

Village Safe Water Program Capital Improvement Project Construction Project Application



APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

All applications must include the following:

- ◆ Construction Project Application (pages 2-3) *Application in any other form will not be accepted*
- ◆ Letter requesting project signed by the applicant
- ◆ Sanitation Improvement Needs Report for project being requested

Application Deadline

All application must be received by 11:59 p.m. on Friday May 6, 2022.

Application may be submitted to the following:

Email: dec.vswfunding@alaska.gov

Faxes will not be accepted

Mail: Village Safe Water Program
Attention: Carrie Bohan
P.O. Box 11180
Juneau, AK 99811

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS






Detailed instructions are provided on pages 4-6

APPLICATION REVIEW AND SCORING

All applications received before the deadline will be considered for scoring by applying the eligibility criteria. All eligible applications will be scored using the criteria provided on page 7.

Scoring Committee

A scoring committee will review and score applications according to established criteria. The scoring committee will be made up of representatives from:

	Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC)
	US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
	US Department of Agriculture, Rural Development (USDA RD)
	Indian Health Service (IHS)
	Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC)

Scoring Process

Preliminary scores will be provided to the applicant and the VSW or ANTHC engineer assigned to the community. Scores will not be provided to consultants.

If the applicant believes that a scoring error has occurred, they will be provided with an opportunity to inform VSW about the potential error. Only information submitted with the original application will be considered when finalizing the application score.

The scoring committee will consider information about potential errors and will provide a final score to the applicant.

Village Safe Water Program Capital Improvement Project Construction Project Application



COMMUNITY INFORMATION

Community Name:		Organization (City, Tribe, Association, etc.):	
Point of Contact:		Title:	
Mailing Address:		City:	Zip:
Phone:	Fax:	Applicant Email Address:	

ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

Community Type *Please check the one box that applies to your community*

- ☐ Unincorporated community with between 25 and 1,000 people
- ☐ First class or home rule city with not more than 1,000 residents
- ☐ A community with a population between 25 and 1,000 people represented by a Tribal Council, Traditional or Native Village Council, or incorporated nonprofit entity
- ☐ Second class city or Metlakatla (no population limit)

Spring 2022 Operations and Maintenance Best Practices Score

Total O&M Best Practices Score:

Approved Planning Project

Title:			
Date of PER:		VSW Index Number of PER:	

Approved Sustainability Plan *(Required for first time piped service projects only)*

Date Plan Approved:

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title

Deficiency Level *(A must equal B + C + D)*

	Description	# Homes
A	Total number of year-round occupied homes that will benefit from this project.	
B	Total number of these homes that have previously been served with indoor running water and sewer service via pipes or individual wells and septic systems.	
C	Total number of these homes that have previously been served with indoor running water and sewer service via community covered haul system.	
D	Total number of these homes that have never been served with indoor running water and sewer service.	

Village Safe Water Program Capital Improvement Project Construction Project Application Instructions



PROJECT INFORMATION

Related Projects *Please describe other funded projects that may have an impact on the proposed project*

Project Description and Potential Impacts to the Proposed Project:

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Construction Timeframe:

Funding Agency:

Funding Amount:

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Project Description and Potential Impacts to the Project Proposed for VSW Funding:

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Construction Timeframe:

Funding Agency:

Funding Amount:

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Project Description and Potential Impacts to the Project Proposed for VSW Funding:

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Construction Timeframe:

Funding Agency:

Funding Amount:

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Village Safe Water Program Capital Improvement Project Construction Project Application Instructions



Eligibility Information

Community Type

The State of Alaska Village Safe Water (VSW) Statute establishes specific types of communities that are eligible for VSW funding. Your community is eligible if it meets one of the community types listed on the application. If your community is not eligible for VSW funding, contact the ADEC Facilities Programs at (907) 465-5143 to find out about other funding opportunities.

Operations and Maintenance Best Practices Score

Communities must demonstrate a minimum level of capacity for operating and maintaining sanitation facilities to be eligible for VSW funding. Capacity is demonstrated through the Operations and Maintenance Best Practices Scoring (O&M Best Practices).

Served Communities

These are communities where most homes have running water and sewer service. Served communities must demonstrate an O&M Best Practices score of at least 60 points to be eligible for VSW construction project funding.

Unserved/Underserved Communities

These are communities where most homes currently do not have running water and sewer service from either pipes or individual wells and septic systems. Unserved and underserved communities must demonstrate an O&M Best Practices score of at least 35 points to be eligible for construction projects to repair or replace core facilities that have exceeded their design life, but maintain the current level of service. A minimum score of 35 points is also required to be eligible for funding for design of non-core facilities; construction funding for non-core facilities requires a minimum score of 60 points.

Service Level	O&M Best Practices Score	Project Eligibility
Unserved/ Underserved	0-100	CIP Planning CIP Design and Construction of Decentralized Services
	35+	CIP Design of Non-Core Facilities CIP Design and Construction Core Facilities that exceed their design life
	60+	CIP Construction of Non-Core Facilities
Served	0-100	CIP Planning CIP Design and Construction of Decentralized Services
	60+	CIP Design and Construction of Community Facilities

Core Facilities

For unserved and underserved communities, core facilities are the water source and transmission, water treatment plant/washeteria and associated water storage, collection and treatment of wastewater from washeteria, and honey bucket disposal.

Approved Planning Project

A community must have a completed planning document such as a Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) or Technical Memorandum that has been reviewed and approved by the Multi-Agency Review Committee to be eligible for VSW construction project funding. If your community does not have an approved PER, you are encouraged to apply for planning project funding. A list of approved PERs is available online at: <https://dec.alaska.gov/media/15729/list-of-vsw-reviewed-pers.pdf>

Village Safe Water Program Capital Improvement Project Construction Project Application Instructions



Approved Sustainability Plan *(Required for first time piped service projects only)*

An unserved community requesting construction funding for a first service project to install piped water and/or sewer must have a completed Sustainability Plan approved by the Multi-Agency Review Committee. Guidance on Sustainability Plans is available at: <https://dec.alaska.gov/water/village-safe-water/grant-application/>.

Project Information

Project Title

Provide a title for the proposed construction project. The title should match the title provided in the Sanitation Improvement Need Report.

Deficiency Level

Provide the total number of homes that are occupied year-round that will benefit from the proposed project.

Also, provide the number of homes that will benefit from the proposed project that have previously been served with indoor running water and sewer service from pipes or well and septic system, from community covered haul system, and how many homes have never been provided with service.

Required Attachments

All applications require the following attachments:

Letter Signed by the Applicant

All applications require a letter, signed by the applicant, requesting the project. The letter should explain, in the applicant's own words, why the project is needed. The letter should not be a duplicate letter prepared by an agency or a consultant.

Original, photocopied or scanned electronic versions of the signed letter will be accepted. An example of a community letter can be found online at:

<https://dec.alaska.gov/media/15715/example-community-letter-requesting-construction-funding.pdf>

Sanitation Improvement Needs Report for the Project Being Requested

The Sanitation Improvement Needs Report includes the project scope description and total cost estimate for the project being requested. The information in the report is entered by the VSW or ANTHC engineer assigned to your community. A list of communities and the assigned engineer is available online at:

<https://dec.alaska.gov/Applications/Water/OpCert/community-water-sewer-improvement-contact-list.xlsx>

To obtain the Sanitation Improvement Needs Report for a project, you can contact the VSW or ANTHC engineer assigned to your community. You can also follow these instructions to access the report online:

Go to <https://wstars.ihs.gov/> and select "Alaska Area." Select "Public Access" near the bottom of the page. Select "Proposed Alaska Sanitation Needs – by Community." Select your community to see a list of proposed projects for your community. To view a specific project, click on the project number. Click on the "View as PDF" at the top of the project page to open a PDF document that can be printed or saved and attached to the application. The following page provides images of this process.

Village Safe Water Program Capital Improvement Project Construction Project Application Instructions



Sanitation Improvement Needs Report Visual Guide

Sanitation Tracking and Reporting System (STARS)

Welcome to STARS, a system of the Indian Health Service (IHS).

SELECT AN AREA
Click an area on the map or the list below.

Alaska Area	Nashville Area
Anchorage Area	Navajo Area
Bemidji Area	Oklahoma Area
Billings Area	Phoenix Area
California Area	Portland Area
Great Plains Area	Tucson Area
Headquarters	

The mission of the Indian Health Service (IHS) is to raise the health status of the American Indian and Alaska Native people to the highest possible level by providing comprehensive health care and preventive health services. To support the IHS mission, the Division of Sanitation Facilities Construction (DSFC) provides technical assistance and sanitation facilities services to American Indian tribes and Alaska Native villages for cooperative development and continued operation of safe water, wastewater, and solid waste systems and related support facilities. STARS is a web-based database used to track sanitation facilities projects. It also contains information on existing Operation and Maintenance (O&M) organizations serving American Indians and Alaskan Natives (AI/AN).

STARS includes six major data systems:

1. COMMUNITY, also known as CDP (Community Deficiency Profile), contains demographic information on the communities where projects and homes are located;
2. SDS - the Sanitation Deficiency System documents information about sanitation deficiencies related to AI/AN individual homes and communities;
3. PDS - the Project Data System is used to track DSFC sanitation facilities construction projects;
4. HPS - the Housing Priority System is used to document, prioritize, and allocate resource needs for DSFC projects for new and like-new housing;
5. OMDS - the Operation and Maintenance Data System contains information about water, wastewater and solid waste systems serving AI/AN people and the organizations that operate systems; and
6. SR's - Service Requests are used to track applications for sanitation facilities to individuals and specific home sites (scattered sites);
7. HTS - The Home Inventory Tracking System, is a geospatial inventory of tribal homes used to track the status and plan for the provision of sanitation facilities.

Sanitation Tracking and Reporting System (STARS)

of the Indian Health Service (IHS).

WARNING!

This warning banner provides privacy and security notices consistent with applicable federal laws, directives, and other federal guidance for accessing this Government system, which includes all devices/storage media attached to this system. This system is provided for Government-authorized use only. Unauthorized or improper use of this system is prohibited and may result in disciplinary action and/or civil and criminal penalties. At any time, and for any lawful Government purpose, the government may monitor, record, and audit your system usage and/or intercept, search and seize any communication or data transiting or stored on this system. Therefore, you have no reasonable expectation of privacy. Any communication or data transiting or stored on this system may be disclosed or used for any lawful Government purpose.

ALASKA Area Login

Login Name

Password

[Get help logging in](#)

Cancel

Log In

[Public Access](#)

Sanitation Tracking and Reporting System (STARS)

Welcome to STARS, a system of the Indian Health Service (IHS).

The following is publicly available information regarding Sanitation Deficiency Capital Improvement Projects.

If you have questions or need additional information concerning the Sanitation Deficiency System, please contact the Alaska Area Native Health Service, Sanitation Facilities Construction Director:

Leigh Hubbard
4141 Ambassador Dr.
Suite 300
Anchorage, AK 99508
907-729-3711

If you have questions or need additional information concerning State of Alaska Capital Improvement program, please contact the State of Alaska, Department of Environmental Conservation, Facility Programs Manager:

Carrie Bohan
410 Willoughby #303
Juneau, AK 99811
907-465-5143

[Public SDS One-Line Listing](#)
[Proposed Alaska Sanitation Needs - by Community](#)
[O & M Capacity \(Best Practice Scores\) by Community](#)

Sanitation Tracking and Reporting System (STARS)

Welcome to STARS, a system of the Indian Health Service (IHS).

Proposed Alaska Sanitation Needs - By Community

*Disclaimer: Data displayed below is for informational purposes only.

Select Community: [Show List](#)
All communities listed. [List only communities with projects](#)

[Go to STARS Home](#)

Village Safe Water Program Capital Improvement Project Construction Project Application Instructions



Project Scoring Criteria

Criteria	Points
HEALTH IMPACT	
Describes the level of service or improvement the majority of the project costs will provide	
First Service: <i>Fully piped, closed haul, or onsite water and wastewater service to homes not previously served at the proposed service level</i>	40
Water Treatment Plant/Washeteria Upgrade or Replacement in Unserved Community: <i>Upgrade or replacement of a combined water treatment plant/washeteria in a community that lacks water and sewer service to a majority of homes The existing facility to be upgraded or replaced must be at least 25 years old.</i>	40
Regulatory Compliance (Drinking Water only): <i>Address "verified" facility-related regulatory compliance (DEC Drinking Water Program verification required)</i>	35
Erosion and Thawing Permafrost Impacts: <i>Protect, move or replace essential system components endangered by erosion or thawing permafrost</i>	35
Essential Upgrades: <i>Upgrade or replace existing water or wastewater system components that have exceeded their capacity or design life, resulting in present and continuous compromises in health benefits of the system and representing a clear and substantial health hazard</i>	30
Beneficial Upgrades: <i>Upgrade system components or increase operational efficiencies to address intermittent compromises affecting the health benefits of the system. Includes all solid waste improvements.</i>	15
Desired Upgrades: <i>Upgrades that are not considered "Essential Upgrades" or "Beneficial Upgrades" as defined above</i>	0
DEFICIENCY LEVEL	
Describes the level of service of the majority of homes that will benefit from the project	
<i>Never been served with running water and sewer service</i>	10
<i>Currently served by truck or trailer water and/or sewer service</i>	5
LOCAL CAPACITY	
Reflects the community's capacity for operations and maintenance of sanitation infrastructure	
<i>One point for every Operation and Maintenance Best Practices point above 60</i>	0 - 40
Related Projects	
<i>Coordination with other funded projects in the community will impact cost or efficiency</i>	5
APPLICATION QUALITY	
Describes the level of completeness of the application and quality of the supporting documentation	
<i>Information is complete and consistent throughout, and demonstrates community involvement in the application</i>	5
<i>Information is incomplete, inconsistent, and/or does not demonstrate the required level of community involvement in development of the application</i>	0