

# Senate Community and Regional Affairs Committee DCRA Overview and History of Municipalities in Alaska



**Sandra Moller, Director**  
**Division of Community and Regional Affairs**

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, COMMUNITY, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

January 28, 2025

# The Constitution of the State of Alaska

Article 10, Section 14:

“An agency shall be established by law in the executive branch of state government to advise and assist local governments. It shall review their activities, collect and publish local government information, and perform other duties prescribed by law.”

**That’s DCRA!**

Article 10, Section 1:

“... maximum local self-government with a minimum of local government units... A liberal construction shall be given to the powers of local government units.”



# Mission

## DCCED Mission

Promote a healthy economy, strong communities, and protect consumers in Alaska.

## DCRA Mission

Helping Alaska's communities build sustainable economies and a means of self-governance.



# Program Groups

## Mapping Analytics, and Data Resources

- Community Database Online (CDO)
- Mapping & GIS
- Made in Alaska
- Alaska Product Preference

## Grants and Funding

- 22 programs; \$1.2 Billion
- Addition of 6 new programs; \$1 Billion

## Local Government Assistance

- Rural Utility Business Advisor (RUBA)
- Community Resilience (Risk MAP and NFIP)
- Office of the State Assessor
- ANCSA Municipal Land Trust (MLT)

## Commissions

- Local Boundary
- Minerals
- Serve Alaska



# Municipalities in Alaska

## Cities:

First Class	17
Second Class	117
Home Rule	11
<hr/>	
Total	145

## Boroughs:

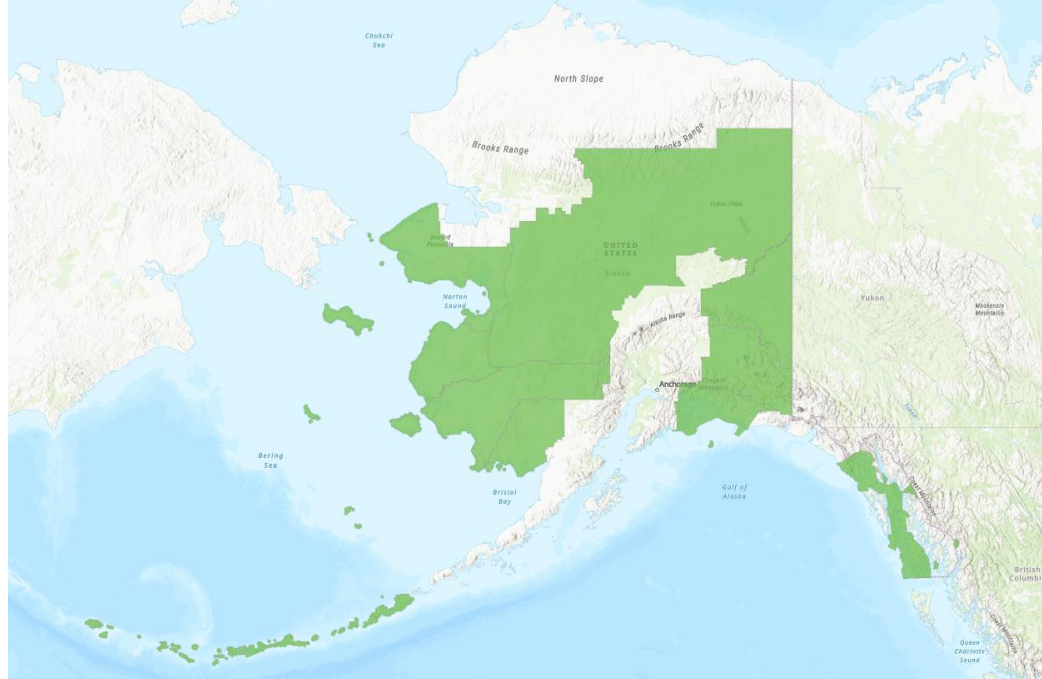
Unified Home Rule	4
Non-unified Home Rule	7
First Class	1
Second Class	7
<hr/>	
Total	19



# The Unorganized Borough

“The entire State shall be divided into boroughs, organized and unorganized.”

Article 10,  
Section 3,  
Constitution of  
the State of  
Alaska



# Local Government Assistance

The generalists  
of DCRA

- Elections
- Title 29 Compliance
- Financial Management
- Utility Management
- Personnel Management
- Power Cost Equalization
- Local Alcohol Availability Laws (Title 4)
- Regional Training Workshops
- Ordinances, Resolutions, Codes
- Disaster Response
- ... whatever crosses their desk ...



# Rural Utility Business Advisor (RUBA)

## Utility Management Assistance

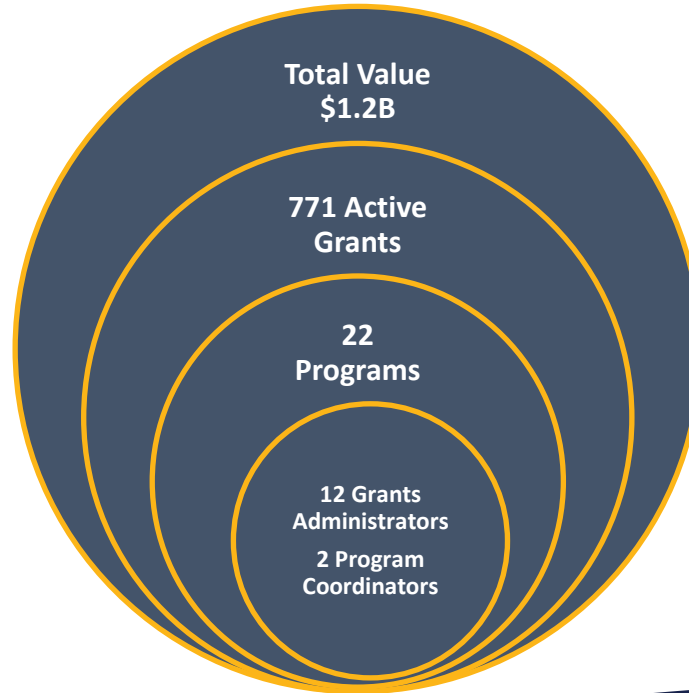
- EPA funded
- Support for communities operating water/wastewater utilities
- Remote & on-site assistance

## Best Practices Scoring

- 32-hour trainings on utility management
- Workers' compensation coverage
- Payroll liability compliance
- Meetings of the governing body
- Financial management practices:
  - Budgeting
  - Financial reporting



# Grants 2025 Fast Facts



# Grants and Funding

**AS Title 37 Public Finance, Chapter 5 Fiscal Procedures Act**

**AS 44.33.020 (18) & (20)**

**2 CFR 200**

Provide oversight and implementation of federal and state funded financial assistance programs & grants. Monitor and ensure statutory and regulatory compliance of recipient entities including:

Municipalities

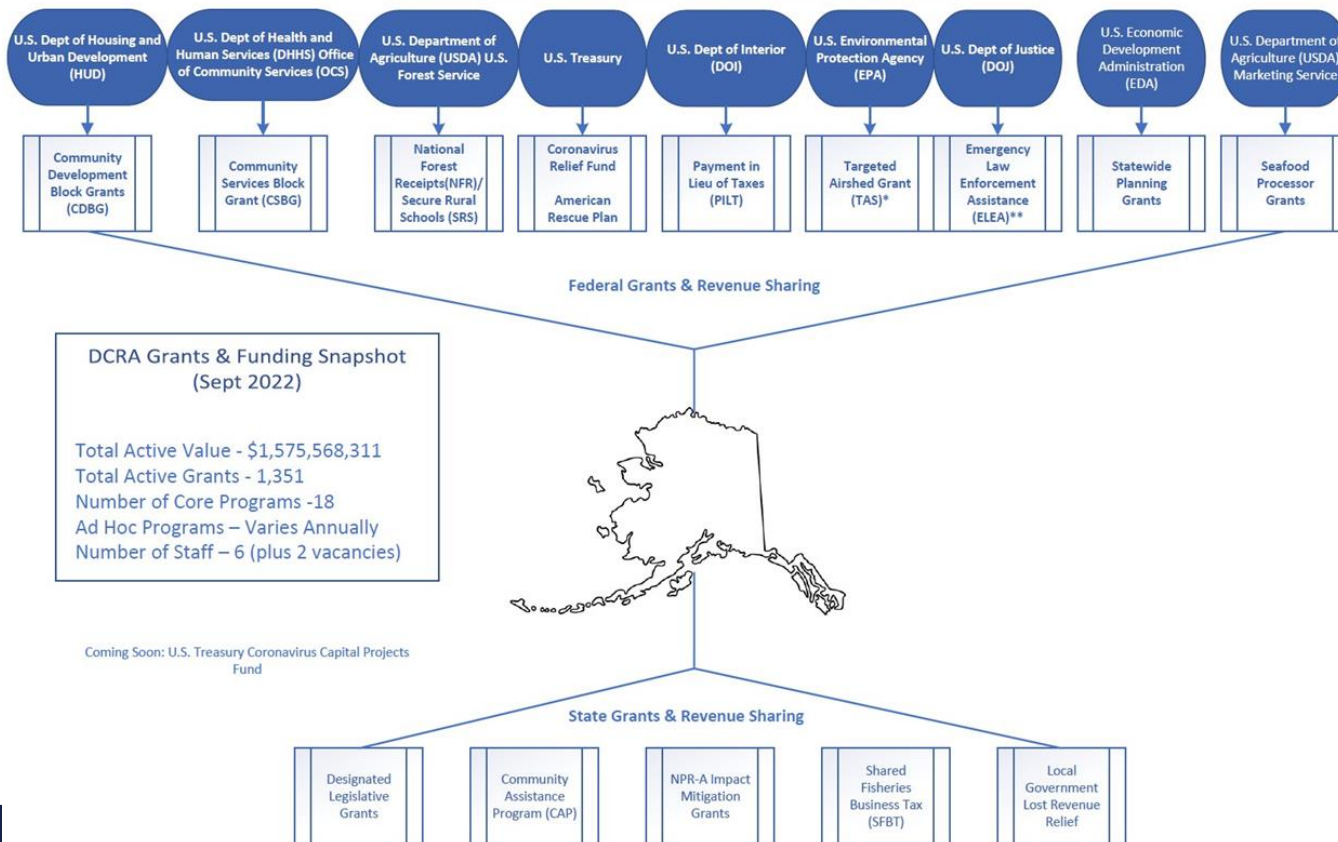
Tribes

Non-profit  
Community  
Associations

State Agencies &  
Other Entities



# DCRA Grants & Funding Sources



# Typical Grant Lifecycle



# Typical Revenue Sharing Cycle



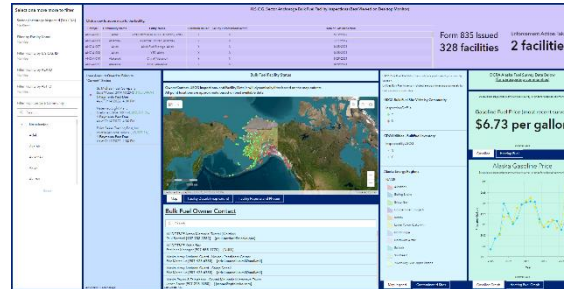
# Technical Assistance



# Community Database Online



- Digital Datasets
- Maps
- Interactive Reports
- Dashboards
- Community Profiles



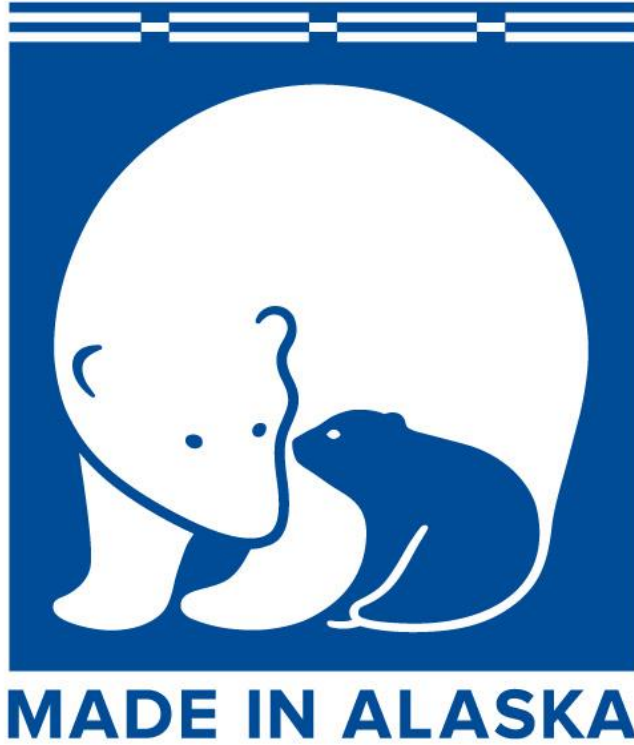
DCRA Community Profile

Showing 10 of 10 rows

Community	Population Type	Area Type	Population	Population Rate	Date Issued
Barrow	Barrow	Barrow	10	0.0000000000000000	2022-09-01
Chukotka	Chukotka	Chukotka	10	0.0000000000000000	2022-09-01
Chukotka	Chukotka	Chukotka	10	0.0000000000000000	2022-09-01
Chukotka	Chukotka	Chukotka	10	0.0000000000000000	2022-09-01
Chukotka	Chukotka	Chukotka	10	0.0000000000000000	2022-09-01
Chukotka	Chukotka	Chukotka	10	0.0000000000000000	2022-09-01
Chukotka	Chukotka	Chukotka	10	0.0000000000000000	2022-09-01
Chukotka	Chukotka	Chukotka	10	0.0000000000000000	2022-09-01
Chukotka	Chukotka	Chukotka	10	0.0000000000000000	2022-09-01
Chukotka	Chukotka	Chukotka	10	0.0000000000000000	2022-09-01



# Made in Alaska



- Promoting State guaranteed Alaskan made products since 1992
- > 1,100 permitted products
- > 850 Alaskan businesses
- 4K Facebook Followers; 1.6K Instagram Followers
- 82.1% report that MIA membership helps promote their product
- \$0.63 of every dollar you spend on MIA products is invested back into Alaska



# Alaska Product Preference Program

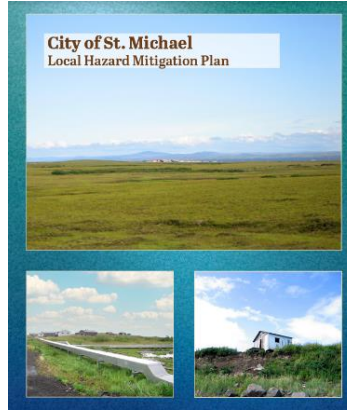
- Alaska products for State of Alaska work
- 3%, 5%, or 7% bid preference for Alaskan made products in State procurement
- State spending going back to the local economy



# Community Database Online

## Community-Driven Data

- Detailed StoryMaps for over 400 communities in Alaska
- Community Profile maps with parcel, infrastructure, and utility data
- Community Photo Library
- Community Plans Library



Return to DCCA Information Portal

### Saint Michael, Alaska

Alert: Unfortunately CDR no longer supports viewing of Classic StoryMaps/PDF functionality, so longer supported

[Print This StoryMap](#) [View this map in full screen](#) [Download this map](#)

**Current Population:** 450 (Population Year: 2021)

**Incorporation Year:** 1965

**Incorporation Type:** 2nd Class City

**Native Community Name:** Tatiq (Language: Central Yup'ik)

**Native Community Name Translation Summary:**

**English Pronunciation:** None

**Native Place Name Pronunciation:**

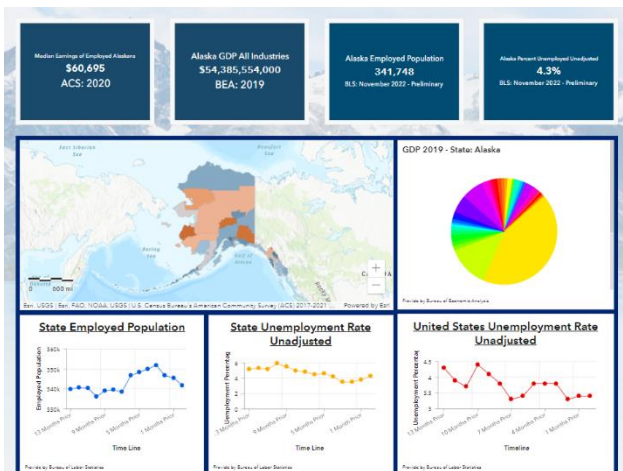
**English Pronunciation:**

**Table of Contents**

- Culture and History
- Geography and Climate
- Demographics
- Transportation
- Education
- Municipal Officials
- Economy
- Business Licenses
- General Services
- Utilities

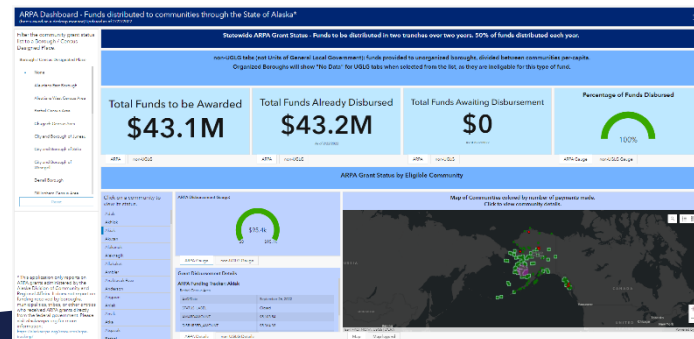
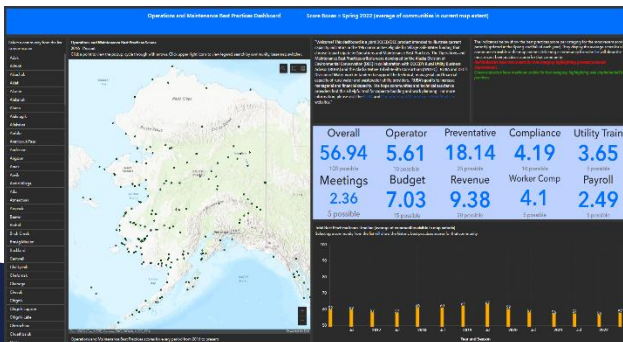


# Community Database Online



## Data-Driven Solutions

- Topical webpages and StoryMaps
- Longitudinal datasets presented for yearly comparison
- Detailed dashboards to track key metrics





**AmeriCorps**

**ServeAlaska** 

The purpose of the Commission is to engage Alaskans of all ages and backgrounds in community-based service and volunteerism as a means of community and state problem solving and promoting participation in the National AmeriCorps Program.

### **Serve Alaska State Service Commission,**

in partnership with AmeriCorps brings national service programs to Alaska.

The Serve Alaska sub-grantees operate in almost every of the state, bringing much needed support and training to rural and urban Alaska.



54,478,641

# 2023-2024 FUNDED PROGRAMS

Alaska Public Defenders Agency's SAME Justice Program	Members provide direct assistance to low-income, justice-involved Alaskans to address non-legal barriers to success and access to services in their communities.
Student Conservation Association	Members provide conservation stewardship to publicly accessible lands in Alaska.
Alaska Afterschool Network	Members support students in after-school programming. Providing structured stem activities to meet their social emotional needs.
RurAL CAP, Resilient Alaska Youth	Members engage Alaska Native youth using experiential-based learning and cultural activities in rural communities across Alaska.
Sitka AmeriCorps	Members serve to increase children's resilience and to reduce the impact of high Adverse Childhood Experience scores in Sitka.



# Thank you!

Sandra Moller,  
Director  
[sandra.moller@alaska.gov](mailto:sandra.moller@alaska.gov)  
907-269-4569

