

Denali Commission as a Tool to Unlock Resources

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DENALI COMMISSION

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Denali Commission's Rural Strategy

Commission is a Key to Unlock Funding

- **Mission**
 - Deliver services of Federal Government cost-effectively to promote economic development with a focus on rural infrastructure development
- **Broad Authority**
 - Allows flexibility to fill *Market Gap* for *Social Good*
- **Organizational Structure:**
 - Narrow hierarchy + Localized staff that understand rural Alaska
- **Commission Special Tools :**
 1. Section 311 transfer authority + Non-federal cost share; + No-year funds

This means Partnerships!



Commission Grant Programs

- **Matching Grant – SOI open now**
- **Matching Transpiration – SOI open now**
- **~January – All Program grant cycle**
 - Pending Congress passing Fed Budget
- **Easy to access flexible funding**



Examples of Transfers for Housing

- **USFS – Local milling for Merbok Housing**
 - Technical Assistance
 - Building capacity for new home development
 - Tribes, Municipalities, *businesses*
 - Working with Housing Authorities
 - Understanding needs, regs, abilities, processes
 - Identifying scalable supply of lumber
 - Kuskokwim and Yukon Sawmill potential
 - Direct subsidies for supplies and logistics
 - Need housing partners to build and manage
- **DoJ - Victims of Crime**
- **DoE + DHHS-IHS + EPA**
 - Utilities: Energy + Water



Commission Transfer Authority

- **Agency-to-agency agreement**
 - Expiring end-of-year funding
 - Program funding that is not working
- **Commission's special authority applies**
 - Makes funding easier to access, more flexible



Roadmap to Home Development

- Land to Build
- Design
- Dirtwork + Utilities
- Purchasing
- Logistics
- Construction
- Plumbing, Electrical, Finishing
- Fixtures and Furnishings
- Landscaping
- Transferring Ownership
- Break-in Maintenance
- Operating Expenses



No Easy Answers

- **Alaska has a housing development problem**
 - Construction isn't keeping up with demand
- **Alaska has an aging housing stock problem**
 - Half estimated need is for renovation of existing units
- **Alaska has a housing affordability problem**
 - Average salary doesn't cover housing costs
- **Alaska needs 27,500 housing units over 10 years**
 - 14,000 new units needed to address overcrowding
 - 13,500 units needed for replacement or renovation
- **Rural homes are estimated to cost \$800/sq ft now**
 - 1100 sq ft, 3 bedroom could cost \$880,000



Possible Technology Solutions (After Non-tech Solutions)

- **Materials Science**
- **Automation**
- **Manufactured Panels**



Materials Science

Strategy – Reduce materials and shipping costs

- **Utilize local materials for construction**
 - Rocks, trees and mycelium
- **3D Concrete printing with local aggregate**
 - UAF developing “recipes” for rock, silt, organics
- **Rural-regional sawmills (not new tech)**
 - Creative; maybe new processes (automation)



Automation

Strategy – reduce operations costs with capital

- **Improved efficiency, lower per-unit task costs**
- **Focused narrow deliverables**
- **Replace, dull, dirty, dangerous**
 - Higher pay per employee



Manufactured Panels

Strategy – reduce construction costs

- **Efficiency of construction, high, consistent quality**
- **Reduced construction and logistics complexity**
- **Increased employment for local construction**



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Thank You!

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