



TRIBAL COMMUNITY UTILITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (CUAP)

APRIL 3, 2024

DENISE MICHELS, CUAP AND SANITATION ADMINISTRATOR

CUAP & SANITATION SERVICES, NORTON SOUND HEALTH CORPORATION

PARTNERS AND AGENCIES



**NORTON SOUND
HEALTH CORPORATION**



THE LEONA M. AND HARRY B.
HELMSLEY
CHARITABLE TRUST

- Norton Sound Health Corporation (\$500,000)
- Kawerak, Inc.
- Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation (\$500,000)
- Bering Straits Regional Housing Authority
- Community partners: City and Utility Councils, Tribal Councils and Village Corporations
- Engineering Ministries International (eMI) (Managing the Helmsley grant ends 2025)
- Helmsley Charitable Trust (\$20 million for the region)
- State: Dept. of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Village Safe Water (VSW) and Remote Maintenance Worker (RMW) in collaboration with Rural Utility Business Advisor (RUBA)
- Federal: Indian Health Service (IHS), Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC), Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), US Department of Agriculture (USDA), Denali Commission

MISSION, VISION AND VALUES

- **Mission:** To empower elected leaders and community staff in the management and development of community utility systems for **improving affordability and sanitation services** with communities.
- **Vision:** By 2030, all residents in the Bering Strait region will have **access to safe and affordable water and wastewater** disposal systems, in order to ensure healthy communities, live our way of life on our lands, and create economic opportunities for residents.
- **Values:** Cooperation and Teamwork, Knowledge of Location Based Languages and Cultures in our Region, Sharing, Hard Work, Avoidance of Conflict and Respect for Nature

Timeline:

- 2022 – Development Phase completed
- 2023 – Implementation Phase on-going
- End of 2024 –Operational

Standing Meetings:

- Self-Governance meetings: ANTHC & VSW PM
- CUAP Steering Committee
- RMW Weekly Meetings

<https://www.nortonsoundhealth.org/cuap/>

REGIONAL CUAP GOALS DEVELOP AND SUSTAIN CUAP SUCCESSES

- A MOA was created with NSEDC, Kawerak and NSHC for the CUAP identifying our roles.
- Completed Charter and is being revised.
- Completed a NSHC Community Agreement MOA, will be sending them to 14 members for their review and we'll meet with them to go over the MOA.
- Completed the Cooperative Project Agreement for 4 communities similar to what ANTHC has (Shishmaref, St. Michael, Stebbins and White Mountain),
- Completed Emergency Service Agreements for 4 communities (Brevig Mission, Wales, Gambell, Teller)
- Since 2021 NSHC's entered into Water Rate Agreements for the clinics in our communities.
- In partnership with NSEDC, \$15,000 was sent to the city/utility to create/replenish the Repair and Reserve account to improve Best Practice Score in the approved FY24 budget. \$15,300 for home owner subsidies was also sent to the communities.
- eMI has staffed a Project Manager within NSHC to manage projects identified in the business plan while we move toward Operational.

HUMAN CAPITAL GOALS SUCCESSES

- eMI has funded two Municipal Accountants and one Accounting Manager to assist the cities in financial and management training within Kawerak Tribal Affair Program and MK Consulting LLC with the goal to correct accounting deficiencies and improve their Best Practice Score.
- Sanitation and the RMW's have held two Small Treated training in Nome in 2023, FOG training, electrical controls and asset management in 2022. This year we will host OSHA Confined Space and Excavation Hazard Training in May.
- With the ANTHC training grant we have sent Water Plant Operators, Utility Clerks to trainings to improve their Best Practice Scores as funding allows.
- With eMI, a pilot project for housing assessment for plumbing needs was completed in Unalakleet in 2022. In 2024 a project will start in May for Elim with eMI and the CUAP.
- The CUAP has a training calendar on our website.
- In 2021/2022 NSHC contracted with JW Industries who completed financial assessments and identified training and recommended improvements to their financial systems.
- MK Consulting and the RMW's have provided on-site Preventative Maintenance Plan training with WPO's.

INFRASTRUCTURE GOALS SUCCESS

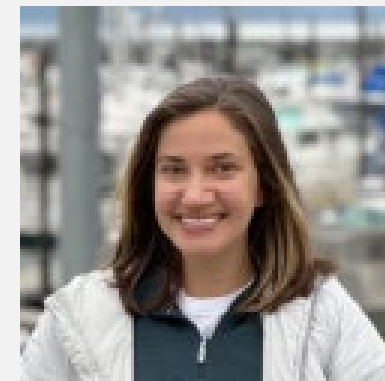
- NSHC contracted with MK Consulting LLC to completed engineering assessments and identified critical parts and equipment so we can apply for grants with the goal to standardize those assets. We also provided this to the SFAC O&M working group.
- MK Consulting LLC completed Preventative Maintenance Plans for the utilities in the CUAP, all the forms and check lists were provided to the WPO's.
- With our partners we continue to collaborate and communicate infrastructure needs based on the communities priorities. New projects have been identified for ANTHC or VWS to enter into SDS or the CIP.
- We are working with our partners to move Tier 2 and 3 projects to Tier 1 and assist our communities to apply for CIP funds.
- We are working towards building an infrastructure library for the region.
- The CUAP contracted with DOWL to complete Sanitation Surveys which the CUAP paid for this service saving the cities this expense.
- After reviewing our communities Best Practice Scores, we evaluated the violations and help created a 1 year Water Testing Pilot Project to assist the WPO's in their testing compliance and entered into a contract with Alaska Water Labs to provide more hands on communication with testing and weekly outreach to the WPO. The goal is to improve their Best Practice Scores.
- With our partners we assisted the City of Koyuk to apply for a USDA Emergency Water Grant, their mains are failing due to climate change and permafrost thaw.
- NSHC CUAP was awarded a Denali Commission Grant of \$250,000 for the Savoonga Water Plant critical equipment project. Thank you to MK Consulting and Deerstone.

WEST MONROE FISCHER GLOBAL SERVICE FELLOWSHIP

In 2022 NSHC partnered with West Monroe Digital Services Firm – Chicago Illinois. West Monroe Senior Energy & Utilities Consultant, Theresa Miller, arrived in Nome & assisted the CUAP & Sanitation Department from May until October 2022. The Fellowship is pro-bono and allowed for Theresa to work towards the goals of the CUAP.

Theresa assisted with the Engineering Assessments, Determination of Housing Sanitation Capabilities Project, AMOSS Analysis, SCERP W-WW Annex A, and the development of the Best Practice Score Dashboard.

We're continuing to work with Theresa & West Monroe on the Best Practice Score Dashboard Smartsheet training with Kawerak's Tribal Affairs and MAS'. West Monroe is donating their services and we are greatly appreciative of this!



CUAP Best Practice Score Summary

Current and Projected RUBA Scores

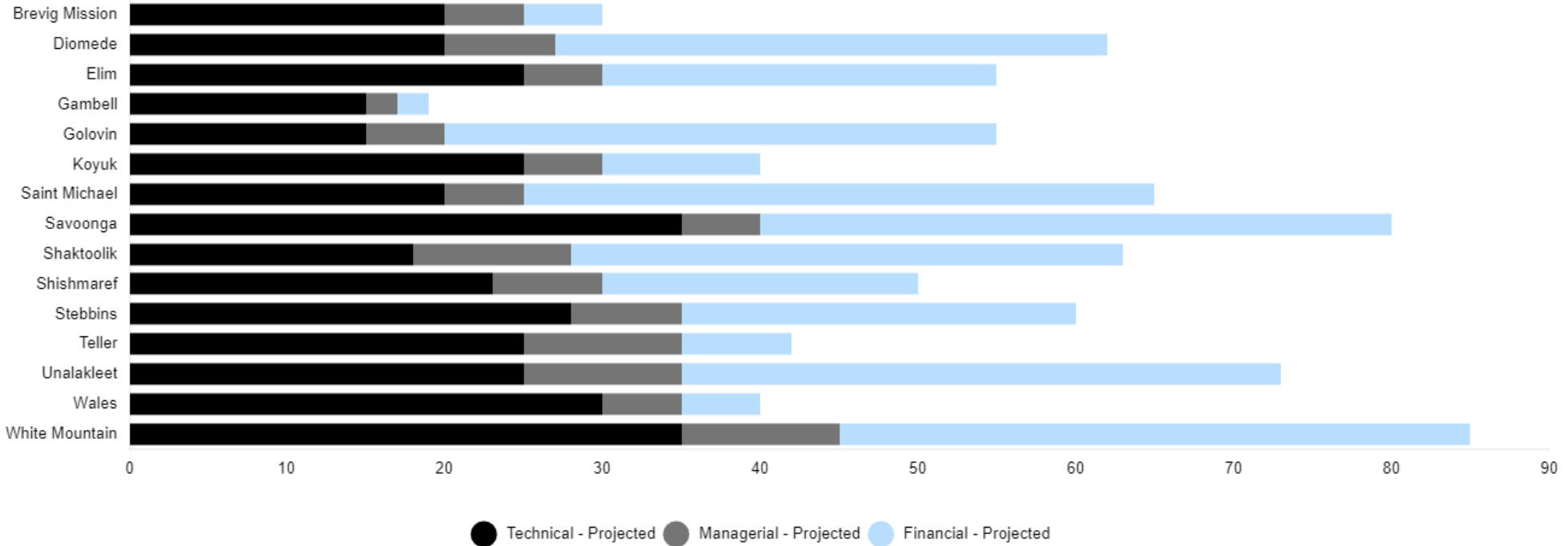
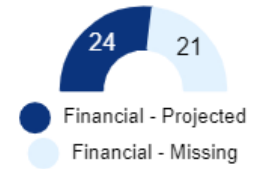
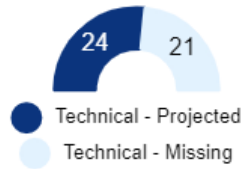
Jun. 30
Next RUBA/RMW
Deadline

1710
Total Items
Delayed/Overdue

Mar. 1
Next Score
Release

114
Average Items
Delayed/Overdue

Average Score Projections



THANK YOU AND QUYANNA!

- NSHC supports HB 178 Village Safe Water Facilities.
- NSHC supports congress funding USC 2004a-(c) O&M for sanitation facilities.
- I want to thank AML, AFN and the State of Alaska for inviting us to present. Big shout out to our partners Kawerak, NSEDC, Helmsley Charitable Trust, eMi, DOWL, MK Consulting LLC and their subconsultants and employees for their unwavering support of the CUAP to make infrastructure changes to benefit the people of the Norton Sound/Bering Strait/Nome Census area.



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