

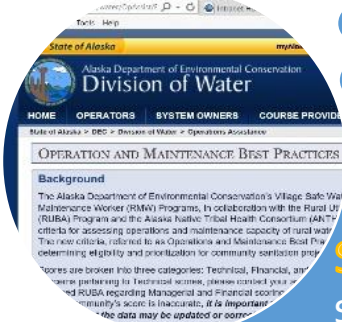


## ROADMAP TO ACCESS FUNDING FOR VILLAGE WATER & SEWER IMPROVEMENTS

Follow these key steps to ensure funds are requested for your community's water and sewer needs:



**STEP # 1:** Contact the **ENGINEER** assigned to your community



**STEP # 2:** Learn about the **BEST PRACTICES** score for your community.

**SEE REVERSE** for more information about each step.

## STEP #1: Contact the ENGINEER assigned to your community

### *Who is your assigned engineer? Where do they work?*

View the Community Water and Sewer Improvements Contact List at <http://dec.alaska.gov/water/vsw/>

Contact the engineer who is assigned to work with your community, and communicate the water and sewer needs in your village. A lead agency (either the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium or the State Village Safe Water Program) and engineer has been established to work with each community to address water and sewer needs. A long-term relationship between communities, agencies, and engineers helps ensure consistent, historical experience and familiarity with projects.

## STEP #2: Check the Operation & Maintenance BEST PRACTICES scores for your community

### *What is the BEST PRACTICES score for my community and how can I improve my score?*

Learn about BEST PRACTICES scores at <http://dec.alaska.gov/water/OpAssist/BestPractices.html>

Operation and Maintenance Best Practices scores are tied to funding eligibility and project scores. Pay attention to the scores throughout the year. Learn how to improve scores to ensure eligibility and boost your project priority. Keep an eye on the mail in September for a letter with your fall score. Scores will be finalized in the spring, so there's time to work with the Remote Maintenance Worker (RMW) and Rural Utility Business Advisor (RUBA) to improve your score before then.

The calendar below gives you an overview of Best Practices timeline throughout the year. Pay special attention to Community Deadlines and Community Activity:

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Community Deadlines	December 31: Deadline to provide information to RUBA & RMW						June 30: Deadline to provide information to RUBA & RMW					
Release of Scores			March 1: Spring Scores are posted ( <i>Used for funding eligibility &amp; project scoring</i> )						September 1: Fall Scores are posted ( <i>NOT used for funding eligibility &amp; project scoring</i> )			
Agency Activity	Compile scores						Compile scores					
Community Activity			Work with RUBA & RMW to improve score						Work with RUBA & RMW to improve score			
	Year Round: Communities are familiar with their latest Best Practices score, and work consistently with technical assistance providers to improve the score before each community deadline											