

ETC Grant Center News

Monthly Update from the Environmentally Threatened Communities Grant Center

Issue 13, June 2018



The Grant Center can help with:

- Identification of funding opportunities
- Writing grant applications
- Grant management technical assistance

Examples of ETC Issues:

- Receding shoreline
- Loss of or damage to homes
- Damaged or destroyed critical infrastructure
- Relocation
- Health and safety concerns

ETC Grant Center Eligible Communities¹

Akiak	Koyukuk
Alakanuk	Kwigillingok
Allakaket	Lime Village
Chefornak	McGrath
Chevak	Napakiak
Clarks Point	Newtok
Deering	Nulato
Dillingham	Nunapitchuk
Emmonak	Port Heiden
Eyak	Saint Michael
Golovin	Selawik
Hughes	Shaktoolik
Huslia	Shishmaref
Kivalina	Teller
Kotlik	Unalakleet
	Utqiagvik (Barrow)

1. ETC Grant Center priority shall be given to the 31 communities identified in GAO report 09-551 as threatened by flooding and erosion.

Community Profile: Dillingham, AK

Dillingham is located 327 miles southwest of Anchorage in northern Bristol Bay, at the confluence of the Wood and Nushagak rivers. According to the 2010 U.S. Census, the population was 2,329.

The primary environmental threat in Dillingham is erosion. Nearly 20 years ago, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers built a sea wall to protect the bluff at Snag Point. Safety ladders were added to the sea wall for people who need to get off the beach. Erosion has continued over the years such that the safety ladders are now ten feet off the ground and cannot be reached by people on the beach.

Elsewhere, graves have been exposed, exhumed, and reburied in a new cemetery. The City has abandoned its main sewer line and relocated it upland to run under the streets. The municipal sewage lagoon's discharge pipe, which runs into the Nushagak River, is in danger of being washed away. To address this, the City spends approximately \$100,000 each year to protect the pipe with rip rap. Sewage lagoons are also a concern. The bluff continues to erode near the City's waste water lagoon, and the hospital's lagoon is approximately ten feet from the river. Dillingham has two erosion monitoring programs in operation and is seeking funding to protect the community from further erosion. The City harbor loses several feet of land every year to wind and water erosion and has come dangerously close to unearthing the power line that supplies the south harbor area.

Current Funding Opportunities

I. Bureau of Indian Affairs Economic Development Feasibility Studies

This program supports feasibility studies for economic development opportunities, including the viability of an economic development project, business, or new technology.

Eligibility: Federally recognized Tribes and Alaska Tribal entities

Due Date: July 9, 2018.

Important Information: This funding opportunity does not require a match.

Grant Term: Funded under a non-recurring appropriation. Funds must be spent within one year.

Number of Awards Expected: 35

For More Information: <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/search-grants.html>

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2. U.S. Department of Transportation BUILD Grant

This program provides funding for surface transportation infrastructure capital investments, including:

- Roads
- Bridges
- Public Transit
- Ports
- Rural broadband deployment that is part of an eligible transportation project

Eligibility: States, local and Tribal governments

Due Date: July 19, 2018.

Important Information: BUILD priorities are economic development, moving freight, improving access to transportation options and providing health access and safety to residents. Matching funds requested at a 3:1 ratio. For every three dollars requested of the funder, one dollar should come from the applicant. Minimum request amount for rural applicants is \$1 million. Planning grants have no minimum grant size, regardless of location.

Grant Term: All Fiscal Year 2018 BUILD funds must be expended by September 30, 2025.

For More Information: <https://www.transportation.gov/BUILDgrants>

3. U.S. Department of Agriculture: Community Facilities Technical Assistance and Training Grant

These funds can be used to hire consultants or contractors to:

- Assist communities in identifying and planning for community facility needs;
- Identify resources to finance community facility needs from public and private sources;
- Prepare reports and surveys necessary to request financial assistance to develop community facilities;
- Prepare applications for Agency financial assistance;
- Improve the management, including financial management, related to the operation of community facilities; or
- Assist with other areas of need identified by the Secretary.

Eligibility: Local governments, nonprofit organizations, federally recognized Tribes

Due Date: July 02, 2018.

Important Information: Matching funds are not required, but preference is given to applications with cash matching funds.

Number of Awards Expected: 15

For More Information: <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2018-05-03/pdf/2018-09351.pdf>

Community Successes

Napakiak recently completed a five-year update to their Hazard Mitigation Plan and is in the process of updating their five-year Community Plan. Both of these efforts strive to combat rapid erosion. Between May 12 and May 29, the community lost 50 feet of shoreline, including the boat and hovercraft landing area. Currently, community members are relocating several buildings. The photo below was taken on May 10, 2018, during a visit from Environmentally Threatened Communities Grant Center staff.



Figure 1. Part of Napakiak as seen on May 10, 2018.

About the Environmentally Threatened Communities Grant Center:

The Center was established with a Denali Commission grant to the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium and provides grant support to rural Alaska communities experiencing infrastructure impacts associated with environmental threats such as flooding, erosion, and melting permafrost.