

ALASKA
MUNICIPAL
LEAGUE

Alaska Municipal Coastal Resilience: Project Cohort Orientation

November
2024

Community
Context

Deliverables

EJCPS
Project
Overview

Timeline

Understanding the Local Context: Survey Results

Strengths

- Strong community spirit and willingness to work together
- Diversified economies, including growing tourism industries
- Good schools and medical care facilities

Challenges

- Remote locations with limited access have a higher cost of living and limited evacuation routes
- Housing shortage and aging infrastructure (including harbors)
- High energy costs
- Shortage of qualified workers and limited funds for training
- Reduced tax revenue due to fisheries closures

Potential Partners

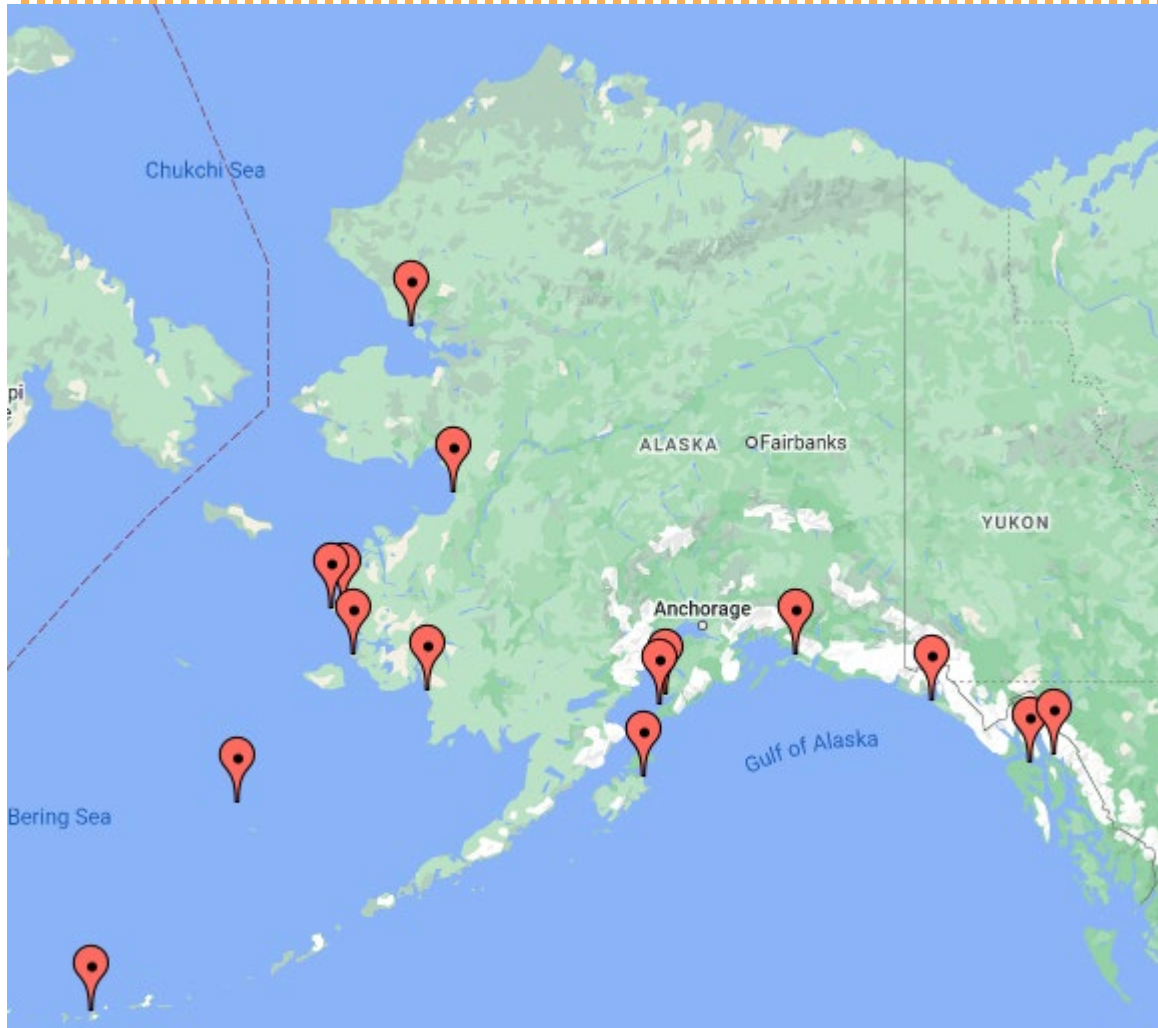
- Tribal Governments
- Regional Alaska Native Nonprofits
- Village & Regional ANCSA Corporations
- Electric Utilities
- University of AK
- Housing Authorities
- Energy & Environmental Nonprofits
- Chambers of Commerce & Economic Development Districts
- State & Federal Agencies

Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving (EJCPS)

- EPA awarded funding to projects aiming to address environmental or public health issues at the community level
- AML to assist communities in conducting health impact assessments and creating climate action and resilience plans
- Focused on community capacity building
- **Project Period:** March 2024- January 2027
- **Partner:** University of Alaska Anchorage Institute for Circumpolar Health Studies (ICHS) – Dr. Micah Hahn



Project Cohort



- Adak
- Chevak
- Cordova
- Hoonah
- Hooper Bay
- Juneau
- Kachemak
- Kodiak
- Kotzebue
- Quinhagak
- Saint Paul
- Seldovia
- Toksook Bay
- Unalakleet
- Yakutat

Goal: Maximize benefits of planning in rural, coastal communities

AML staff and UAA partners will work with the project cohort to:

- Identify and share relevant, community-scale data
- Provide additional resources and technical assistance that support the development of other community plans
- Identify federal funding opportunities for climate resilience
- Produce template and community-specific Health Impact Assessments
- Produce template and community-specific Climate Action and Resilience Plans



Long-Term Outcomes

- Staff are trained in resilience topics and practices
- Use data and tools to inform current activities and planning efforts
- Use the Health Impact Assessment to inform grant applications by identifying needs
- Use the Climate Action and Resilience Plan to strengthen grant applications
 - Apply for projects that are identified in the plan
 - Demonstrate municipal planning process review and approvals
- Inform and complement hazard mitigation planning
- Communicate local challenges to policy makers
- Through AML, connect to network of agencies and resources to support municipal priorities

What do we mean by...

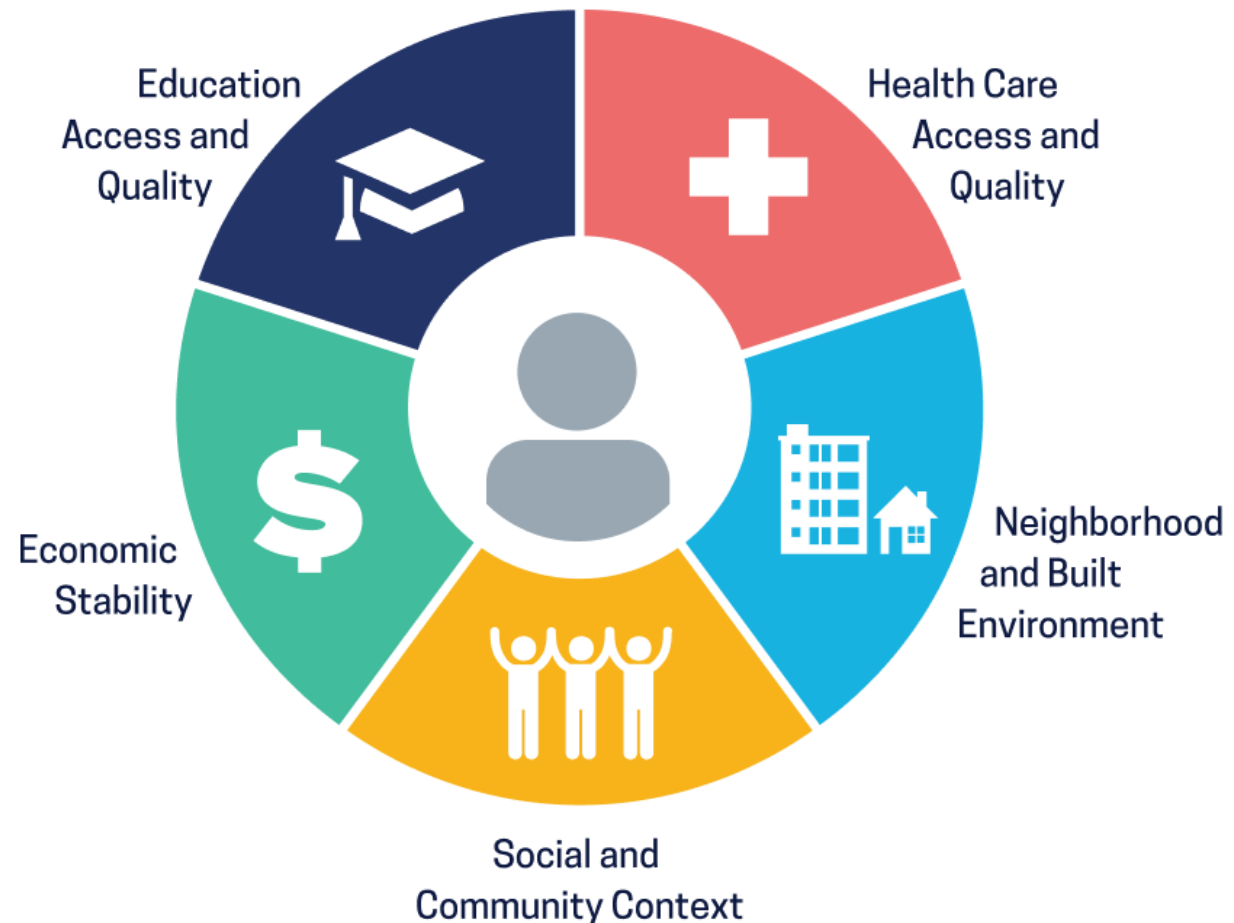
Health Impacts?	Climate Action and Resilience?
<p>Physical environment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land use, transportation, housing, recreation <p>Social environment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public safety, equity, diversity, civic engagement <p>Economic and work environment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employment, income, business/industry <p>Service environment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education, health care, social services, childcare 	<p>Determined at community level, but could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hazard mitigation • Disaster preparedness • Energy efficiency and affordability • Food security • Pollution reduction • Economic sustainability • Resilient infrastructure and transportation

What is the link between health, climate change, and local government?

Social determinants of health (SDOH) are the conditions in the environments where people are born, live, learn, work, play, and age that affect a wide range of health and quality-of-life outcomes and risks.

Each of the five domains of SDOH is affected by changes in the environment, but municipal planning and activities can mitigate risk and maximize benefits.

Identifying climate impacts to the social determinants of health and prioritizing them for action (based on community input) is a critical step in municipal planning for the future.



Deliverables

Each participant will work with AML and project partners to produce:

- A **community profile** that synthesizes data on social and economic vulnerability (e.g., EJSCREEN, CEJST) and existing plans/capacity (*late 2024/early 2025*)
- A **Health Impact Assessment (HIA)** that describes environmental impacts to local health, based on available data (*developed in 2025*)
- A **Climate Action and Resilience Plan (CARP)** that summarizes historical and projected climate impacts to the community, and includes adaptation strategies (policies and programs) that have been prioritized by community members (*developed in 2026*)

Climate Action &
Resilience Plan

Health Impact
Assessment

Community
Profile

Comparing Plans

Plan	Climate Adaptation Plan	Climate Action Plan	Resilience Improvement Plan	Hazard Mitigation Plan
Focus	Adapting to the impacts of climate change that are already occurring or expected to occur	Mitigating greenhouse emissions and addressing climate change through renewable energy, energy efficiency measures, and reducing energy consumption	Increasing the resilience of transportation infrastructure and systems to climate impacts and natural hazards	Reducing the vulnerability of communities to natural and human-made disasters
Example Actions	Building seawalls and flood barriers, improving water management strategies	Energy audits, renewable energy installation, sustainable land use	Retrofitting bridges and roads to withstand storms and flooding, evacuation planning	Enhancing emergency response systems, improving building codes to minimize vulnerability

What is in a Climate Action and Resilience Plan (CARP)? That is for all of us to decide, and every community will be different

Community Engagement

AML will work with each member to establish a Local Resilience Planning Committee (LRPC) in their community. The LRPC will consist of invited community members, such as:

- Tribal members
- Representatives from nonprofits and educational institutions
- Business sector leaders
- Experts in economic development, community planning, hazard mitigation, environmental research

LRPCS will meet virtually to review and provide input into health impact assessments and climate action and resilience plans.

What is the role of cohort members?

Cohort members will be asked to help shape this project's processes and deliverables, and to provide feedback on draft products.

Cohort members will be asked to develop and share lists of invitees to local resilience planning committees. AML will coordinate and facilitate virtual LRPC meetings to gather feedback on draft products.

Most importantly, cohort members will be the driving force in designing community-specific climate action and resilience plans that reflect local priorities, capacity and needs.

Looking Ahead

December 9-13 (Anchorage) – AML Annual Conference (*travel scholarships available*)

- Date & Time TBD – Health Impact Assessments Brainstorming/Development Session

December 2024- February 2025 – Project team will develop and share draft community profiles for review and feedback

January – August 2025 – Project team will identify and synthesize relevant health data and facilitate individual or cohort meetings as needed.

- HIA activities (surveys, interviews, focus groups) will be conducted as needed

Homework: What Do We Need From You?

Please send Danielle (Danielle@akml.org) any of the following documents or related materials by Nov. 20:

- Local hazard mitigation plan (current or expired)
- Local comprehensive plan
- Local environmental studies and/or risk assessments

Discussion

THANK YOU



Strengthening Local Governments