



Department of Environmental Conservation

Senate 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 47.07.080

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 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



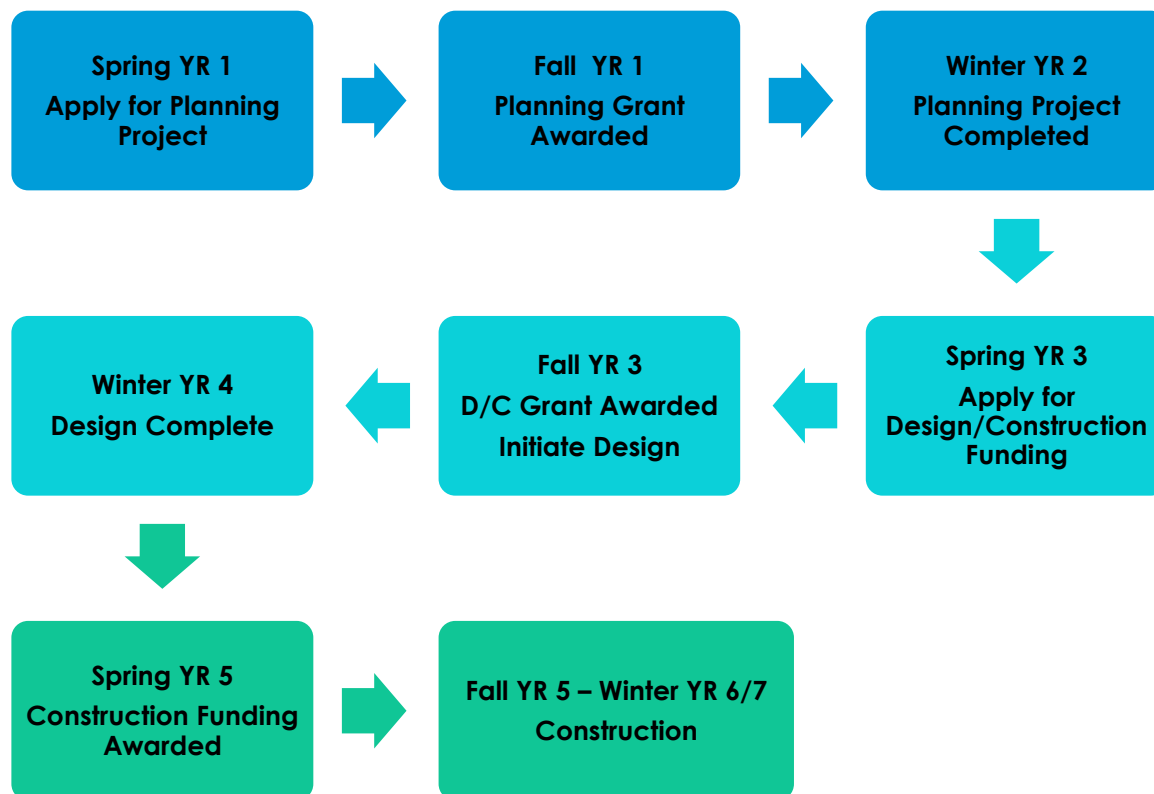
Village Safe Water: Average Project

- ▶ 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



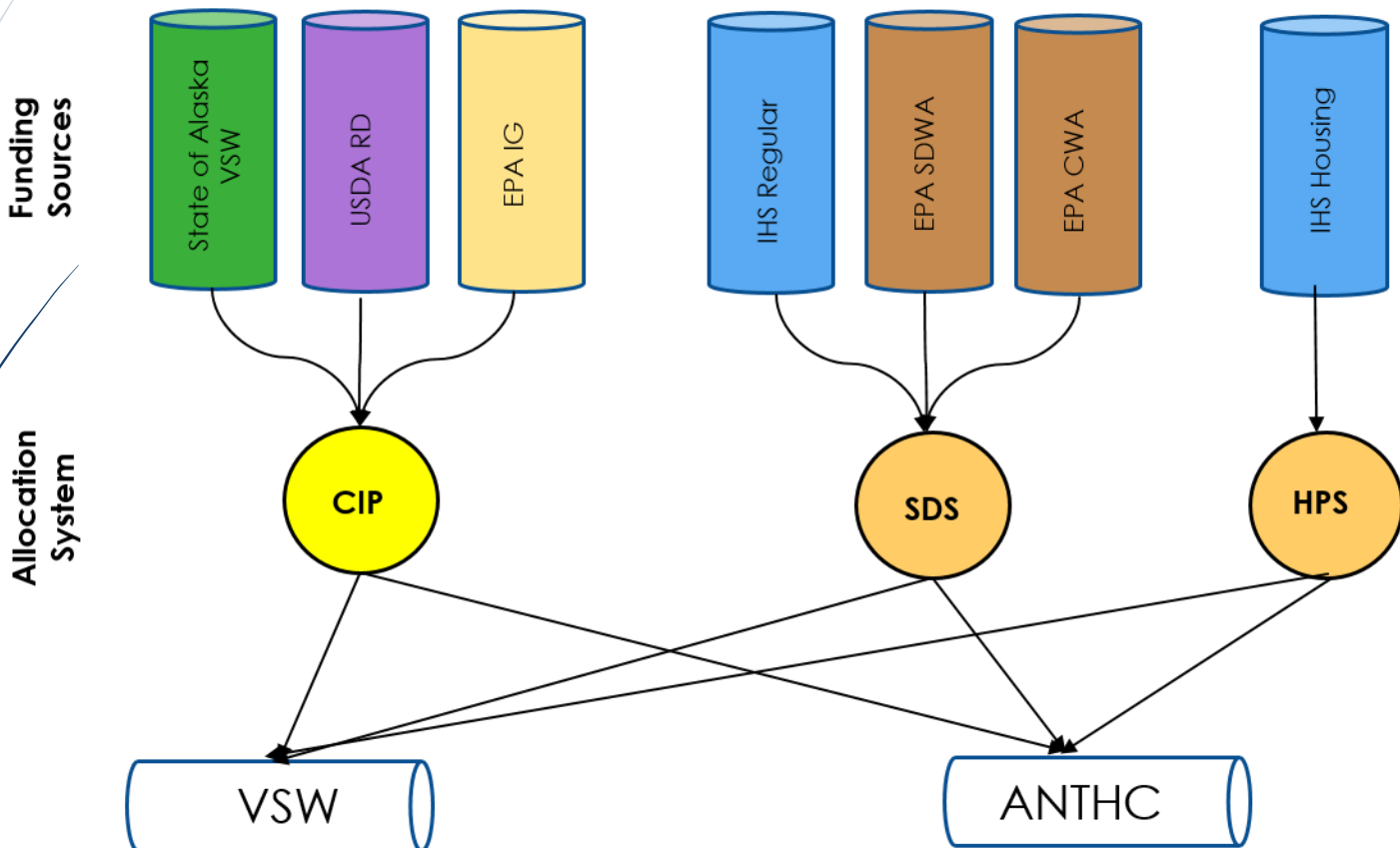
Village Safe Water: FY2021 Supplemental Request (in thousands)

- \$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



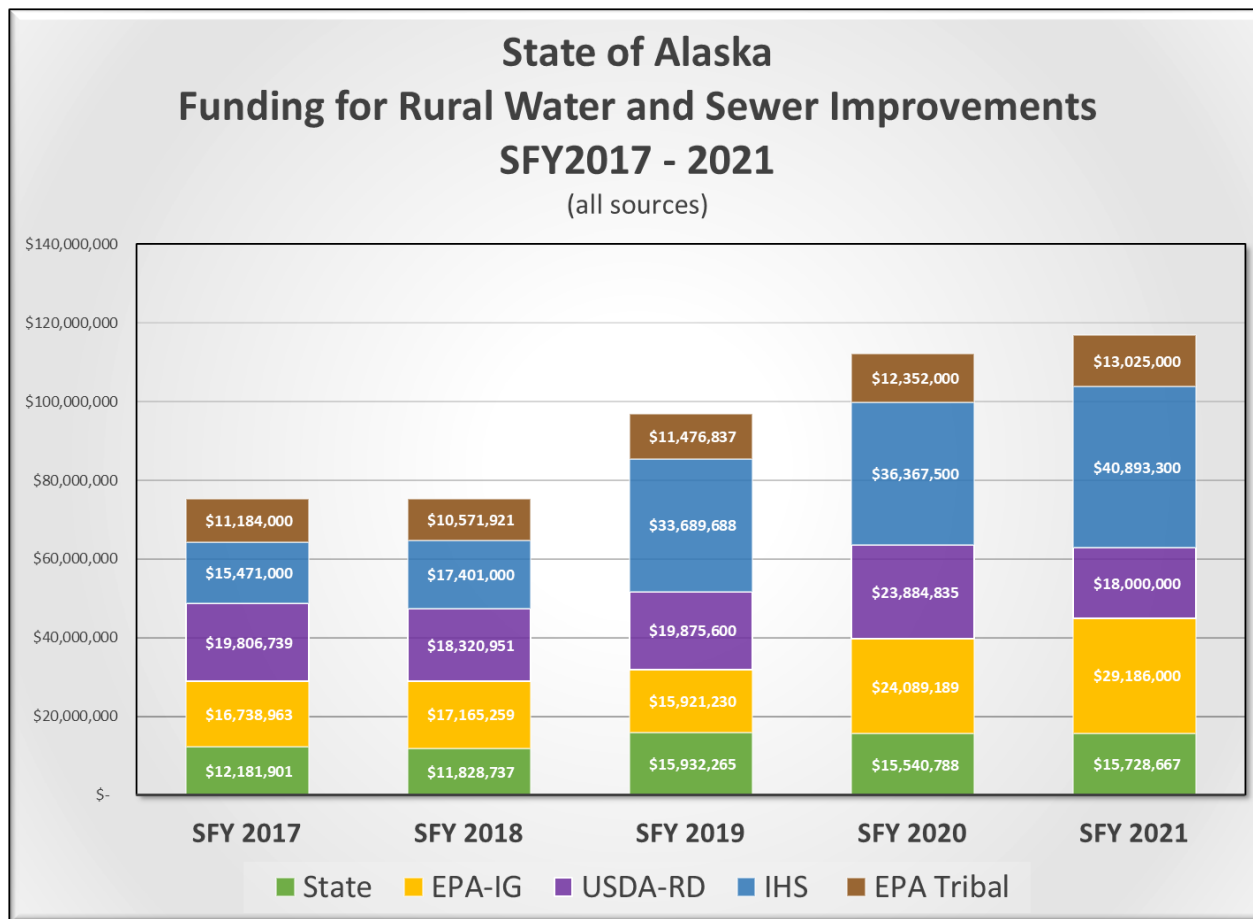
ANTHC: Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium
CIP: Capital Improvement Project
CWA: Clean Water Act
EPA: Environmental Protection Agency

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

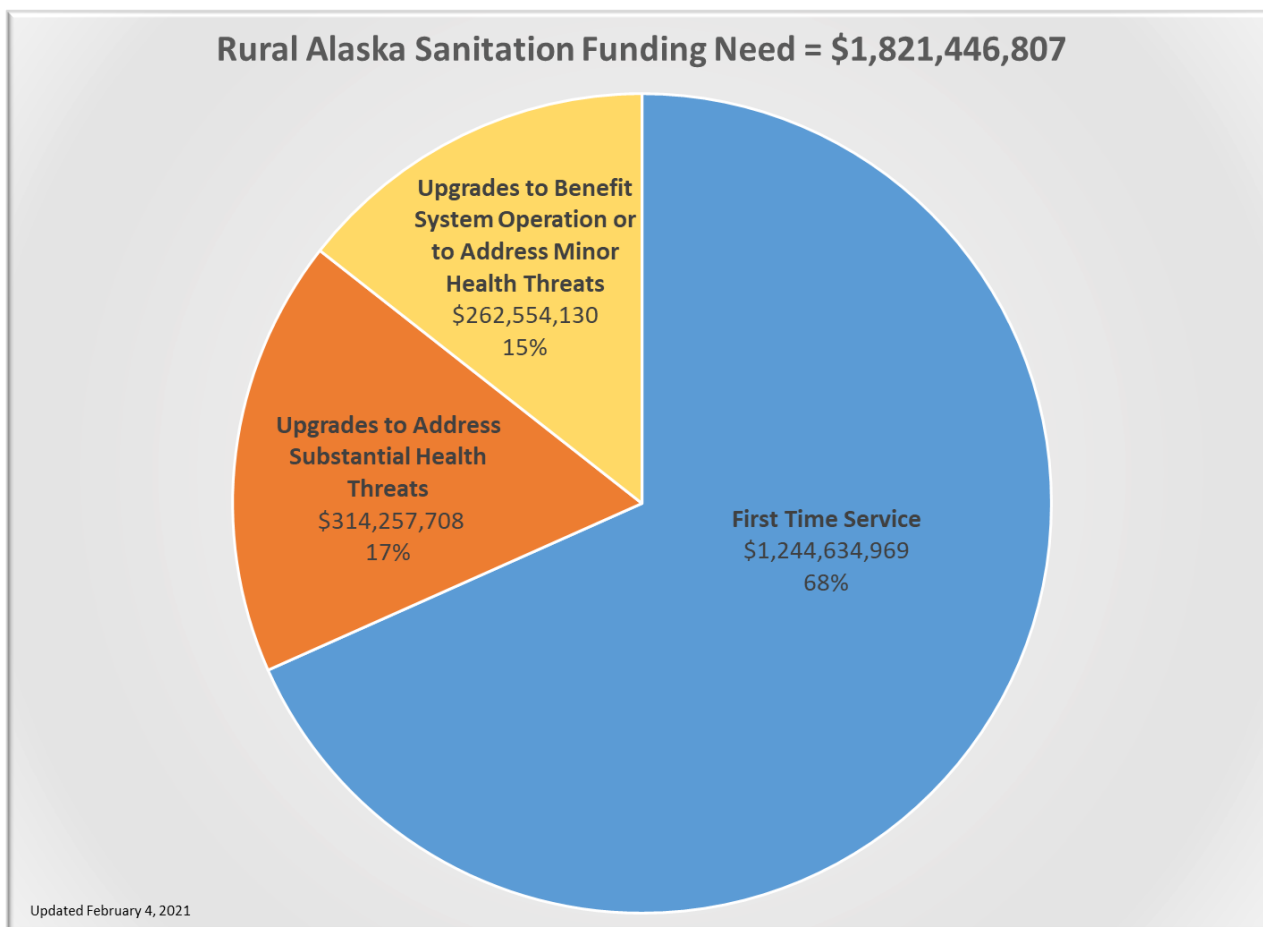


Village Safe Water: Funding History





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





Questions?

