

Village Safe Water Program Capital Improvement Project Construction Project Application



APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

All applications must include the following:

- ◆ Construction Project Application (pages 2-4) *Application in any other form will not be accepted*
- ◆ Letter requesting project signed by the applicant

Application Deadline

All application must be received by 11:59 p.m. on Friday April 24, 2026.

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 5-6

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

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.

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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*

First class city or home rule municipality 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)

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)*

	<i>Description</i>	<i># Homes</i>
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.	

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DEFICIENCY

Description of the Deficiencies to be Addressed:

PROJECT INFORMATION

Description of the Proposed Project:

Funding Request: \$

Beginning in 2023, all construction projects funded through CIP are required to comply with the Build America, Buy America Act. Funding requests must include consideration of BABA compliance for materials and project administration.

If the community has an ongoing funded sanitation project, describe the availability of local labor to support completion of the newly requested project within five years.

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PROJECT INFORMATION

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

Project Title:

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

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Construction Timeframe:

Funding Agency:

Funding Amount:

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Project Title:

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

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Construction Timeframe:

Funding Agency:

Funding Amount:

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Project Title:

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

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Construction Timeframe:

Funding Agency:

Funding Amount:

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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.

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. In some instances, PERs are approved for funding by specific agencies but not others, so it is important to confirm that the document is approved for VSW CIP funding purposes. 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/water/village-safe-water>.

Sanitation Deficiency System (SDS) Project

For all communities eligible for Indian Health Service funding, CIP construction applications must be associated with a specific project in the SDS data system. Your community is assigned an engineer from either VSW or ANTHC who is responsible for assisting with ensuring project needs are accurately recorded in SDS. If you are unsure who your assigned engineer is, the information is available in the Community Water and Sewer Improvements Contact List at:

<https://dec.alaska.gov/water/village-safe-water>.

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/funding-conditions/>.

Project Information

Project Title

Provide a title for the proposed construction project. The title should match the title provided in the Sanitation Deficiency System.

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.

Deficiency

Describe the deficiency that the proposed project will address.

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Project Information

Describe the proposed project.

Funding Request

Provide the total amount of funding that is being requested.

Availability of Local Labor

If multiple projects will be occurring in the community at the same time, describe the availability of local labor to support the projects.

Related Projects

Provide information about projects that are already funded that may have an impact on the proposed project.

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/24842/example-community-letter-requesting-construction-funding.pdf>

Please *DO NOT* attach the approved Preliminary Engineering Report to the application.

Project Implementation

Project funding for selected projects will be made available in Fall 2026. Federal grants for these projects expire in five years, so the full scope of the project is anticipated to be complete in Fall 2031.

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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