loan option aimed at VSW eligible communities



Questions?

