

**Alaska Municipal League
Resolution #2019-07**

A resolution requesting that Title 29 be amended to remove the audit requirement for Community Assistance, and provide a one-time waiver of past audit requirements, thereby releasing all outstanding Community Revenue Sharing/Assistance funds.

WHEREAS, Alaska's municipal governments consider community revenue sharing, now known as Community Assistance, an essential and fundamental component of their annual budget; and

WHEREAS, municipalities are diverse and wide-ranging in their population size, budget composition, and state and federal statutory and regulatory requirements; and

WHEREAS, AS 29.180.020 outlines the requirements necessary to receive Community Assistance funding, including, "if the municipality is a borough, unified municipality, or first class city, a copy of the annual audit reviewed by a certified public accountant"; and

WHEREAS, the cost of completing an audit consistent with this requirement may represent 30-50% of the annual funding received by a municipality from Community Assistance; and

WHEREAS, the bulk of these municipalities are already required to complete an audit based on other state and federal funding requirements, and submission to DCRA can be encouraged; and

WHEREAS, for the remainder, the audit requirement presents an additional bureaucratic burden that requires municipal governments to allocate funding to its fulfillment and away from delivery of services in the public benefit; and

WHEREAS, there are more effective and cost-efficient ways in which to assure DCRA of a community's overall health and compliance capabilities; and

WHEREAS, the State has withheld and currently withholds payment of Community Revenue Sharing and now Community Assistance when the audit requirement, among others, is not met; and

WHEREAS, many municipalities are desperately in need of access to those funds, which assist in general operations, strengthening administrative capacity, and contributing to education, energy and public safety needs; and

WHEREAS, alleviating the costs of compliance for municipal governments increases overall the economic health of the state, decreases the need for increased local taxes, and reduces programmatic costs within the State.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Municipal League requests that the Alaska State Legislature amend Title 29 to remove the audit requirement for Community Assistance, and provide a one-time waiver of past audit requirements, thereby releasing all outstanding Community Revenue Sharing/Assistance funds.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE ON THE 22nd DAY OF NOVEMBER 2019.

Signed: 

President, Alaska Municipal League

Attest: 

Executive Director, Alaska Municipal League