



THE STATE  
of **ALASKA**  
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

**Department of Environmental  
Conservation**

DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

P.O. Box 111800  
Juneau, Alaska 99811-1800  
Main: 907.465.5066  
Fax: 907.465.5070

March 9, 2021

The Honorable Click Bishop  
Co-Chair, Senate Finance Committee  
State Capitol Room 516  
Juneau AK, 99801

The Honorable Bert Stedman  
Co-Chair, Senate Finance Committee  
State Capitol Room 518  
Juneau AK, 99801

Dear Senators Bishop and Stedman:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide more information on the Department of Environmental Conservation's Village Safe Water program on March 3, 2021. We received several follow-up questions after the hearing, which I have responded to below.

***Please provide the latest Village Safe Water multi-year priority list, sorted by priority.***

The current multi-year priority list is attached. Projects on the list are not assigned priority in comparison to each other. However, once on the list, Village Safe Water does commit to fully funding the projects; therefore, projects on the multi-year priority list are given higher priority for new funding as compared to newly proposed projects.

***Please provide a list of Village Safe Water projects that were delayed last year due to the COVID-19 pandemic.***

Attached please find a list of projects delayed due to COVID. The list includes both projects funded by Village Safe Water and administered by either the State or the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium, as well as those administered by the State, but funded by other federal funding agencies.

***Please clarify what is depicted in the pie chart on slide #12 in reference to the \$1.2 billion in "First Time Service". What does that mean?***

The pie chart on slide #12 of the presentation, and attached here for reference, provides a summary of the estimated costs to meet all the known sanitation improvement needs in rural Alaska as of November 2020. The blue portion, totaling \$1.2 billion, is the estimated cost to provide first time service to homes that presently do not have either piped water and sewer

to their homes or service provided by individual wells and septic tanks. This includes some homes in served communities that are either beyond the reach of the current system or were built after the system was installed, as well as homes in unserved communities.

The orange slice, \$314.0 million, is the estimated cost to fund projects that address substantial health threats such as providing treatment process improvements to meet drinking water standards or correcting issues that cause a need for repeated boil water notices. The yellow slice, \$262.5 million, is the estimated cost of known project needs that would provide beneficial upgrades that improve the operations of existing systems. These projects likely save the community money in the system operations and extend the life of existing facilities.

***There are 32 communities with no piped water, two of which are slated for full service soon. Which communities are unserved? Which two will get full service soon?***

To correct the record, there are four communities that are funded for projects to provide first time service to currently unserved communities. These communities are: Crooked Creek, Koyukuk, Lime Village, and Shageluk. Attached please find a list of Village Safe Water eligible communities; the unserved communities are highlighted in blue.

***Please provide a list of communities with 1,000 people or more that qualify for the Village Safe Water program.***

Communities with populations at 1,000 or more are highlighted orange on the attached list of eligible communities. A “village” is defined under AS46.07.080(2) of the Village Safe Water Act as:

- (A) a second class city;
- (B) a first class city with a population of less than 1,000;
- (C) a home rule municipality with a population of less than 1,000;
- (D) the Annette Island Reserve established by 25 U.S.C. 495 for the Metlakatla Indian Community;
- (E) a community with a population between 25 and 1,000 that is represented by
  - (i) a council organized under 25 U.S.C. 476 (sec. 16 of the Indian Reorganization Act)
  - (ii) a traditional village council recognized by the United States as eligible for federal aid to Indians; or
  - (iii) an incorporated nonprofit entity or Native village council that the Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development, with advice from the Department of Law, has determined is eligible to receive and spend a community assistance payment under AS 29.60.865, if the incorporated nonprofit entity or Native village council agrees to act as a village governing body for the purposes of this chapter and provides for the ongoing maintenance of a project funded under this chapter.

***If the federal stimulus comes out and there is additional funding for Village Safe Water, will you have a need for additional positions and funding to get the work done?***

At this time the Department is not aware of specific funding identified for Village Safe Water in the current bill that is working its way through Congress. Staffing needs would be analyzed at the point at which additional funding was made available, and would depend greatly on the level of funding. The Department would likely require additional federal authority, and possibly some amount of State match, depending on the requirements of the federal award.

If you would like more information or have additional questions, I am happy to assist.

Sincerely,



Ruth Kostik

Administrative Services Director

Attachments: 2020 Multi-Year Priority List  
VSW Projects Delayed by COVID  
Rural Sanitation Funding Need Pie Chart  
VSW Eligible Communities

Cc: Christopher Clark, Staff to Senator Bishop  
Pete Ecklund, Staff to Senator Stedman  
Michael Partlow, Legislative Finance Division  
Jake Quarstad, Office of Management and Budget

Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation  
Village Safe Water Program  
Multi-Year Priority List

<b>Ongoing Planning Projects:</b>		
<i>Abbreviations: Preliminary Engineering Report (PER); Environmental Report (ER)</i>		
<b>COMMUNITY</b>	<b>SCOPE OF WORK</b>	<b>Type</b>
Kiana	Taylor Road W&S Extension	Upgrade
Nulato	Old Nulato Town Site Water and Sewer Project	Upgrade
Chalkyitsik	Chalkyitsik First Service	Upgrade
Circle	Circle First Service	Upgrade
Oscarville	4 Test Wells	Upgrade
Atmautluak	New Community Sewage Lagoon	Upgrade
Tuntutuliak	Sewage Lagoon Upgrade Evaluation	Upgrade
Thorne Bay	Wastewater Collection System Upgrades	Upgrade
Tyonek	Sludge Lagoon Upgrade	Upgrade
White Mountain	Water Treatment Plant Foundation Improvements	Upgrade
Savoonga	Water Storage Tank and Backup Well	Upgrade
Ambler	Water and Sewer Evaluation	Upgrade
Tatitlek	New Water Source	Upgrade
Elim	Water Source Relocation	Upgrade
Old Harbor	Sewer Treatment Upgrades	Upgrade
Golovin	Raw Water Intake Rehabilitation	Upgrade
Chevak	Sewage Lagoon	Upgrade
Kobuk	WTP Process Upgrades	Upgrade
Metlakatla	Wastewater Lagoon	Upgrade

**Note: New applications for funding will be accepted in Spring/Summer of 2021. High scoring planning projects will be added to this list at completion of the application and scoring process.**

Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation  
Village Safe Water Program  
Multi-Year Priority List

<b>Ongoing Construction Projects:</b>		
<b>COMMUNITY</b>	<b>SCOPE OF WORK</b>	<b>Type</b>
<b>Adak</b>	Aerated lagoon; upgrade lift stations 7, 12, and 13; decommission the remaining abandoned lift stations and associated sewer mains; and repair sewer mains and manholes.	Upgrade
<b>Crooked Creek</b>	Rehabilitation of existing water treatment plant/washeteria, including a new water storage tank.	First Service
<b>Hughes</b>	Install gravity sewer collection, new packaged lift station, and force main; decommission E-one residential pumps, reconstruct service connections to 12 homes, and construct 2 residential septic systems.	Upgrade
<b>Kaltag</b>	Replace water main, water service lines and connections, upgrade circulating pumps, relocate well #1 power drop, and install new sewer line and replacement of manholes.	Upgrade
<b>Kivalina</b>	New modular washeteria and water treatment plant.	First Service
<b>Tuluksak</b>	Design and construction of a new sewer force main, lagoon, and water service and sewer service to core facilities.	First Service
<b>Nunam Iqua</b>	Combined utility building improvements	Upgrade
<b>Venetie</b>	New water treatment plant and washeteria.	First Service

**Note: New applications for funding will be accepted in Spring/Summer of 2021. High scoring construction projects will be added to this list at completion of the application and scoring process.**

***The following projects are fully funded to complete construction. Minimal funding, if any, will be required in order to complete these projects.***

<b>COMMUNITY</b>	<b>SCOPE OF WORK</b>	<b>Type</b>
<b>Akiachak</b>	Completion of community piped water and sewer system, including service lines and plumbing for West Section and water and sewer mains, service	First Service
<b>Akiak</b>	Water and sewer service to six homes.	Upgrade
<b>Ambler</b>	Reroute water main and construct concrete armoring of well to protect against erosion.	Upgrade
<b>Bethel</b>	Improvements to sewer lift station and wastewater lagoon.	Upgrade
<b>Chefornak</b>	Completion of new sewage lagoon, lift station and force main, honey bucket dump site, water storage tank, watering points/pump stations, and washeteria.	First Service
<b>Coffman Cove</b>	Upgrades to the water treatment plant to replace obsolete equipment.	Upgrade
<b>Diomedes</b>	New water storage tank.	First Service
<b>Eek</b>	Community piped water and sewer system.	First Service
<b>Emmonak</b>	New raw water source consisting of directionally drilled intake and well screen, new pump house and control; new water treatment plant including package filtration process; water and sewer main extension and 5 service lines.	Upgrade/ First Service

Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation  
Village Safe Water Program  
Multi-Year Priority List

*The following projects are fully funded to complete construction. Minimal funding, if any, will be required in order to complete these projects.*

COMMUNITY	SCOPE OF WORK	Type
False Pass	Onsite wastewater systems for 8 homes.	Upgrade
Hoonah	Improvements to bring the wastewater treatment plant into regulatory compliance, including a sequencing batch reactor with multiple reactors.	Upgrade
Huslia	Individual wells, septic systems, and house plumbing for 10 unserved homes.	First Service
Hydaburg	Upgrades to South Main Street settling tanks and new sewage effluent station.	Upgrade
Kachemak Selo	Ground water study, exploratory well drilling, production well, new water storage tank that will be connected to the community distribution system. The existing spring water sources and water treatment plant will be decommissioned.	Upgrade
Kasaan	New sewage ocean outfall.	Upgrade
Kiana	Water and sewer mains and service connections to existing homes in Valley View Subdivision, including new sewage lift station.	First Service
Kokhanok	New water treatment plant.	Upgrade
Kotzebue	New water treatment plant.	Upgrade
Koyukuk	Construct interior plumbing for 22 homes.	Upgrade
Lime Village	Construct interior and exterior plumbing, residential wells and onsite septic systems for 16 homes.	First Service
Lower Kalskag	Community piped water and sewer system.	First Service
Marshall	Phase 9 water and sewer improvements, including replacement of water and sewer mains and services to 18 homes, and extension of water and sewer mains to provide service to three homes, head start building, community building and clinic.	Upgrade
McGrath	Water treatment plant renovations. Replace STEP septic tanks and lagoon aeration system. Improvements to the piped water distribution.	Upgrade
Mountain Village	New water storage tank and related infrastructure improvements to address long-term water shortage conditions in the village.	Upgrade
Nenana	Water treatment plant improvements including a new well and associated piping connections.	Upgrade
New Stuyahok	New modular water treatment plant.	Upgrade
Nikolaevsk	Water treatment plant improvements and mixer for water storage tank.	Upgrade
Nunapitchuk	Water treatment plant, water storage tank, and washeteria and sewer lagoon improvements including the completion of a PER and ER. Development of new water well.	Upgrade
Ouzinkie	New chemical feed pumps, instrumentation and control system for the water treatment plant.	Upgrade
Port Alexander	Construction of a new 125,000 gallon bolted steel water tank and supporting timbers and concrete foundation.	Upgrade
Port Graham	Replace existing sewage ocean outfall with a single new outfall and associated lift station, force main, and gravity sewer collection facilities.	Upgrade
Rampart	Interior plumbing, wells and onsite wastewater treatment systems to eight homes.	First Service
Ruby	Interior plumbing, wells and onsite wastewater treatment systems to 26 homes.	First Service

Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation  
Village Safe Water Program  
Multi-Year Priority List

***The following projects are fully funded to complete construction. Minimal funding, if any, will be required in order to complete these projects.***

COMMUNITY	SCOPE OF WORK	Type
Saint Paul	Replace two sewer lift stations with wet wells constructed adjacent to the existing dry wells and above-grade pump building on top; replace pumps and controls and reroute existing piping.	Upgrade
Sand Point	Water treatment plant renovations, to include installation of new filter lights, filter media, and underdrain laterals, polymer solution pump, streaming current detector, influent and effluent flow meters, turbidimeters and SC200 display screens, and updated control systems.	Upgrade
Shageluk	Gravity sewer system, water services, and house plumbing.	First Service
Teller	New water treatment plant and washeteria including a water storage tank, wastewater treatment system, and a PER/ER.	First Service
Thorne Bay	Improvements necessary to bring both the water and wastewater treatment plants into full regulatory compliance.	Upgrade
Trapper Creek	Community well and watering point.	First Service
Twin Hills	Replace the existing water system by installing new distribution system.	Upgrade
Unalakleet	Facility improvements necessary to address failing raw water transmission line, including the drilling of test wells.	Upgrade
Voznesenka	Piped water service to homes in the Falls Creek area including individual septic systems and house plumbing.	First Service
Wales	New water treatment plant and washeteria.	First Service
Yakutat	Design and construct 3 new lift stations (Old Village, Jension, "schools") and design and rehabilitate 2 lift stations (Cannery and Sunrise).	Upgrade

**Note: Upon construction completion and a determination that no additional funding is needed, projects will be removed from this list.**

## Village Safe Water Projects Impacted by COVID-19 in Calendar Year 2020

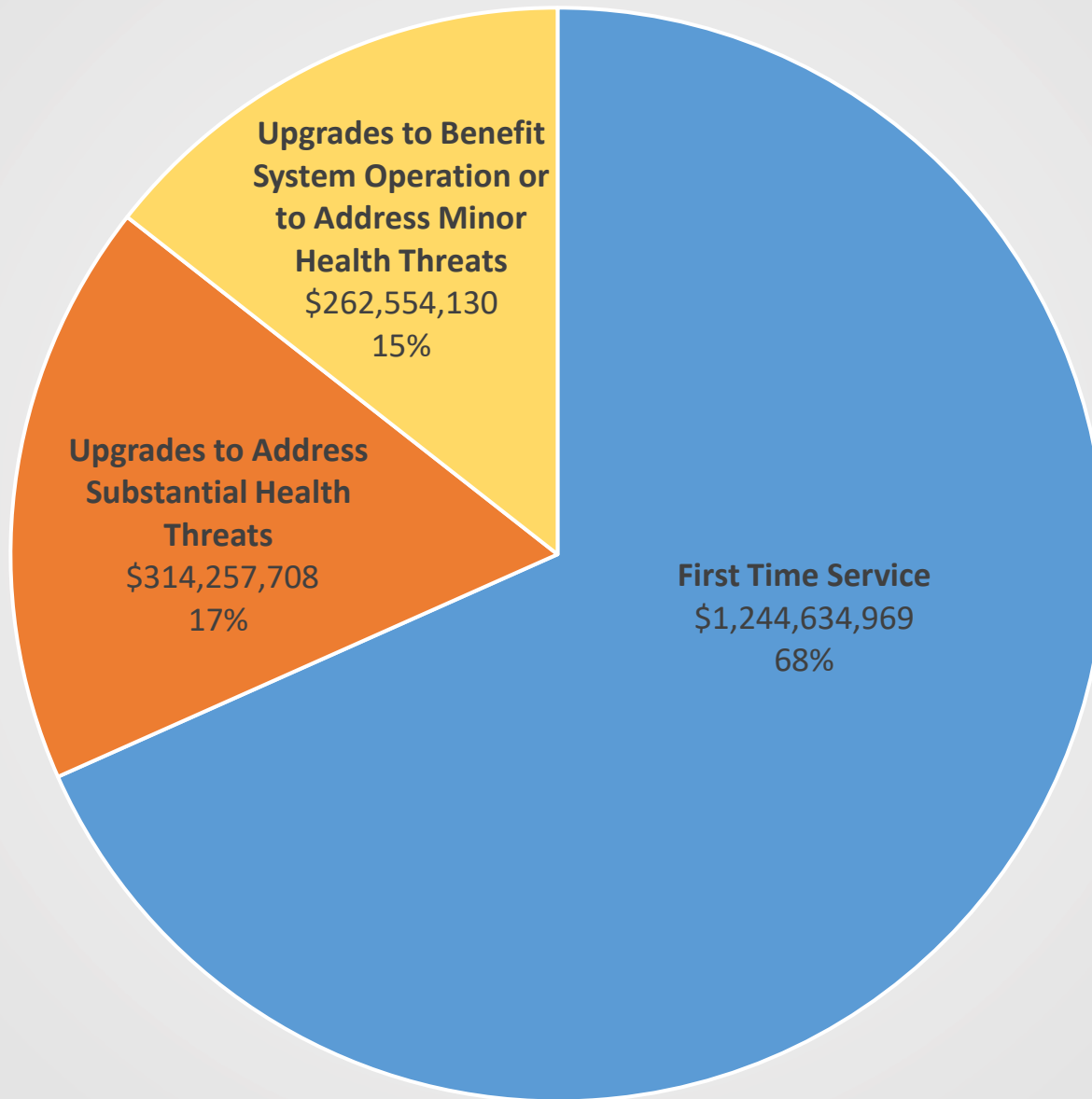
	Community	Lead Agency	Funding Source	Project Title	Level of Impact
Projects Funded by VSW, Delayed or Impacted by COVID-19 in 2020	Eek	ANTHC	VSW	Honey Bucket Lagoon Closure	Put on hold for 2020 season
	Atmautlauk	ANTHC	VSW	Pressure Tank Replacement	Put on hold for 2020 season
	Fort Yukon	ANTHC	VSW	Lagoon Dike Repairs	Put on hold for 2020 season
	Kasigluk	ANTHC	VSW	Flexible Service Line Connection Installations	Put on hold for 2020 season
	Kokhanok	ANTHC	VSW	Modular Water Treatment Plant	Put on hold for 2020 season
	Little Diomedede	ANTHC	VSW	Water Storage Tank Repairs	Put on hold for 2020 season
	Mekoryuk	VSW	VSW	Purchase of Haul Trailers and Tanks	Put on hold for 2020 season
	Nenana	ANTHC	VSW	Water Treatment Plant - Phase I	Put on hold for 2020 season
	Old Harbor	ANTHC	VSW	Water Service Line Replacement	Put on hold for 2020 season
	Ouzinkie	ANTHC	VSW	Burn Barrel Upgrade/Replacement	Put on hold for 2020 season
	Yakutat	ANTHC	VSW	Lift Station Rehab / Relocate	Put on hold for 2020 season
	Akiachchak	ANTHC	VSW	East Side Water & Sewer Mains	Impacted but some work occurred
	Brevig Mission	ANTHC	VSW	Drain Field Rehabilitation	Impacted but some work occurred
	Eek	ANTHC	VSW	Water and Sewer Closeout	Impacted but some work occurred
	Elim	ANTHC	VSW	Shelby Subdivision Sewer Main and Water and Sewer Service	Impacted but some work occurred
	Emmonak	VSW	VSW	All Season Permanent Intake	Impacted but some work occurred
	Gulkana	ANTHC	VSW	Water Intake Pipe Repair and Heat Trace Repair	Impacted but some work occurred
	Hughes	ANTHC	VSW	Flexible Service Line Connection Installations	Impacted but some work occurred
	Kake	ANTHC	VSW	Water Treatment Plant Controls Upgrade	Impacted but some work occurred
	Karluk	ANTHC	VSW	Lift Station Upgrades	Impacted but some work occurred
	Kiana	ANTHC	VSW	Valley View Subdivision Water & Sewer	Impacted but some work occurred
	Kobuk	ANTHC	VSW	Water and Sewer Line Repair for 4 Homes	Impacted but some work occurred
	Koyuk	ANTHC	VSW	Lift Station and Water Treatment Plant Improvements	Impacted but some work occurred
	Koyukuk	ANTHC	VSW	Phase II Wells and Septics	Impacted but some work occurred
	Kwethluk	ANTHC	VSW	Raw Water Intake Upgrades	Impacted but some work occurred
	Lower Kalskag	ANTHC	VSW	Water & Sewer System Installation	Impacted but some work occurred
	Nunapitchuk	VSW	VSW	Landfill Preliminary Engineering Report	Impacted but some work occurred
	Selawik	ANTHC	VSW	Replace Components of Individual Sanitation Connections	Impacted but some work occurred
	Selawik	ANTHC	VSW	Home Vacuum Sewer Service Improvements	Impacted but some work occurred
	Shaktolik	VSW	VSW	New Water Intake Source Preliminary Engineering Report	Impacted but some work occurred
	Shungnak	ANTHC	VSW	Heat Exchange and Heat Add Upgrades	Impacted but some work occurred
	St. Michael	ANTHC	VSW	Heat Exchange Replacement	Impacted but some work occurred
	Tanana	ANTHC	VSW	Water Line Heat Add Controls Repair	Impacted but some work occurred
	Tatitlek	ANTHC	VSW	Outfall Rehabilitation	Impacted but some work occurred
	Unalakleet	VSW	VSW	Trail Creek Well Drill, Development, and Test - Phase I	Impacted but some work occurred
	Upper Kalskag	ANTHC	VSW	Lagoon Discharge Line Rehabilitation	Impacted but some work occurred



## Village Safe Water Projects Impacted by COVID-19 in Calendar Year 2020

	Community	Lead Agency	Funding Source	Project Title	Level of Impact
Projects Administered by VSW with Other Funding Sources, Delayed or Impacted by COVID-19 in 2020	Mekoryuk	VSW	IHS	Water Source Improvements	Put on hold for 2020 season
	Metlakatla	VSW	EPA	Water Treatment Modifications and Main Replacement	Put on hold for 2020 season
	Alakanuk	VSW	IHS	Install Burn Unit	Impacted but some work occurred
	Chuathbaluk	VSW	IHS	Landfill Security Fencing and Gate	Impacted but some work occurred
	Deering	VSW	IHS	Water Treatment Plant	Impacted but some work occurred
	Hooper Bay	VSW	IHS	Connection of One Homes to Piped Water and Sewer	Impacted but some work occurred
	Manokotak	VSW	IHS	Construction of Buried Raw Water Transmission Line	Impacted but some work occurred
	Mekoryuk	VSW	IHS	Washeteria Improvements	Impacted but some work occurred
	Nightmute	VSW	IHS	Solid Waste Management Plan	Impacted but some work occurred
	Tuntutuliak	VSW	IHS	In-Home Plumbing, Water and Sewer Haul to 6 Homes	Impacted but some work occurred
	Unalakleet	VSW	IHS/EPA	Happy Valley Lift Station Renovation	Impacted but some work occurred

## Rural Alaska Sanitation Funding Need = \$1,821,446,807



## Communities Eligible for Village Safe Water

Adak	Circle	Kachemak Selo	Metlakatla	Point Hope	Tanana
Akhiok	Clark's Point	Kake	Minto	Point Lay	Tatitlek
Akiachak	Coffman Cove	Kaktovik	Mountain Village	Port Alexander	Tazlina
Akiak	Cold Bay	Kaltag	Nanwalek	Port Graham	Teller
Akutan	Crooked Creek*	Karluk	Napakiak	Port Heiden	Tenakee Springs
Alakanuk	Deering	Kasaan	Napaskiak	Port Lions	Tetlin
Alatna	Dot Lake Village	Kasigluk	Nelson Lagoon	Port Protection	Thorne Bay
Aleknagik	Eagle City	Kiana	Nenana	Portage Creek	Togiak
Allakaket	Eagle Village	King Cove	New Stuyahok	Quinhagak	Toksook Bay
Ambler	Eek	Kipnuk	Newhalen	Rampart	Trapper Creek
Anaktuvak Pass	Egegik	Kivalina	Newtok	Ruby	Tuluksak
Anderson	Ekwok	Klawock	Nightmute	Russian Mission	Tuntutuliak
Angoon	Elfin Cove	Klukwan	Nikolaevsk	Saint George	Tununak
Aniak	Elim	Kobuk	Nikolai	Saint Mary's	Twin Hills
Anvik	Emmonak	Kokhanok	Nikolski	Saint Michael	Tyonek
Arctic Village	False Pass	Koliganek	Ninilchik	Saint Paul	Unalakleet
Atka	Fort Yukon	Kongiganak	Noatak	Sand Point	Upper Kalskag
Atmautluak	Galena	Kotlik	Nondalton	Savoonga	Venetie
Atkasuk	Gambell	Kotzebue	Noorvik	Saxman	Voznesenka
Beaver	Golovin	Koyuk	Northway Village	Scammon Bay	Wainwright
Bethel	Goodnews Bay	Koyukuk*	Nuiqsut	Selawik	Wales
Birch Creek	Grayling	Kwethluk	Nulato	Seldovia	Whale Pass
Brevig Mission	Gulkana	Kwigillingok	Nunam Iqua	Shageluk*	White Mountain
Buckland	Gustavus	Larsen Bay	Nunapitchuk	Shaktoolik	Whittier
Cantwell	Healy Lake Village	Levelock	Old Harbor	Shishmaref	Yakutat
Chalkyitsik	Holy Cross	Lime Village*	Oscarville	Shungnak	Unserviced - 55% or less homes served by piped, well and septic, or covered haul
Chefornak	Hoonah	Little Diomede	Ouzinkie	Slana	
Chenega Bay	Hooper Bay	Lower Kalskag	Pedro Bay	Sleetmute	* Unserved funded for full service
Chevak	Hughes	Manley	Pelican	South Naknek	
Chignik	Huslia	Manokotak	Perryville	Stebbins	Underserved - Homes served by haul system
Chignik Lagoon	Hydaburg	Marshall	Pilot Point	Stevens Village	
Chignik Lake	Igiugig	McGrath	Pilot Station	Stony River	Population >1,000
Chistochina	Iliamna	Mekoryuk	Pitkas Point	Takotna	
Chuathbaluk	Ivanof Bay	Mertarvik	Platinum	Tanacross	