

Strengthening Coastal Resilience



DENALI COMMISSION

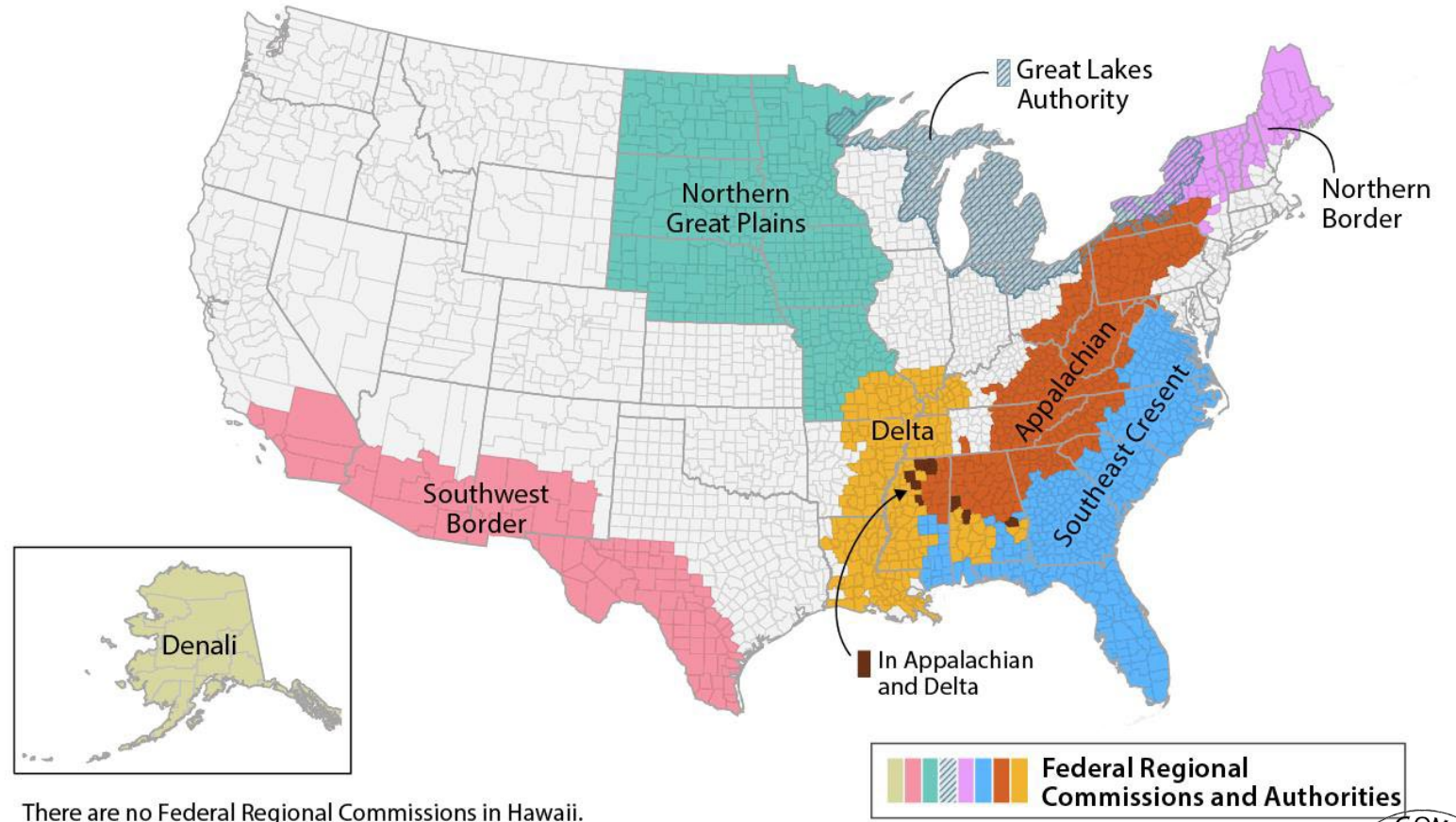
Alaska Municipal League Conference

December 2023

Dr. Liza Mack

An Independent Federal Regional Commission

- 1998 – Congress created the Denali Commission
 - Alaska has significant infrastructure gaps compared to elsewhere in US
 - Place-based, intergovernmental, and multifaceted in programmatic orientation
 - Identify gaps where other agencies are not operating
 - Complement, but not duplicate the work of other agencies



The Commission's Mission

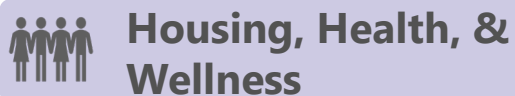
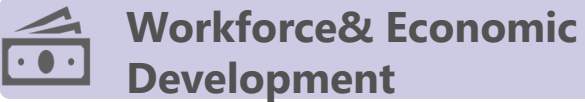
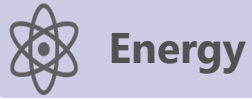
Mission: Promote economic development with a focus on critical infrastructure and workforce training in rural Alaska.

Investments

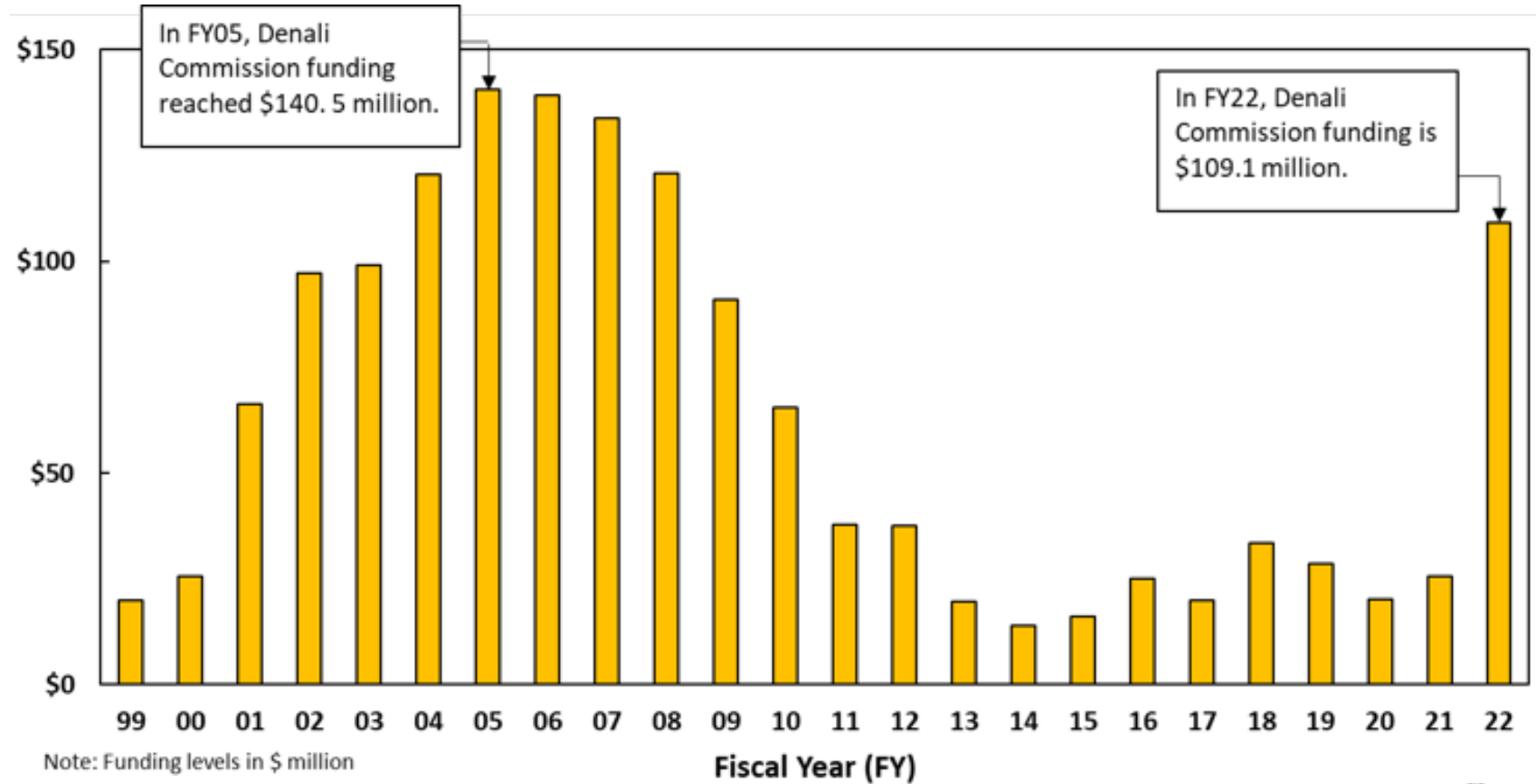
- \$1.7 billion invested in over 230 communities over 20 years
- Needs-based priority lists and competitive opportunities
- Complement, but not duplicate the work of other Federal and State agencies
- Includes maintaining, sustaining, and protecting existing infrastructure
- Partnerships to leverage or unlock future funding



Denali Commission Programs



Funding Levels – Past to Present



The Commission Today

- Commissioners

Seven Alaskans including the Commission's Federal Co-Chair, Garrett Boyle:

- State of Alaska Co-Chair: Micaela Fowler
- Alaska Federation of Natives: Julie Kitka
- Alaska General Contractors: Alicia Amberg
- Alaska Municipal League: Nils Andreassen
- American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations - Alaska: Joelle Hall
- University of Alaska: Pat Pitney

- Staff

- Small staff (15) plus IG, subject matter experts, decisions made in Alaska
- Numerous program partners
- Shared resources; common vision



Denali Commission Special Tools

1. Transfer and Gift Authority

- Authority to accept funds from non-federal and federal sources
- Registers funds as expended, eliminating risk of “sweep-back”
- Becomes Commission funds with statutory flexibility

2. Non-Federal Cost Share Match

- Ability to match funds with other federal agencies
- Acts like private or state funds

3. No-Year Funds

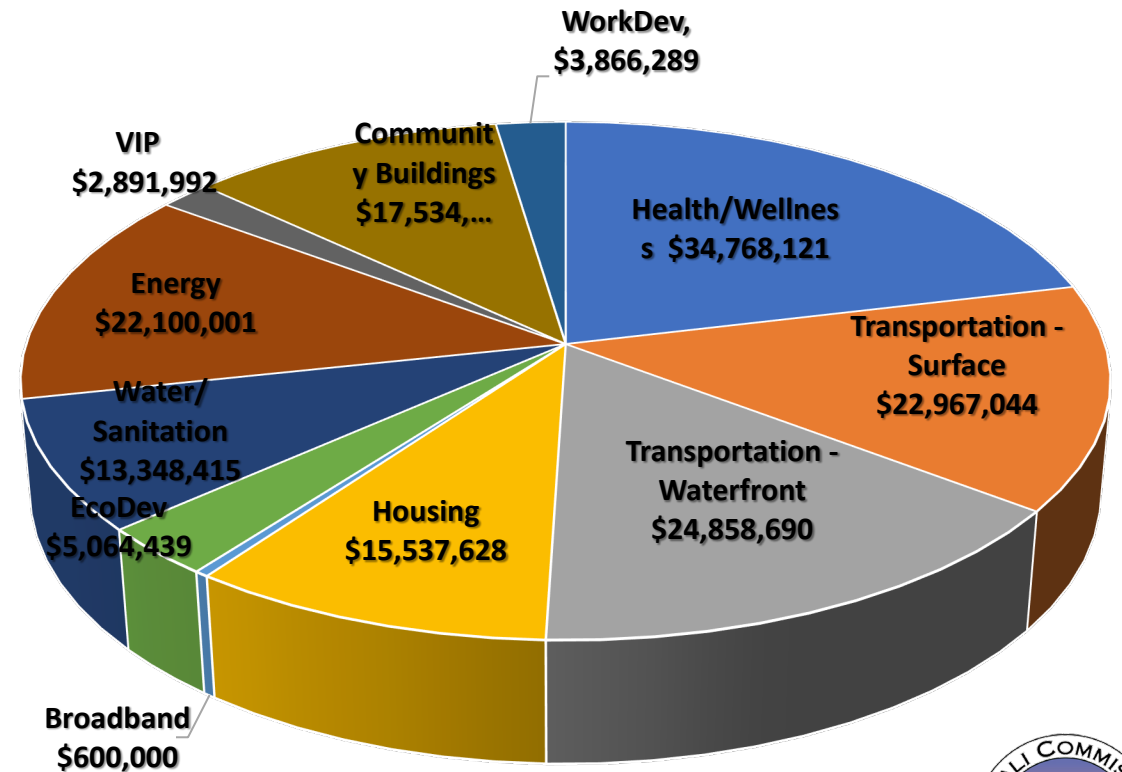
- Does not expire at end of fiscal year
- Allows for long-term capital “banking”



2023 Unified Funding Opportunity Announcement

- Application Period: February 2 - April 17
- **\$34,800,000** in funding available
- **197** eligible applications received requesting **\$163,537,225**
- Final recommendation for **\$33,947,298** across 75 projects published July 11
- Projects in **56** unique communities plus projects with regional and statewide impact

Breakdown in Application Requests







Village Infrastructure Protection Program

- Impacts to infrastructure
- Threats: coastal and riverine erosion, flooding and permafrost degradation
- Boundary: GAO report 09-551





- **EPA:** \$5.5 Billion public infrastructure damage by end of Century (Melvin et al, 2016)
- **UAA ISER:** \$50 -\$100M per year to protect and relocate
- **Denali Commission** Threat Assessment: 30-40 Group 1 Communities





Statewide Threat Assessment

- Update 2009 Baseline Erosion Assessment
- Evaluate Erosion, Flooding and Permafrost Risks
- Create an Aggregate Threat Index
- Final Report Published Nov. 2019



Purpose:

- Establish Relative Vulnerability of Rural Communities
- Identify Communities Needing Detailed Evaluation
- Highlight the Urgency for Action





Statewide Threat Assessment

Partnerships

- University of Alaska Fairbanks
 - Permafrost
 - Combined Scores
 - Reporting
- US Army Corps of Engineers
 - Flooding
 - Erosion





Statewide Threat Assessment

Scoring Methodology

- Used existing information
- Nine criteria to establish numerical impact score
- Time to impact
- Normalization
- Uncertainty

Results

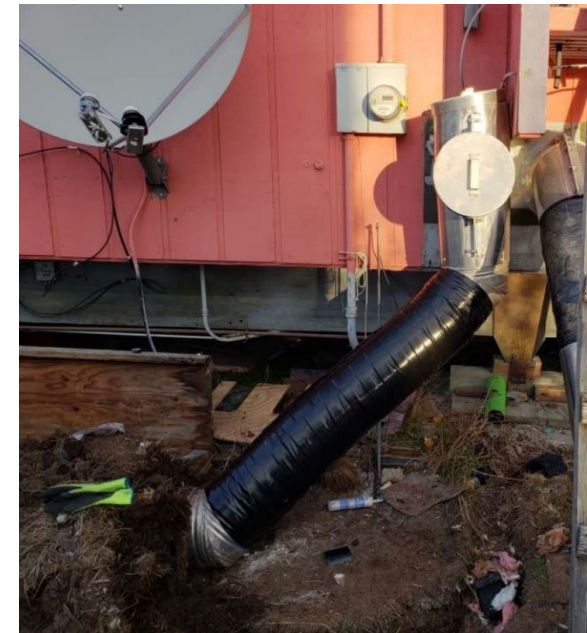
- Ranked list for each of the three threats
- Combined threat list
- Groupings





Statewide Threat Assessment

- Does not identify which communities should receive funding
- Does not identify the strategy for reducing vulnerability.





Statewide Threat Assessment

Thawing Permafrost

- Impacts often due to the infrastructure design
- Reduce impacts through initial engineering
- Damage occurs over time
- With proper monitoring and timely repair, cost of damage can usually be minimized.



Active Funding Opportunity

Open: Non-Federal Match for Funding Assistance for Infrastructure Projects

Qualifying Projects:

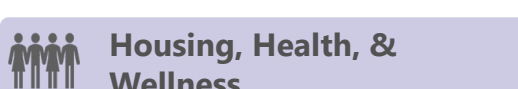
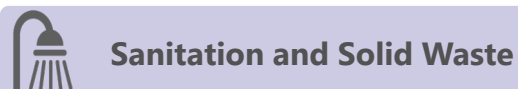
1. Have received other federal funding that requires a match
2. Have applied to other federal funding that requires a match

Total Available: \$4,900,000

Request Cap: \$1,000,000

Statements of Interest Forms
Due December 20

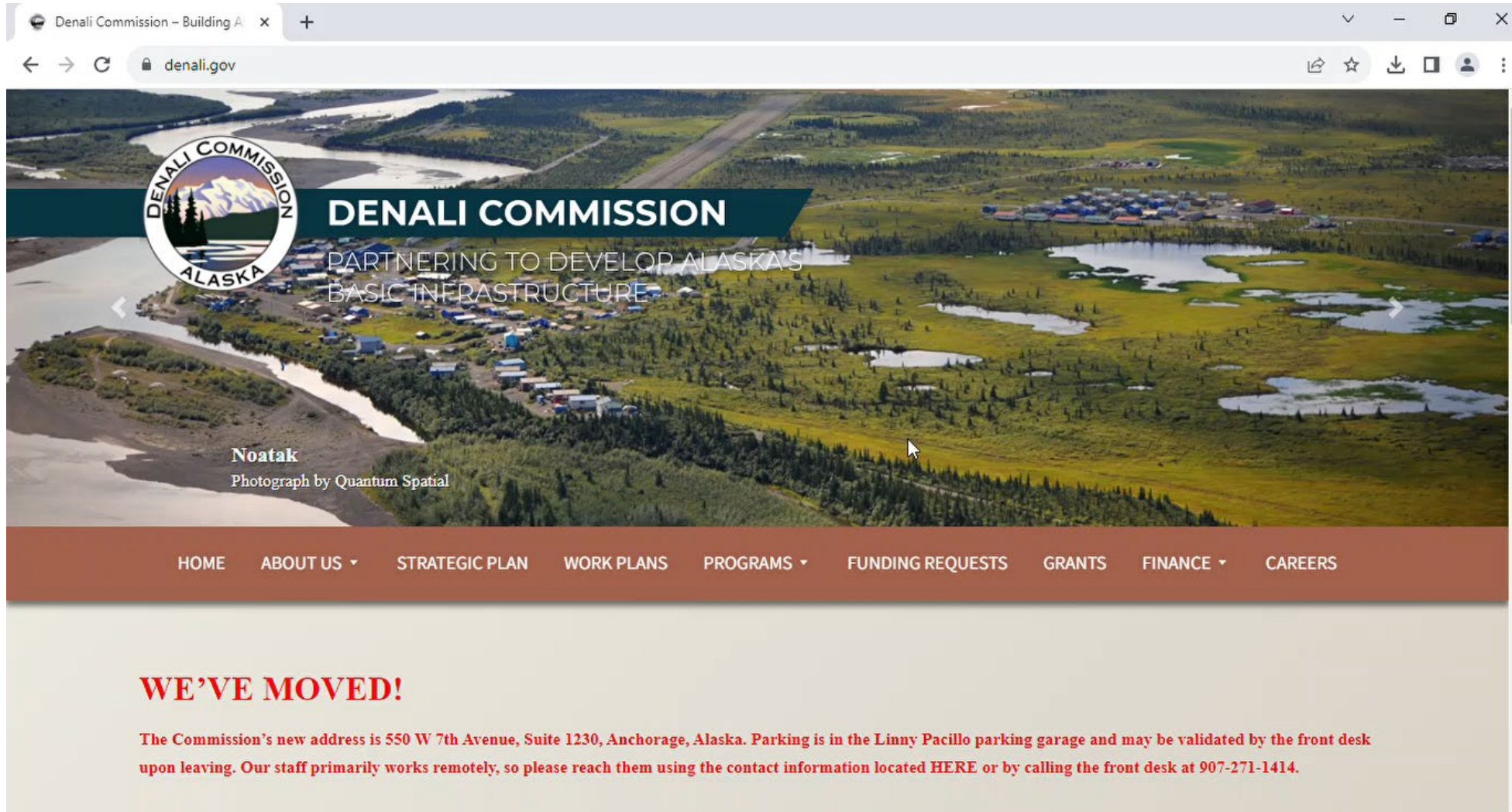
Eligible Programs



<https://www.denali.gov/>



Past and Present Awards – Denali Project Database



Denali Commission – Building A

denali.gov

DENALI COMMISSION
PARTNERING TO DEVELOP ALASKA'S
BASIC INFRASTRUCTURE

Noatak
Photograph by Quantum Spatial

HOME ABOUT US STRATEGIC PLAN WORK PLANS PROGRAMS FUNDING REQUESTS GRANTS FINANCE CAREERS

WE'VE MOVED!

The Commission's new address is 550 W 7th Avenue, Suite 1230, Anchorage, Alaska. Parking is in the Linny Pacillo parking garage and may be validated by the front desk upon leaving. Our staff primarily works remotely, so please reach them using the contact information located [HERE](#) or by calling the front desk at 907-271-1414.



<https://cf.denali.gov/>





Questions? Qagaasakung!

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