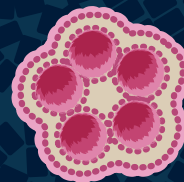
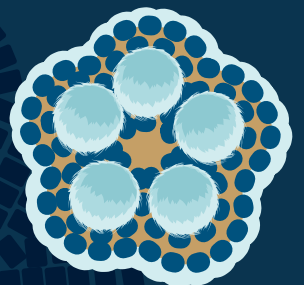
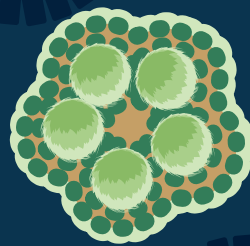


Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium

Annual Report

2024



MISSION, VISION, VALUES

About ANTHC

The Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC) is a nonprofit Tribal health organization designed to meet the unique health needs of Alaska Native and American Indian people living in our state.

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 an employer of more than 3,000 health service professionals.



Our Mission

Optimizing health and well-being through collaborative partnerships and services.



Our Vision

Alaska Native people are the healthiest people in the world.



Our Values

Self-determination

We support and promote Tribal self-determination.

Quality

Our work demonstrates a commitment to excellence, continuous improvement, accuracy and professionalism.

Integrity

We lead by example, communicate honestly and act with respect.

Teamwork

Our collective efforts, talents and knowledge advance ANTHC's vision.

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MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

The Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC) Board of Directors makes decisions with the goal of ensuring the best and highest-quality health services are readily available to all Alaska Natives and American Indians throughout Alaska. The Board strives to create an environment focused on improving healthcare in partnership with Tribal Health Organizations and Unaffiliated Tribes.

ANTHC works alongside our Tribal partners. We confront challenges and celebrate successes together. Through our mission of *optimizing health and well-being through collaborative partnerships and services*, we create constructive, collaborative healthcare resources to help provide what our people and families need to live longer, healthier lives. But, until we have the quality of healthcare available to the President of the United States, the healthcare treaties our leaders signed are not being met. Through self-determination and our commitment to work together to improve our services as a healthcare system, we can realize our vision that *Alaska Native people are the healthiest people in the world*.

In my tenure as ANTHC Chair, I appreciate being able to make significant strides in the organization's strategic turnaround. We have made thoughtful investments on the Alaska Native Medical Center (ANMC) campus that will improve patient safety and access to care. We have put a significant amount of effort into improving our corporate structure, improving access to specialty healthcare services on the ANMC campus and improving availability of specialty care closer to the homes of our constituents.

Thank you for the opportunity to highlight the progress we are making, as we plan to meet the needs of our people today, tomorrow, and for years to come.

Gunalchéesh,



Kimberley Strong
Chair



MESSAGE FROM THE INTERIM PRESIDENT/CEO



Earlier this year, we celebrated the 30th anniversary of the Alaska Tribal Health Compact. Since compacting began, we have seen how the self-governance of Tribally run programs and services have contributed to advancements in the health and well-being of the families and communities we serve. Tribal leaders transformed rigid, federal healthcare services to meet the needs of our communities—creating and expanding unique provider types that have served as a nationwide and global model for rural healthcare. Today these community health providers are often referred to as the “heart” of our care system, working alongside clinicians in regional hospitals, and specialists in the statewide tertiary hospital, to treat acute illnesses and manage complex, chronic conditions.

As we reflect on this progress, it offers us an opportunity to evaluate how the Alaska Tribal Health System is positioned to thrive for the next 30 years, and the generations beyond. Since I joined ANTHC, under the leadership of the ANTHC Board of Directors, the organization has focused on strategic improvement in all areas. On this strategic improvement journey, this year we have also worked to improve alignment with Tribal partners in pursuit of our mission to *optimize health and well-being through collaborative partnerships and services*. Collectively, we are successful when our partners are successful, leading to the best services that support all Alaska Native and American Indian people in the state.

This 2024 Annual Report highlights the transformative investments ANTHC is making in services at the Alaska Native Medical Center (ANMC), water and sanitation construction in communities statewide, wellness prevention, disease research and prevention, and rural provider training. The Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC) is your consortium. Built into the design of our organization’s governance, we represent all Tribes and regional Tribal health organizations. In the year ahead, we will continue to engage with our partners to advance strategic initiatives that help us realize our vision that *Alaska Native people are the healthiest people in the world*.

It is a privilege to serve you.

Baasee’,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Natasha Singh". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Natasha Singh
Interim President/CEO

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

All 229 Tribes in Alaska exercise self-governance through their representatives on the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium Board. The ANTHC Board of Directors sets the path for our success and strategies to address opportunities in pursuit of our vision that Alaska Native people are the healthiest people in the world.

These representatives and officer positions are for ANTHC’s fiscal year that ended Sept. 30, 2024.

The current Board of Directors can be found online at anthc.org/board.



Kimberley Strong
Chair
Southeast Alaska Regional
Health Consortium



Walter Jim
Vice Chair
Yukon-Kuskokwim
Health Corporation



Bernice Kaigelak
Treasurer
Arctic Slope Native
Association



Charlene Nollner
Secretary
Copper River Native
Association



Mark Snigaroff
Aleutian Pribilof Islands
Association



Robert Clark
Bristol Bay Area Health
Corporation



Chief Gary Harrison
Chickaloon Native Village
Unaffiliated Tribes, Seat B



Francis Norman
Chugachmiut



Loretta Nelson
Kodiak Area Native
Association



Toni Raye Bergan
Maniilaq Association



Alonzo Leisholmn
Metlakatla Indian
Community



Corina Ewan
Native Village of Chitina
Unaffiliated Tribes, Seat A



Anthony Haugen
Norton Sound Health
Corporation



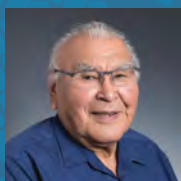
Thomas Huhndorf
Southcentral
Foundation



Marilyn Andon
Tanana Chiefs
Conference

With Our Appreciation

We are grateful for the leadership and contributions of the ANTHC Directors who served on the Board this last year.



Andrew Jimmie
Tanana Chiefs Conference



Tanya Kirk
Maniilaq Association



April Kyle
Southcentral Foundation

BOARD STANDING COMMITTEES

Bylaws and Policy (BPC)	Finance and Audit (FAC)	Leadership Planning (LPC)
Mark Snigaroff, Chair (2024) Alonzo Leisholmn, Vice-Chair (2024) Corina Ewan Thomas Huhndorf Walter Jim Loretta Nelson Francis Norman	Bernice Kaigelak, Chair Anthony Haugen, Vice-Chair (2024) Corina Ewan Thomas Huhndorf Walter Jim Alonzo Leisholmn Loretta Nelson Charlene Nollner Francis Norman	Francis Norman, Chair (2024) Loretta Nelson, Vice-Chair (2024) Corina Ewan Anthony Haugen Thomas Huhndorf Walter Jim Alonzo Leisholmn Charlene Nollner Mark Snigaroff
Ethics, Compliance, Quality & Safety (ECQS)	Joint Operating Board (JOB)	Health Research Review (HRRC)
Charlene Nollner, Chair (2024) Alonzo Leisholmn, Vice-Chair (2024) Corina Ewan Chief Gary Harrison Thomas Huhndorf Loretta Nelson Francis Norman	Bernice Kaigelak Seat A (2025) Francis Norman Seat B (2025) Charlene Nollner Seat C (2026) Robert Clark^ Seat D (2024) Walter Jim^ Seat E (2024)	Robert Clark, Chair (2024) Chief Gary Harrison, Vice Chair (2024) Corina Ewan Weather Potdevin*
Medical Services Networking (MSNC)	Behavioral Health (BHC)	Alaska Native Elders Health Advisory (ANEHAC)
Robert Clark, Chair (2024) Chief Gary Harrison, Vice Chair (2026) Loretta Nelson	Charlene Nollner, Chair (2024) Chief Gary Harrison, Vice-Chair (2023)^ Corina Ewan Bernice Kaigelak Francis Norman	Anthony Haugen (2024)
Healthy Alaska Natives Foundation (HANF)	Alaska Native Health Board (ANHB)	ANTHC Board Officers 2021 - 2024
Francis Norman Seat A (2025) Angela Cox** ^ Seat B (2024) Evelyn Beeter Seat C (2025) Charlene Nollner Seat D (2025) Elizabeth Seat E (2024) Medicine Crow** ^ April Kyle Seat F (2025) Sharity Sommer ** Seat G (2027)	Alonzo Leisholmn, Primary Jim Roberts, Alternate * Monique Martin, T. H. Director *	Kimberley Strong, Chair Walter Jim, Vice Chair Bernice Kaigelak, Treasurer Charlene Nollner, Secretary

^ Officer seat up for election

* ANTHC Employee

** Not an ANTHC Primary or Alternate Board Director

EXECUTIVE TEAM

ANTHC continues our journey to become a high-performing organization, where patients receive excellent care and staff choose to work. Our leadership team is carrying forward this strategic focus with urgency, transparency, and accountability. The ANTHC leadership team is diverse in its industry experience, education, and perspectives, with years of experience in leading change and bringing forward exceptional results.



Natasha Singh

Interim President/CEO
Enrolled Tribal citizen of Stevens Village



Dan Neumeister

Interim Chief Operating Officer



Dwain Stilson

Executive Vice President and Chief
Financial Officer



Alan Vierling

ANMC Administrator



Tiffany Zulkosky-Hild

Vice President of Communications
Tribal member of Orutsararmiut
Native Council



Monique Martin

Vice President of Intergovernmental Affairs
Enrolled Tribal citizen of the Central Council
of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska



Allison Reed

Chief Ethics and Compliance Officer



Rob Lynch

General Counsel

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION

Each year, ANTHC recognizes the time, talents, and dedication of staff through the Employees and Team of the Year, and the Presidential Service Award. Employees are nominated by their coworkers for these awards, recognizing colleagues who go above and beyond on behalf of the people and communities we serve. We are proud to share the employees who were selected, demonstrating exceptional commitment to our mission and through special contributions made this last year.

Presidential Service Award

Dana Diehl, Director Wellness and Prevention



Team of the Year

Walk-in Clinic



Employees of the Year

- Allyssia Hale, Assistant Case Manager III
- Billie Kelley, Social Worker Masters Level
- Chelsea Greene, Office Manager of Legal Affairs
- Christina Rhodes, Program Manager
- Cy Two Elk, Project Manager III
- Danielle Santillana, Construction Support Specialist II
- Dylan Lance, Charge Nurse III NC
- Emma Ayojiak, Patient Experience Specialist III
- Kelly St. John, Advance Nurse Practitioner
- Michelle Lewandowski, PharmD, Clinical Quality Pharmacist III
- Paul Cushman, Director of Security
- Thomas Allen, DMD, ADTEP Dentist Instructor



Outstanding Hospital Achievement Award

Congratulations to the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC) hospital staff who received the LifeCenter Northwest Outstanding Hospital Achievement Award. A nonprofit, federally designated organ procurement and tissue recovery organization working to save lives through organ and tissue donation, LifeCenter Northwest selects one hospital in its four-state donation service area to receive this award. Hospitals are chosen when they demonstrate impressive outcomes, strong and effective processes, and unwavering dedication to improving the lives of both donor families and transplant recipients.



ANTHC medical staff were recognized for exemplary work in the following areas:

- Implementing donation policy changes honoring donor decisions;
- Revamping donation education for ANTHC staff within the Alaska Native Medical Center (ANMC);
- Making process improvements to support timely referrals;
- Strengthening collaboration between Intensive Care Unit leadership and nursing teams; and
- Organizing a first-ever honor walk to commemorate donors.

“Donation isn’t possible without the support of committed, skilled hospital partners like the team at the Alaska Native Medical Center,” said Santokh Gill, LifeCenter Northwest President and CEO. “This partnership saves lives and gives hope to the thousands of people still on the transplant waiting list in our local communities.”

In addition to the Outstanding Hospital Achievement Award, ANTHC was honored with two additional awards for support in organ donation and transplantation, including the Organ Donation Process Excellence Award and Honoring Donor Decisions Award.





ANMC nationally recognized for commitment to high-quality stroke care

The Alaska Native Medical Center (ANMC) received the American Heart Association's Get With The Guidelines® - Stroke Silver Plus Quality Achievement Award for commitment to ensuring stroke patients receive the most appropriate treatment according to nationally recognized, research-based guidelines.

Get With The Guidelines – Stroke is an in-hospital program for improving stroke care by promoting consistent adherence to these guidelines, which can minimize the long-term effects of a stroke, lead to more lives saved, reduce disability, and even prevent death. In addition to following treatment guidelines, Get With The Guidelines participants also educate patients to help them manage their health and recovery at home.

“We are incredibly pleased to recognize ANMC for its commitment to caring for patients with stroke,” said Steven Messe, M.D., volunteer chairperson of the American Heart Association Stroke System of Care Advisory Group and professor of neurology and director of fellowships of neurology at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania. “Participation in Get With The Guidelines is associated with improved patient outcomes, fewer readmissions and lower mortality rates – a win for health care systems, families and communities.”

35 Years of the Alaska Tribal Conference on Environmental Management (ATCEM)

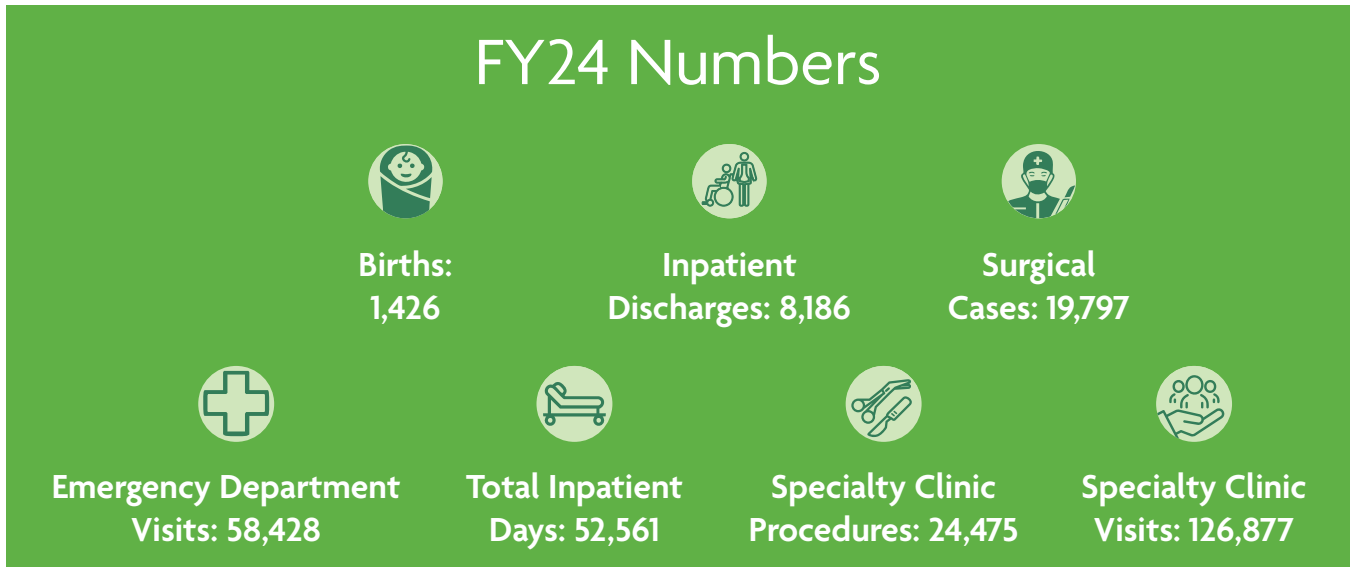
The ANTHC Tribal Capacity and Training Program hosted the 35th annual Alaska Tribal Conference on Environmental Management (ATCEM). Nearly 500 participants, representing communities across the state, engaged in a wide range of activities, 76 breakout sessions, and trainings.



EXPANDING ACCESS AND CREATING WORLD-CLASS SERVICES

The Alaska Native Medical Center (ANMC) is a federally owned 182-bed hospital that provides specialty medical services to Alaska Native and American Indian people. ANMC is Alaska’s first Level II Trauma Center and is a Level II Pediatric Trauma Center.

From inpatient hospital services to surgery and specialty clinics, ANTHC provides advanced medical care at ANMC and through specialty field clinics around Alaska. The strategic improvements we make today are an investment in the care we provide tomorrow.



Continued Commitment to Quality

In July 2023, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) improved ANMC’s Medicare Hospital Star Rating from a 2-star to a 3-star hospital. Overall ratings are based on numerous quality-based performance measures, including mortality, safety of care, readmission, patient experience, and timely and effective care. The more stars a hospital has, the better it performs on these measures.

We were proud to maintain this upgraded 3-star rating in 2024. This designation reflects our commitment to improved safety, access, and quality, as we remain focused on continued improvements.

To meet the current and future needs for the families and communities we serve, the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC) is making transformative investments to improve and expand services and access to care for all Alaska Native and American Indian people in the state.

Breaking ground for the Emergency Services Expansion (ESE)

While preparation and early construction phases began early in 2024, on Wednesday, August 7, ANTHC held a groundbreaking event to commemorate the initial construction made possible by a \$257 million investment approved by the ANTHC Board of Directors to improve Emergency Services at ANMC—the state’s Tribal referral hospital.

Phase 1 of the project is underway, which includes renovations and expansions of the Emergency Services Department, floors 1-3, and the basement at the Alaska Native Medical Center (ANMC). Phase 1 improvements include:

- 21 additional Emergency Department patient care spaces;
- 12 new Clinical Decision Unit beds for observation;
- 15 additional behavioral health treatment spaces;
- 10 new surgery recovery bays; and
- New, dedicated drive-through ambulance entrance.

At the groundbreaking event, the ANTHC Board was joined by the ANMC Joint Operating Board, Tribe and Tribal health partners, campus partners Southcentral Foundation, Indian Health Service Director Roselyn Tso, Congressional Delegation staff, State Legislators, project teams, banking partners, and ANTHC staff. Although the day started with heavy rain, the rain slowed, and the sun came out for the event.

Phase 1 helps to address the constraints of emergency care delivery, often resulting in patient care offered in hallway beds when at capacity. ANTHC is seeking additional funding to support the construction of Phase 2 to help address overall hospital capacity by adding three floors of new inpatient beds, converting to private inpatient rooms (from semi-private), and construction of a helipad to enhance trauma services.



Temporary Emergency Services Department Opens

On September 7, the temporary Emergency Services Department (ESD) at ANMC opened to offer continued access to care as construction activities progress. All patients now present to this new space, located on the southeast side of the hospital, for triage and treatment of low-acuity injuries and illnesses. Trauma patients, and those with high-acuity injuries or illnesses, will be transferred to other emergency care hospital space as needed. Patients will continue to present and get triaged in the temporary space until the new emergency services department opens in 2027.



Short-term Skilled Nursing Facility Supports Capacity at Statewide Facilities

On any given day, ANMC cares for 20-35 patients who no longer need hospital-level care, but are not quite well enough to go home. In 2024, as part of a series of historic investments, the ANTHC Board of Directors approved \$69 million in funding to construct a short-term skilled nursing facility to help alleviate capacity pressure at ANMC. The short-term skilled nursing facility will address a gap in the continuum of care—offering nursing, rehabilitation, hospice, and other step-down services. This ensures patients receive the right level of care in the right place, while also optimizing acute care capacity within the statewide Tribal hospital.

Located on the corner of Ambassador Drive and Elmore Road, at the northwest end of the ANTHC campus, the 80-bed, 2-story facility will be roughly 92,000 square feet and offer a residential-like experience for patients. Patients will have access to occupational and physical rehabilitation areas, public and private dining areas, a chapel, game and activity rooms, and an outdoor courtyard. Proximity to ANMC will ensure seamless coordination between hospital-based care teams and skilled nursing services. Furniture, finishes, and artwork will incorporate Alaska Native cultural designs and elements to provide a familiar feel that encourages healing. Construction activities began earlier this summer, including work on the foundation, footings, and utilities. The facility is expected to be complete in summer 2026.

Alaska has the fewest skilled nursing facility beds per capita of any state in the country. To tie for 49th place, the state would need to more than double the current amount of skilled nursing beds available in Alaska. While this project advances the health care of Alaska Native and American Indian people, it does not address significant statewide long-term care needs. This is one of many efforts under way to improve patient experience and capacity within ANMC.

A formal celebration of the project is anticipated in Spring 2025.

Celebrating 25 years as an Adult Level II Trauma Center

This year, the Alaska Native Medical Center (ANMC) celebrated its 25-year anniversary as a Level II Trauma Center, first receiving this designation in 1999. In 1996, ANMC received designation as Alaska's first Level III Trauma Center. Upon reverification in June 1999, ANMC received an upgraded designation as a Level II Trauma Center, also a first for any Alaska hospital. ANMC went on to receive its first verification as a Level II Pediatric Trauma Center in 2018. These achievements recognize ANMC's dedication to providing optimal care for both adult and pediatric patients.

Having a Level II Trauma Center in the Alaska Tribal Health System means the people we serve receive the best trauma care, closer to home. Elements of Level II Trauma Centers include: 24-hour immediate coverage by general surgeons, and coverage by the specialties of orthopedic surgery, neurosurgery, anesthesiology, emergency medicine, radiology and critical care.

Trauma Centers go through the reverification process every three years and, in 2022, ANMC was reverified as a Level II Adult and Pediatric Trauma Center by the Verification Review Committee (VRC), an ad hoc committee of the Committee on Trauma (COT) of the American College of Surgeons (ACS). ANMC will go through the reverification process again in 2025.



ANTHC Food and Nutrition Services assumes on-campus food operations

After listening to extensive feedback from patients, visitors and staff about campus food services, on May 1, ANTHC fully assumed operations of Food and Nutrition Services (FANS) at the Alaska Native Medical Center (ANMC) Cafeteria and Patient Housing Café. Operating these services directly allows us to continually assess and improve operations and offerings. Additionally, in-house management enables ANTHC to expand Traditional Foods program and offerings when possible.



Streamlining Patient Housing Check-In

We are working hard behind the scenes to make improvements with our guests in mind.

Installation of three new kiosks aim to simplify the check-in process for patients in three easy steps:

1. Sign-in at the kiosk;
2. Take the printed ticket or opt-in to text message alerts;
3. Tickets will have a unique check-in number.

Screens are placed in the Patient Housing lobby and café dining area, where patients can track the status of their room check-in. Individuals may also choose to receive a text message alert on their mobile phone, which will send check-in information directly to their device when their ticket has been called. All that's left for patients to do is make sure they go to the correct station that is called. Staff are standing by to help guests with this process.

Patient Experience staff, located next to the check-in kiosks, are able to assist with meal cards, taxi vouchers, housing extensions, and other questions.

New check-in and checkout times

To better serve all guests, decreasing the amount of time it takes to access a room, Patient Housing check-in time is now 4 p.m. and checkout time has been moved to noon.

Patient Housing Hotline

Patient Housing Hotline: 844-729-8430

To improve customer service for our guests, we have created a new Patient Housing hotline that can assist guests traveling to Anchorage, or who are already in Anchorage, with:

- Lodging confirmation;
- Change of medical escort;
- Ground transportation services;
- Meal card assistance; and
- General inquiries related to housing and travel.

Guests staying in an on-campus housing facility—like Patient Housing or the Qu yana House—can reach the hotline by dialing extension 58430 from their room phone.

Continued Improvements for Patient Experience

To provide guests with a one-stop resource, Patient Experience and Medicaid Travel are located near the front desk in the Patient Housing lobby. Guests can use the new check-in kiosks to request help with Medicaid Travel, Patient Experience, and Security.

The luggage room now features extra space to store guest luggage, and two large freezers to store groceries.

The Elders' Lounge offers comfortable seating for elders aged 62 and older. The lounge features seating and tables, natural light with a courtyard view, coffee, tea, water, and a TV.



BUILDING COMMUNITIES OF TOMORROW

The Division of Environmental Health and Engineering (DEHE) focuses on creating healthy homes and communities. DEHE partners with Alaska's remote communities to develop strategies to foster wellness, resilience, and sustainability that also ensure these communities have access to safe, reliable, and sustainable water and sanitation.

Historic investments in clean water and sanitation access

ANTHC is partnering with Tribes, communities, and Tribal organizations to improve access to water and sewer services for more households and communities than ever before. This is possible through the historic level of funding, \$3.5 billion over a span of five years, made possible by the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA).

The first three years (2022-2024) of IIJA funding allocated for Alaska exceeds \$1.2 billion. This incredible opportunity for Alaska communities also faces certain challenges, like labor shortages, extended material shipping times, and limited local capacity. ANTHC continues to partner with Tribes and communities to minimize these impacts when possible, while ensuring the work is done correctly, thoroughly, and as efficiently as possible.

ANTHC has created a website to house updates on this work, including access to a Projects Dashboard at: www.anthc.org/water-wellness/

Timeline for new piped water and sewer

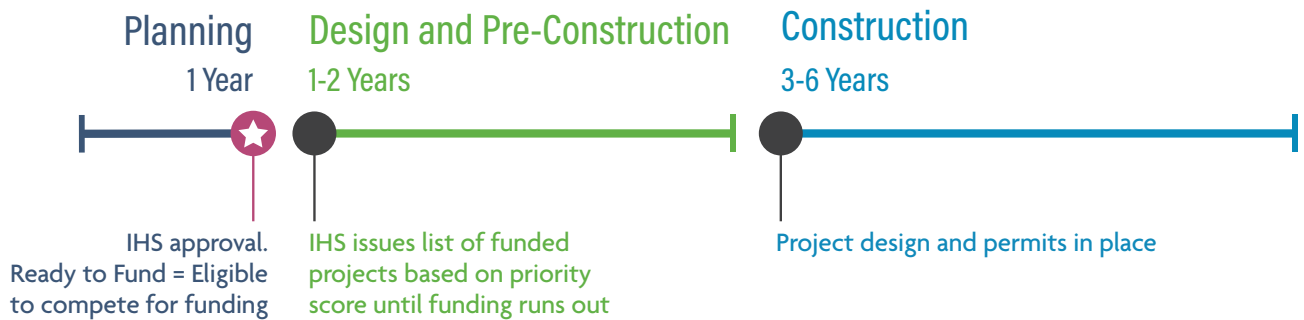
First steps: Preparing projects to be “ready to fund”

The IIJA funding process is managed by the Alaska Area Indian Health Service (Area Office for IHS) and projects must meet the IHS standard of “ready to fund.” This does not mean, or guarantee, a project has been funded. To be considered “ready to fund,” a project must have a completed preliminary engineering report (PER) that: identifies sanitation deficiencies, evaluates solutions, develops a scope for design and construction, and completes a cost estimate. When this report is complete, ANTHC updates all information in the IHS database.

What comes next?

Projects approved as “ready to fund” by IHS compete for the annual funding made possible by IIJA. Projects are scored and funded, in priority order, until the funding set aside for Alaska runs out.

After funding is received, ANTHC begins the next phase of project planning. This includes engineering to complete project design, which typically takes two years to get designs approved by regulatory agencies. Additional pre-construction requirements include obtaining permits, land surveys, acquiring right-of-ways, environmental and archeological clearances, and construction plans. Once all designs and permits are in place, the project begins construction—which can take three to six years, depending on project complexity.



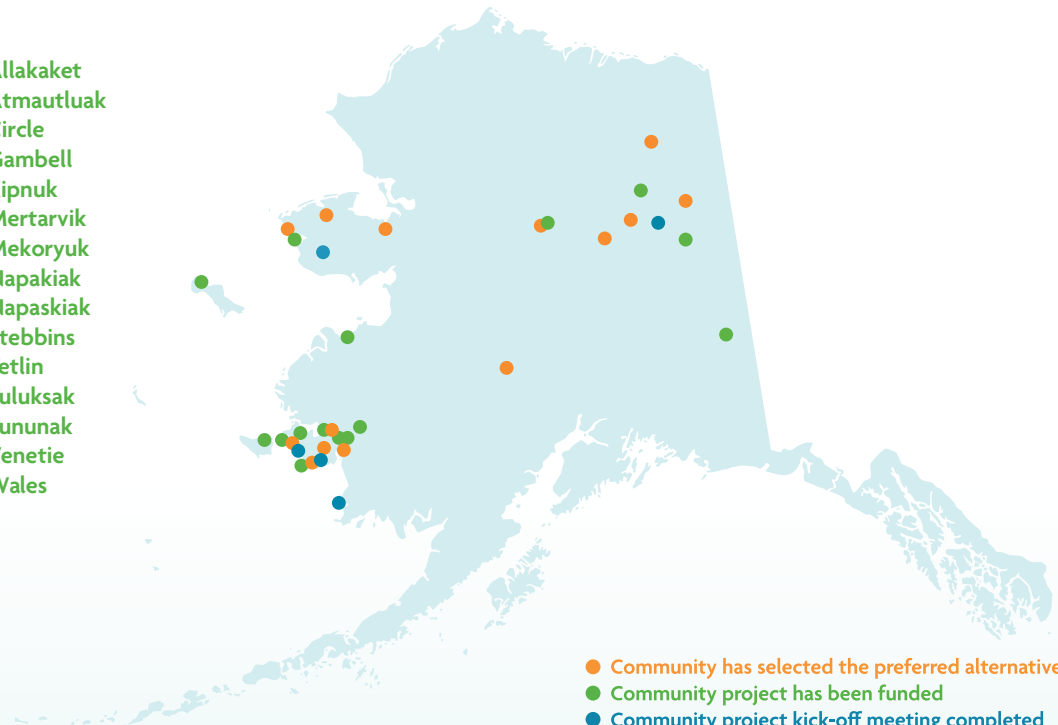
ANTHC and our partners are making tremendous progress in fulfilling the planning requirements to bring piped water and sewer services to Alaska communities. ANTHC completed 14 First Service Preliminary Engineering Reports (PERs) this year, completing the essential requirements to receiving IHS funding for communities and their respective projects.

First Services Community Projects

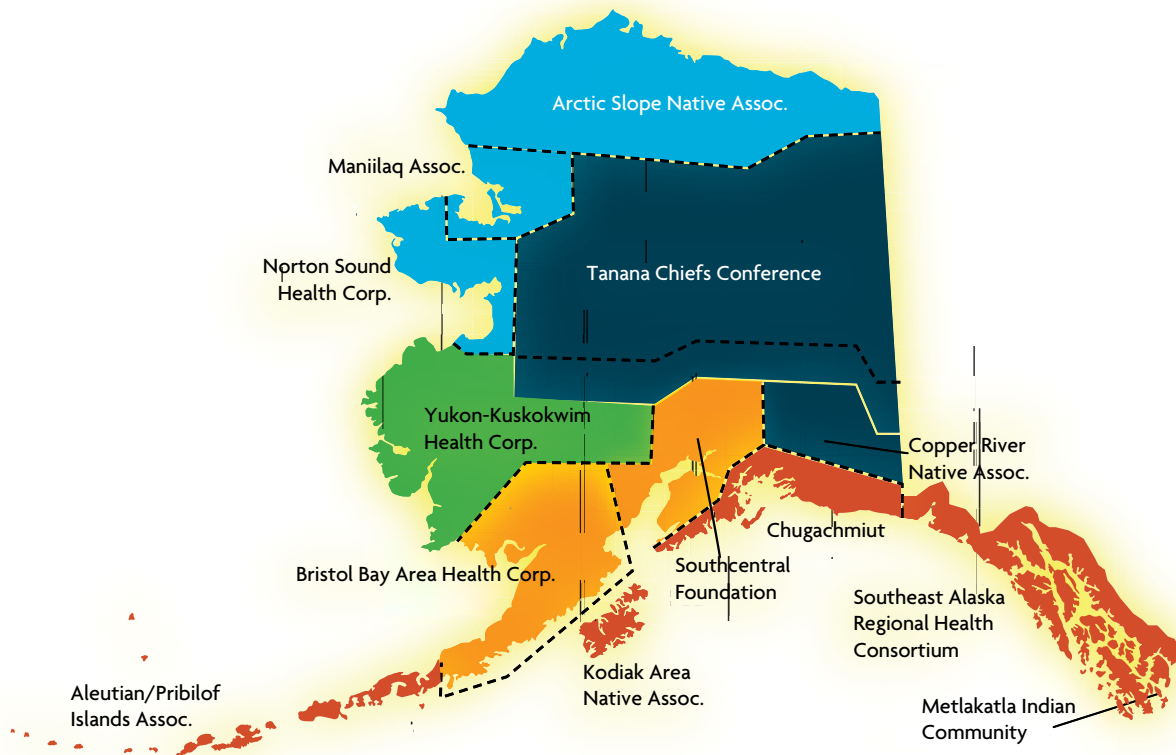
- Alatna
- Arctic Village
- Beaver
- Chalkyitsik
- Deering
- Diomedes
- Kwigillingok
- Nightmute
- Nunapitchuk
- Oscarville
- Shishmaref
- Stevens Village
- Takotna
- Toksook Bay
- Tuntutuliak

- Allakaket
- Atmautluak
- Circle
- Gambell
- Kipnuk
- Mertarvik
- Mekoryuk
- Napakiak
- Napaskiak
- Stebbins
- Tetlin
- Tuluksak
- Tununak
- Venetie
- Wales

- Birch Creek
- Chefornak
- Kongiganak
- Platinum
- Teller



Water and sanitation services are managed by either ANTHC or the State of Alaska Village Safe Water (VSW) program. Colors on the map match program staff contact information below.



APIA
Chugachmiut
KANA
SEARHC

Elizabeth Merrill, P.E.
Engineering Project Manager IV
907-306-3233 | ekmerrill@anthc.org

CRNA
TCC

Greg Martin, P.E., P.M.P.
Engineering Project Manager IV
907-538-1141 | gamartin@anthc.org

ASNA
Maniilaq
NSHC

Derek Hancey, P.E.
Engineering Project Manager IV
907-729-5677 | dhancey@anthc.org

YKHC

Brent Hove
Project Manager III
907-602-0925 | brhove@anthc.org

BBAHC
SCF

Victoria Jelderks, P.E.
Engineering Project Manager IV
503-896-6265 | vajelderks@anthc.org

Scattered Sites
Statewide

Mark Landon
Operations Manager
907-729-4058 | melandon@anthc.org

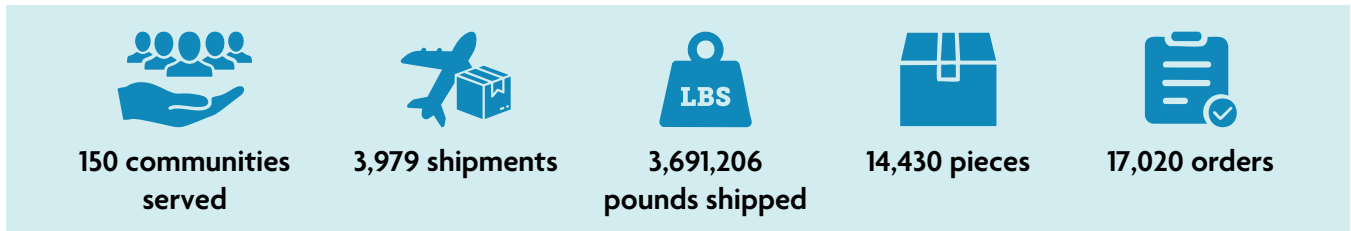
Scattered Sites provides support for Alaska Native and American Indian home and property owners for water and sanitation access who are not part of a regular community-level project.

State of Alaska, Village Safe Water

David Landes, Program Manager
907-465-5014 | david.landes@alaska.gov

DEHE FY24 Numbers

- Throughout this last year, over 100 local employees were hired for construction labor, contributing over \$1.9 million to local economies.
- The Scattered Sites program completed septic systems, wells, water filtration systems, and sanitation facility designs in 21 communities, bringing 31 homes online. This included completion of 19 engineering plan-sets, supporting 47 homes on plan-sets, and completing 14 record drawings.
- ANTHC Department of Rural Utility Management Systems (DRUMS), Contract Delivery Team (CDT), Force Account Construction, and Engineering continued work on 250 water and sanitation projects—including 35 planning projects, 63 design projects, and implementing projects in 146 communities.
- Shipping and Receiving continued increasing annual volume of production:

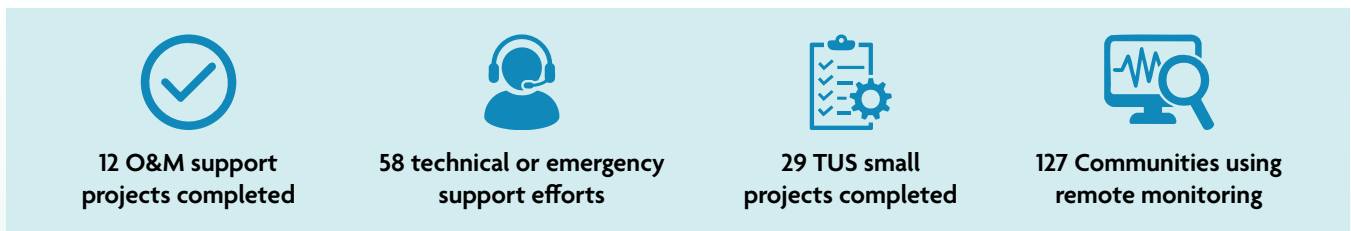


Department of Rural Utility Management Systems (DRUMS)

Hooper Bay joined the ANTHC Alaska Rural Utility Collaborative (ARUC) as its 27th member community. After four years of participating in ARUC’s Assisted Billing Program, the community met the third and final tier necessary to fully on board as a member of ARUC—an incredible accomplishment by community leadership.

- ARUC’s 27-member community accomplishments:
 - Average collection rate in member communities is 109%.
 - 100% of ARUC communities have fully funded cash reserves.
 - 85% of ARUC communities meet Best Practice scoring for capital funding.
 - Operator turnover in ARUC communities is only 6% versus the statewide average of 75%.

Tribal Utility Support (TUS) provides utility operators with the skills and materials necessary to maintain efficient systems through training, on-site plant visits, and equipment supply and maintenance services. Recent impacts of this work include:



Tribal Water Center (TWC)

The Tribal Water Center (TWC) remains a resource for individuals and communities by supporting Tribal capacity building, water plant operator training and technical assistance, health promotion, advocacy, and health research.

- This year the program provided 8 free trainings:
 - Serving 75 communities;
 - 144 students;
 - With a passing rate of 82%.

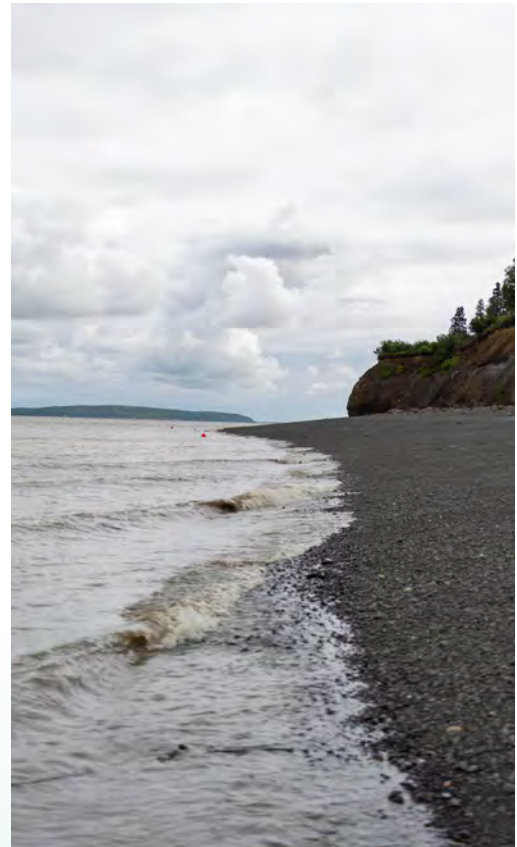
Climate Initiatives

ANTHC Climate Initiatives works with Tribes, communities, non-profit, state, and federal partners to coordinate services that help communities and Tribal health adapt to changing environments.

This year, the program published the Unmet Needs of Environmentally Threatened Alaska Native Villages. This report results from a unique partnership between ANTHC, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the State of Alaska, over 11 Tribal communities, and seven Tribal organizations. The nationally recognized “Unmet Needs Report” released recommendations for comprehensive policy changes and robust resources to support Alaska Tribal communities in adapting to climate change.

The partnership also brought to reality the single largest federal grant focused on climate resilience for Alaska Native communities in state history. The \$74.9 million grant aims to serve nearly 100 communities in rural Alaska and was made possible through NOAA’s Climate Resilience Regional Challenge, passed as part of the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022. The projects will focus on three major adaptation actions:

1. Establishing a community climate risk assessment program;
2. Expanding statewide Tribal adaptation technical assistance; and
3. Networking and knowledge sharing.





New shipping and receiving facility: 131 Orca Street

The new ANTHC facility at 131 Orca Street will consolidate shipping, receiving, materials crating, electrical panel fabrication, and administrative offices under one roof. Various concepts for a consolidated shipping facility have been discussed since 1998. Existing facilities are more than 35 years old, are too small, outdated, and operationally inefficient. The “Don Young Alaska Native Health Care Land Transfers Act of 2022” transferred property ownership from the Indian Health Service (IHS) to ANTHC. The ownership transfer was finalized in December 2023.

The building is a single-story, pre-engineered metal building with an insulated steel roof and wall panels encompassing 13,200 gross square feet. The new facility will accommodate a high-bay warehouse, storage mezzanine, wood shop, and administrative offices for fourteen full-time DEHE employees. DEHE’s electrical panel fabrication shop will also move into the new facility. The shop is accredited by the Nationally Recognized Testing Laboratory program under the federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration and provides design and construction of electrical control panels for sanitation facilities.

Site updates, including footings and foundations, will take place before occupancy, expected in June 2025. The total project cost is estimated at \$6,500,000.

CARING FOR THE WHOLE PERSON

Community Health Services (CHS) focuses on partnering to promote health equity across the lifespan. The division monitors population- and community-level health trends and develops or supports comprehensive programs for priority health issues for Alaska Native people across the state. CHS also provides statewide education, training, and technical assistance and houses ANTHC's training centers for all three health aide disciplines: Behavioral, Dental, and Community Health Aides.



Inaugural Integrated Health Aide Forum

Health aides are often called the heart of the Alaska Tribal Health System, providing compassionate, culturally appropriate health care at village and sub-regional clinics in rural communities. ANTHC provides training, credentialing, and continuing education for all Health Aide disciplines: Community, Behavioral, and Dental Health Aides.

At the beginning of the fiscal year, health aides and healthcare professionals from throughout the state participated in the Integrated Health Aide Forum hosted by ANTHC at the Egan Center in downtown Anchorage. For the first time, all health aide disciplines gathered in one venue, focusing on the theme of "Anchored in Wellness." Various continuing education tracks were offered. The event also increased networking opportunities, joint welcome and award ceremonies, and began focus on future cross-discipline collaborations. The Integrated Health Aide Forum was successful and set the stage for future events.

Expanding Oral Health Access

ANTHC partnered with several Tribal Health Organizations, training six students from the Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation (YKHC) and five students from the Southeast Alaska Regional Health Consortium (SEARHC) and Southcentral Foundation (SCF) to become Expanded Function Dental Health Aides I. The program offers experienced dental assistants the credentials necessary to offer dental cleanings, expanding access to oral health. The students are now on track to apply for certification from the CHAP Certification Board.



The Oral Health Promotion team offered a continuing education course to help new dental providers be successful in their roles and respective clinical locations. All topics covered were relevant to clinical situations at Tribal health organizations. For example, providers had four hours on oral surgery, learning how to both apply and remove arch bars often used for facial trauma that results in a broken jaw.

Behavioral Health Aide Training Center Celebrates Fifth Anniversary

In addition to celebrating its fifth anniversary, the ANTHC Behavioral Health Aide Training Center demonstrated that it meets all the Community Health Aide Program Certification Board Standards and requirements to renew its certification as a Training Center. Over the past five years, the training center has experienced remarkable growth, expanding course offerings from five in FY19 to an impressive 52 in FY24.

The ANTHC Behavioral Health Aide Program (BHA) wrapped up a four-year Opioid-Impacted Family Support Program (OIFSP) grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA).



Through this grant, the program collaborated with 15 Tribal and community partners, providing training to 170 behavioral health paraprofessionals. Additionally, the award enabled the development of 14 new courses, ensuring the BHA Training Center offers all necessary courses for certifying at BHA Levels I, II, III, and Practitioner.

Embracing healing-centered Behavioral Health work

In recent years, ANTHC Behavioral Health invested significant energy in increasing community and provider knowledge of historical and intergenerational trauma. To complement this work and to move the needle to healing-centered work, nine staff and student interns became certified in Laughter Yoga. Laughter Yoga combines laughter exercises with yoga breathing techniques. In the coming year, the department will lean into enhancing protective factors, cultural pride, and healthy coping skills. This starts with treating laughter as medicine.



Increasing Cancer Prevention and Early Detection

The Cancer Control Program has been working to expand outreach, education, and technical assistance to increase cancer prevention, early detection, and survivorship resources. To inform these efforts, the Alaska Tribal Cancer Advisory Network (AkTCAN) was convened. The Network includes Tribal Health partners and subject matter experts from ANTHC Community Health Aide Program, Oncology, Epidemiology, and Wellness and Prevention.

The Network meets bi-monthly to discuss challenges and opportunities in cancer control and to share successes. In May, the Network held its first in-person meeting, where 37 participants came with expertise working in cancer prevention. Individuals included nurse navigators, wellness coordinators, program managers, epidemiologists, social workers, clinical leads, case managers, and prevention specialists.



Resources to Support Suicide Prevention

The Suicide Prevention Program drafted a quality improvement plan with three Tribal Health Organizations to increase mental health referrals from the Alaska Careline 988 crisis center to Tribal Behavioral Health services, aimed at strengthening resources for individuals at imminent risk of suicide. The plan identifies changes needed to improve referral rates, policy and procedural barriers, and develops pathways to crisis service access and utilization. The program also delivered weekly online activities during May's Mental Health Awareness Month campaign, and four in-person activities. During the month-long awareness event, the activities reached approximately 130,256 online users.

ANTHC launches Community Health Profiles dashboard

The Alaska Native Epidemiology Center launched an interactive Community Health Profiles dashboard, live on the health data page of epi.anthc.org. The dashboard contains demographic data and information on several health indicators that users can query for their regions or years of interest. The Alaska Native Epidemiology Center has plans to add at least two new indicators each year as new data is received or analyzed.



Distance Learning Network Expands Continuing Education

The Distance Learning Network (DLN) provides online education for healthcare providers throughout Alaska. This year, modules included:

- **Hepatitis C Virus Continuing Education (CE):** Five modules were developed for Community Health Aide Program students in partnership with ANTHC's Liver Disease and Hepatitis Program (LDHP) as part of a grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The courses are complete, certified, and available for students. There is interest from the CDC to make the modules more widely available.
- **Domestic Violence CE:** Six modules for the Community Health Aide Program were made available through a U.S. Department of Justice grant from the Office on Violence Against Women. The coursework was developed in partnership with Tundra Women's Coalition and Alaska Legal Services.
- **Research Services Public Services Announcement:** Funded through the National Human Genome Research Institute, DLN developed an animated video explaining the difference between health care and a research study.





Research Services

Health research is an important function that helps ANTHC and our Tribal partners understand a broad spectrum of health issues impacting the Alaska Native and American Indian people we serve. This work ensures we can explore potential solutions to address related health disparities.

- ANTHC and Alaska Pacific University (APU) hosted the sixth annual Alaska Indigenous Research Program (AKIRP). The objective of AKIRP is to offer cross-cultural research education and training to conduct culturally responsive health research with Alaska Native and American Indian people and communities. Approximately 110 individuals registered to attend AKIRP, with over 30 featured speakers. As part of AKIRP, ANTHC hosted four Alaska Native/American Indian interns this summer.
- ANTHC was awarded a Center of Biomedical Research Excellence award through the National Institutes of Health in support of the Alaska Native Center for Health Research (ANCHR) Administrative Core. The goals are to ensure research investigators in Alaska are engaged to address health disparities in Alaska Native people, expand capacity for health disparities research, and encourage the recruitment of Alaska Native investigators into health disparities research careers at ANTHC and other organizations in Alaska.
- Alaska Native people often experience health disparities rooted in the impacts of intergenerational trauma, including substance misuse, overdose, and mental health issues that mirror national statistics.

Despite these challenges, Alaska Native people continue to be extremely resilient and connected to strong cultural practices like fishing, hunting, harvesting, singing, dancing, speaking Native languages, and practicing oral traditions. A growing body of evidence suggests that Indigenous-based healing approaches are successful in addressing the impacts of historical and community traumas. The Native Collective Research Effort to Enhance Wellness (NCREW) project entitled Heal(th) From Within will investigate this further to enhance research capacity and infrastructure in these areas and to decolonize the way these issues are addressed.

ALASKA TRIBAL HEALTH FORUM

On October 9-11, over 120 Tribal leaders attended the Alaska Tribal Health Forum at the Dena'ina Center in Anchorage. Online attendance of the Forum webinar ranged from 30-50 attendees on any given day and by topic.

Participating Tribes and Tribal organizations included:

Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association (APIA)	Maniilaq Association
Arctic Slope Native Association (ASNA)	Metlakatla Indian Community
Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation (BBAHC)	Mt. Sanford Tribal Consortium
Chickaloon Village Traditional Council	Native Village of Chitina
Chugachmiut	Native Village of Eklutna
Cook Inlet Tribal Council	Native Village of Eyak
Copper River Native Association (CRNA)	Native Village of Tyonek
Council of Athabascan Tribal Governments (CATG)	Norton Sound Health Corporation (NSHC)
Eastern Aleutian Tribes (EAT)	Southcentral Foundation (SCF)
Fairbanks Native Association	SouthEast Alaska Regional Health Consortium (SEARHC)
Karluk IRA Tribal Council	Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC)
Kenaitze Indian Tribe	Tanana Tribal Council
Ketchikan Indian Community	Yakutat Community Health Center/Yakutat Tlingit Tribe
Knik Tribe	
Kodiak Area Native Association (KANA)	Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation (YKHC)



Across the Alaska Tribal Health System, each organization is successful when our partners are successful, leading to the best care and health services that support our collective patients. The engagement during the Forum provided space to discuss issues as a system, track feedback and suggestions for gaps in services, and plan for where we can go together in the next chapter of our self-governance. We appreciate the perspective of Tribal leaders as we sought to ensure transparent, statewide balance that optimizes limited resources equitably across the state.

We thank Alaska Native Health Board President/CEO Alberta Unok for facilitating this systemwide discussion.



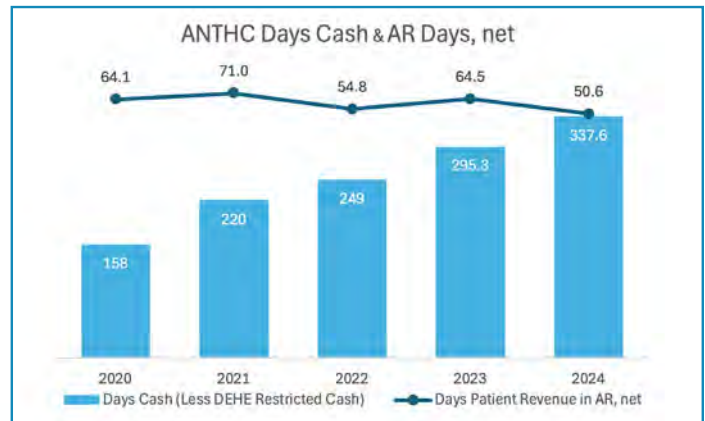
2024 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

For any organization, strong financial performance is key to putting the strategic plan to work. At ANTHC, this performance positions us to provide high-quality, accessible services to the people and communities we serve. Despite national headwinds and other challenges, like rising costs, ANTHC’s financial performance in FY24 was strong and continues to improve.

The ANTHC Board approved an FY24 budget with a -2.0% margin to continue investing in IT, facilities, and clinical areas—ensuring the organization has the tools and resources to maintain the quality and safety of services. Strong volumes, more efficient cost measures, significant revenue cycle improvements, and focused margin management initiatives ultimately led to a fiscal year-end operating margin ahead of budget at 0.5%. As overall financial health has improved, ANTHC is meeting, and sometimes exceeding, financial benchmarks for days cash on hand, debt-to-capital ratios, and days to collect accounts receivable. Total assets and revenues continued an upward trajectory, supported by investments in infrastructure and transformational projects to support statewide services.

Key aspects of revenue performance in FY24 included 11% growth in the Division of Environmental Health and Engineering (DEHE) over the prior year, with some limitations due to national supply chain constraints and limited availability of engineering and construction resources in Alaska. Operations at the Alaska Native Medical Center (ANMC) also generated revenue growth, seeing a 13% increase over prior year. Expanded use of 105(l) leases along with increased volumes in specialty clinics and surgical volumes supported this revenue increase. On the expense side, increased costs in labor, housing, travel, and supplies are expected to continue into FY25.

Moving into FY25, ANTHC will continue to make necessary investments that support timely, high-quality services both now and into the future. These investments are balanced with achieving near-term financial goals that improve overall financial performance.





ALASKA NATIVE
TRIBAL HEALTH
CONSORTIUM

