



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

The Denali Commission Act of 1998, as amended (Division C, Title III, PL 105-277) states that the purposes of the Denali Commission are to:

1. Deliver the services of the Federal Government in the most cost-effective manner practicable by reducing administrative and overhead costs;
2. Provide job training and other economic development services in rural communities, particularly distressed communities; and
3. Promote rural development, provide power generation and transmission facilities, modern communication systems, bulk fuel storage tanks, water and sewer systems and other infrastructure needs.

The Act recognizes that these purposes can only be accomplished through a collaborative, coordinated effort by the State of Alaska and federal agencies. The state and federal agencies signing this agreement recognize the above benefits can be furthered only if all agencies work in a collaborative and coordinated effort.

A UNIQUE COLLABORATION OF STATE AND FEDERAL AGENCIES

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) outlines a one of a kind interagency agreement to facilitate the collaboration and coordination necessary to achieve the purposes of the Denali Commission and related missions of agencies who are parties to this MOU.

State Signatories:

Office of the Lt. Governor
Department of Commerce, Community
and Economic Development
Department of Education and Early Development
Department of Environmental Conservation
Department of Health and Social Services
Department of Labor and Workforce Development
Department of Transportation and Public Facilities
Department of Natural Resources
Department of Revenue

Department of Administration
University of Alaska
Department of Corrections
Department of Public Safety
Department of Fish & Game
Department of Law
Department of Military and Veterans
Affairs

Federal Signatories:

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
U.S. Department of Agriculture
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Denali Commission
U.S. Department of the Interior
U.S. Department of Transportation
U.S. Department of Commerce

In addition to the Federal and State Co-Chairs, the Denali Commission Act provides for a five member panel of statewide organization presidents, or their designees, to be appointed by the Secretary of Commerce:

- ◇ President of the Alaska Municipal League
- ◇ President of the Alaska Federation of Natives
- ◇ President of the University of Alaska
- ◇ Executive President of the Alaska State AFL-CIO
- ◇ President of the Associated General Contractors of Alaska

The law further provides that the Governor of Alaska serve as the State Co-Chair. The Federal Co-Chairman is nominated by the United States Senate and the U.S. House of Representatives and appointed by the U.S. Secretary of Commerce.

Initially, membership of the following MOU workgroups consisted of only those agencies that signed the Denali Commission MOU. To allow for maximum stakeholder participation work group membership is open to any agency or organization that wishes to participate. Appointment to work groups is made by the MOU Implementation Chair with concurrence of Commission Co-Chairs.

Work Group	Lead Agencies	Tasks	Major Accomplishments	Objectives 2005-2006
<p align="center">Sustainable Utilities</p>	<p align="center"><u>State Co-Chair</u> Kurt Fredriksson, Commissioner, Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (907) 465-5066</p> <p align="center"><u>Federal Co-Chair</u> Bill Allen, State Director USDA Rural Development (907) 761-7701</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ To monitor and promote the implementation of a list of recommendations developed by the Work Group. ◇ Membership of the Work Group includes relevant federal and state agencies, plus utility associations, non-profits and utility organizations involved in various aspects of electric power, water and sewer, solid waste and bulk fuel utilities in rural Alaska. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Definition of sustainability has been established for the purposes of those agencies that have signed the Denali Commission MOU. ◆ USDA Rural Development is providing up to \$35,000 per rural community for community planning in conjunction with scheduled water and sewer projects. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Amend Regulatory Commission of Alaska (RCA) regulations to allow future capital replacement costs for water/sewer/electric utilities to be included in the rate base. 2. Support Governor's Administrative Order 224 which established sustainability as an official policy of the State of Alaska. 3. Develop a proposal to set aside a portion of utility grant funds for future capital costs. Includes establishing realistic amount for set aside including creation of a protocol for calculating set-aside amount. 4. Develop recommendations for use by granting agencies to develop and modify criteria used to allocate grant funds amongst competing applications. 5. Establish incentives for consolidation of rural utility systems.
<p align="center">Housing and Infrastructure</p>	<p align="center"><u>State Co-Chair</u> Daniel R. Fauske, Executive Director/CEO Alaska Housing Finance Corporation (907) 330-8452</p> <p align="center"><u>Federal Co-Chair</u> Colleen K. Bickford, Field Office Director, Anchorage Field Office, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (907) 677-9830</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ To address rural infrastructure planning and coordination issues, such as interrelated housing and utilities projects as well as the availability of housing for rural professionals such as teachers and nurses. ◇ Membership of the Work Group includes relevant federal and state agencies, regional housing authorities and other non-profits. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ An integrated federal and state funding process has been developed which includes a streamlined application process for rural teacher housing projects funded by the Denali Commission and Alaska Housing Finance Corporation (AHFC). ◆ Established Elder Supportive Housing prioritization for both licensed care and independent living projects. The Denali Commission is working in partnership with the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS), Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC) and the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation (AHFC) to assess the statewide need for future elder housing which includes special needs housing. ◆ Housing and Infrastructure work group agencies including the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Alaska Housing Finance Corporation, and USDA Rural Development organized a session for the Alaska Municipal League's annual convention that included state and federal agencies, developers, and a regional housing authority to (1) illustrate the need for collaboration and (2) demonstrate the effectiveness of leveraging various funding streams. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Update procedures to insure proper planning and coordination of new housing and infrastructure including identification of funding sources for each component and the roles of the different partners. 2. Continue to enhance programs designed to provide standard housing for teachers, health professionals and law enforcement personnel stationed in rural Alaska. 3. Explore request by local foundations to consider creating a pre-development fund for rural infrastructure projects. 4. Assess electronic data and information needs among housing and infrastructure agencies. Develop strategy for supporting one information system that would make information readily available to possible partners in rural project. 5. Continue to improve housing and infrastructure coordination between agencies, regional non-profits, boroughs, cities and tribes.
<p align="center">Planning</p>	<p align="center"><u>State Co-Chair</u> Michael Black, Director Division of Community Advocacy (DCA), Alaska Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development (DCCED) (907) 269-4580</p> <p align="center"><u>Federal Co-Chair</u> Bernhard Richert, Director, Alaska Field Office and Economic Development Representative, United States Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration (907) 271-2272</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ To promote inter-agency coordination in community planning, community mapping, regional funding summits, regional governance, and economic and workforce development. ◇ Membership of the Work Group primarily consists of representatives from relevant federal and state agencies. Participation by local governments and other entities is regularly scheduled. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The Initiative for Accelerated Infrastructure Development (community aerial mapping program) has been expanded through inter-agency cooperation and funding to include DCCED, DOT&PF, USDA RD, AVEC and the Denali Commission. ◆ To coincide with the Commission's community planning requirement, a recommended community planning checklist was developed and posted on the Commission's website. The checklist provides a list of items that communities should consider adding to an existing community plan and identifies which state or federal agency to contact in order to collect items in the checklist. ◆ A community plan inventory has been built and is hosted on the Alaska Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development's (DCCED) website under the Division of Community Advocacy. The inventory is organized by community. As plans are located they are either posted to the website or listed with the name of the state or federal agency that may have the plan. ◆ A web-based regional Native non-profit directory has been created which identifies, by region, a regional housing authority, regional health corporation, and regional non-profit and communities they serve. An explanation of how the regional non-profits coordinate through their respective statewide organization is included which provides background and web access to the Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN), Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC), and the Alaska Association of Housing Authorities (AAHA). The regional non-profit directory can be found on the Denali Commission website under Government Coordination. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Support regional planning efforts that demonstrate local initiative. 2. Continue to support the development of community plans, and initiate community planning forums and training when invited. 3. Continue to promote and enhance the DCCED / IAID community mapping. Support the mapping update process as well as storage for easy access and utilization. Promote the completion of the 14 (c) (3) conveyances for rural communities. 4. Establish coalition for economic development in Alaska that includes coordination of state and federal resources. 5. Survey agencies, rural communities, and tribes regarding training needs and community development issues in preparation for developing future Building Our Communities workshop. 6. Promote utilization of pre-construction checklist.

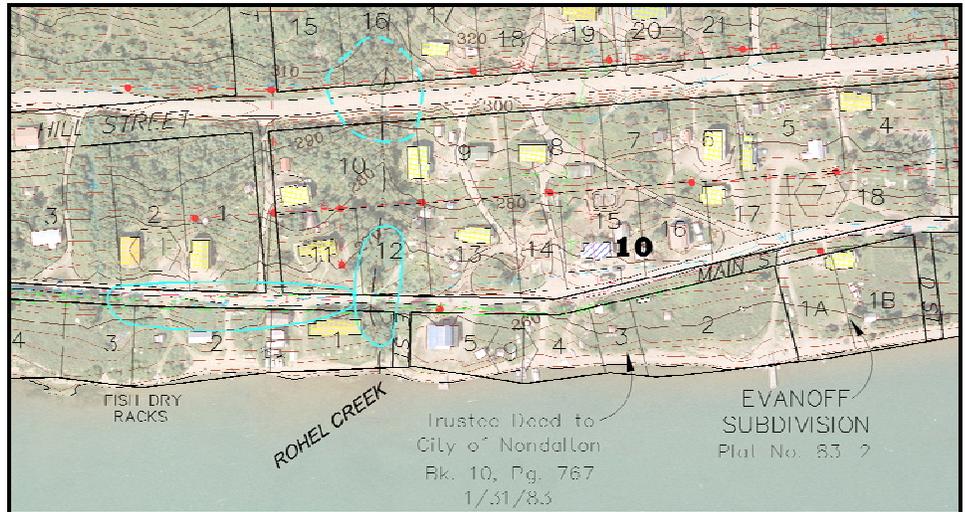
Collaboration Highlight

Initiative for Accelerated Infrastructure Development (Community Profile Mapping)

The Initiative for Accelerated Infrastructure Development (IAID) is designed to increase the inventory of publicly-available, high-quality, aerial photo-based maps of rural communities. Multiple agencies have teamed with regional organizations and local communities to share the production costs of this critical economic development activity.

When communities arrange for aerial photography and map production on a regional basis, the cost is significantly reduced. Average production cost per map with this program is \$35,000. Local communities provide 50% matching funds. The goal is to have all rural communities mapped within five years. As maps are completed they are added to the community mapping inventory which can be found on the [Alaska Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development's](http://ftp://ftp.dcbd.dced.state.ak.us/profiles/profile-maps.htm) website. (or <ftp://ftp.dcbd.dced.state.ak.us/profiles/profile-maps.htm>). The maps are available to the public and to agencies that may be planning projects in the communities.

2005—Organizations that have coordinated community mapping projects include the Aleutians East Borough (AEB), Lake and Peninsula Borough (LPB), Bristol Bay Native Association (BBNA), Kawerak, Inc., Tlingit Haida Regional Housing Authority, and Coastal Villages Region Fund.



For more information regarding the community mapping program please contact Ruth St. Amour, Development Specialist at the Alaska Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development or DCCED. (907) 269-4527 or ruth_st.amour@commerce.state.ak.us.

Funder	Amount
Denali Commission Funding	\$900,000
U.S. Department of Agriculture – Rural Development	\$450,000
Alaska Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development (DCCED) (State GF Match)	\$120,000
Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT/PF)	\$540,000
Local Contribution to date (figure will change as new communities are added)	\$1,089,763
Total Project Funding:	\$3,099,763

Denali Commission Mission Statement

The Denali Commission will partner with tribal, federal, state, and local governments and collaborate with all Alaskans to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of government services, to develop a well-trained labor force employed in a diversified and sustainable economy, and to build and ensure the operation and maintenance of Alaska's basic infrastructure.

Core Values

**Catalyst for Positive Change ■ Respect for People and Cultures ■ Inclusive
■ Sustainability ■ Accountability**