



Connecting Tribal Health

Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium
2018 ANNUAL REPORT





OUR VISION

Alaska Native people are the healthiest people in the world.

Our vision is not only an ambitious statement — but the guiding principle in all that the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium does. We envision Alaska Native people and the Tribal health system as health leaders.

The inspiration for that vision, and the foundation for achieving it, is based in the strength of our Alaska Native people and our cultures. We have the tools for physical, mental and community health to protect and perpetuate our Alaska Native cultures and traditions. To achieve the vision that Alaska Native people are the healthiest people in the world, ANTHC works with patients, Tribal partners, employees, government and nonprofit partners, and others who share common objectives.

Throughout the year, find more stories from ANTHC at anthc.org/news.

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ANTHC provides culturally appropriate, high-quality health services to our people.

Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium organizational overview

The Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium is a nonprofit Tribal health organization designed to meet the unique health needs of Alaska Native and American Indian people living in our state. ANTHC serves more than 175,000 Alaska Native and American Indian people in the nation’s largest state.

In pursuit of our vision that Alaska Native people are the healthiest people in the world, ANTHC provides world-renowned health services. Our services include specialty medical care at the Alaska Native Medical Center, community wellness programs, disease research and prevention, rural provider training, and rural water and sanitation systems construction across Alaska.

ANTHC is a national leader in Tribal health. We are the largest, most comprehensive Tribal health organization in the United States, and Alaska’s second-largest health employer, with more than 3,000 employees. Tribal self-governance allows ANTHC to provide culturally appropriate, high-quality health services in partnership with our people and the Alaska Tribal Health System.



Acilquq performs in the rotunda of the ANMC hospital. The dome-shaped gathering area connects our people visiting the hospital and hosts many drumming and dancing groups.

Connecting Tribal health: 2018 ANTHC Annual Report

When pursuing a vision as great as the Consortium’s, we require the broadest view of health possible. ANTHC is connecting improvements in Alaska Native health to other health factors in the lives of the people we serve. ANTHC makes connections between our medical care, our homes, our environments, our education and our Alaska Native lifestyles and traditions. Specialty medical care at ANMC connects the Tribal health network across the state. Community health programs connect us to wellness resources. Environmental health and engineering connect utilities and community health infrastructure. Training and education opportunities connect effective solutions to the needs of the Tribal health system.

Across the state, ANTHC connects many partners to achieve our vision. ANTHC makes connections between all of these factors to improve Alaska Native health.

This year’s annual report recognizes achievements from 2018, building on our previous successes – accomplished through our Tribal leadership and work to connect the Tribal health system – for the health of our people.

Message from the Chairman & President



Andy Teuber
*ANTHC Chairman & President,
Kodiak Area Native Association*

Greetings,

The Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium has a broad view of health. We know that our communities, our environment, our ways of life and our medical care all impact our health. ANTHC connects multiple aspects of individual and community to provide better health outcomes. Tertiary, trauma and specialty medical care at ANMC connect and support the overall Tribal health network across the state. Community health programs connect remote communities and their residents to health care and wellness resources. Environmental health and engineering connects utilities and health solutions for our environment. ANTHC connects many partners across Alaska to achieve our vision. ANTHC connects Tribal health.

This year, we recognize and share achievements that build on our previous and ongoing work that connects our Tribal health system for the health of our people.

Alaska’s size and vast distances define the challenge of connection that we meet and overcome every day in serving our people through the statewide Alaska Tribal Health System. We overcome these challenges with the deployment of cutting edge technologies and through fostering personal relationships with patients and providers throughout the state.

ANTHC is on the forefront of Alaska’s Tribal health challenges as it leads the way in supporting the Tribes and Tribal communities as they confront an ever-changing world. We are the project manager supporting the village of Newtok as it prepares to relocate its community to the new village site of Mertarvik—a world first, whole-community relocation in response to climate change induced flooding and erosion.

We remain mindful that as we expand services and capacity in Anchorage to serve our statewide population, we must continue to serve and support our regional Tribal health partners and ultimately deliver services directly at the village level throughout the state. From telehealth to environmental health, ANTHC connects the Tribal health system.

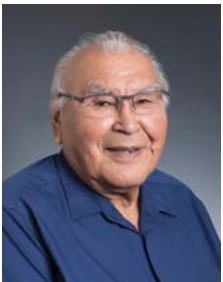
Respectfully,

Andy Teuber
Chairman & President

Board of Directors



Andy Teuber
ANTHC Chairman & President,
Kodiak Area Native Association



Andrew Jimmie
ANTHC Vice Chair,
Tanana Chiefs Conference



Charlene Nollner
ANTHC Secretary,
Copper River Native Association



Evelyn Beeter
ANTHC Treasurer, Unaffiliated Tribes,
Mt. Sanford Tribal Consortium



Chris Merculief
Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association



Bernice Kaigelak
Arctic Slope Native Association



Robert J. Clark
Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation



Robert Henrichs
Chugachmiut,
Native Village of Eyak



Lorena Walker
Manillaq Association



Linda Clement
Metlakatla Indian Community



Preston Rookok
Norton Sound Health Corporation



Katherine Gottlieb
Southcentral Foundation



Charles Clement
SouthEast Alaska Regional
Health Consortium



Chief Gary Harrison
Unaffiliated Tribes,
Chickaloon Native Village









Esai Twitchell
Yukon-Kuskokwim
Health Corporation

The ANTHC Board of Directors leads statewide Tribal health initiatives on behalf of the people we serve and the regional Tribal health organizations they represent. Our Board of Directors works diligently to ensure that Alaska Native people receive the highest-quality health services in pursuit of our vision that Alaska Native people are the healthiest people in the world.

ANTHC connects Tribal health solutions across the state to ensure health care services are delivered, healthy communities flourish and health improvements for Alaska Native people continue for generations to come.

ANTHC Achievements, 1997-2017

Throughout our history, the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium and its Board leadership have worked to make a difference in the health of Alaska Native people. These are some of the key milestones in pursuit of our vision.

<div><p>ANTHC</p><p>ANTHC incorporates as a nonprofit organization</p></div> <div><p>ANMC earns certification as a Level II Trauma Center, a distinction it still holds today</p><p>AFHCAN telehealth project launches</p></div> <div><p>ANTHC begins training village-based Dental Health Aide Therapists</p><p>The Alaska Rural Utility Collaborative is created to improve water quality and lower energy costs</p></div> <div><p>HEALTHY MEDICAL SERVICES</p><p>ANMC achieves prestigious Magnet® recognition for nursing excellence, the gold standard for superior nursing practice and patient outcomes, a designation it still holds today</p></div>													
1997	1998	1999	2002	2003	2005	2006	2007	2010	2012	2014	2015	2016	2017
Indian Health Service (IHS) opens new Alaska Native Medical Center	Contract with IHS transfers statewide services to ANTHC, including Environmental Health and Engineering	<div><p>ANTHC and Southcentral Foundation assume joint management of ANMC</p><p>HEALTHY MEDICAL SERVICES</p></div>			Community Health Services expands to include training program for 60 new Behavioral Health Aides	<div><p>ANTHC institutes tobacco-free campus policy</p><p>ANTHC</p></div>		ANTHC launches Healthy Alaska Natives Foundation	Vaccination program virtually eliminates hepatitis A infections in Alaska	<div><p>ANTHC and the Alaska Tribal Health System receive the American Hospital Association's Carolyn Boone Lewis Living the Vision Award for work that goes beyond traditional hospital care</p><p>HEALTHY MEDICAL SERVICES</p></div>			Specialty medical clinics expand to 40,000 square feet of new space in the Healthy Communities Building
<div><p>for superior pediatric care</p><p>ANMC hospital opens Alaska's first hybrid operating room</p><p>ANTHC begins new drug treatments to cure hepatitis C</p><p>Portable Alternative Sanitation System (PASS) pilot project launches, an innovative solution for in-home water and sanitation service in the age of climate change</p><div><p>HEALTHY MEDICAL SERVICES</p><p>Patient Housing at ANMC opens with 200 rooms for traveling patients and Alaska's first Ronald McDonald House</p></div></div>													

ANTHCHEALTHY MEDICAL SERVICESHEALTHY PEOPLE AND PREVENTIONHEALTHY HOMES AND COMMUNITIES

- ANTHC
- HEALTHY MEDICAL SERVICES
- HEALTHY PEOPLE AND PREVENTION
- HEALTHY HOMES AND COMMUNITIES
- STATEWIDE PARTNERSHIPS



“This year, Maniilaq connected our health records to ANMC, which means better care for patients in both Kotzebue and Anchorage. The advanced technology at ANTHC is improving our health.”
– Director Lorena Walker, Maniilaq Association

ALASKA NATIVE MEDICAL CENTER

Connecting more care options across Alaska

The Alaska Native Medical Center operates a state-of-the-art, 173-bed hospital that provides specialty medical services to Alaska Native and American Indian people. ANMC is Alaska’s first Level II Trauma Center, has received Magnet® recognition for nursing excellence since 2003, and shared the American Hospital Association’s Carolyn Boone Lewis Living the Vision Award with the Alaska Tribal Health System.

Above: ANMC’s Magnet® nurses provide the highest-quality care in our new, expanded Critical Care Unit.

Improving access to care through service expansion initiatives

As the specialty care hospital for the Alaska Tribal Health System, our growth at ANMC focuses on improving access to care for our people, while also enhancing the quality and experience of the care we provide. We are living longer and healthier lives, and ANMC has played a significant role in that improvement.

Since 1997, ANTHC has invested in growth and improvements at ANMC in renovation and building projects that are the equivalent of constructing the ANMC hospital three times over. Since 2011, medical specialists at ANMC have seen more patients and increased access to care with specialty clinic visits by 80 percent.

As our Alaska Native population continues to grow, demand for health services at ANMC also increases. ANTHC is improving access by creating more clinical space. An important part of ANTHC’s plan to achieve our vision is to provide the right care at the right time in the right place.

In 2018, ANTHC funded construction to create **six new inpatient rooms in the Critical Care Unit** to expand care options for ANMC patients with the most serious medical needs. ANTHC also opened ANMC’s 25th specialty clinic, the [Walk-in Clinic](#), for our people traveling from outside Anchorage. ANMC’s Walk-in Clinic is available for patients of all ages who have an illness or injury that needs immediate care but are not experiencing a medical emergency.

ANMC also expanded access to sleep studies and services for our people by **opening a [Sleep Center](#), located in the new Alaska Pacific Medical Building**. The Sleep Center provides consultations, sleep studies, evaluation of sleep disorders and patient education. Sleep Center physicians take a comprehensive approach to diagnosing and treating people with sleep disorders that can affect many aspects of health.



Sleep Center physicians take a comprehensive approach to diagnosing and treating people with sleep disorders affecting their health.

Highest-quality health services

ANMC is home to one of America’s most unique health care environments – a place where the highest-quality care and cutting-edge technology meets special cultural and traditional services, and customer experiences. ANTHC’s goals are to provide patients with exceptional quality and continuously improve their hospital experience.

ANMC measures these goals against national hospital quality indicators. We are proud of the ways we consistently compare to the nation’s top hospitals. In 2018, **ANMC received its third**

re-accreditation with exemplary remarks by the Joint Commission, the gold standard for U.S. hospital accreditation.

“This year, the Alaska Native Medical Center earned the highest designation for pediatric trauma care, which means our children who come from across the state get the very best care available. ANMC staff and leadership are always working to ensure that our people receive the highest-quality services.”

– Director Bernice Kaigelak, Arctic Slope Native Association

Additionally, this year ANMC hospital received verification as a [Level II Pediatric Trauma Center](#) by the Verification Review Committee, an ad hoc committee of the Committee on Trauma of the American College of Surgeons. This achievement recognizes ANMC’s dedication to providing optimal care for injured pediatric patients. In addition to the verification as a Level II Pediatric Trauma Center, ANMC is also a [Comprehensive Pediatric Emergency Center](#), the highest certification in the Pediatric Facility Recognition Program, since 2015. This recognition means that ANMC provides the highest-quality pediatric care in Alaska and ensures our hospital is appropriately prepared for the emergency care of children. Together, these two recognitions ensure ANMC provides the highest-quality emergency and trauma care for Alaska’s youngest patients.

From the patient perspective, the way we deliver services can be the highest indicator of our quality. This is why ANTHC implements care programs such as Palliative Care. The [Palliative Care team](#) improves the quality of life for patients and families dealing with life-threatening illness, and helps educate and empower health care staff to deliver the highest-quality primary palliative care throughout the Alaska Tribal Health System.

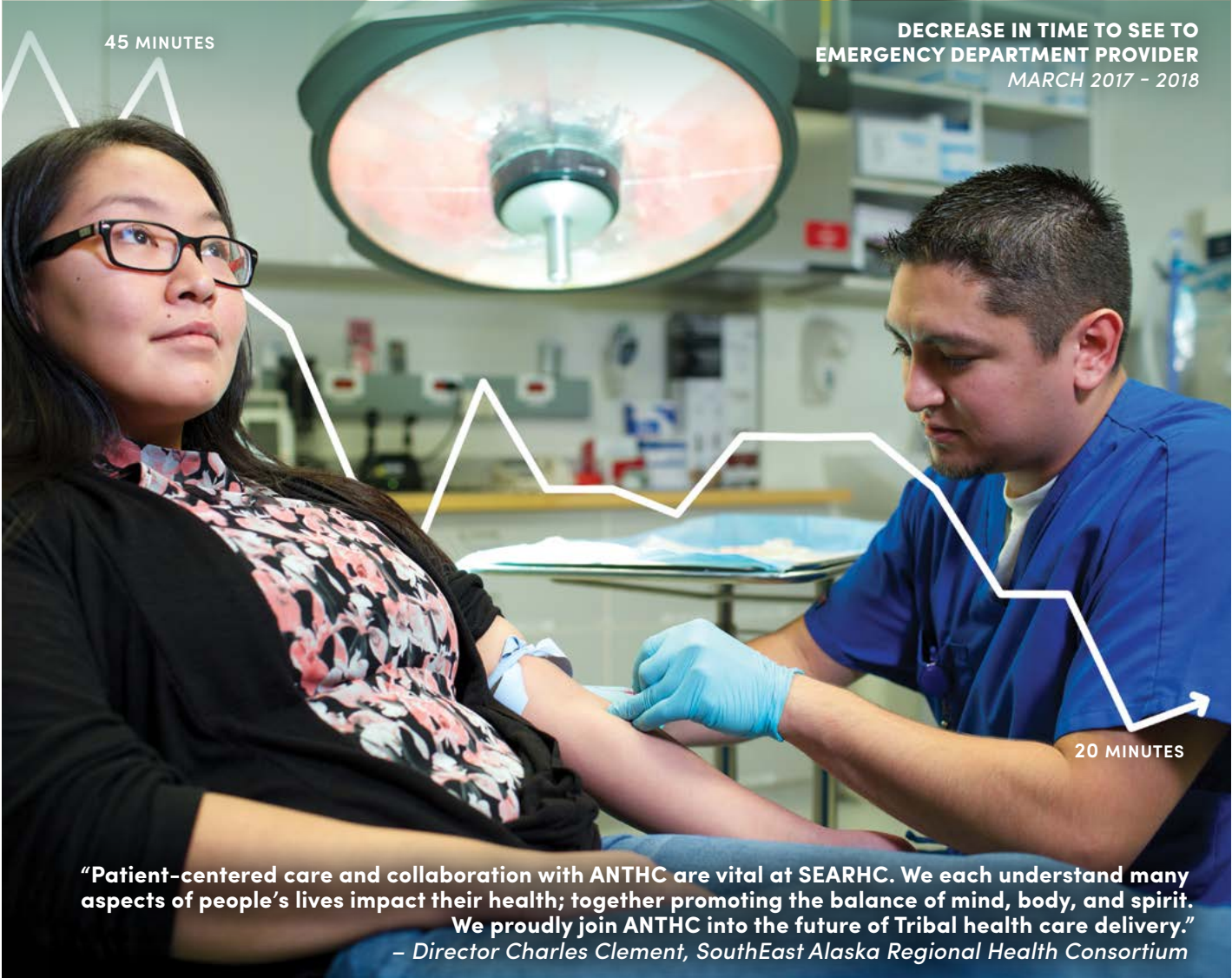
With [Patient Housing at ANMC](#), we expanded lodging capacity and cultural amenities that promote a positive healing environment for our patients with serious medical conditions. Guest satisfaction for Patient Housing remains extremely positive, with our overall customer satisfaction at 89 percent based on surveys returned by our guests. Patient housing is especially important for expectant mothers with high-risk pregnancies who travel to Anchorage weeks prior to delivery, oncology patients requiring extended infusion and radiation therapies, surgery patients needing outpatient specialty medical care and recovery time, and children and Elders who travel with their escorts.

ANTHC and Southcentral Foundation jointly own and manage ANMC under the terms of Public Law 105-83. These parent organizations established a Joint Operating Board to ensure unified operation of health services provided by the medical center.

45 MINUTES

DECREASE IN TIME TO SEE TO
EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT PROVIDER
MARCH 2017 - 2018

20 MINUTES



“Patient-centered care and collaboration with ANTHC are vital at SEARHC. We each understand many aspects of people’s lives impact their health; together promoting the balance of mind, body, and spirit. We proudly join ANTHC into the future of Tribal health care delivery.”
– Director Charles Clement, SouthEast Alaska Regional Health Consortium

56% faster to an ANMC Emergency Department provider

Connecting patients to care when every minute matters.

Since 2017, the ANMC Emergency Department has lowered the amount of time patients wait to see a provider from the time they enter the door. Patients are now immediately greeted by a nurse to help understand the nature of their emergency, which makes triage faster. ANTHC invested resources in **Emergency Department improvements** that help staff work faster and more efficiently. These and other continuous improvements have enhanced the patient experience and quality of care in the ANMC Emergency Department.

Connecting rural patients to a home away from home.

Patient Housing at ANMC continues to be a benefit for the 60 percent of ANMC patients that must travel to Anchorage for care. Opened in 2017, Patient Housing at ANMC added 200 guest rooms on the Alaska Native Health Campus to the 58 existing rooms in Quiyana House at ANMC. In addition to these on-campus beds, the ANMC Travel Management Office also secures hotel rooms in Anchorage through ANTHC’s investments in select Marriott hotel properties. This increased capacity in lodging ensures that rural patients are able to be seen at ANMC specialty clinics when they require care.



258+ rooms available for ANMC patients



6 doctors in the Rural Provider Network

Connecting specialty care doctors to the places they are needed most.

ANTHC employs specialty and primary care providers to deliver health care services at Tribal health organizations across Alaska. These providers are based at ANMC and rotate to regional health centers to deliver a wide range of health care services that might not otherwise be available in smaller communities. Alaska Native patients across Alaska receive care closer to home thanks to ANTHC’s Rural Provider Network.

1,541

Births

13,621

Surgical cases

61,893

Emergency room visits

8,510

Total inpatient discharges

47,444

Total inpatient days

172,411

Specialty clinic visits

“People from the Y-K region benefit from better access to specialized health care without having to travel to Anchorage. ANTHC is helping meet our health needs at home or in-region with providers in the Rural Provider Network, ANMC field clinics and by offering more telehealth visits.”
– Director Esai Twitchell, Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation



“ANTHC has made great strides in improving care and services for Alaska Native people. By investing in cancer and Elder care, we are making sure our Elders are with us for longer and the next generation is healthier.”
– Director Linda Clement, Metlakatla Indian Community

HEALTHY PEOPLE AND PREVENTION

Connecting wellness resources across Alaska

ANTHC offers preventative health services and programs to elevate the health status of Alaska Native communities. We partner with statewide Tribal health organizations to offer wellness programs for chronic diseases such as diabetes and liver disease, while encouraging healthy choices through education and services in tobacco prevention, injury prevention, and traditional foods and nutrition. Additional statewide support comes from providing services in health research and data, and health training and education.

Above: Gathering berries is one way Alaska Native people maintain our health; berries provide vitamins and picking them adds physical activity. ANTHC Healthy People and Prevention work encourages traditional foods as an important part of Alaska Native health.

Community-based health solutions

ANTHC Healthy People and Prevention work empowers Tribal communities with solutions that are based on community-informed needs. Our staff connect to Tribal health partner organizations, state, federal and other partners, and community members to build initiatives that positively improve Alaska Native health for the long term.

One of the programs with the broadest statewide reach is the ANTHC Health Aide Training Programs. ANTHC’s three health aide training programs, Community Health Aide, Dental Health Aide and Behavioral Health Aide, collaboratively known as the Tribal Community Health Provider Programs, provide rural communities with well-trained primary care health providers that help treat emergent and chronic health issues.

This year, ANTHC Health Aide Training Programs earned the [Harvard Honoring Nations’ award highest honor](#). The Harvard Honoring Nations is an award of The Harvard Project on American Indian Economic Development, a project of the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. ANTHC Tribal Community Health Provider Programs was one of three High Honors recipients recognized for the award, which identifies, celebrates and shares excellence in American Indian Tribal governance. The programs are noted for their contributions to empower Tribal communities in building their own health foundations that positively impact the health of our people.

“ANTHC is thinking ahead on the big issues that affect the health of our communities from environmental change to battling the opioid crisis. These significant challenges require sustainable solutions and the ANTHC board is looking far into the future to provide for Alaska Native health.”

– Director Chief Gary Harrison, Unaffiliated Tribes, Chickaloon Native Village

Additionally, ANTHC is spearheading opioid prevention initiatives that affect our people, families and communities. In 2018, ANTHC distributed 379 safe medication deactivation bags and medication [mail-back envelopes](#) to communities including Kenai, Kodiak, Metlakatla, Port Graham, Seldovia, Skagway, Soldotna and St. George Island. These help keep excess prescription opioids out of the hands of those who have a potential to misuse them.

Through Project HOPE, NARCAN kits are assembled by volunteers and distributed to communities, helping fight the deadly effects of opioid overdoses.



In emergency opioid overdose situations, the medication naloxone or NARCAN, can save lives when administered immediately. ANMC Pharmacy and the Aurora Borealis Branch of Commissioned Officers Association partnered with [Project HOPE](#)

(Harm reduction, Overdose Prevention and Education) to build NARCAN kits and make them more readily available to trained volunteers. Since February 2017, **Commissioned Corps officers and volunteers across the state made opioid overdose response kits, helping save over 140 lives**. Growing awareness and availability of naloxone is crucial in the public health’s response for combating the ongoing opioid epidemic.



Increased training and support gives providers tools for success in serving their patients. Behavioral Health Aides are trained at ANTHC to find solutions in uniquely Alaskan ways which provides their patients with culturally relevant care.

Community training, education and knowledge sharing

The best health care providers provide the best quality care. ANTHC helps retain health providers in the Alaska Tribal Health System through its commitment to health training and education.

ANTHC Behavioral Health staff continue to address the significant rise in behavioral health issues our communities and health system are experiencing across the state. ANTHC is expanding the ways in which we support Tribal health partners to bring care closer to home at the regional level by increasing workforce education resources. **Current behavioral health aides and practitioners (BHA/Ps) welcomed an ANTHC initiative to [digitize the Behavioral Health Aide Manual](#) (BHAM)**, which supports their health services in rural locations, often with limited on-site resources or support. The BHAM provides fundamental information and best practices for addressing issues and concerns identified during client care visits. It is also intended as a guide for other providers who work with BHA/Ps; it will help providers to reinforce BHA/P training, reduce errors and confusion, and enhance BHA/P confidence in service and treatment planning.



8 Behavioral Health Aides from across the Alaska Tribal Health System in the first associate degree cohort at Iḷisaḡvik College

Connecting workforce needs with education solutions.

ANTHC partnered with Iḷisaḡvik College to develop an academic program to grow a **community-based behavioral health workforce**. Behavioral Health Aides enrolled in the training program will earn an associate degree from Iḷisaḡvik College and achieve their BHA-I and -II level certifications. This new degree program not only provides a way for more Behavioral Health Aides to work in their regions, but also creates a path for Behavioral Health Aides to advance into higher level degree programs, potentially becoming a clinical supervisor necessary for all Behavioral Health Aides to work.

“ANTHC is designing new behavioral health services and service delivery models for our people in a way that will truly lead to better health. Improvements in behavioral health care delivery will go a long way in healing our families, our communities and our regions.”
– ANTHC Secretary Charlene Nollner, Copper River Native Association

Connecting Tribally driven research to Alaska Native health priorities.

Current health research activities at ANTHC build on a 60-year history of research with Alaska Native people. Research at ANTHC addresses the health and well-being of Alaska Native people. The goal of ANTHC research is to provide information that will lead to healthier Alaska Native communities. Our researchers study trends and develop solutions for priority health problems. This is done in partnership with Tribal health organizations and communities. ANTHC researchers also study factors that influence the health of Alaska Native families, such as the importance of clean water access in reducing communicable disease, how cancer screening and prevention can reduce cancer deaths for Alaska Native people, and how our traditional foods and environment impact our physical health.



33 published research study articles with ANTHC staff authors in 2018

“ANTHC’s Tribally led research is not only world-renowned, but it is improving Alaska Native health. We intentionally connect research to our most important health issues.” – Director Robert J. Clark, Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation



\$6 million in new behavioral health funding

Connecting behavioral health solutions with regional partners.

ANTHC is implementing solutions to help address the rise in behavioral health issues across many regions. This year, ANTHC received grants that will help us reach these goals. A five-year, \$2.5 million Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) grant will start a pilot project with Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association. The project will provide training and support for family members who have a loved one experiencing substance use disorders, and increase ANTHC’s behavioral health rural provider network by two full-time clinicians. The project will test a compassionate response family training model to help family members with addiction seek treatment and adhere to long-term recovery, versus the historical “tough love” or “rock bottom” approach. Upon successful conclusion of the pilot project, it is our hope to offer the program for other interested Tribal health partners.

218 people in attendance at the 5th Alaska Native Health Research Conference

Connecting our peers for collective advancement.

In October 2017, the ANTHC Health Research Review Committee hosted the [5th Alaska Native Health Research Conference](#). The conference provided a forum to share current health research projects within Alaska Native communities and an opportunity to learn

476 [tobacco treatment specialists trained](#) by ANTHC since 2006

5 regional Alaska Plants as Food and Medicine education events

520,000 pounds of food shipped to rural communities through the food distribution program



“I pray to God, our Lord, that He will bless His handiwork for those He has placed to serve in the Tribal health communities.”
– Director Katherine Gottlieb, Southcentral Foundation

HEALTHY HOMES AND COMMUNITIES

Connecting utilities and environmental health solutions

Healthy homes and communities are the foundation for improving the health of Alaska Native people. ANTHC’s health services include planning, design, construction and operations support of public health infrastructure and utilities throughout Alaska. Through our work, ANTHC provides sustainable public health solutions to communities across our state and protects the health of our people.

Many Alaska villages continue to need adequate sources of water to meet health and hygiene needs, and facilities that can safely dispose of their wastewater. This year, ANTHC Environmental Health and Engineering worked in 51 communities to bring clean water and sanitation services to more of our people in rural Alaska.

Above: Our homes and our communities play a significant role in our overall health. Leaning on ingenuity and fostering resiliency, ANTHC works to adapt infrastructure and our communities for environmental changes.

Health benefits of safe water and effective waste disposal

ANTHC’s Healthy Homes and Communities focuses on bringing health solutions to rural communities through access to clean water. Having in-home water and sanitation makes hand washing and healthy hygiene practices easier, which have been shown to reduce illness. Infants in villages with limited water service have five times more hospitalization for respiratory infection and 11 times more hospitalization for pneumonia than the overall U.S. population.

This year, [ANTHC connected 32 homes in Eek to piped water and sanitation service](#), continuing to build on a project that included 40 homes last year and will eventually connect all 100 Eek homes to a new community water utility system. ANTHC engineers are also designing upgrades to the water treatment plant, a new maintenance shop and closure of the honey bucket lagoon.

[A similar project in Golovin, in the Norton Sound region, was completed this year](#), connecting 98 percent of homes on the community’s piped water and sanitation system. For many of the homes this is first-time water service. The project included a new water treatment plant, a 1.8 million-gallon

water storage tank, a half mile of water main, three quarters of a mile of sewer pipe, and individual water and sewer services to 24 homes and the Chinik Eskimo Community building. The construction crew completed a safe and successful project to eliminate the honey bucket.

While building utility systems is important, maintaining them is equally vital. ANTHC regularly provides training and support resources for communities across the state through the [Alaska Rural Utility Collaborative](#), [Alaska Utility Supply Center](#) and the [Rural Energy Initiative](#).

Protecting the health and vitality of our communities from environmental threats

Designing alternative sanitation solutions in the most challenging locations and helping communities that are most threatened by a changing Arctic is a priority for ANTHC Environmental Health and Engineering staff.

“In the APIA region, making sure we have sustainable access to telehealth and utilities, such as water and energy, are ways that we stay healthy. Working with ANTHC to improve community infrastructure makes our healthy communities possible.” – Director Chris Mercurief, Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association

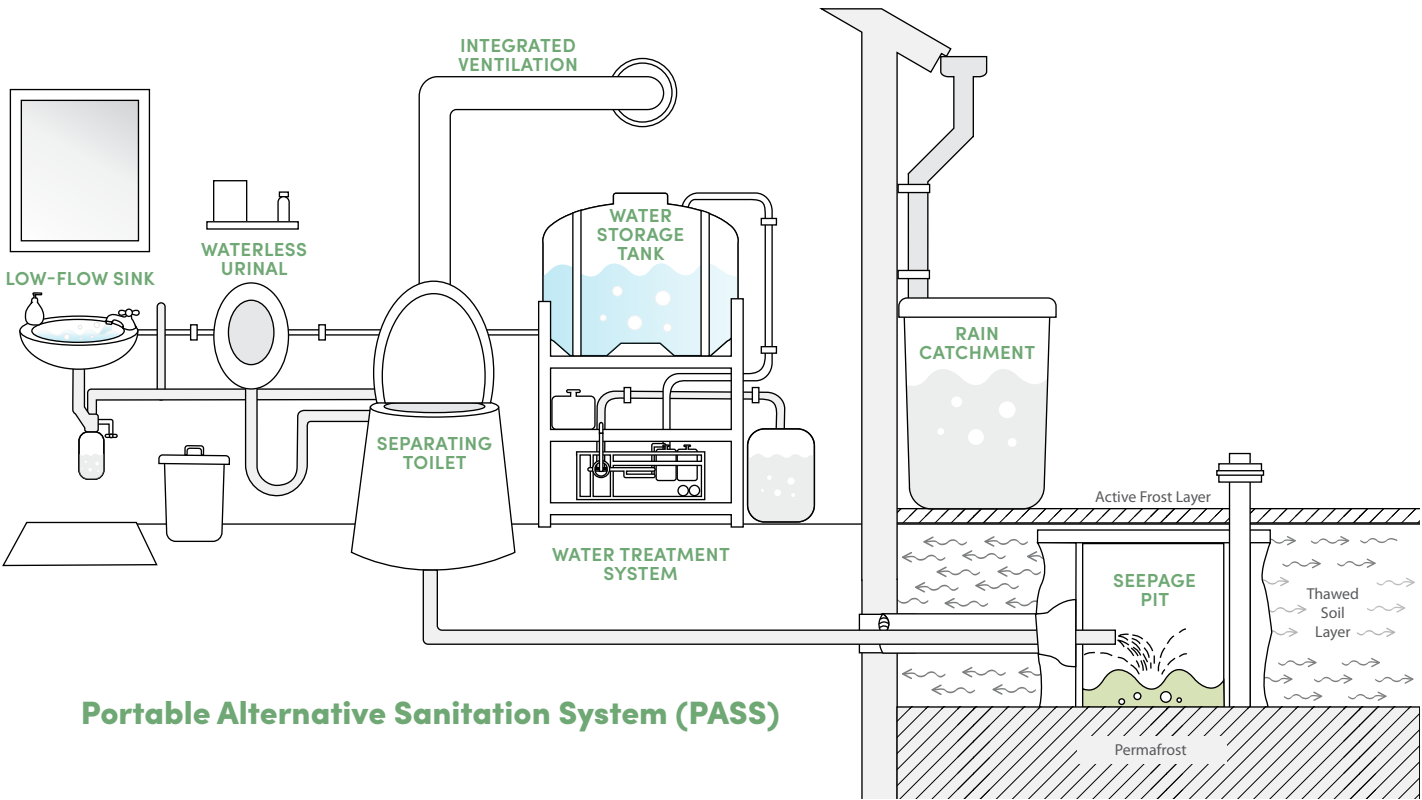
For more than 30 Alaska communities, climate change is creating new challenges in providing access to in-home water and sanitation systems. Many of the remaining unserved communities face significant challenges to building and supporting sanitation systems in part because of their small size,

lack of available fresh water, unique soil conditions and often their status as “environmentally threatened communities” at risk to the effects of climate change.

Ongoing ANTHC projects in places like Kivalina, Russian Mission and Newtok are examples of adapting to a warmer climate. In Kivalina, we are testing alternative systems to in-home water. In Russian Mission, we are protecting existing community water infrastructure. In Newtok, we are supporting a community move to a new townsite with a comprehensive community relocation plan.



PARTNERING FOR SUSTAINABILITY
In addition to work in water and sanitation, ANTHC supports maintenance of community health clinics and hospitals. We are also home to programs that encourage water sustainability, such as the National Tribal Water Center.
Above: CDC officer Alice Wong collects water at the Northern Cheyenne Reservation to test for water contaminants.



Portable Alternative Sanitation System (PASS)

17 Portable Alternative Sanitation Systems installed in homes across Alaska

Connecting in-home sanitation systems where it was impossible before.

ANTHC environmental health and engineering staff installed nine new Portable Alternative Sanitation System (PASS) units in Allakaket in the Tanana Chiefs Conference region. Allakaket is a community of about 100 people on the Koyukuk River. Its small population and history of flooding have made in-home piped service not financially feasible, so residents still rely on the honey bucket and haul waste to a lagoon. The innovative PASS unit was designed and developed by ANTHC to address deficiencies in sanitation in order to support the health needs of community residents.

With this project, all water treatment and waste disposal happens in the home. Water is collected from rainwater catchment, melted ice or water hauled from the river and stored in a treatment tank. It is distributed by gravity to low-flow sink and toilet fixtures. Flushed wastewater is separated into liquid and solid components where the liquid is disposed of into a seepage pit and dried solids are disposed of in the landfill. Modular construction of the system facilitates quick installation and reduces construction costs; the system is mobile and can be moved from the home if and when needed.

“ANTHC continues to find ways to bring water and sanitation services to our unserved and under-served Interior Region communities. This year, the Portable Alternative Sanitation System designed by ANTHC was installed in Allakaket homes. The PASS system makes sanitation possible for places that were not able to be served before.”
– ANTHC Vice Chair Andrew Jimmie, Tanana Chiefs Conference

Connecting at risk communities to funding resources.

Helping communities that are most threatened by a changing Arctic is a priority for ANTHC Environmental Health and Engineering. The Consortium understands that solution-based responsive planning and engineering will help community leaders assess their current situation, plan for future generations, maintain existing infrastructure and plan for financing projects. Additionally, to assist the environmentally threatened rural Alaska communities, the Denali Commission has contracted with the ANTHC Grants department to create the Environmentally Threatened Communities Grant Center. This year, the Environmentally Threatened Communities grant center secured more than \$2 million in funding to assist communities.



31 Alaska communities are considered environmentally threatened



4 new homes built in Mertarvik, Newtok’s relocation site

Connecting a community to a healthier future.

Due to the erosion, the village of Newtok is moving nine miles downriver to a new location, Mertarvik. ANTHC was selected by the Newtok Village Council as project manager for relocation. Eventually, all of the residents will move, but first they need housing. At the new site, construction is moving forward. A new two-mile road is being built, vital to the location’s progress, and a sign of things to come. The new road will connect the town to a rock quarry. The rock will be used to create the foundations of homes, build roads in the new community and other infrastructure projects.

2,266 homes with first-time water service since 1998

269 active community projects across rural Alaska

518 environmental health consultations in 130 communities

“Alaska Native people are experts in our own health. We are reconnecting to our healthy traditions and ANTHC programs are helping build on the traditional ways.”
– Director Robert Henrichs, Chugachmiut, Native Village of Eyak



“The ANTHC board strategically invests its resources to expand services that improve Alaska Native health. We are collaborating with Tribal partners and making sure everyone has access to the care that they need most.”
– ANTHC Treasurer Evelyn Beeter, Unaffiliated Tribes, Mt. Sanford Tribal Consortium

STATEWIDE PARTNERSHIPS

Connecting effective solutions to the needs of the Alaska Tribal Health System

ANTHC works with many partners, lawmakers and advocates to build a unified health system that provides the highest quality services. ANTHC staff provides trainings, resources and navigation services to Tribal health partners and individuals to support the health of Alaska Native people and the Alaska Tribal Health System.

Above: Through educational partnerships, such as with Alaska Pacific University, ANTHC finds progressive ways to enhance Alaska’s workforce that help improve Alaska Native health.

Education and workforce development

Since ANTHC’s inception, our Tribal leadership recognized that the next step in true ownership of our health care system is to continuously prepare our young people for the health careers of the future. ANTHC’s Tribal management has put the hiring and development of Alaska Native employees at the forefront to better serve our people and offers new ways to enhance our workforce to prepare for the emerging health needs of Alaska Native people.

“Preparing Alaska Native people for good jobs begins by providing good education and training. Partnering with Alaska Pacific University connects higher education and health care, a partnership that will yield long-term benefits.”
– Director Preston Rookok, Norton Sound Health Corporation

While investing in workforce development takes time to see the returns, ANTHC is ensuring that the next generation of Tribal health leaders will be ready to advance Alaska Native health. **The ANTHC-APU strategic partnership is one way we are creating solutions for Tribal health needs. This year, Alaska Pacific University created or redesigned four new degree programs** in nursing, community health, and rural management and redesigned programs in counseling psychology. Each of these academic programs supports career advancement in high-demand fields.



AmeriCorps VISTA members work with ANTHC programs to help support sustainable development in low-income areas.

In 2018, **ANTHC became a new host site for AmeriCorps VISTA members**, providing an avenue for future program growth. AmeriCorps, a national public service program, supports sustainable development in low-income areas. Eight positions at ANTHC are implementing exciting capacity building projects including: opioid and prescription drug addiction prevention and harm reduction; chronic liver disease management system improvements; research improvements and medical provider cultural competency training; rural contamination support

Future campus expansion project: ANTHC Education and Development Center

The Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium’s Board of Directors is committed to developing a rural health provider workforce prepared to serve the health needs of our people. ANTHC is making a new investment in the people who are our front line of health – the dedicated Community Health Aides and Practitioners, Dental Health Aides and Behavioral Health Aides who serve our communities.

Well trained rural providers will help increase access to care closer to home and reduce the health inequities Alaska Native people experience today. The new ANTHC Education and Development Center on the Alaska Native Health Campus will be a dedicated educational hub to support statewide rural provider training, along with nursing and medical continuing education programs.

development; increased sustainable access to water and sanitation; assessment of infrastructure deficiencies; rural youth career development; and reducing rural sanitation energy costs.



ANTHC, through Alaska Native Resource Development, purchased two buildings for clinical space, including the Alaska Pacific Medical Building near the Alaska Native Health Campus in Anchorage’s U-Med District.

Investing in our future growth

In 2017, ANTHC formed the Alaska Native Resource Development, LLC (ANRD) as an investment arm to help diversify its unrestricted and self-generated revenue sources. To date, ANRD investments include: 1) an equity interest in the purchase of four centrally located Marriott hotel properties in Anchorage and 2) the purchase of two medical buildings in Anchorage’s U-Med District, located just north of the Alaska Native Health Campus. These **investments are part of ANTHC’s financial vitality strategy** that provides future growth opportunities in and around the Alaska Native Health Campus.



Architectural rendering of future Education and Development Center classroom space

ANTHC statewide work

ANTHC works across Alaska with regional Tribal health partners to improve Alaska Native health. Our mission is providing the highest quality health services in partnership with our people and the Alaska Tribal Health System. Here are some examples of our work with partners in 2018:

HEALTHY MEDICAL SERVICES

- Distributed 379 safe medication deactivation bags and medication mail-back envelopes to communities including Kenai, Kodiak, Metlakatla, Port Graham, Seldovia, Skagway, Soldotna and St. George Island

HEALTHY PEOPLE AND PREVENTION

- Provided SafeTALK and Youth Mental Health First Aide training to five communities in the Norton Sound Region
- Supported Alaskan Plants as Food and Medicine regional events with Council of Athabascan Tribal Governments and Southcentral Foundation

HEALTHY HOMES AND COMMUNITIES

- Worked on 57 environmental health and engineering projects
- Hosted Youth Environmental Summit, Chistochina; Air Quality Training, Port Lions; Fire Services Training, St. George; Veterinary Clinic, Tyonek

HEALTH TRAINING AND EDUCATION

- 7 new Behavioral Health Aide Training Program participants from: Copper River Native Association, Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association, Maniilaq Association, SouthEast Alaska Regional Health Consortium and Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation
- 5 new Dental Health Aide Training Program participants from: Marshall, Kotlik, Golovin, Tulalip, Washington and a Canadian student from the Fishing Lake First Nation, Saskatchewan, Canada

HEALTH TECHNOLOGY AND TELEHEALTH

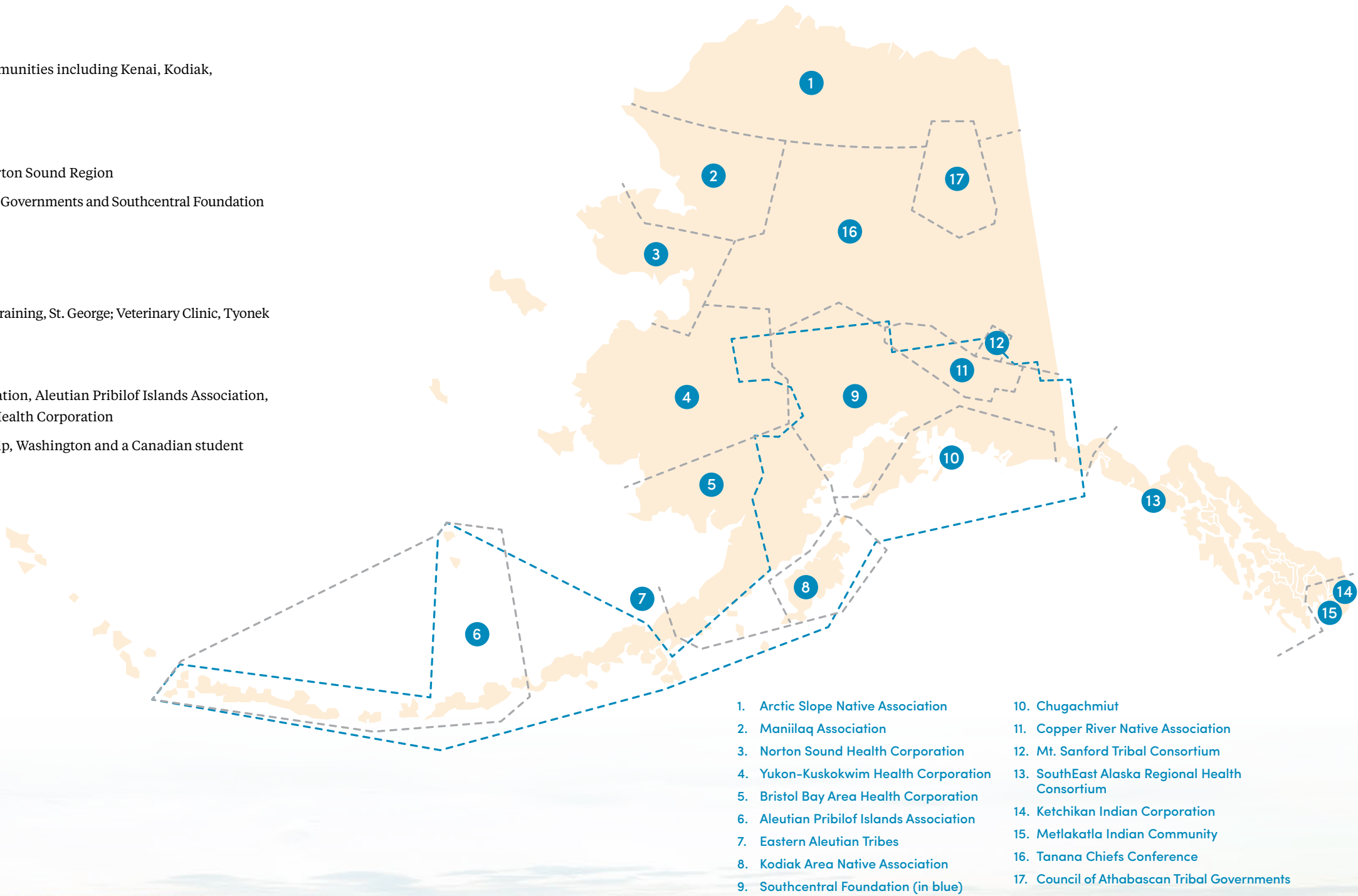
- 30,000 telehealth cases created across the Tribal health system

HEALTH RESEARCH AND DATA

- Alaska Native Epidemiology Center hosted statewide trainings, reaching 145 people with the following partners: Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association, Council of Athabascan Tribal Governments, Kodiak Area Native Association, Ketchikan Indian Corporation, Maniilaq Association, Southcentral Foundation, SouthEast Alaska Regional Health Consortium, Tanana Chiefs Conference and Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation

Alaska Tribal Health System

Alaska has 229 federally recognized Tribes across 586,412 square miles, all served by the Alaska Tribal Health System and represented on ANTHC’s board through our Tribal health organization partners.





HEALTH TRAINING AND EDUCATION

Celebrating 50 years of the Community Health Aide Program

In 2018, the Community Health Aide Program celebrated 50 years of expanding access to care.

Alaska Community Health Aides and Practitioners (CHA/Ps) are the frontline of health care in their communities. For many people living in rural areas, CHA/Ps are the only health care providers and deliver necessary preventative care that is helping to improve the health of all Alaska Native people.

Above: In March, 92 CHA/Ps gathered on the Alaska Native Health Campus for the annual Community Health Aide Program Forum. Attendees model vests they received celebrating CHAP's 50-year anniversary.

Establishing the Community Health Aide Program

The Community Health Aide Program (CHAP) was developed in the 1960s in response to a number of health concerns across the state, including: the tuberculosis epidemic, high infant mortality and high rates of injury in rural Alaska. In 1968, CHAP received formal recognition and congressional funding. The long history of cooperation and coordination between federal and state governments as well as Tribal health organizations has made access to care closer to home a reality for more people in Alaska.

CHAP now consists of a network of approximately 550 Community Health Aides/Practitioners (CHA/Ps) in more than 170 rural Alaska communities. CHA/Ps work within the health care guidelines of their training and care manual, the Alaska Community Health Aide/Practitioner Manual (CHAM), which

standardizes the high level of care provided by each CHA/P and outlines assessment and treatment protocols.

The rural community-based CHA/Ps are a vital link in the care delivery system across Alaska. CHA/Ps are the primary care provider in an established referral relationship, which includes advanced practice providers, physicians, regional hospitals and the Alaska Native Medical Center. In addition, providers such as public health nurses, physicians and dentists make visits to villages to see patients in collaboration with the CHA/Ps.

The Community Health Aide/Practitioner Manual (CHAM) standardizes the high level of care provided by CHA/Ps and outlines assessment and treatment protocols.



CHA/P training for the highest-quality care

Community Health Aides are selected by their communities to receive training and provide care for people in the place where they live. There are four sessions of CHA training, each lasting three to four weeks. Training centers are located in Anchorage, Bethel, Nome and Fairbanks. Between sessions, CHAs work in their clinics completing a skills list and practicum. After successfully completing the four-session training curriculum and examination, the CHA qualifies as a Community Health Practitioner. CHA/Ps at any level of training may obtain certification by the Community Health Aide Program Certification Board. ANTHC is pleased to support the Community Health Aide Training Program and prepare CHA/Ps for their vital role in the Tribal health system.

Impact of the Community Health Aide Program

Since CHAP was established, ANTHC helped expand the community-based health provider system to meet other primary health needs in rural Alaska that address long-standing health issues. In 2001, we established the Dental Health Aide Program –

the first of its kind in the country – to make oral health care more broadly available. In 2008, we responded to growing community needs in mental and behavioral health with the Behavioral Health Aide Program.

The continued evolution and specialization of these three programs under ANTHC's Tribal Community Health Provider Program has been a core priority of our Consortium's work over the past decade. Today, we are proud to have more than 700 community health aides and practitioners, dental health aides, and Behavioral Health Aides actively working across the state to bring tailored care to Alaska Native people. While Alaska is just beginning to recognize the full impact of our community health, dental and behavioral health programs, we know that our Community Health Providers are ready to meet the opportunities and challenges before us for the next 50 years and beyond.



Community Health Aide Program overview

- Formal program established in 1968 in response to health concerns in rural Alaska
- Community Health Aides and Practitioners (CHA/Ps) provide primary care for rural communities across Alaska
- Today, the network consists of approximately 550 CHA/Ps in more than 170 rural Alaska villages, with more than 250,000 patient visits annually
- CHA/Ps receive up-to-date initial and ongoing training to provide high-quality health care
- More than 90 percent of CHA/Ps are certified by the federally authorized Community Health Aide Program Certification Board

For more information about the Community Health Aide Program, visit akchap.org.



PHILANTHROPY

Connecting funding with unmet needs: Healthy Alaska Natives Foundation



The Healthy Alaska Natives Foundation (HANF) works to raise awareness and funding for the unmet needs of our health care system. That’s why we support key initiatives that deliver sustainable, effective and culturally relevant health care, from providing improvements at medical facilities that serve Alaska Native people, to supporting wellness and prevention programs that impact Alaska Native populations, to advancing healthy village environments around Alaska. By facing the greatest health challenges head on, we can lead healthy lifestyles and avoid chronic health issues.

Above: HANF funds programs that contribute to the health and well-being of our Alaska Native children.

2018 funding highlights

Patient Care

Clothing for Emergency Department patients
Chair glide system for patient wheelchair access
Stop the Bleed tourniquets for Community Health Aide Forum
Patient travel/support for Palliative Care
Support for patients with CSID Genetic Disorder
QuietPac kits for inpatient noise control in hospital
Cancer Care Comfort Support for Oncology Patients

Healthy Kids

Camp ARCTIC for children with Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis
Bereavement supplies for family memories, pediatric supplies for Child Life Specialist Program at ANMC
Gaming systems and entertainment for Inpatient Pediatrics (music, movies, games) - Wii U Fun Center, Netflix, Nintendo
“Kid-Size” playroom remodel
Toy purchases, pediatric patient fun supplies
Imagination Library at ANMC
Camp Coho for children who have lost a loved one to cancer
Safe Sleep wearable blankets for newborn babies at ANMC
Starlight “Brave” gowns for Inpatient Pediatrics
Plush bears from the Alaska Zoo
Pediatric aspirator pump
Funko toys for Inpatient Pediatrics
Radio Flyer Wagons for Inpatient Pediatrics

Healthy Communities

Fire extinguishers for Village of Newtok residents
Youth Environmental Summit in Copper Center region
Atwood Center restoration for CHAP housing
Dental Health Aide Therapy Program Distance Learning
ANTHC Training & Education Center campaign support

Our donors in 2018

The Healthy Alaska Natives Foundation offers sincere thanks to our donors, who make it all possible. Even though Alaska’s communities are separated by hundreds of miles, when it comes to health, we are all connected.

Founder’s Circle (\$25,000 and above)

GCI • Neeser Construction

Visionaries Circle (\$10,000 to \$24,999)

Anchorage & Valley Radiation Therapy Centers of Alaska • Doyon, Ltd.
Gary and Mary Ann Brownell • Providence Health & Services Alaska

Legacy Giving (\$5,000 to \$9,999)

Afognak Native Corporation • Alaska Native Medical Center Auxiliary, Inc. • Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium
Bettisworth North Architects • Cerner Corporation • Crothall Healthcare, Inc. • Harold W. Schneider, Jr., MD • John Thomas, MD
Kodiak Area Native Association • Marissa Flannery and Aaron Schutt • Nacole Heslep • Plastic Surgeons of Alaska • Richard Monkman • Roald and Carly Helgesen • Sonosky, Chambers, Sachse, Miller & Monkman, LLP • Southcentral Foundation
Tanana Chiefs Conference • Wells Fargo Bank Alaska

The Foundation thanks our very important partners:

Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority • Alaska Zoo
AmerisourceBergen Foundation • Climate Justice Resilience Fund
Rasmuson Foundation • Ronald McDonald House Charities of Western WA and AK • Starlight Children’s Foundation
W.K. Kellogg Foundation



2018 funding focus: ANTHC Education and Development Center

To support rural health, HANF is supporting ANTHC’s campaign to build an Education and Development Center for Tribal Community Health Providers across Alaska. After years of makeshift, temporary spaces, the new Education and Development Center will provide the Tribal health system’s three Tribal Community Health Provider Programs with a lasting, state-of-the-art home. In a culturally responsive and rigorous learning environment, we will build professional connections between the Dental, Behavioral, and Community Health Aide Programs to provide whole-person care in rural communities. The ANTHC Education and Development Center will provide Tribal Community Health Providers a place to learn, collaborate and find empowerment and opportunity. It will strengthen the foundation for rural Alaska care and be key to a brighter, healthier future for Alaska Native people.

HANF now a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization

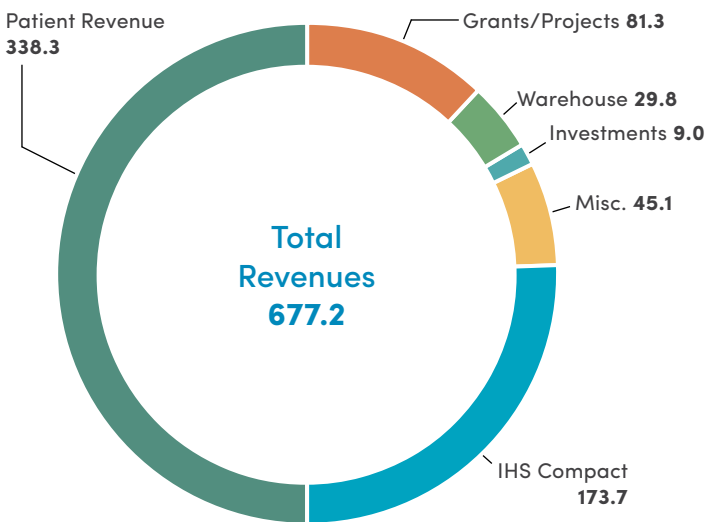
In 2018, the Healthy Alaska Natives Foundation was approved as its own nonprofit organization. The purpose of the Foundation remains to further the vision and mission of ANTHC that Alaska Native people are the healthiest people in the world. HANF receives a base level of support for staff from ANTHC, but relies greatly on the generosity of individuals and corporations to support the unfunded and unmet needs of the Tribal Health System. With your generous support, HANF will continue to provide support for those areas that we have traditionally funded – Patient Care, Healthy Kids and Healthy Communities. Thank you!

2018 Foundation Board of Directors

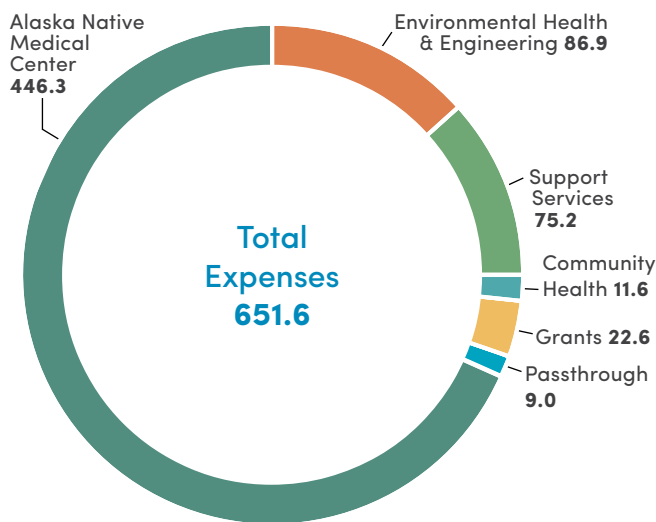
Evelyn Beeter, Chair	Marissa K. Flannery
Robert Henrichs, Secretary	Jason Metrokin
Charlene Nollner, Treasurer	Andy Teuber
Angela Cox	

The Healthy Alaska Natives Foundation Board of Directors includes appointed community members, as well as appointed members of the ANTHC Board.

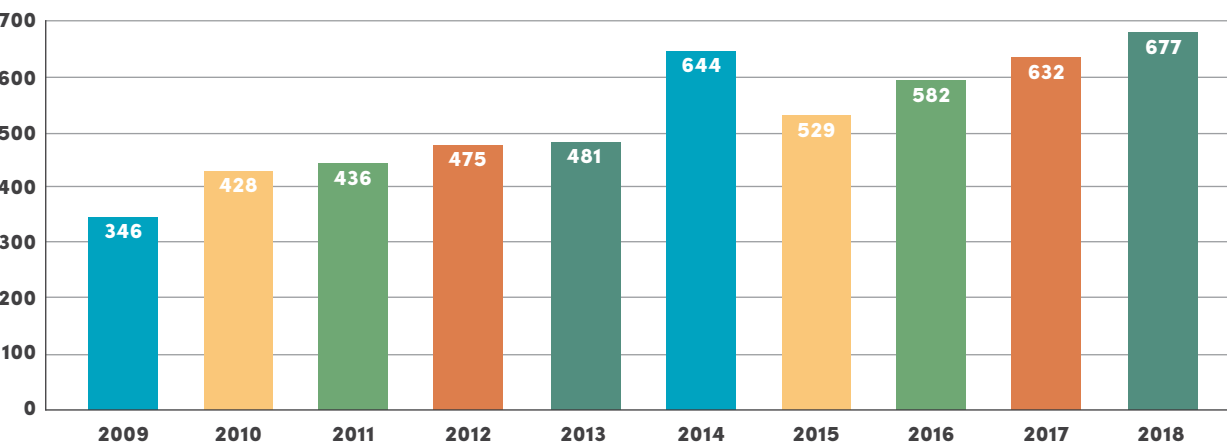
Financial summary



FY 2018 Revenues (\$M)



FY 2018 Expenses (\$M)



Total Revenues 2009-2018 (\$M)

This financial summary is preliminary as of October 31, 2018, and is subject to a formal audit for the 2018 fiscal year.



OUR MISSION

Providing the highest quality health services in partnership with our people and the Alaska Tribal Health System.



ALASKA NATIVE
TRIBAL HEALTH
CONSORTIUM

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