



Alaska Rural Utility Collaborative

Sustaining the Served

Once a community has a water and sewer system, a new set of challenges arise: keeping the system in operation. These systems not only need funds and supplies for maintenance, but require knowledgeable people to run the daily operations. The Alaska Rural Utility Collaborative (ARUC) is committed to helping communities maintain and improve their water and sanitation systems by providing training, support, and emergency assistance when needed.

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ARUC member communities receive quality training for plant operators, as well as support for administrative needs such as customer billing and rate setting. Communities also have the support of ANTHC's engineers, operations and maintenance specialists, utility managers, financial analysts, and grant specialists.

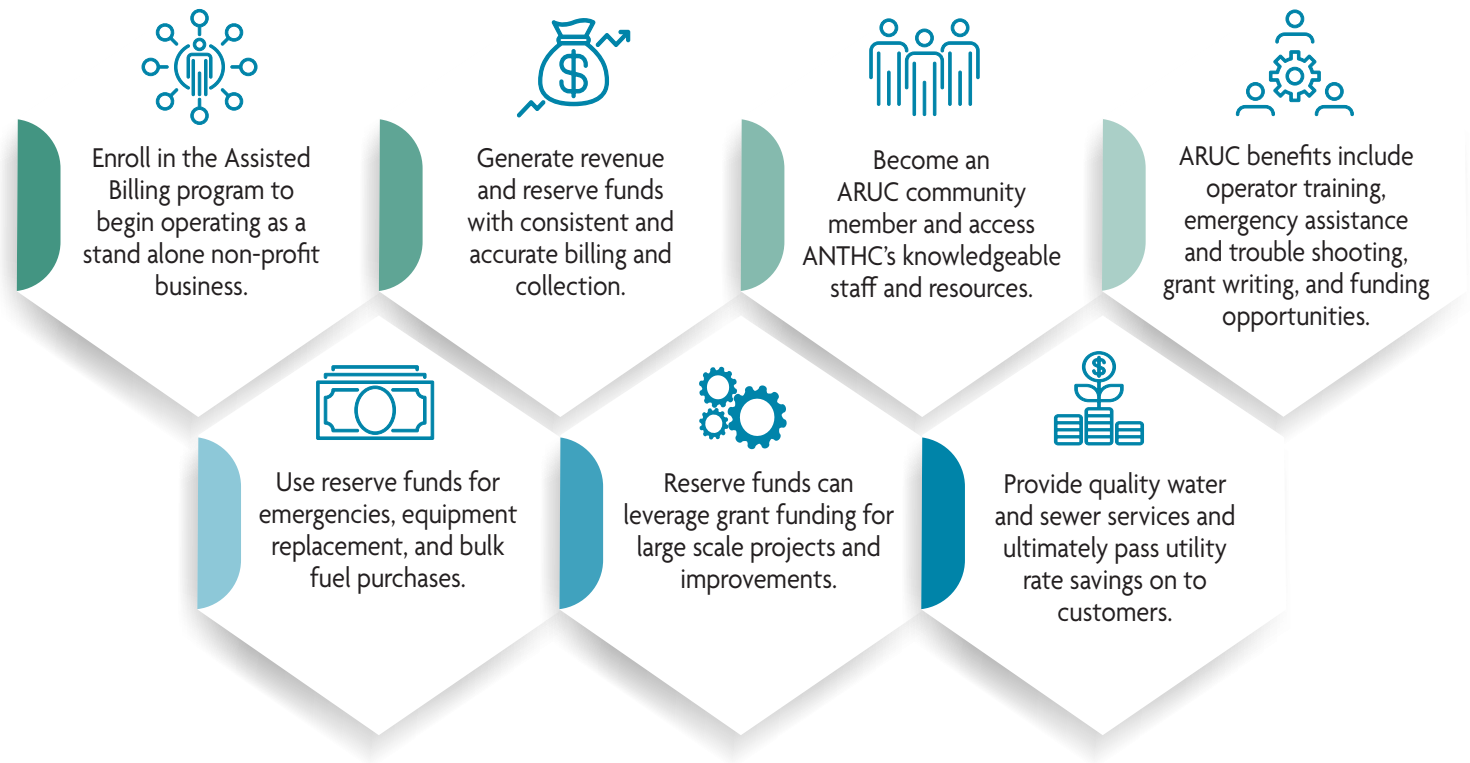
Each ARUC community operates its water and sewer systems as a standalone non-profit business. Funds generated from user fees, and from local community and regional support, must be enough to pay the system's direct expenses and build a reserve account. Financial security leads to regular system improvements, community-funded projects, large scale projects, and ultimately, savings in customer rates.



Advantages of ARUC Membership

- Eighty-nine percent of ARUC member communities meet the Best Practice score eligibility requirement for funding opportunities.
- ARUC communities pay up to \$3 less per gallon of fuel than other communities in their geographical area.
- System operators in ARUC communities see increased retention, benefits, and pay.
- ARUC communities receive volume discounts on fuel, parts, and supplies needed to keep water and sewer systems running.
- Each community selects a member to be on the ARUC Advisory Committee to represent their community and provide direction on water and sewer operations and rates.

Steps to Sustainable, Quality Services



A Partnership and a Resource

ARUC communities have access to the resources they need for providing clean water and sanitation. Critical supplies and replacement parts are provided at wholesale prices. Operator training is provided in a variety of subjects and skill levels, ensuring personnel are well-trained. In emergency situations, ARUC connects communities with knowledgeable staff to address problems. What's more, reserves can leverage grant funding for improvements and new projects, making funds go even further.

Assisted Billing Program

Before a community can join ARUC they must be a member of the Assisted Billing program for a minimum of one year. The program provides communities with water and sewer system billing services and collection from customers. Consistent and accurate utility billing helps rural communities generate revenue. Fees are collected and refunded to the community, minus the monthly service fee.

Who We Are

ARUC is operated by the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium's Division of Environmental Health and Engineering. ANTHC's vision is that Alaska Native people are the healthiest people in the world. Programs like ARUC provide the expertise to keep water and sewer systems operating efficiently in rural Alaska, providing clean water and sustainable public health infrastructures that save on fuel costs, health care costs, and lead to healthier Alaskans.

Contact us to find out more about becoming an ARUC member community.



**ALASKA NATIVE
TRIBAL HEALTH
CONSORTIUM**

Environmental Health & Engineering

For more information about the
services we provide, visit
anthc.org/tribal-utility-support.

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Toll free 1-866-205-7581