

# PARTNERING FOR A BETTER ALASKA

DENALI COMMISSION ANNUAL REPORT 2009





Looking down on the Kobuk River in Kiana, Alaska where the Denali Commission completed the planning, design and construction of the Kiana Clinic in partnership with the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium and the Maniilaq Association.

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This annual report provides an overview of an innovative government agency, the Denali Commission (Commission). Created by Congress in October 1998, the Denali Commission is tasked with building infrastructure and creating economic opportunity in America's most underdeveloped and most geographically challenging region, rural Alaska. The Commission's efforts are made possible through unique partnerships in both the state and private sectors. We are pleased to provide you with a snap-shot of that progress and showcase some of the partnerships that make this agency's important mission a reality.

Front cover: Wind turbines in Chevak, Alaska constructed in partnership with Alaska Village Electric Cooperative.



JOEL NEIMEYER  
Federal Co-Chair  
Denali Commission

April 2010

## DEAR FRIENDS OF THE DENALI COMMISSION

We are pleased to present to you the Denali Commission's 2009 annual report, "*Partnering for a Better Alaska*." As our funding and program partners, we thank you for your steadfast commitment in supporting rural infrastructure development, and training and economic development opportunities in rural Alaska.

Rural Alaska communities face unique social, economical, and environmental challenges. The Denali Commission, in its role as an independent federal agency charged with addressing the needs of rural Alaskans, has sustained longstanding partnerships with the State of Alaska and other important agencies and partners. Together, we are committed to meeting and overcoming these challenges in order to best serve the people of Alaska.

As we look toward 2010 and beyond, we are focusing our energy on place-based solutions, recognizing the diverse needs of our rural communities. Custom approaches will bring us long-term success. To maintain sustainable and livable environments for Alaskans residing in rural communities, we must work to ensure they have access to essential goods and services.

Today, over 700 projects are currently underway to provide our rural communities with much-needed improvements to public infrastructure. In addition to these projects, the partnership between the Commission with the State of Alaska and others has generated more than 200 energy projects (e.g. bulk fuel storage tanks, rural power system upgrades and alternative/renewable projects) and more than 90 new and renovated primary care clinics, all crucial to maintaining healthy, sustainable communities. Our partnerships and processes are a model by which the national priorities for rural America are being met at the local level.

We look forward to your continued support. Together, we can help strengthen Alaska's economy, and provide our families with the opportunities they deserve.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joel Neimeyer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "N".

Joel Neimeyer  
Federal Co-Chair  
Denali Commission

## PARTNERING HIGHLIGHTS



### WIND TURBINES GAMBELL

Alternative-renewable energy infrastructure projects, such as these wind turbines in Gambell, Alaska, are made possible through partnerships. The Commission is committed to ongoing funding for alternative-renewable energy solutions which lead to reduced energy costs in rural Alaska. The Commission can also leverage other programs, like the Training Program to provide the specialized workforce development needed for the installation, operation and maintenance of these turbines.

#### PROJECT PARTNERS

Alaska Department of Labor  
and Workforce Development  
Alaska Village Electric Cooperative  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Rural Utilities Service  
Savoonga Native Corporation  
Sivuqaq, formerly Gambell  
Native Corporation



### HARRIS SUB-REGIONAL CLINIC CHIGNIK BAY

Primary care clinics are yet another example of the Commission's ability to actively engage an array of partners. The Harris Sub-Regional Clinic was made possible through a set of unique partnerships. The design and construction of clinics like this take extensive time to plan and the combined work and effort of numerous agencies and community members. The sub-regional, hub-zone clinic design is larger to accommodate the needs of outlying communities. In the case of the Chignik Bay clinic, six communities will utilize the facility.

#### PROJECT PARTNERS

Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority  
Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium  
Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation  
Bureau of Indian Affairs  
Chignik Bay Tribal Council  
Health Resources and Services  
Administration (HRSA)  
Indian Health Service  
Office of Native American Programs  
Rasmuson Foundation  
STG, Inc.  
U.S. Department of Housing  
and Urban Development



### CARGO DOCK & SMALL BOAT HARBOR, BETHEL

Cargo docks and small boat basins like these in Bethel, serve as critical transportation links for Alaska's rural communities. This Denali Commission project improved structural integrity and safety at the dock and reconstructed approaches and ramps at the small boat harbor. By partnering with local governments and other organizations, the Commission is improving transportation systems serving rural communities.

#### PROJECT PARTNERS

Alaska Department of  
Transportation and Public Facilities  
City of Bethel  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers





GAMBELL

BETHEL

CHIGNIK BAY

**LEGEND**

100 Miles

- Community
- Road System
- ▬ Rail System

## COMMON ALASKA TERMS

### ANCSA

The Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act passed in 1971 and was the largest land claims settlement in U.S. history, transferring land title to Alaska Native Corporations.

### ATV

All terrain vehicle or four-wheeler, a common form of transportation in rural Alaska.

### Break Up

The spring melting season when rivers thaw and begin to flow again, carrying huge chunks of ice downriver.

### Bulk Fuel Storage Facility

Facilities used to store 6-to-13 months supply of diesel fuel required to meet the power generation and home heating needs for rural Alaska communities.

### The Bush

Rural Alaska communities, typically not on the road system.

### Bush Pilot

Pilots of aircraft who provide transportation to bush communities and isolated destinations.

### Four Wheeler

An all-terrain vehicle used as a primary mode of transportation in rural Alaska.

### Honey Bucket

A bucket used as a toilet in homes without sewer or running water. Buckets are emptied manually.

### The Last Frontier

Because of its rugged splendor, Alaska is commonly referred to as The Last Frontier.

### Lower 48

Alaskans refer to the contiguous 48 states as the Lower 48.

### Multi-Use Facility

A facility that consolidates essential community services such as health clinics, fire departments, washeterias, and jails.

### Northern Lights

Magnetic particles from the sun hitting the earth's atmosphere which are visible for more than half the year. Also called Aurora Borealis.

### Permafrost

Ground that is permanently frozen year round in Arctic regions.

### Snowmachine

A small vehicle with ski-like runners in front and tank-like treads, ridden by straddling a seat and used for driving in or traveling on snow. Also called a snowmobile.

### Subsistence

The hunting, fishing, and gathering activities which traditionally constitute the economic base of life for rural Alaska.

### Termination Dust

The first snowfall on the mountains signaling the end of the summer season.

### Tundra

An area where tree growth is hindered by permafrost, low temperatures and short growing seasons. Typically the surface is boggy due to a high water table.

### Washeteria

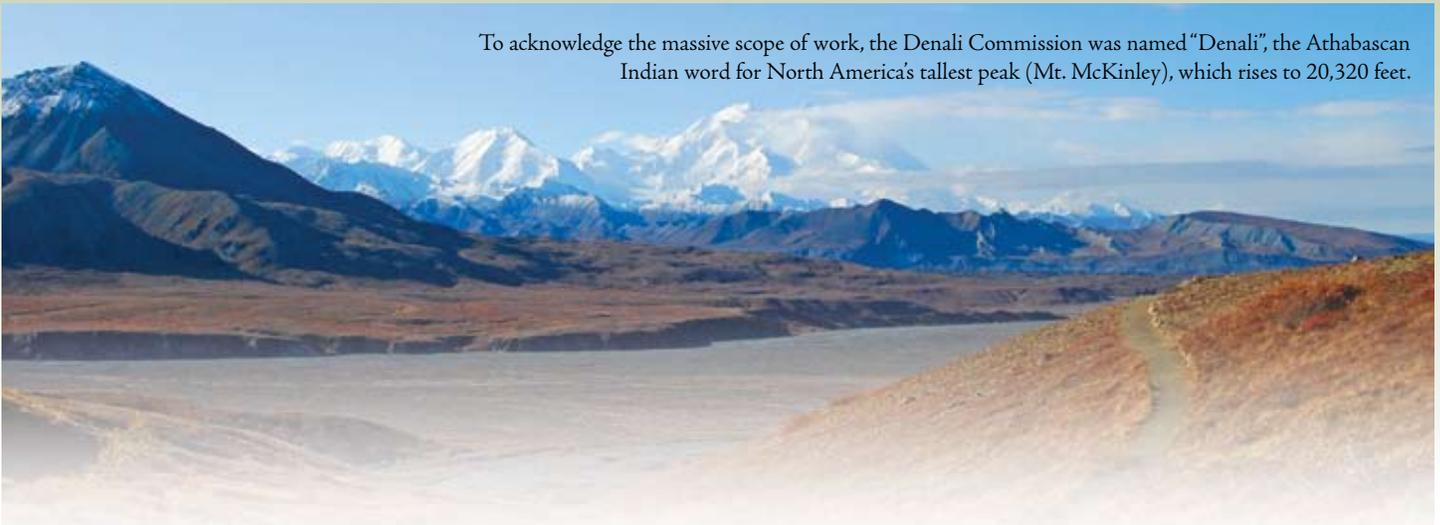
A small, public facility serving as the local watering point where people can obtain treated drinking water. Washeterias are also locations for laundry, showers and flushable toilets.



## ALASKA IS A GEOGRAPHIC MARVEL

- + 656,425 square miles (2 ½ times the size of Texas)
- + 3,000,000 lakes over 20 acres in size (compared with Minnesota's 10,000 lakes)
- + 6,640 miles of coastline (longer than all other U.S. states combined)
- + An estimated 10,000 glaciers (covering nearly 5% of the state)
- + 80% of all active volcanoes in the U.S.
- + 39 mountain ranges containing 17 of the 20 highest peaks in the U.S.

To acknowledge the massive scope of work, the Denali Commission was named "Denali", the Athabascan Indian word for North America's tallest peak (Mt. McKinley), which rises to 20,320 feet.



## HISTORY OF DENALI COMMISSION

In 1998 Congress focused national attention on the immense infrastructure and economic challenges faced by rural Alaskan communities with the passage of the Denali Commission Act. The Act became law on October 21, 1998 (Title III of Public Law 105-277, 42 USC 3121). The Denali Commission is an innovative federal-state partnership designed to provide critical utilities, infrastructure and support for economic development in Alaska by delivering federal services in the most cost-effective manner possible. By creating the Commission, Congress mandated that all parties involved partner together to find new and innovative solutions to the unique infrastructure and economic development challenges of America's most remote communities. This approach gives the Denali Commission its unique scope and breadth of services.

## THE COMMISSIONERS

The Denali Commission Act teams seven leading Alaska policy makers together. Commissioners meet at least twice a year to develop and monitor an annual work plan that guides the Commission's activities. Commissioners draw upon community-based comprehensive plans as well as comments from individuals, organizations, partners and staff to guide funding decisions. This approach helps provide basic services in the most cost-effective manner by moving the problem solving resources closer to the people best able to implement solutions.



**JOEL NEIMEYER**  
Federal Co-Chair  
Denali Commission



**KAREN REHFELD**  
State Co-Chair  
Director of the Office of  
Management & Budget,  
State of Alaska



**VINCE BELTRAMI**  
Executive President  
Alaska AFL-CIO



**JULIE KITKA**  
President  
Alaska Federation of Natives



**JOHN MACKINNON**  
Executive Director  
Associated General  
Contractors of Alaska



**KAREN PERDUE**  
Associate Vice-President, Health Programs  
University of Alaska



**KATHIE WASSERMAN**  
Executive Director  
Alaska Municipal League

## 2009: A YEAR IN REVIEW

### NEW LEADERSHIP AT THE DENALI COMMISSION

Joel Neimeyer was identified as the new federal co-chair at the conclusion of FY2009. Mr. Neimeyer, a Yupik Eskimo, will be the first Alaskan Native to head the Commission since its inception in 1998. Senator Mark Begich, who identified Mr. Neimeyer as the next Commission leader at the October 2009 Alaska Federation of Natives conference, was quoted as saying, "Joel knows rural Alaska and is well respected across our state. He knows how to get things done," Begich said. "Our challenge will be to continue to demonstrate to members of Congress the enormous value of the Commission's work, from affordable energy to health care facilities."



Jon Bittner and Adison Smith, Alaska Clearinghouse

### ALASKA CLEARINGHOUSE

In its role as a convener, the Commission embarked on a project to bring clarity to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). In partnership with the **Alaska Federal Executive Association**, the **Rasmuson Foundation** and the **Alaska State Legislature**, the Denali Commission launched the Alaska Clearinghouse website. This site provided critical information to federal agencies and state partners enabling them to make informed funding decisions in coming fiscal years.

### PROGRESS THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS

The Denali Commission's Energy and Health programs began work in 1999. Over the years these two original Commission programs have flourished in developing criteria for basic rural infrastructure. Innovative solutions have resulted from 11 years of growth and development which include alternative-renewable energy solutions and solid, concise planning for rural health facilities.

Partnerships with the **State of Alaska**, **Alaska Village Electric Cooperative**, and others help the Commission provide reliable, code compliant fuel storage and power generation to thousands of rural Alaskans across the state. Thus far, the Commission has completed 93 bulk fuel tank farms in rural communities throughout Alaska and 48 Rural Power System Upgrades. This translates into cleaner, healthier energy that is more cost effective for our poorest citizens.



Deering

With partners like the **Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium**, the Commission has made a significant impact in the lives and health of rural Alaskans: 95 clinics have been completed; 29 are currently being constructed; and 110 are in the conceptual planning / business planning / design phases. The "gated process" of health facilities infrastructure development was an early design component of rural clinic construction and today ensures realistic planning and design to meet rural community needs.



Kiana clinic

### AKSOURCELINK



In 2009 the Commission funded [www.AKSourceLink.com](http://www.AKSourceLink.com). This portal is a web-based approach offering solutions to Alaska's small businesses for capacity-building and information sharing. AKSourceLink is using modern technologies to "link Alaska's small businesses to the right resources at the right time."

**EMERGING ENERGY TECHNOLOGY GRANT (EETG)**

The Commission awarded \$4 million toward emerging energy technology projects including wind-diesel, wood-pellet boiler, biogas, solar hot water in elder housing, seawater heat pumps, hydrokinetic and battery storage. Over 50 proposals were received totaling ~\$30 million in requests.



Cold loving microbes found in Alaska lakes will be combined with feedstock in Cordova schools to produce heating gas. If successful the gas could be used in rural Alaska.



The Akhiok clinic was completed in 2009 in partnership with the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium.

**ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND CONSERVATION BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM (EECBG)**

In FY09 the **U.S. Department of Energy (DOE)** issued the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG). Alaskan tribes faced barriers in administering these funds and in response, the Commission offered a 10% match for group applications. The Commission received 8 group applications, representing 106 Alaskan tribes and leveraging ~\$4.5 million in federal funding.

**MOU PARTNERS - GOVERNMENT COORDINATION AT WORK**

The Commission's Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Partners Workgroup continued a high-level federal-state partnership effort of collaboration amongst government agencies. No other group in Alaska encompasses the breadth and scope of both federal and state agencies the way the MOU Partners has. This group continues to meet on a semi-annual basis with a goal of furthering important professional relationships, cutting through bureaucratic red tape, finding opportunities for synergy, reducing and avoiding duplication of efforts which will save money and increase efficiency of service delivery. This group met again in 2009 and plans to reconvene in FY 2010.



The Pelican Harbor tee floats project was completed in 2009 in partnership with the City of Pelican and the State of Alaska.

**NEW PARTNERSHIPS**

The Alaska Center for Energy and Power (ACEP) under the University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF) will provide critical data collection and reporting for the Commission's emerging technology grants. With the goal of ground testing pre-commercial technology for replication in rural Alaska, the Commission's new partnership with ACEP will assure lessons learned are well-documented and widely distributed.



**NEW WEBSITE [www.Denali.gov](http://www.Denali.gov)**

In 2009 the Commission launched a new, user friendly website. This interactive site, provides the public access to all program areas at the Commission and transparency of all projects funded.

## ENERGY PROGRAM

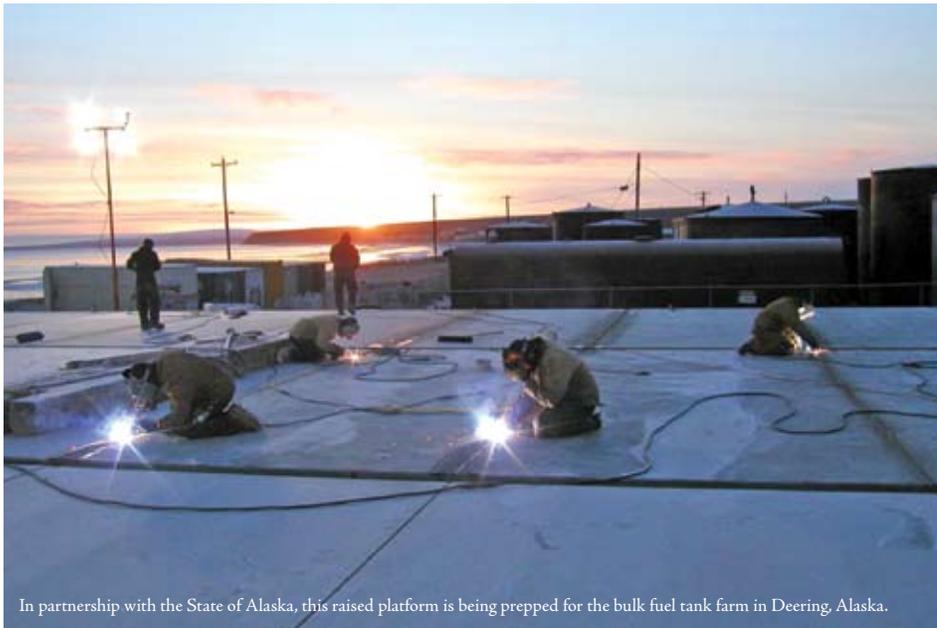
The Denali Commission's Energy Program began in 1999. The primary goals of this program are to address environmental compliance issues while also improving energy efficiency, decreasing diesel consumption, and exploring alternative-renewable options. Projects for bulk fuel tank construction and Rural Power System Upgrades (RPSU) are identified from state-wide deficiency lists. The Commission continues to comply with the Administration's initiative to reduce dependence on foreign oil by investigating renewable energy projects across Alaska such as wind, hydro, geothermal and emerging technologies. Specifically, the area of emerging technologies is a priority for the Commission.

### PROGRAM STAFF

Denali Daniels Senior Program Manager; Jodi Fondy Deputy Program Manager

### ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

John MacKinnon (Chair) Denali Commissioner, Associated General Contractors of Alaska; Vince Beltrami Denali Commissioner, Alaska AFL-CIO; Brad Reeve Kotzebue Electric Association; Dr. Daniel White University of Alaska; Eric Marchegiani, P.E. U.S. Department of Agriculture-Rural Development; Nels Anderson, Jr. Bristol Bay Resident; Robert Martin Goldbelt Corporation

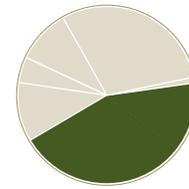


In partnership with the State of Alaska, this raised platform is being prepped for the bulk fuel tank farm in Deering, Alaska.

Bottom left: The new modular powerhouse design was constructed in Chignik Bay, Alaska in partnership with State of Alaska. Bottom right: Unalakleet bulk-fuel tank farm project completed in partnership with the State of Alaska.



### PROGRAM FUNDING USE FY99-09



ENERGY  
45%

### PROJECTS FUNDED

Bulk-Fuel Storage  
Community Power Generation and  
Rural Power System Upgrades  
Energy Cost Reduction Projects  
Renewable and Alternative Energy  
Power Line Interties

### PROGRAM PARTNERS

Alaska Center for Energy and Power  
(ACEP)

[www.uaf.edu/acep](http://www.uaf.edu/acep)

Alaska Energy Authority

[www.aidea.org/aea](http://www.aidea.org/aea)

Alaska Power & Telephone

[www.aptalaska.com](http://www.aptalaska.com)

Alaska Village Electric Cooperative

[www.avec.org](http://www.avec.org)

National Energy Technology Lab  
(NETL)

[www.netl.doe.gov](http://www.netl.doe.gov)

National Renewable Energy Lab  
(NREL)

[www.nrel.gov](http://www.nrel.gov)

U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Rural Utility Service

[www.usda.gov/rus/electric](http://www.usda.gov/rus/electric)

## HEALTH FACILITIES PROGRAM

The Health Facilities Program is a collaborative effort which methodically invests in regional networks of primary care clinics across Alaska. In addition to clinic design and construction, the program has expanded to support infrastructure needs in behavioral health, dental care, domestic violence facilities, elder housing, primary care in hospitals, emergency medical services equipment and hospital designs.

Since the inception of this program, the Denali Commission has made a monumental impact in the lives and health of rural Alaskans by contributing to the construction, conceptual planning, business planning and design phases of needed health facilities throughout the state.

### PROGRAM STAFF

Nancy Merriman Senior Program Manager; Kathy Berzanske Deputy Program Manager

### STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Bill Hogan (Co-Chair) State Commissioner, Alaska Department of Health and Social Services; Karen Perdue (Co-Chair) Denali Commissioner, University of Alaska; Andy Teuber Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium; Representative Alaska Department of Health and Social Services; Jeff Jessee Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority; Jerry Fuller Alaska Department of Health and Social Services; Kenneth Glifort Indian Health Service; Lincoln Bean Alaska Native Health Board; Marilyn Walsh Kasmar Alaska Primary Care Association; Rebecca Hilgendorf Alaska Department of Health and Social Services; Rod Betit Alaska State Hospital and Nursing Home Association

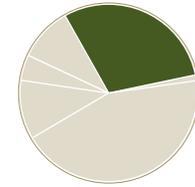


The Tuntutuliak clinic was completed in partnership with the Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation and the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium

Below: Typical clinic interior designs.



### PROGRAM FUNDING USE FY99-09



HEALTH FACILITIES  
30%

### PROJECTS FUNDED

- Primary Care Facilities
- Behavioral Health Facilities
- Elder Housing/ Assisted Living Facilities
- Primary Care in Hospitals

### PROGRAM PARTNERS

Alaska Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS)  
[www.hss.state.ak.us](http://www.hss.state.ak.us)

Alaska Housing Finance Corporation  
[www.ahfc.state.ak.us](http://www.ahfc.state.ak.us)

Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority  
[www.mhtrust.org](http://www.mhtrust.org)

Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium  
[www.anthc.org](http://www.anthc.org)

Alaska State Hospital and Nursing Home Association  
[www.ashnha.com](http://www.ashnha.com)

Health Resources and Services Administration  
[www.hrsa.gov](http://www.hrsa.gov)

Rasmuson Foundation  
[www.rasmuson.org](http://www.rasmuson.org)

Regional Alaska Native Health Organizations

## TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM

The Denali Commission Transportation Program began in 2005. This program focuses on basic road improvement needs and waterfront development connecting rural Alaskans through roads and critical waterways. The road program targets basic road improvement needs. It also looks at opportunities to connect rural communities to one another and the state highway system, and opportunities to enhance rural economic development. The waterfront development program addresses port, harbor and other waterfront needs for rural communities. The emerging focus areas are improvements to regional ports, and construction of barge landings and docking facilities.

### PROGRAM STAFF

Mike McKinnon Contractor; Adison Smith Program Assistant

### ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Joel Neimeyer Federal Co-Chair (Chair), Denali Commission; Carvel Zimin, Jr. Bristol Bay Borough Assembly; Chuck Pool P.E., R.L.S. Pool Engineering, Incorporated; Chuck Quinlan Koyitlots'ina, Limited; Mike Hoffman Association of Village Council Presidents; Norm Phillips Doyon, Limited; Randy Romenesko P.E. Consultant; Steve Ivanoff Kawerak, Incorporated; Walter Sampson NANA Regional Corporation

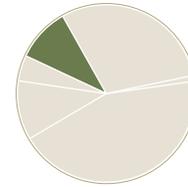


In partnership with the U.S. DOT Federal Highway Administration Western Federal Lands Highway Division, ATV road projects like the Kwigillingok slough subsistence trail are constructed.

Bottom left: In partnership with the City of Cordova, this chip sealing, dust control road project was completed. Bottom right: The Pitka's Point sanitation road project was completed in partnership with the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium.



### PROGRAM FUNDING USE FY99-09



TRANSPORTATION  
10%

### PROJECTS FUNDED

Local Roads, Boardwalks

ATV Roads

Community Connection and  
Economic Development Roads

Regional Ports and

Local Small Boat Harbors

Barge Landings

### PROGRAM PARTNERS

Alaska Department of  
Transportation and Public Facilities  
[www.dot.state.ak.us](http://www.dot.state.ak.us)

Bureau of Indian Affairs  
[www.doi.gov/bia](http://www.doi.gov/bia)

Community Development  
Quota Organizations  
[www.wacda.org](http://www.wacda.org)

U.S. Department of  
Transportation (DOT)  
[www.dot.gov](http://www.dot.gov)

U.S. DOT  
Federal Highway Administration  
[www.fhwa.dot.gov](http://www.fhwa.dot.gov)

U.S. DOT Western  
Federal Lands Highway Division  
[www.wfl.fhwa.dot.gov](http://www.wfl.fhwa.dot.gov)

Regional Tribal Non-Profit  
Organizations

## TRAINING PROGRAM

In communities that can have a 50% unemployment rate, the Denali Commission funded training programs have seen increased wages of participants by a staggering 64% and have shown a 12% increase in employment. As the Commission funds projects for new clinics, roads, and tank farms, it also builds sustainability into those projects by providing training for local residents to maintain and operate the new facilities.

Commission training projects support job training activities and initiatives in Alaska's allied health professions, construction careers, and maintenance and operation of local facilities. Additionally, the Commission continues to support Alaska's budding workforce through its Youth Initiative which centers on skill development, internships, job preparation, placement and career pathways.

### PROGRAM STAFF

Karen Johnson Program Manager

### ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Vince Beltrami (Chair) Denali Commissioner, Alaska AFL-CIO; John MacKinnon Denali Commissioner, Associated General Contractors of Alaska; Bernice Joseph University of Alaska; Click Bishop Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development; Dawn Salesky Alaska Native Coalition of Employment and Training; Rose Loera Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation; Wanetta Ayers Western Alaska Community Development Association



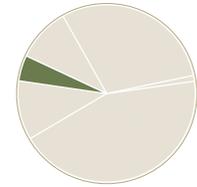
The Training Program partners with Yuut Elitnaurviat Youth Initiatives for this construction training program.

*Bottom left:* In partnership with the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium the Commission is training dental health aides.

*Bottom right:* In partnership with Southwest Alaska Vocational & Education Center the Commission is training heavy equipment operators.



### PROGRAM FUNDING USE FY99-09



TRAINING  
4%

### PROJECTS FUNDED

Allied Health Professions  
Construction Trades  
Facility Operations and Maintenance  
Administration of Public Infrastructure  
Youth Initiatives

### PROGRAM PARTNERS

Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development  
<http://labor.state.ak.us>

Alaska Works Partnership  
[www.alaskaworks.org](http://www.alaskaworks.org)

Construction Education Foundation Associated General Contractors of Alaska  
[www.agcak.org](http://www.agcak.org)

First Alaskans Institute  
[www.firstalaskans.org](http://www.firstalaskans.org)

University of Alaska  
[www.alaska.edu](http://www.alaska.edu)

U.S. Department of Labor  
[www.dol.gov](http://www.dol.gov)

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

The Denali Commission's Economic Development Program promotes economic development through collaboration with local and regional organizations. The principal objectives are to foster development of entrepreneurship, and enhance healthy market-based economies throughout Alaska. Funding is provided in the form of a grant in the areas of: community mapping, community planning, feasibility studies, business planning, small equipment purchases and more.

### PROGRAM STAFF

Mark Allred Program Manager (Detail from the ANCSA Regional Association.)

### ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Kathie Wasserman (Chair) Denali Commissioner, Alaska Municipal League; Julie Kitka Denali Commissioner, Alaska Federation of Natives; Berney Richert, Jr. Economic Development Administration; Charles Parker Alaska Village Initiatives; Christi Bell University of Alaska, Center for Economic Development; Doug Ward Alaska Ship and Dry Dock; John Torgerson Kenai Peninsula Economic Development District; Joseph Austerman State of Alaska, Office of Economic Development; Sheri Buretta Chugach Alaska Corporation; Wanetta Ayers Western Alaska Community Development Association; Wilfred "Boyuck" Ryan Arctic Transportation Services

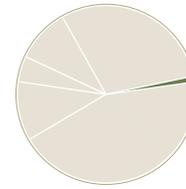


Kobuk River Cabins was a winner in the 4th Annual Alaska Marketplace competition. This economic development endeavor is administered by the Alaska Federation of Natives and is funded by organizations like the Commission.

Bottom left: Economic Development Advisory Committee at work. Bottom right: Chickaloon Four-Season Greenhouse project, another Alaska Marketplace project.



### PROGRAM FUNDING USE FY99-09



ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT  
1%

### PROJECTS FUNDED

Alaska Marketplace  
Business Technical Assistance  
Community Mapping  
Mini-Grants

### PROGRAM PARTNERS

Alaska Department of  
Commerce, Community  
and Economic Development  
[www.commerce.state.ak.us](http://www.commerce.state.ak.us)

Alaska Federation of Natives  
[www.nativefederation.org](http://www.nativefederation.org)

Alaska Growth Capital  
[www.alaskagrowth.com](http://www.alaskagrowth.com)

Alaska Partnership for  
Economic Development  
[www.alaskapartnership.org](http://www.alaskapartnership.org)

First Alaskans Institute  
[www.firstalaskans.org](http://www.firstalaskans.org)

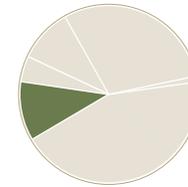
# IMPROVING COMMUNITIES PROGRAMS

## PROGRAM STAFF

Kathy Berzanske Deputy Program Manager; Gene Kane Program Manager (Detail from USDA-Rural Development); Sharon Lind Program Manager

## TEACHER HOUSING

To attract and retain teachers into small rural Alaska schools, communities must be able to offer good quality housing. The Denali Commission partnered with Alaska Housing Finance Corporation to construct or renovate 195 units since 2005. Beneficial for the myriad of funding agencies, the program leverages limited resources in pursuit of the goal. Commission investments, often as low as 15% of the total, has improved the recruitment and retention of teachers in rural Alaska.



COMMUNITY FACILITIES  
10%

## PROJECTS FUNDED

- Teacher Housing
- Solid Waste
- Multi-Use Facilities

## SOLID WASTE PROGRAM

Since 2004 the Commission has received annual funding from the U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development to address deficiencies in solid waste disposal sites that threaten drinking water across Alaska. The program has funded more than 70 projects to a variety of municipal, tribal, and non-profit community and regional organizations. Program funds are typically used to purchase basic equipment: balers, burn boxes, trailers and solid waste sorting devices. The program has been managed in partnership with the Rural Alaska Community Action Program since 2007.

Above: Unalakleet teacher housing project completed in partnership with Alaska Housing Finance Corporation. Bottom left: Hooper Bay solid waste equipment purchase. Bottom right: Akiachak burn box equipment purchase.



## PROGRAM PARTNERS

Alaska Housing Finance Corporation  
[www.ahfc.state.ak.us](http://www.ahfc.state.ak.us)

Association of Village Council Presidents  
[www.avcp.org](http://www.avcp.org)

RurAL CAP  
[www.ruralcap.com](http://www.ruralcap.com)

U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development  
[www.usda.gov/rus/water](http://www.usda.gov/rus/water)

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
[www.epa.gov](http://www.epa.gov)

## GOVERNMENT COORDINATION

The Denali Commission is charged with the special role of increasing government effectiveness. The Commission does so by acting as a catalyst and strategic partner for many federal and state programs in Alaska. Workgroups and projects such as: the Buckland Workgroup, the Planning Workgroup, the MOU Partners Workgroup and the Alaska Clearinghouse project are examples of collaboration at its best at the Commission. Government coordination has become a mainstay of the efforts the Commission has undertaken in improving the effectiveness and efficiency of government in Alaska.



## FINANCIAL SUMMARY FY09

At any given time Denali Commission staff and partners are engaged with several hundred grants and/or projects in various stages of planning, design and construction. Program partners range from large line agencies to small village-level organizations. The ability to deliver timely, sustainable projects with the right level and type of oversight and guidance, while also being nimble and agile, requires constant attention. Commission leadership emphasizes the paramount importance of public integrity, transparency and accountability. The Commission maintains an aggressive staff training program and uses the latest in grant processing technology through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. During 2009 staff received training from the Office of Management & Budget, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the Government Accountability Office. To keep staff size at an optimum level, the Commission contracts with other federal "lines of business" at the U.S. Department of the Treasury, Bureau of Public Debt to provide services in the areas of finance, human resources, procurement and travel. In addition, for the advancement of governmental accountability, the Commission relies on a network of federal experts through its Federal Financial Management Advisory Committee, which include members from U.S. Treasury, Office of Management and Budget and the Association of Government Accountants.

### FUNDING SOURCES

Energy & Water Development Bill.....	\$ 11,800,000
Trans-Alaska Pipeline Liability Funds (TAPL) .....	\$ 7,313,271
USDA Rural Utility Service Funds.....	\$ 8,500,000
U.S. Department of Health & Human Services Funds.....	\$ 19,642,000
USDA Solid Waste Funds.....	\$ 434,000
U.S. Department of Transportation (Obligating Authority).....	\$ 23,484,000
U.S. Department of Labor .....	\$ 3,378,000*
 Total Funding.....	 \$ 74,551,271

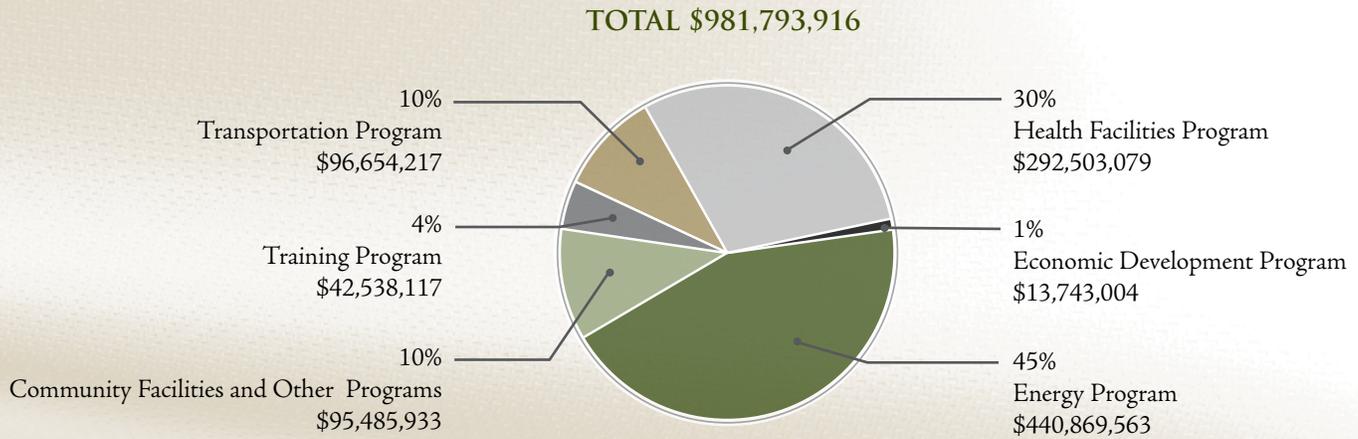
### FUNDING USES

Energy.....	\$ 21,419,703
Health Care .....	\$ 18,909,900
Transportation .....	\$ 22,309,800
Solid Waste .....	\$ 202,979
Training .....	\$ 3,209,100*

**PROGRAM FUNDING**.....\$ 66,051,482

\*FY09 U.S. Department of Labor funding received in FY10.

## FUNDING USES FY99 - FY09



## FUNDING SOURCES FY99 - FY09

	FY99	FY00	FY01	FY02	FY03	FY04	FY05	FY06	FY07	FY08	FY09
U.S. Department of Labor						\$5.0	\$6.9	\$6.9	\$6.9	\$6.8	\$3.4*
U.S. Department of the Interior							\$1.0				
U.S. Department of Transportation (FTA & FHWA)								\$25.0	\$18.4	\$25.5	\$23.5
Energy & Water Appropriation	\$20.0	\$20.0	\$30.0	\$38.0	\$48.0	\$55.0	\$66.5	\$49.5	\$49.5	\$21.8	\$11.8
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency				\$3.0	\$3.0	\$3.5	\$4.0				
U.S. Department of Health & Human Services			\$10.0	\$19.9	\$27.2	\$34.7	\$39.5	\$39.3	\$39.3	\$38.6	\$19.6
U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development							\$2.0	\$1.3			
USDA Rural Utilities Service			\$15.0	\$25.0	\$18.5	\$15.0	\$15.0	\$15.0	\$15.0	\$10.0	\$8.5
USDA Solid Waste						\$1.0	\$1.5	\$0.7	\$0.7	\$0.4	\$0.4
Trans-Alaska Pipeline Liability Fund		\$5.0	\$11.4	\$11.4	\$2.5	\$4.3	\$4.4	\$4.2	\$4.0	\$5.8	\$7.3
<b>Total Funding in Millions</b>	<b>\$20.0</b>	<b>\$25.0</b>	<b>\$66.4</b>	<b>\$97.3</b>	<b>\$99.2</b>	<b>\$120.5</b>	<b>\$140.1</b>	<b>\$140.6</b>	<b>\$133.8</b>	<b>\$108.9</b>	<b>\$74.5</b>

## MISSION

The Denali Commission works with partners to develop basic public infrastructure, opportunity, and quality of life in Alaska communities.

## VALUES

### **Catalyst for Positive Change**

The Commission will be an organization through which agencies of government, including tribal governments, may collaborate, guided by the people of Alaska, to aggressively do the right things in the right ways.

### **Respect for People and Cultures**

The Commission will be guided by the people of Alaska in seeking to preserve the principles of self-determination, respect for diversity, and consideration of the rights of individuals.

### **Inclusive**

The Commission will provide the opportunity for all interested parties to participate in decision making and will carefully reflect their input in the design, selection, and implementation of programs and projects.

### **Sustainability**

The Commission will promote programs and projects that meet the current needs of communities and provide for the anticipated needs of future generations.

### **Accountability**

The Commission will set measurable standards of effectiveness and efficiency for both internal and external activities. Priority will be generally given to projects with substantial cost sharing.

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