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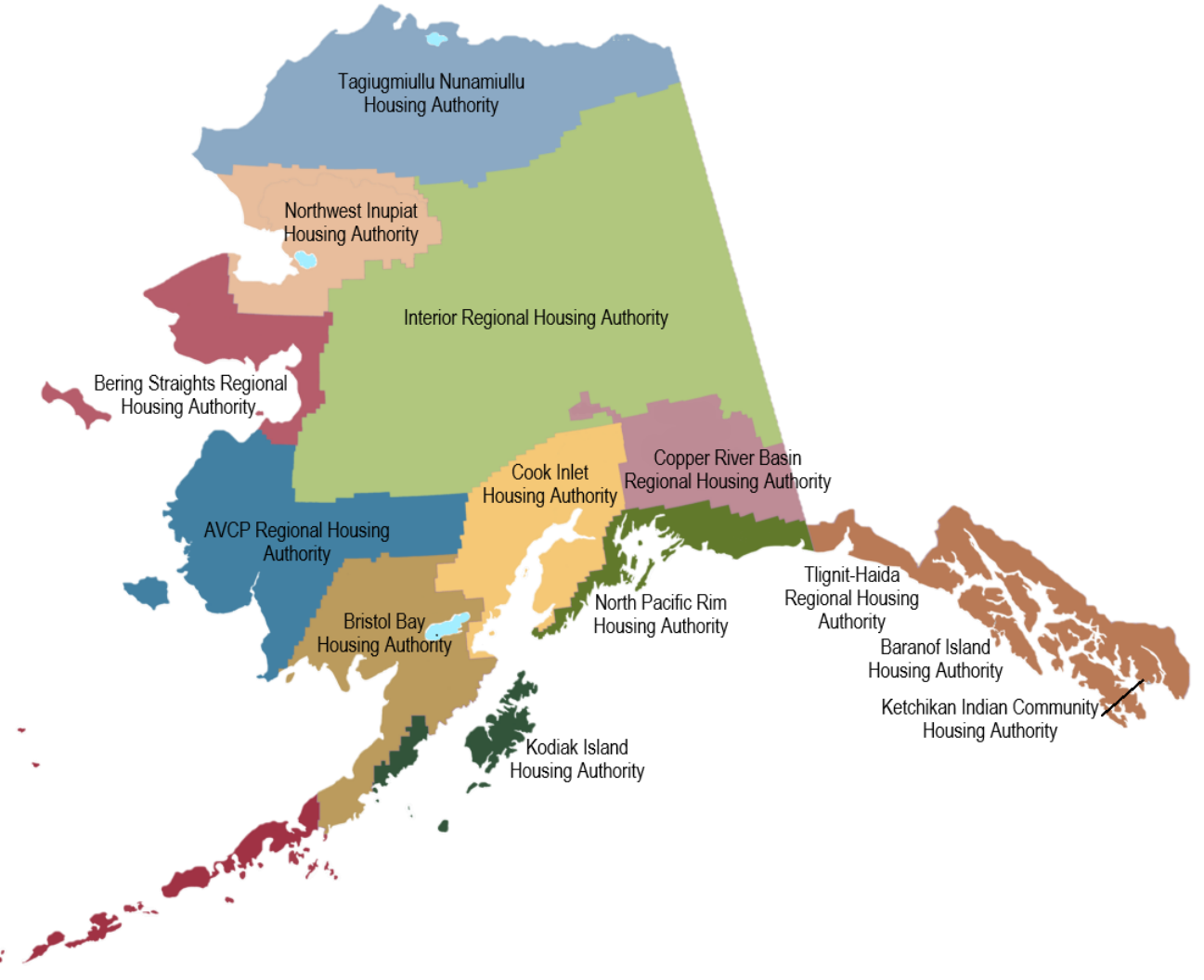
## **ALASKA INFRASTRUCTURE SYMPOSIUM**

**Anchorage, Alaska · April 8, 2026**

# About AAHA and RHAs



- Nonprofit 501(c)(3) membership association focused on **increasing the supply of quality homes that are affordable to Alaskans**
- Membership is the 14 **Regional Housing Authorities (RHAs)** and **Alaska Housing Finance Corporation**
- RHAs are public corporations created by state law in regional tribal nonprofit service areas
- Function as “**tribally designated housing entities**” (TDHEs) for 201 tribes under **federal law (NAHASDA)**
- Develop, manage, maintain and rehab housing, and provide related services



# How RHAs develop housing

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- Annual **Indian Housing Plan (IHP)** filed with **HUD** after certification by Tribe(s)
- Each project is subject to HUD **Total Development Cost (TDC)**, the sum of all funds used for admin, planning, land acquisition, construction and site-based utilities
- NAHASDA requires a **Local Cooperation Agreement (LCA)** with jurisdictions in the service area to establish tax-exempt status for HUD-assisted units, could also be useful for coordination of infrastructure



*Photo: Cold Climate Housing Research Center*

# Issue with NAHASDA and IHS

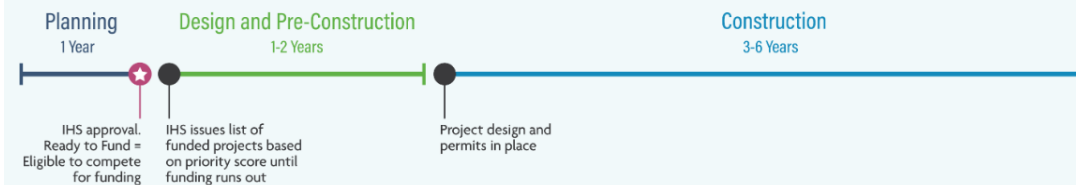


- Projects that construct multiple housing units often need extensions of water and sewer mains along with service lines to the homes
- These housing projects are typically funded by NAHASDA
- However, IHS funds **cannot** currently be used to provide service to NAHASDA-funded homes



*ANTHC workers install a water and sewer system to an Eek home on February 21, 2019.  
(Anna Rose MacArthur/KYUK)*

## Sample Project Timeline From Funding to Finish



# Alternative: Village Safe Water

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- State of Alaska provides a 25% match and the EPA or USDA-RD provides the other 75%
- NAHASDA-funded homes are eligible
- Competitive funding with scoring criteria; funds are not guaranteed
- Scope includes mains, service lines, core infrastructure and indoor plumbing
- Application period is in May each year with funding available December/January



*Andi Nicholai leaps over a pipe between village administrative buildings, Sunday, Aug. 20, 2023 in Akiachak, Alaska. (Copyright 2023 The Association Press)*

# Alternative: IHS Sanitation Deficiency System

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- Possible to seek funding for new homes (including NAHASDA) from EPA's Tribal Set Aside through annual IHS Sanitation Deficiency System (SDS) process
- EPA uses IHS SDS to select projects that will be funded with the annual Safe Drinking Water Act and Clean Water Act Tribal Set Aside funds
- Competitive funding with scoring criteria; funds are not guaranteed
- Scope excludes indoor plumbing
- Application period is in May each year with funding available December/January



# Takeaways

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- Early, regular and consistent coordination is critical to use sanitation funding to timely provide newly construction homes with service
- Even when steps are closely aligned, there are often gaps between readiness for occupancy and water and sewer service connection
- Regional housing authorities and Tribes need to be at the planning table with sanitation project managers and Tribal Health Orgs



*The village of Akiachak, Alaska, is visible from an airplane, Wednesday, Aug. 16, 2023. Akiachak is a Yup'ik village home to roughly 700 people based along the Kuskokwim River. (AP Photo/Tom Brenner)*



# Thank you!



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