



## 2024 Tribal Climate Initiatives Gathering Executive Summary

On May 21-23, the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC) hosted the first Tribal Climate Initiatives Gathering in Anchorage, Alaska. The gathering was envisioned to make progress on the recommendations of the [\*Unmet Needs of Environmentally Threatened Alaska Native Villages: Assessment and Recommendations\*](#) Report and to address the existential threat of climate change to Alaska Native communities with the theme of *"Thriving in the Context of Climate Change"*. Over 120 individuals participated including 39 Tribal representatives, 10 state representatives, 3 representatives from the offices of Senator Murkowski and Congresswoman Peltola, and 53 federal representatives including leadership from the White House Council on Environmental Quality and Office of Science and Technology Policy.

Historically, many government reports have outlined the need gaps of environmentally threatened communities for relocation, managed retreat, and protection in place. However, even with these written updates, the actions taken to better support these communities have been insufficient. This gathering represents a meaningful engagement that brings together leaders from the Tribal, government, and non-profit space to build relationships and agree on next steps for meaningful progress. The event was also tribally-led, which is unprecedented and brought culture and Indigenous ways of knowing to the forefront.

The first day of the gathering focused on listening and learning. Ten tribal representatives shared stories about the regional realities of climate change and impacts facing their communities. Participants gained an understanding and appreciation of the diversity of peoples, cultures and environments, and the urgent need for climate adaptation action. Some of the needs conveyed included flexible, sufficient and non-competitive funding to support climate adaptation solutions as well as streamlined government processes and better coordination.

The second day focused on gaining a shared understanding of the aforementioned report and its three key recommendations: 1) closing the funding gap with a single committed funding source and risk based prioritization; 2) improving equity by removing programmatic and legislative resource barriers; and 3) improving coordination through a 'whole of government implementation framework'. Participants spent significant time in breakout sessions developing a shared understanding of key elements and guiding principles of the proposed framework with the intent of promoting dialog to help visualize shared goals and actions. The day emphasized the importance of a proactive mitigation orientation to problem solving, the need for a risk-based prioritization system to be utilized by funding agencies, and for long-term and community-specific technical assistance teams.

The third day focused on actions that the federal and state government could take to better respond to the needs of Alaska Native communities facing urgent environmental threats. Participants heard about the history of government policy and coordination to address environmental threats across Alaska and the lessons learned. Participants also identified short-term action items for after the gathering and long-term changes, including a proposed



‘whole-of-government implementation framework’ to improve government coordination and the equitable delivery of resources to communities.

Throughout the gathering, participants heard how the *Unmet Needs Report* is already changing some of the ways agencies are working across Alaska and these successes set important precedent for broader change. Government representatives acknowledged there is much more work to do and found common areas for potential collaboration to improve how they serve environmentally threatened Alaska Native communities. Tribal participants had opportunities to build relationships with government partners, share their stories, and left feeling heard.

Other takeaways included the critical need to incorporate Tribal food sovereignty into climate change impact and adaptation discussions and the need for government officials to spend time developing relationships and visiting environmentally threatened communities in order to experience and better understand the realities of climate change. While a great number of agencies and Tribal organizations were represented, participants noted the need to include other voices in the future, particularly those of Tribal youth. This gathering is envisioned to grow as an important forum for developing relationships and fostering partnerships focused on problem solving to better meet the urgent and evolving climate adaptation needs of environmentally threatened Alaska Native communities.

Moving forward, ANTHC is looking to continue discussions from the gathering and identify key agency contacts for the practical development and implementation of the ‘whole of government coordination framework’. Communication is critical in this work and will continue through regular updates and newsletters. For more information related to the Gathering or relevant work, please see the Executive Summary for the [Report](#) and the ANTHC-published [video](#) on recommendation 3, as well as the Extended Notes and Visual Summary for the event.



2024 Tribal Climate Initiatives Gathering – Anchorage, AK



# 2024 Tribal Climate Initiatives Gathering Extended Notes

## Day 1 – Knowledge Sharing

On May 21-23, 120 individuals representing the White House, federal and state government agencies, legislative offices, and Tribal regions and organizations participated in the Tribal Climate Initiatives Gathering in Anchorage, Alaska. Building upon the [Unmet Needs of Environmentally Threatened Alaska Native Villages: Assessment and Recommendations Report](#) (hereafter the *Unmet Needs Report* or *Report*), the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC) hosted the event in collaboration with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Participants heard community experiences related to climate change, discussed the *Unmet Needs Report's* recommendations, and explored concrete actions to support environmentally threatened communities through a 'whole-of-government coordination framework'.

The focus of the first day was knowledge sharing. The Gathering provided space for community members from 10 of the 11 Alaska Tribal health regions to provide information on their region and culture, identify the major climate threats to their region, and discuss challenges and successes related to mitigating those threats. Issues related to permafrost degradation, erosion, and flooding were discussed extensively and are focused topics in the *Unmet Needs Report*. However, environmental threats due to climate change also include increased wildfires, air pollution, and ocean acidification.



*Tribal Representatives Participating in Regional Realities Panel*

The increase in frequency and severity of these threats due to climate change impacts infrastructure in communities, and threatens food sovereignty and access to cultural resources. Many communities face disruptions in critical infrastructure systems including electricity, sewer, and water. Permafrost degradation, erosion, and flooding increase land subsidence which is impacting the stability and safety of homes, schools, and boardwalks used to move around communities. Warming temperatures in Alaska are leading to changes in resource abundance and distribution, disrupting subsistence practices. Access to berries and medicinal plants is decreasing in many areas. Marine and land mammals are treading further away from communities making hunting more difficult, costly, and dangerous.





Federal and state government agencies have resources and programs that are meant to support communities through climate issues, but community voices tell us that these resources are not always helpful and are difficult to access. Reasons include:

- Diversity in Alaska: There are 11 distinct cultures in Alaska that vary in history, geography, ecology, and culture. Cookie cutter solutions cannot be easily applied to the Alaska context and every project needs to be altered to best serve a specific community.
- Capacity: Finding funding opportunities, determining eligibility, applying, and overseeing projects all at once takes a lot of time. Many communities are small with only a few hundred residents and only one or two people to complete and oversee each of these tasks. Similar capacity issues exist for technical assistance needs as well.
- Timeline: Grant and funding schedules are at odds with the subsistence calendar and performance timelines are difficult to meet as there are complex logistics involved in accessing communities, many of which are not on the road system, and limited seasonal windows in which to complete work in rural Alaska. Even when funding is awarded, the process is slow which is a problem because disasters are happening now.
- Communication: Connecting with government representatives for information on funding opportunities is not easy. Agencies often do not communicate in advance of funding opportunities which means communities have to be constantly vigilant and it is often unclear whether regional and Tribal organizations are eligible to apply. Most federal grants can only be accessed via the internet. This form of communication infrastructure in rural villages is still being built, so most are left out of even applying.
- Competition: Even when communities successfully apply for and receive funding, competitive grants mean that a community's victory is at the expense of other neighboring communities who also have significant needs.
- Coordination: Coordinating on funding opportunities is difficult because land is fragmented with multiple entities having jurisdiction and/or ownership. They also have different priorities due to varying mandates.
- Financing: Matches required for programs assisting in large infrastructure projects make it impossible for many Tribes to participate. Many communities are in remote areas and the price of completing work is higher, increasing required Tribal investment. Piece-mealing smaller projects is an option that does not work well. Additionally, many of these communities have no tax base to raise funds as other municipalities do in the lower 48.
- Decision-making: Often community members are overbooked, meaning that community voices are not included in many decision-making conversations. Communities lose the ability to share traditional knowledge and agency over decisions because of other critical commitments.

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*"As we make progress, it feels like we quickly fall behind and have to start over. We feel ignored by federal agencies who have declined funding to us while they fund lower 48 cities with more resources. Families have to abandon homes with no space to move to other places. There's no sewer or water. We need a faster turnaround and response. We don't want to be approached by more agencies; we just need more help." -Tribal Participant*

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While there are major challenges to accessing necessary government resources, many communities have been innovative in finding success adapting to climate threats. Multiple stories were shared about communities who have accessed government resources through relationship building with critical partners to create climate adaptation plans, build greenhouses for improved food access, and increase capacity at Tribal organizations. While notable, these successes are overwhelmed by the work left to be done. Many high-risk communities have been denied funding and assistance multiple times, even after following the rules and taking the right steps. This can leave community leaders feeling frustrated, ignored, scared, tired, and alone.

In response to the community stories shared, state and federal government leaders participated on a panel recognizing the needs of environmentally threatened Alaska Native communities and discussing the need for and value of working together to meet common goals. The Bureau of Indian Affairs, Denali Commission, Environmental Protection Agency, Federal Emergency Management Agency, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and State of Alaska Division of Community and Regional Affairs were represented. Participants discussed why they were personally and professionally invested in the Tribal Climate Initiatives Gathering and shared information on their varying backgrounds and areas of expertise. Common themes identified included:

- Initial Reactions: Panelists felt overwhelmed by the amount of work to be done, as well as thankful for the opportunity to hear from and work directly with Tribal members. Government leaders need to parse out areas where actions can be taken in a sustainable way to better provide long-term support to communities.
- Recognition of Needs: Panelists immediately recognized that agencies are not serving environmentally threatened Alaska Native communities to the same standard as other communities in the lower 48. There is a moral imperative to improve how and the rate at which both the state and federal government provide funding and services.
- Improving Communication and Coordination: There are existing opportunities for relevant government agencies to better communicate and coordinate with one another on current threats to Alaska Native communities and who can provide support in order to avoid duplication of efforts and reduce the burden on communities to navigate federal bureaucracy.
- Improving Funding Opportunities: Application processes for funding opportunities should be streamlined to accommodate capacity constraints and opportunities should be non-competitive. Timelines should be developed so that they are considering subsistence calendars and the limited season for infrastructural work in rural Alaska.
- Improving Relationships: Agency officials should prioritize building and improving relationships with Tribes and Tribal organizations by funding travel to communities and continuously listening, learning, and engaging. These relationships can help government and Tribal entities understand each other's needs and limitations so that the best and most community-specific technical assistance possible can be provided.

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*"We can't do this disaster by disaster. We need long-term recovery. If we do prevention and mitigation right, communities will recover faster." -Federal Participant*

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The themes from Day 1 allowed participants to understand the main issues faced by Alaska Native villages and to engage in discussion necessary for informing realistic near-term action. The first day also allowed participants to build relationships before working together throughout the rest of the event. Space was built into the first day to share conversation, get to know one another, and to share and appreciate Alaska Native culture. The day began with a land acknowledgement by a Tribal President. Throughout the day, attendees participated in a traditional dance session, shared salmon, and listened to reflections given by a Tribal elder before the group adjourned.



*Traditional Dance Performance by Ossie*



## Day 2 – Understanding the Unmet Needs Report

Day 2 focused on the recommendations of the *Unmet Needs Report* and creating a shared understanding of the key components required to create and implement a ‘whole-of-government coordination framework’. ANTHC representatives began the day by providing additional context on each of the three recommendations: closing the \$80M annual funding gap with a single, committed funding source and risk-based prioritization; improving equity by removing programmatic and legislative barriers for small Tribal and rural communities; and establishing a lasting, all-encompassing ‘whole-of-government coordination framework’ to help Alaska Native communities. The Indian Health Service provided an overview of their use of a collaborative prioritization system for determining funding and ANTHC shared a [video](#) that described Recommendation 3 of the *Unmet Needs Report*. Finally, ANTHC outlined some best practices for providing effective technical assistance:

- Holistic Approach: It is critical to look beyond infrastructure, public health, and safety to successfully support the needs of communities during all phases of a project’s life cycle.
- Proactive Approach: Federal programs need to shift from being reactive following disasters to being proactive and mitigating potential impacts before they occur.
- Equity: To remove barriers to equity in government assistance programs, the history of inequities must be addressed, followed by a holistic prioritization methodology to calculate risk.
- Risk-Based Prioritization: Successful technical assistance is dependent on funding going to the communities with the highest risk.

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*“We need technical assistance that works. It needs to address all phases: risk assessment, planning, and implementation. What we talk about in the report is tailored to all communities from start to finish, local, and puts communities in the driver’s seat. When technical assistance works, it creates great relationships, friendships, hugs at the airport, and invites to dinner.” -ANTHC Representative*

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Following the overview of the *Unmet Needs Report*’s recommendations, participants discussed their understanding of the report at their tables and built relationships with one another to prepare for the afternoon workshop sessions. The afternoon sessions focused on the conceptual ‘whole-of-government coordination framework’ with the first afternoon session allowing participants to develop a shared understanding of four of the ‘key elements’ necessary for a successful framework: Self-governance, Tribal Sovereignty, Cultural Nourishment, and Scalability. Definitions varied across the attendees, but common themes included:

- Self-Governance: Alaska Native Tribes have agency, are able to govern themselves, and are the holders of information and decision-making power.
- Tribal Sovereignty: Alaska Native Villages and Tribes have the multi-generational history, responsibility, and power to determine their futures and must be considered on equal footing to make decisions. However, the current distribution of funding threatens Tribal sovereignty.
- Cultural Nourishment: Centers and supports cultural and Indigenous practices, respecting and honoring the traditions and worldviews of local peoples.



- Scalability: Projects that are flexible, expandable or contractible, and can be replicated with necessary location-specific changes.

The second afternoon session focused on four of the guiding principles, a common set of guidelines adopted to coordinate and implement a whole-of-government approach. The four guiding principles identified were Community-Led, Holistic Approach, Unity of Effort, and Timeliness and Flexibility. Major themes of discussion included:

- Community-Led: The community identifies the issues and leads prioritization of activities. The government supports as needs become prioritized, using traditional and Indigenous knowledge as guides. Participants acknowledged that the definition of ‘community’ can vary and shared understanding amongst all entities should be established early on.
- Holistic Approach: All aspects of a community must be considered, including socio-cultural impacts and interconnections to ensure all current and future needs of a community are understood and met.
- Unity of Effort: When a community is ready to move forwards on a project, a coordinated, transparent approach to solving problems with partners is needed to ensure all are moving forward together and avoiding duplication of efforts.
- Timeliness and Flexibility: Projects need to be developed and executed quickly to address threats, but partners need to be adaptable based on changing community capacity and priorities.

Day 2 ended with an acknowledgment of the Unmet Needs Report, including the effort involved to create the report, the wealth of information it contains, and the inclusion of lived experiences. Participants acknowledged that working together is essential to implementing each of the *Report’s* recommendations, especially the development and implementation of a ‘whole-of-government coordination framework’. Participants respected each other by listening and learning from one another and working together as good partners. However, there was a recognition that there are other necessary partners who were not in the room. The day concluded with three Tribal leaders reflecting on the day’s discussions, highlighting the immense amount of work that is left to be done but that must be done together.

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*“I’d like you to think about something that our elders tell us we need. First, we need to have love for ourselves, our neighbors and community members. Second, we have to have respect for ourselves, our neighbors and community. Third, we need to help others in our communities. Lastly, we need to work together. Those four things will help us take on any challenges that may come before us.” -Tribal Elder*

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Participants Reaching a Shared Understanding of Key Report Terms





### Day 3 – Next Steps

The third and final day of the Tribal Climate Initiatives Gathering was focused on participants, particularly those representing federal and state agencies, developing tangible short- and medium-term action items to improve how the government can support environmentally threatened Alaska Native communities. The first session of the day grounded the group by providing the history of government policy and coordinating bodies related to the infrastructural impacts of erosion, permafrost degradation, and flooding in Alaska. This historical context provided information on what made certain government efforts successful or not. Often historical successes occurred due to national and state priorities aligning with funding opportunities and state leaders advocating for Alaska on the national stage.

This was followed by a group discussion led by three career civil servants in Alaska who had seen some of this history in action. The broader participant group identified best practices for improving how the government works in and with Alaska Native communities, which revolved around being cognizant of keeping all aspects of work culturally respectful:



Introducing Panel on Relevant Government History

- Relationship Building: Intentional time and effort is needed for building trust and relationships with Tribes as well as other private partners.
- Physical Location: To build this trust and truly understand the needs of communities, government officials need to spend time in the communities they are working with.
- Advocacy: To build and maintain long-term partnerships, government officials should consistently advocate for improving funding processes for Tribes.
- Institutional Knowledge: Career civil servants should develop ways to network, pass along critical information, and build relationships so that knowledge gaps do not hinder work due to individuals retiring or changing roles.

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*"Sometimes you want to give up, but the past two days rejuvenated me and reminded me why I'm here for my people. When you come to our villages, please come and spend the night. Before people will open up, they need to know you." -Tribal Participant*

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With grounding and recognition of best practices from those with experience working on climate issues with Tribal communities, the second session focused on self-assigned table huddles based on individual interests and expertise. Each of the huddles expanded on a topic brought up in earlier sessions and as key concepts in the *Report*. Guiding questions were provided to focus conversations on moving towards *Report* recommendations, improving coordination, and recognizing opportunities and challenges within organizations. Key insights are below:



Funding: To improve access to government funding for Alaska Native communities, agencies need to identify ways to leverage, improve, or establish funding transfer mechanisms. It is currently too difficult to get money to Tribes or allocated for community projects. It is worth exploring the improvement of funding opportunities through interagency agreements, universal transfer authorities, and the coordination mechanism for the President's budget. A roadmap for Tribes to easily find funding should also be identified or created. There are opportunities to improve efficiencies within funding opportunities, to better coordinate on who is funding what, and to look into redirecting projects that did not win awards to other funding streams. However, there is a major legislative challenge related to how agencies handle not having enough funding to meet the needs in Alaska while also being limited by congressional mandates.

Risk-Based Prioritization: Risk-based prioritization provides a better alternative to determining funding in comparison to competitive opportunities. To determine which communities are at the highest risk, the current *Statewide Threat Assessment* provides a good starting point. However, there are still areas for improvement. To create a more holistic risk-based prioritization scheme requires the consideration of behavioral health, mental health, and food sovereignty. Any updates to the current document will require serious consideration of included elements for evaluation and how traditional knowledge can best be incorporated into the assessment.

Improving Equity through Policy and Program Implementation: To begin the process of changing agency policies and programs to better serve Alaska Native communities, government officials need to be intentional and devoted to incorporating relevant Tribal voices into the decision-making process. Opportunities exist to adjust grants in a way that minimizes competition, takes community timelines into account, and reduces the burden on Tribes throughout the application process. The rule-making process can and has also been used to make service delivery more equitable in a way that does not require congressional action. Agencies should be empowering Native youth by valuing Indigenous Knowledge as years of expertise for federal hiring to promote Alaska Native voices on both the Tribal and government side of decision-making. Existing executive orders such as EO14112, which directs agencies to remove equity barriers and honor Tribal self-determination, can be used to justify change.

Improving Equity through Technical Assistance: Successful technical assistance means all needs of a community must be met. Key elements for successful technical assistance include partnership between parties, working with trusted partners, using in-state contractors, and actively traveling to communities to work. There are examples of good technical assistance, but the overall quality needs to be improved by maintaining active relationships and consistency. Challenges to doing this include capacity, consistency of funding, and ensuring that staff understand the particular region, are familiar with the unique needs of Alaska, and know all relevant partners.

With primed discussions based on the topical huddles, the final session allowed related organizations to meet to discuss concrete action items. These discussions resulted in a list of next steps, allowing partner agencies to start working towards meeting the recommendations of the *Unmet Needs Report*.



- Common Grant Application: Explore the feasibility of creating a common application for grants or a pathway for rejected grant applications to be funneled into other award competitions.
- Knowledge Sharing: Set up regular briefings to different leadership levels within government agencies on work related to environmentally threatened communities in Alaska. Prepare materials to brief new staff in case of political change.
- Coordination: Restart interagency coordination meetings to allow space for updates and leveraging of relationships and resources. Use existing partner events as platforms to continue relevant discussions.
- Statewide Threat Assessment: Engage in the development process and provide input to the upcoming *Statewide Threat Assessment* update.
- Funding Transfer: Educate different agencies on different funding transfer authorities and include agency General Counsel to determine feasibility of use.
- Universal Transfer Authority: Connect with the Office of Management and Budget to explore establishing a universal transfer authority through the Denali Commission.
- Data Collection: Improve community data collection capabilities and sharing to allow for improved decision making.

The event concluded with reflections and information on what comes next. There was recognition of the power of relationships and how important it is to know one another to work together. There was discussion on the need to have hope and to stay focused on the actions that are possible, even if those actions seem small. The Gathering brought together government representatives who are invested and engaged in the challenges of supporting environmentally threatened communities. Organizers reflected on the need to harness the momentum of the event, but to also be intentional about next steps. To continue working together and make progress, the group needs to stay in touch. ANTHC ended the event with a moment of appreciation for everyone who participated and noted that they will be reigniting updates and a community newsletter, as well as reflecting on lessons learned from the Gathering and sending out summary materials with next steps.

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*“As someone who has witnessed the building and breaking down of relationships between the government and Tribes over time, to start a relationship you need to go and the first thing that you need to say is ‘I am sorry’ and apologize. In the old Indian way, you give and then you can start.” -Tribal Elder*

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Concluding the First Tribal Climate Initiatives Gathering



# 2024 Tribal Climate Initiatives Gathering Visual Summary



MAY 21, 2024

## TRIBAL CLIMATE INITIATIVES GATHERING



### CLIMATE CHANGE

- IS HAPPENING FASTER IN ALASKA THAN ANY WHERE ELSE IN THE U.S.
- IS CAUSING:
  - PERMAFROST THAW
  - INCREASED FLOODING & EROSION



- INCREASING TEMPERATURES & PRECIPITATION
- ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGES AFFECTING FISH, ANIMALS & PLANTS
- WILDFIRES & AIR POLLUTION
- OCEAN ACIDIFICATION



### HOW DOES IT IMPACT OUR COMMUNITIES?

#### • FAILING INFRASTRUCTURE

- BROKEN WATER, POWER, SEWER
- UNSAFE HOMES & COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE
- CONTAMINATION OF WATER & SOIL

#### • FOOD SOVEREIGNTY & CULTURAL NOURISHMENT

WARMING TEMPERATURES AFFECT THE ABUNDANCE OF TRADITIONAL FOODS THAT THREATEN LIVES AND CULTURE

- FISH, WHALE, SEAL, & OTHER MARINE SPECIES MIGRATION & BEHAVIOR CHANGES
- MOOSE, CARIBOU & OTHER LAND MAMMAL MIGRATION & BEHAVIOR CHANGES
- BERRIES, PLANTS & TRADITIONAL MEDICINES

"OUR STORY IS THE FISH"



#### • WE ARE LIVING AT A CROSSROADS

## KNOWLEDGE SHARING

DAY 1

### WHAT DO WE NEED?

- "OUR FUTURE DEPENDS ON ACTION - WE MUST ACT NOW!"
- URGENTLY NEED FUNDING TO MITIGATE THREATENED INFRASTRUCTURE AND PROTECT COMMUNITIES
  - SIMPLIFIED PROCESS TO ACCESS FUNDING
  - WE SHOULDN'T HAVE TO COMPETE AGAINST EACH OTHER
- COMMUNITY SPECIFIC TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE "THERE IS A LOT THAT NEEDS TO BE DONE AND NOT ENOUGH PEOPLE"
- WE NEED AGENCIES TO VALUE AND PRIORITIZE US
  - NEED THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO MAKE LAND ACCESSIBLE - "BETTER WAY TO DO LAND TRANSFERS"

### HOW CAN WE HELP?

- COORDINATE!
- STREAMLINE THE PROCESS
- FASTER TURNAROUND & QUICKER RESPONSE TO LONG & SHORT TERM DISASTERS
- PROVIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE
- CONTINUE TO LISTEN, LEARN, & ENGAGE
- TRAVEL TO COMMUNITIES TO SEE AND EXPERIENCE REALITIES

### ADDITIONAL CHALLENGES

- NO ONE SIZE FITS ALL SOLUTION
- REMOTE LOCATIONS NOT EASILY ACCESSIBLE
- COMMUNITIES NEED TO IDENTIFY LOCATION SPECIFIC NEEDS
- NOT ENOUGH CAPACITY
- NEED ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL

SOME COMMUNITIES DON'T HAVE ACCESS TO CLEAN WATER



LOVE, RESPECT, HELP, WORK TOGETHER.

NOT ABOUT POINTING FINGERS

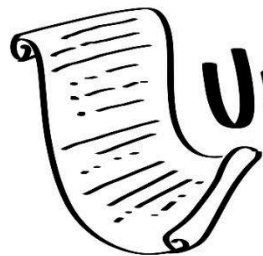
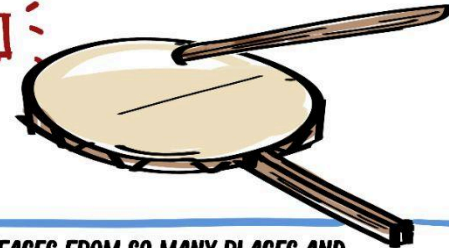




ALASKA NATIVE  
TRIBAL HEALTH  
CONSORTIUM

MAY 22, 2024

TRIBAL CLIMATE INITIATIVES GATHERING



# UNDERSTANDING -THE- UNMET NEEDS REPORT

DAY 2

## 3 RECOMMENDATIONS

"SO MANY FACES FROM SO MANY PLACES AND ACKNOWLEDGING THE REPRESENTATION - THE DIFFERENT VOICES AND PERSPECTIVES, IT MATTERS ANCESTRALLY TO GATHER TOGETHER TO SHARE THE STRENGTH AND BEAUTY OF WHO WE ARE AS PEOPLE."

STATE, FEDERAL & TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS MUST WORK TOGETHER TO REMOVE BARRIERS AND PROVIDE EFFECTIVE SUPPORT

### FUNDING



- CLOSE THE \$80M ANNUAL FUNDING GAP WITH A SINGLE, COMMITTED FUNDING SOURCE AND RISK BASED PRIORITIZATION.
- MITIGATION ORIENTATION IS KEY - MORE PROACTIVE RATHER THAN REACTIVE.

### IMPROVE EQUITY

- REMOVE PROGRAMMATIC AND LEGISLATIVE BARRIERS FOR SMALL TRIBAL AND RURAL COMMUNITIES.
- ALASKA HAS UNIQUE CHALLENGES

### COORDINATE



- ESTABLISH A LASTING, ALL ENCOMPASSING "WHOLE OF GOVERNMENT" IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK TO HELP ALASKA COMMUNITIES.
- VISUALIZE FUTURE GOALS AND DISCUSS PATHWAYS TO MOVE FORWARD TOGETHER.

### REFLECTIONS



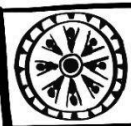
- PROTECTING TRIBAL AND CULTURAL SOVEREIGNTY IS CRITICAL.
- LISTENING AND LEARNING FROM EACH OTHER LEADS TO MUTUAL RESPECT AND PARTNERSHIP
- HOW DO WE WIDEN THE CIRCLE TO INCLUDE OTHERS?



PARTICIPANTS DEVELOPED A COMMON UNDERSTANDING OF GUIDING PRINCIPLES AND HOW THEY'VE BEEN APPLIED:

- COMMUNITY-LED
- HOLISTIC APPROACH
- UNITY OF EFFORT
- TIMELINESS AND FLEXIBILITY





ALASKA NATIVE  
TRIBAL HEALTH  
CONSORTIUM

MAY 23, 2024

## TRIBAL CLIMATE INITIATIVES GATHERING

DAY 3

Looking Back,  
Looking Forwards

# HOW CAN WE HELP?

## NEXT STEPS

### LESSONS LEARNED ALONG THE WAY

KEEP ALL ASPECTS OF WORK  
CULTURALLY RESPECTFUL

PUT TIME AND EFFORT INTO BUILDING TRUST  
AND RELATIONSHIPS WITH ALL PARTNERS

DEVELOP WAYS TO PASS ALONG  
INSTITUTIONAL KNOWLEDGE

VISIT AND BE PHYSICALLY  
PRESENT IN COMMUNITIES

PROMOTE NON-COMPETITIVE AND FLEXIBLE  
FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR TRIBES

### FUNDING

- IDENTIFY WAYS TO LEVERAGE, IMPROVE, OR ESTABLISH FUNDING TRANSFER MECHANISMS
- CAPITALIZE ON EXISTING FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES
- LEVERAGE EXISTING COORDINATION BODIES TO AVOID DUPLICATION OF EFFORTS

### RISK-BASED PRIORITIZATION

- BETTER ALTERNATIVE TO COMPETITIVE FUNDING
- INCLUDES BEHAVIORAL AND MENTAL HEALTH, AND FOOD SOVEREIGNTY

### IMPROVING EQUITY THROUGH POLICY & PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION

- HAVE POLICY-MAKERS AND PROGRAM DIRECTORS WORK TOGETHER TO BREAK DOWN BARRIERS.
- USE GOVERNMENT RULE-MAKING PROCESSES TO MAKE SERVICE DELIVERY MORE EQUITABLE.
- FULLY IMPLEMENT EXISTING EXECUTIVE ORDERS TO REMOVE EQUITY BARRIERS AND HONOR TRIBAL SELF-DETERMINATION.

### IMPROVING EQUITY THROUGH TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

- SUCCESSFUL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE MEANS A COMMUNITY IS GETTING THEIR NEEDS MET
- KEY ELEMENTS THAT CONTRIBUTE TO TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE:
  - PARTNERSHIP
  - WORKING WITH TRUSTED PARTNERS
  - TRAVELING TO COMMUNITIES AND DOING IN-COMMUNITY TRAINING
  - IN-STATE CONTRACTING

- DISCUSS THE FEASIBILITY OF A COMMON APPLICATION FOR GRANTS.

- PREPARE AND SHARE KNOWLEDGE OF REGIONAL REALITIES OF ENVIRONMENTALLY THREATENED COMMUNITIES AND EXISTING WORK TO ORIENT AND INFORM NEW STAFF AND ELECTED LEADERSHIP.

- RESTART INTERAGENCY COORDINATION MEETINGS TO SHARE UPDATES AND LEVERAGE RESOURCES.

- ENGAGE IN AND PROVIDE INPUT INTO THE STATEWIDE THREAT ASSESSMENT UPDATE.

- LEVERAGE DENALI COMMISSION AUTHORITIES BY IDENTIFYING OPPORTUNITIES FOR FEDERAL AGENCY PARTNERSHIP AND ESTABLISHING UNIVERSAL TRANSFER AUTHORITIES THROUGH THE WHITE HOUSE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET.