

Alaska Federation of Natives

Statewide Briefing



Week of July 26-30

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AFN SCHEDULES WORKSHOP ON \$1 TRILLION FEDERAL INFRASTRUCTURE BILL (THURSDAY, AUGUST 5, 2:00PM)

On Monday, the Senate released its version of the \$1 trillion federal infrastructure bill. There are several provisions for Native entities and individuals contained in the package, including \$55 billion in new funding for water and wastewater systems.

To call your attention to the Native provisions, AFN will be holding a workshop on Thursday, August 5, at 2:00PM (AKST).

To RSVP for our Infrastructure Workshop, please email afninfo@nativefederation.org.

AFN HOSTS SECOND TRIBAL BROADBAND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE WORKSHOP (FRIDAY, AUGUST 6, 10:00AM)

As a follow up to our initial workshop on the National Telecommunications and Information Administration's (NTIA) \$1 Tribal Connectivity Broadband Program (TCBP), AFN has scheduled a second and final workshop before applications are due on September 1.

Our Broadband Workshop 2.0 will be held on Friday, August 6, at 10:00aM (AKST). Similar to last time, NTIA's National Tribal Government Liaison Adam Geisler will be on hand to present and answer questions. We will also make a copy of the recording available if you are unable to attend.

Every Alaska Native tribe and most Native corporations and organizations are eligible for the mandatory-minimum \$500,000, non-competitive grant. Native tribes and entities are also eligible for \$25,000 or more to cover the costs of preparing your grant application.

To RSVP for our Broadband Workshop 2.0, please email afninfo@nativefederation.org.

As a reminder, AFN hosted our first workshop on July 6. You can view a video recording of the workshop by [clicking here](#), and you can download the presentation slides by [clicking here](#). A copy of the Notice of Funding Opportunity is available by [clicking here](#).

AFN PREPARES FOR ORAL ARGUMENT IN PCE LAWSUIT (FRIDAY, AUGUST 6, 8:30AM)

Alaska Superior Court Judge Josie Garton will hear oral arguments on the Plaintiff-Coalition's Motion for Summary Judgement on Friday, August 6, at 8:30AM(AKST). [If you are interested in listening, you can do so via this link](#). You can also distribute this link widely to others who may be interested.

AFN leads the Plaintiff-Coalition, which now consists of 20 Alaska Native tribes, Native organizations, rural municipalities, and rural utilities.

We contend that it was unconstitutional for the Power Cost Equalization (PCE) Fund to be swept into the Constitutional Budget Reserve at the end of the fiscal year. The result of that decision by Governor Mike Dunleavy left the PCE account empty, effectively doubling or tripling rural Alaskan's electricity bills.

AFN DRAFTS TEMPLATE PCE LETTER

In response to our first #ICYMI on Friday, July 23, and at the request of several members, AFN drafted a template letter for you to send to the fiscal policy workgroup formed by the Alaska State Legislature.

The template letter, which you can personalize, asks the Workgroup to: (1) protect PCE; and (2) include PCE as part of the state's long-term solution to its fiscal challenges.

[You can find a copy of the letter here.](#)

The Workgroup consists of the following members:

- Senator Lyman Hoffman, D-Bethel (Senate Majority)
- Senator Shelley Hughes, R-Palmer (Senate Majority)
- Senator Scott Kawasaki, D-Fairbanks (Senate Minority)
- Senator Jesse Kiehl, D-Juneau (Senate Minority)
- Representative Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins, D-Sitka (House Majority)
- Representative Calvin Schrage, I-Anchorage (House Majority)
- Representative Ben Carpenter, R-Nikiski (House Minority)
- Representative Kevin McCabe, R-Mat-Su Valley (House Minority)

Alternates include:

- Senator Mike Shower, R-Mat-Su Valley (Senate Majority)
- Senator Elvi Gray-Jackson, D-Anchorage (Senate Minority)
- Representative Grier Hopkins, D-Fairbanks (House Majority)
- Representative Mike Prax, R-North Pole (House Minority)

COVID UPDATE

Alaska's statewide COVID-19 alert level is high, as determined by the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services. New cases and hospitalizations are on the rise. See below for details.

TAKE ACTION – Choosing to get vaccinated is the single most important action you can take to protect yourself and your community and to reopen our economy. Check with your local health care provider to get the facts about vaccines, wearing masks, and protecting your families. If you haven't been vaccinated yet, [find a vaccine](#).

CDC's new guidelines on safer activities for you and your family:

- [If you are fully vaccinated](#), you can participate in many of the activities that you did before the pandemic.

- To maximize protection from the Delta variant and prevent possibly spreading it to others, wear a mask indoors in public if you are in an area [of substantial or high transmission](#).
- Wearing a mask is most important if you have a weakened immune system or if, because of your age or an underlying medical condition, you are at [increased risk for severe disease](#), or if someone in your household has a weakened immune system, is at increased risk for severe disease, or is unvaccinated. If this applies to you or your household, you might choose to wear a mask regardless of the level of transmission in your area.
- You should continue to wear a mask where required by laws, rules, regulations, or local guidance.
- Learn more about the CDC's recommendations for fully vaccinated people at www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated.html.

There is a lot of misinformation out there, particularly on social media. Here is a great page for [mythbusting](#).

Message from Congressman Don Young about getting vaccinated:

“With the rise of the Delta variant, getting vaccinated is more important than ever. I got vaccinated, and I am urging you to do the same. I did it so that I can stay healthy and so that my family, friends, and staff are protected as well. There is much misinformation out there, so let me be clear: these vaccines are safe, effective, and cost you nothing; I was proud to support their development in Congress,” said Congressman Don Young in a message to Alaskans.

Please share this message and email with a loved one who may still be undecided; it can help save a life. To make your vaccine appointment, click [here](#). For Congressman Young's video message, click [here](#).



Reporting data for 12 a.m. - 11:59 p.m. July 26-27

OVERVIEW – [526 new cases](#) | [2 deaths](#) | [94 hospitalizations](#) | [Statewide alert level: high](#) | [52.2% of Alaskans 12+ vaccinated](#)

TAKE ACTION – Choosing to get vaccinated is the single most important action you can take to protect yourself and your community and to reopen our economy. Learn more about the CDC's recommendations for fully vaccinated people at www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated.html.

VACCINATIONS – 57.4% of Alaskans age 12 and older have received at least their first vaccine dose.

52.2% of Alaskans 12 and older have been fully vaccinated. The higher the vaccination rate, the more protected community members are from COVID-19. See below for percentages of all fully vaccinated Alaskans age 12 and older by region:

- Juneau Region: 74.1%
- YK-Delta Region: 69.1%
- Other Southeast Region - Northern: 68.3%
- Southwest Region: 63%
- Other Southeast Region - Southern: 61.6%
- Northwest Region: 56.4%
- Anchorage Region: 54.1%
- Other Interior Region: 53.3%
- Fairbanks North Star Borough: 46.2%
- Kenai Peninsula Region: 44.3%
- Matanuska-Susitna Region: 36.5%

For more information about vaccines, visit covidvax.alaska.gov.