

ETC Grant Center News

Monthly Update from the Environmentally Threatened Communities (ETC) Grant Center

Issue 10, March 2018



ALASKA NATIVE
TRIBAL HEALTH
CONSORTIUM



Chevak

Chevak homes and roads are threatened by river erosion and permafrost melt. Sink holes are appearing throughout in the community.

Community Profile: Chevak, AK

Chevak is a community that suffers from fall storm surges that bring rain, wind, and erosion. At Chevak, riverine erosion averages five to ten feet per year, threatening several structures, including residences, utility lines, the barge landing, and a road that links the village to the barge landing. Much of the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta is experiencing permafrost degradation, which is cracking building foundations and creating sink holes in the community. With the ground thawing, Chevak's buildings, including critical infrastructure, such as water and sewer arctic pipes are sinking and frequently need to be leveled.

The ETC Grant Center helped secure funds from Denali Commission to move one imminently threatened home away from the river. Chevak has partnered with Division of Geological & Geophysical Surveys to monitor erosion. Chevak also has a permafrost monitoring program in partnership with Yukon River Inter-Tribal Watershed Council. The data website for their information can be found at https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/dcbdaf_739f857e76f949caa7e2e115f14cc5b3.pdf.

Chevak is currently looking for funding to have a feasibility study and design completed for protecting the river bluff from erosion.

Profile ETC Grant Training

The ETC Grant Center hosted a grant training on February 19 and 20 at the Alaska Pacific University (APU). The training was sponsored by the Denali Commission. Thirty-one communities were invited to send a representative to the training. The training instructor was Janell Blackmer from the University of Washington's Northwest Center for Public Health Practice. Participants had a wide range of grant writing skills, but everyone came away having learned something new. Attendees were able to network with others who are facing the same environmental threat issues and discover avenues to solutions and funding opportunities. Topics covered in the training included pre-proposal planning; understanding your organization; creating a rapid response document and templates that can be used in all grant applications; searching online; finding proper funding sources for your projects; reading through a funding opportunity to find the funding agency's requirements; making an outline for the grant application; writing a strong narrative; creating a budget; and presenting strategic planning ideas. We discussed the various sources of funding ranging from foundations, state and federal organizations. Participants were able to return to their communities ready to search for funding opportunities, decipher what agencies want to fund, pull together template language describing their community, and begin writing grant applications.

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.

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Current Funding Opportunities

1. [Association of Alaska Housing Authorities Training and Technical Assistance](#)

The Office of Native American Programs (ONAP) is offering remote and on-site technical assistance (TA) to its Indian Housing Block Grant (IHBG) grantees. TA related to the Native American Housing & Self-Determination Act of 1996 IHBG Program is currently available, but not limited to, the following areas:

- Environmental Review
- Indian Preference-Procurement
- Indian Preference in Employment
- Total Development Costs
- Procurement and Contract Administration
- Financial Management & Internal Controls
- Audit
- Conflict of Interest
- Eligibility, Admissions & Occupancy
- Relocation
- Useful Life and Binding Commitments
- Local Cooperation Agreements
- Indian Housing Plan Compliance
- Annual Performance Report Compliance
- Formula Current Assisted Housing Stock
- Preservation of 1937 Housing Act Units
- Sub-Recipient Agreements
- Recipient Self-Monitoring

Eligible Projects: Any housing-related activity to include feasibility studies, housing assessments, organization assessments, policy development, comprehensive needs assessment, etc.

Eligibility: IHBG recipients.

Due Date: This opportunity is open year round. Apply as soon as possible.

Amount Available: There is no cap on the amount.

To request direct technical assistance, click here and complete the form: <https://www.tfaforms.com/413115> For a list of **currently available training opportunities**, please see the [“Upcoming Events” section here](#). Requests for assistance are accepted directly by HUD ONAP office and then forwarded to the Association. To request assistance or training, contact HUD ONAP at (907) 677-9800.

2. [Indian Community Development Block Grant \(ICDBG\) Imminent Threat \(IT\) Grants](#)

The Secretary of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) may set aside five percent of each year's allocation for the noncompetitive, first come-first served, funding of grants to eliminate or lessen problems which pose an imminent threat to public health or safety of tribal residents.

Eligible Projects: IT grant funds can only be used to address threats that require an immediate solution. The threat must be unique and unusual and not something that the tribe has known about for a long time. It must also impact the entire tribal service area, not just a few homes.

Eligibility: Tribes and tribal organizations may apply for IT grants if they meet the definition of such entities in the ICDBG regulation at 24 CFR §1003.5, at the time of application. An Indian tribe must be listed on the most current list of “Indian Entities Recognized and Eligible to Receive Service from the United States Bureau of Indian Affairs.”

Due Date: This opportunity is open year-round.

Amount Available: The grant ceiling is \$450,000 or \$900,000 for Presidentially-declared disasters. [Approximately \$1.5M is left over from 2017 funds and is available as of February 23, 2018. This amount can change at any time.]

3. [Hazard Mitigation Grant Program \(HMGP\)](#) Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (DHS&EM)

Eligible Projects: The HMGP can be used to fund projects to protect either public or private property, as long as the project fits within State and local government mitigation strategies to address areas of risk, and complies with program guidelines. A few examples are:

- Structure elevation (existing public or private structures to avoid flooding);
- Minor localized flood reduction projects to reduce or eliminate long-term risk from storm water or flood hazards (culverts, diversions, detention or retention basins, floodwalls, berms, levees, dikes);
- Structural retrofitting of existing buildings and facilities (foundations, load-bearing walls, beams, columns, building envelope, structural floors and roofs and connections between these elements);
- Nonstructural retrofitting of existing buildings and facilities (bracing, strapping of mechanical, electrical, plumbing, heating, lighting, ceilings windows, parapet walls, contents like equipment, racks, shelves or cabinets)
- Infrastructure retrofit of utilities for protective measures. (Electric/Gas = bury, harden, brace, elevate, seismic shut-off valves)
- Soil stabilization (geo-textiles, stabilization/anchoring, vegetation, rip rap)

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Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (DHS&EM) (cont'd)

Eligibility: DHS&EM invites state-level agencies, state and federally recognized Indian tribal governments, local governments, Alaska Native villages, public and tribal colleges and universities to apply as sub-grant applicants for project or planning funds.

Due Date: 12:00 pm (AST), September 20, 2018

Amount Available: There is no cap or funding limit on individual HMGP projects or plans. The total available amount of HMGP funding varies based on the size of the Alaska disaster that funds the HMGP.

For more information, please see the DHS&EM website under News and Announcement: www.ready.alaska.gov

Relevant News

[Denali Commission Co-Chair Speaks at March 1 Webinar: Communities in Harm's Way: Addressing Environmental Change and Extreme Weather Events](#)

[In the Arctic, More Rain May Mean Fewer Musk Oxen](#)

[An unfrozen North: The world's permafrost holds vast stores of carbon. What happens when it thaws?](#)

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.

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