



RurAL CAP
Rural Alaska Community Action Program, Inc.

Community Needs Assessment 2025—2027

Statewide, Alaska

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2025 – 2027 COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Published June 2025

Rural Alaska Community Action Program, Inc.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Rural Alaska Community Action Program, Inc., (RurAL CAP) 2025—2027 Community Needs Assessment was conducted to identify the key needs and resources across Alaska. The assessment aims to provide an understanding of the current conditions, challenges, and opportunities across the state. The assessment employed a mixed-methods approach, including surveys, target area expert conversations, and secondary data analysis. Data was collected over a period of six months and analyzed to identify common themes and critical needs.

The assessment highlighted several pressing needs across the state, including:

- **Housing:** A significant concern for residents, with many expressing the need for affordable and safe housing options.
- **Access to Fresh Food:** Respondents emphasized the importance of improving access to fresh produce and local gardening initiatives.
- **Infrastructure:** Many communities reported inadequate infrastructure impacting transportation and access to services.
- **Substance Misuse Prevention & Treatment:** There is a strong need for programs addressing substance misuse issues.
- **Jobs & Workforce Development:** Respondents identified a lack of job opportunities and workforce training as critical challenges.
- **Education:** Communities highlighted the need for improved access to quality education and culturally relevant learning opportunities.

The document concludes with a recommendation for collaborative efforts among various stakeholders to foster sustainable development and resilience in Alaska.



Colorful Cabins in Seldovia AK



PART I. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

Introduction

The purpose of this report is to present the findings of a comprehensive statewide Community Needs Assessment conducted across Alaska. This assessment aims to identify and analyze the key needs, challenges, and opportunities across the state, providing valuable insights to inform policymaking, resource allocation, and strategic planning. By engaging with diverse, voluntary stakeholders, we have gathered a sample of data that reflects the current state of our communities and highlights areas for improvement and growth. This report serves as a foundational document to guide future initiatives and foster a collaborative approach to addressing the needs of our state.

Brief Agency History

Community Action Agencies (CAAs) were created nationwide to support locally driven strategies that address poverty, promote economic opportunity, and strengthen communities. Rural Alaska Community Action Program, Inc. (RurAL CAP), established in 1965, serves as Alaska's designated CAA. This designation has enabled RurAL CAP to develop a wide range of programs and services that are responsive to local needs, supported by national CAA networks, and aligned with locally informed and also federally recognized frameworks.

RurAL CAP is a private, statewide, nonprofit organization operating under the mission to empower low-income Alaskans through advocacy, education, affordable housing and direct services that respect our unique values and cultures. The agency has a long, successful history of working on behalf of Alaskans for economic stability, housing as a basic human right, and early education as a foundation for future success. Governed by a 24-member Board of Directors representing the public sector, the private sector, and the different regions of Alaska, RurAL CAP is on the leading edge of delivering innovative, community-driven solutions in response to Alaska's most challenging needs.

Through its work, RurAL CAP contributes to Alaska's broader economic development by fostering workforce readiness, supporting small community infrastructure, and enhancing the long-term stability of families and communities across the state. The agency assists thousands of Alaskans through a diverse array of services each year. The agency's clients span a multigenerational and cultural network of individuals and families with low incomes. Clients include, but are not limited to, people working to access stable, safe, and healthy housing, individuals coping with mental health and substance abuse challenges, survivors of domestic violence and/or sexual assault, families seeking age-appropriate education, and communities actively working to improve the life outcomes for their children and youth. At the agency's core, all beneficiaries are Alaskans facing challenging circumstances and seeking self-sufficiency.



Monitoring and Compliance

The Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Community Services (OCS), Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) has established organizational standards to ensure Community Action Agencies (CAAs) effectively serve low-income communities. These standards are designed to enhance accountability, performance, and transparency across various aspects of agency operations. As part of these standards, and as Alaska's sole CAA and private non-profit recipient of CSBG funding, RurAL CAP is mandated to complete a Community Needs Assessment every three years to document the needs and resources in the target communities: statewide. The information gathered is used to inform strategic planning and enhance performance. By adhering to these regulatory requirements and standards, RurAL CAP maintains high levels of efficiency and effectiveness, ensuring that it meets the needs of the communities it serves while complying with federal and state regulations.



Artist's show their work with weaving and cedar rose's at the 2024 AFN Conference.



PART II. TARGET POPULATION AND METHODS

Defining Our Community

Rural Alaska Community Action Program, Inc., (RurAL CAP) defines its “Community” as the entire state of Alaska, with a primary focus on low-income individuals and families with children. The community needs assessment aims to document both the needs and resources present across our community, while also identifying the root causes and conditions of poverty. In recognition of Alaska’s vast geography and the cultural and demographic diversity of its communities, the report is structured around key thematic areas that influence the lived experiences and overall well-being of Alaskans. The findings presented here are grounded in the voices and perspectives of community members from all five of Alaska’s general geographic regions, ensuring a comprehensive and representative understanding of statewide conditions. These regions were defined by geography and based on the State of Alaska’s Alaska By Region map. See Figure 1¹ below.

FIGURE 1. STATE OF ALASKA REGIONS



¹ State of Alaska, [Alaska By Region](#), n.d.



Methods & Chronology

The assessment employed a mixed-methods approach, including surveys, target area expert conversations, and secondary data analysis. Data was collected over a period of seven months and analyzed to identify common themes and critical needs.

Chronology:

October – November 2024

- Data Collection and Review of Secondary Data: Existing data and previous Community Needs Assessments (CNAs) were gathered and reviewed to establish a foundation of historical insights.
- Internal Surveys: Two (2) internal surveys were released to RurAL CAP staff to identify key areas of need for data and key themes surrounding community needs across the state.

December 2024 – January 2025

- Public Survey: Public survey was developed as informed by two phases of internal staff surveys and secondary data review.

February 2025

- Public Survey Distribution: Surveys were announced and distributed to community members and service providers to capture a diverse range of perspectives.

February – March 2025

- Data Collection: Survey responses from community members and service providers were collected.
- Data Compilation: Data from surveys and interviews were compiled for analysis.

April – May 2025

- Data Compilation: Data from surveys and interviews were compiled for analysis.
- Data Analysis: The compiled data was analyzed to draw meaningful conclusions about community needs.



PART III. FINDINGS AND INTERPRETATION

Demographic Data

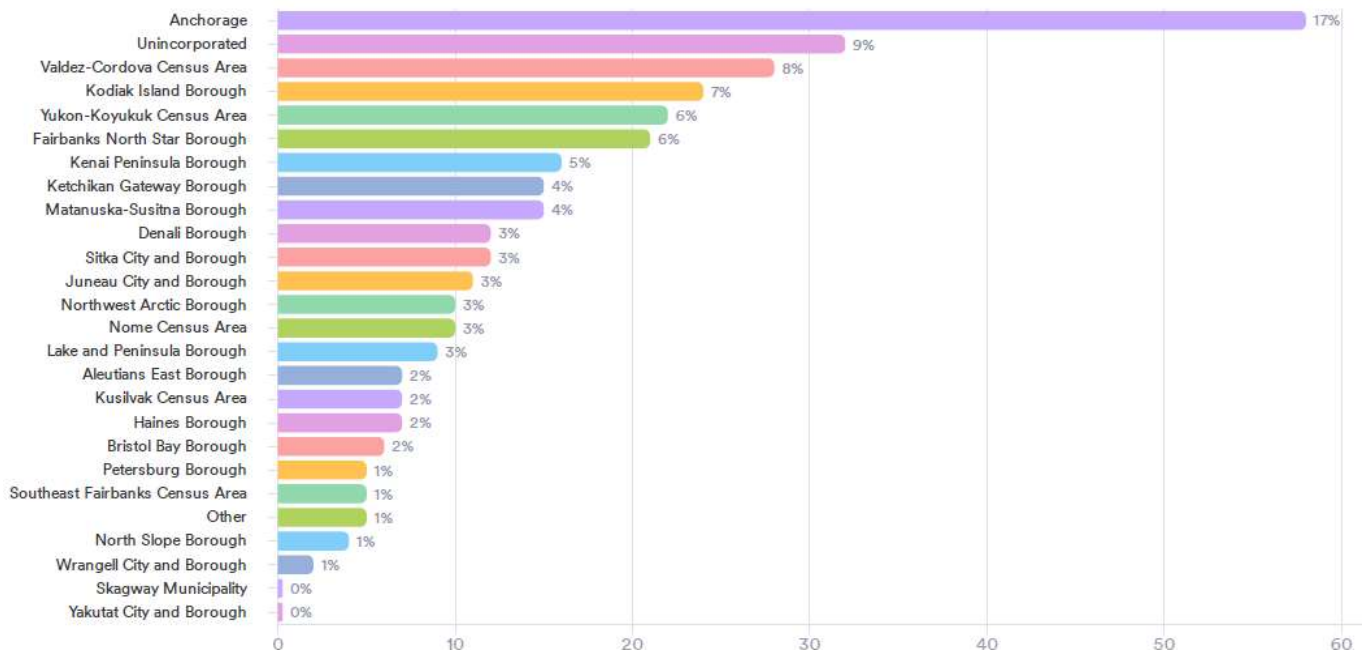
Brief Alaska Demographic Profile

According to the U.S. Census Bureau 2024 population estimates², Alaska is home to approximately 740,133 residents across 267,865 households. The population distribution includes 64.2% identifying as White, 3.7% as Black, 15.6% as American Indian or Alaska Native, 6.8% as Asian, 1.7% as Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, 8.1% as two or more races, and 7.5% as Hispanic or Latino. Age demographics indicate that 6.3% of the population is under 5 years old, 23.9% are under 18, 55.4% are under 65, and 14.4% are 65 or older. Educational attainment is high, with 93.5% of residents aged 25 and older having graduated from high school, and 31.2% holding a bachelor's degree. The unemployment rate was recently logged at 4.7% in April 2025³.

Respondent Demographic Data

Of the 338 respondents that completed the survey, the demographic landscape demonstrated Alaska's diverse and multifaceted community. The majority of respondents were from Southcentral (39%), followed by Southwest (29%), Southeast (15%), Far North (9%), and Interior (8%). See Figure 2 below for a breakdown of respondents per borough/census area.

FIGURE 2. COMMUNITY BOROUGH/CENSUS AREA REPRESENTATION CHART



² [U.S. Census Bureau QuickFacts: Alaska](#), 2024.

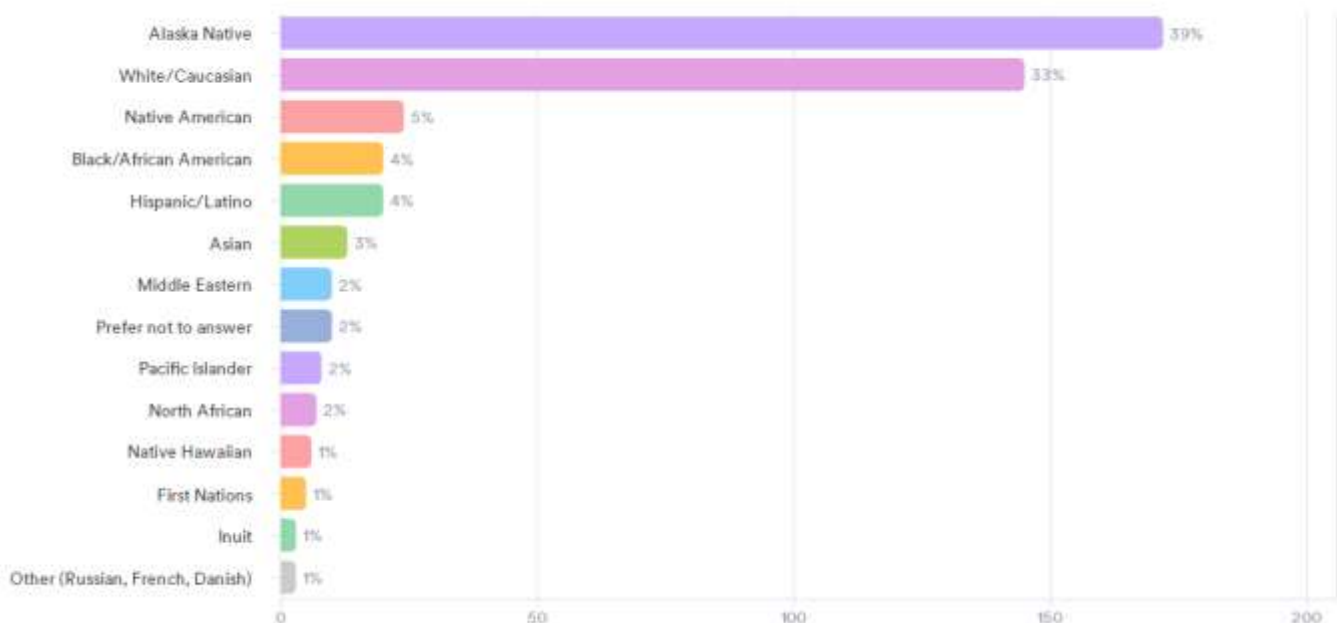
³ U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, [Unemployment Rates for States](#) - Alaska, April 2025.



Employment status varied, with 66% working year-round, 13% seasonally, 9% as independent contractors or freelancers, 8% unemployed, and 4% retired. Educational attainment was also varied, with 29% holding a high school diploma, 26% a bachelor's degree, 14% an associate's degree, 13% a vocational/technical degree, 11% a master's degree, 4% some formal schooling, and 3% a doctoral degree.

The population group was predominantly Alaska Native (38%) and White (32%), with smaller percentages of Native American, Black/African American, Hispanic/Latino/a, Asian, Middle Eastern, Pacific Islander, North African, Native Hawaiian, and other groups. A small fraction preferred not to answer. See Figure 3 below.

FIGURE 3. RESPONDENT SELF-IDENTIFY POPULATION GROUP CHART



Age distribution showed a concentration in the 35-44 age range (33%), followed by 25-34 (22%), 45-54 (17%), 55-64 (16%), 65+ (7%), 18-24 (4%), and 17 and under (1%).

Additional insights revealed that 32% of respondents were tribal members, 10% were seniors in need of care, 11% were living with a disability, and 32% had children in their household.



Migration Data

While migration was originally categorized under the Culture and Social component of the Community Needs Survey, further analysis revealed its pervasive influence across all major thematic areas, including housing, education, infrastructure, healthcare, and overall economic stability. Migration patterns, both into and out of communities, shape workforce availability, school enrollment, housing demand, and access to services. Given its comprehensive impact and its direct effect on systemic challenges, migration has been elevated to serve as the opening theme of this report.

Brief Alaska Migration Profile

Migration patterns in Alaska reflect a complex interplay of opportunity and constraint. Research from the University of Alaska's Institute of Social and Economic Research (ISER) has consistently shown that migration from smaller to larger communities is a long-standing trend, primarily driven by the pursuit of education, employment, housing, and access to essential services among other factors⁴.

Between July 2022 and July 2023⁵, Alaska experienced a net migration loss of 3,246 people, continuing a trend that began in 2013. Although the total population still increased slightly by 304 people (0.04%), this was due to natural increase (births minus deaths), not migration. Migration impacts vary significantly by region. Matanuska-Susitna Borough (+2,125) and Kenai Peninsula Borough (+898) saw the largest gains, while Fairbanks North Star Borough (-844) experienced the most significant population loss.

These internal movements often reflect broader social and economic dynamics, including the centralization of infrastructure and opportunities in urban hubs. The concentration of services and infrastructure in urban areas makes them more attractive, especially for younger populations⁶ seeking career advancement or higher education. Alaska's migration trends reflect broader demographic and economic shifts. While some regions are growing, the state overall continues to lose residents to migration. Addressing the root causes of out-migration is essential for sustainable development.

Respondent Migration Data

Migration data reveals a significant trend: 70% of respondents reported out-migration from their community, split evenly between respondents knowing of people who moved to another state (35%) and those that relocated to in-state urban hubs (35%). Only 13% reported not being aware of any out-migration from their current community.

When asked about the reasons people move from their community, responses were varied: cost of living (19%) and employment opportunities (19%) are the most frequently cited drivers, followed by education (13%), housing (12%), healthcare (10%) and family (10%). These responses point to structural challenges that disproportionately affect rural and remote

⁴ Institute of Social and Economic Research, [2024 ISER Convening on Out Migration](#), September 2024.

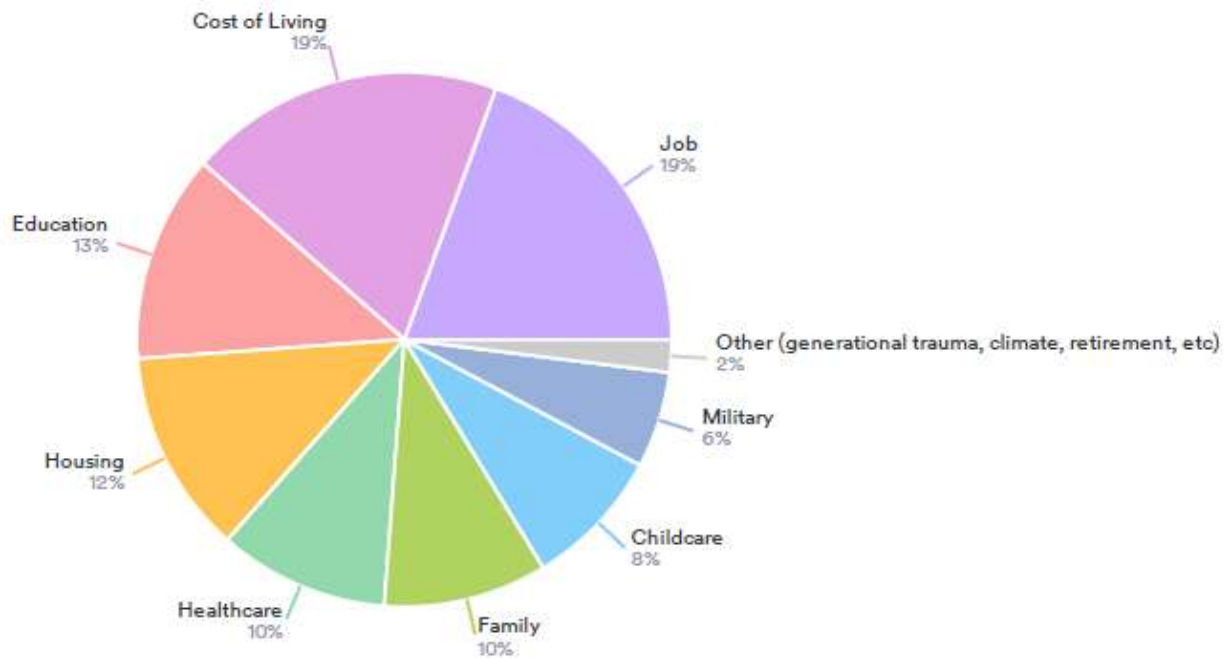
⁵ State of Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development [DOLWD Press Release](#), January 2024

⁶ State of Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development [Alaska Migration Data](#) – Migration by Age and Sex, 2019-2024.



communities. A small percentage reported migration due to climate factors such as erosion and weather. See Figure 4 below.

FIGURE 4. REASON FOR OUT-MIGRATION



These findings underscore that migration is not merely a demographic trend but a structural force reshaping the social and economic fabric of Alaska's communities. The data reveals that decisions to move are often driven by systemic inequities, such as limited access to affordable housing, employment, education, and healthcare, rather than individual preference alone. Moreover, the inclusion of climate-related displacement and generational trauma in respondent feedback highlights the deep-rooted and multifaceted nature of migration. As such, migration is not only a cross-cutting issue but a lens through which the sustainability of Alaska's communities must be assessed. Its elevation to the opening theme of this report reflects its centrality to understanding and addressing the state's most pressing challenges.



Respondent Self-Reported Greatest Needs

In addition to the structured survey questions, designed to gather input on specific focus areas through multiple-choice and brief write-in responses, participants were also invited to provide more nuanced feedback through an open-ended prompt:

“Please share what you believe are the most pressing needs in your community today.”

This qualitative question yielded a wide range of insights, reflecting the lived experiences and priorities of residents across diverse communities. After a thorough thematic analysis of the responses, five key categories emerged as the most frequently cited and urgent areas of concern:

FIGURE 5. SELF-REPORTED GREATEST COMMUNITY NEED

- 1. Housing**
- 2. Access to Fresh Food / Gardening / Agriculture**
- 3. Infrastructure & Transit**
- 4. Substance Misuse Prevention & Treatment**
- 5. Jobs & Workforce Development**

These themes provide a valuable lens through which to understand community priorities and inform future planning, resource allocation, and policy development. To ensure that the voices of community members are meaningfully reflected in this report, the remainder of the data has been organized according to the top five identified categories. Following these primary themes, the report also includes secondary themes that, while not as frequently cited, represent important dimensions of community well-being and deserve consideration in comprehensive planning efforts.



Housing Data

Brief Alaska Housing Profile

The development of Alaska's housing infrastructure is closely linked to the state's economic expansion during the oil boom of the 1970s and early 1980s. The discovery of oil and the subsequent construction of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System catalyzed rapid population growth and urban development. This surge in economic activity led to a significant increase in residential construction. However, following the completion of the pipeline and the collapse of oil prices in the mid-1980s, Alaska entered a prolonged economic downturn, which stalled further housing investment⁷. As a result, a substantial portion of the state's current housing stock dates back to this era⁸ and now exhibits signs of aging infrastructure and poor energy performance⁹. These historical dynamics have contributed to ongoing disparities in housing quality and availability, particularly between urban and rural communities.

Currently, Alaskans face persistent and complex housing challenges including limited availability, high costs, aging infrastructure, and significant disparities between urban and rural areas. According to the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation (AHFC) 2024 Housing Indicators Reports¹⁰, several key factors are constraining the housing market:

- Insufficient inventory, particularly for affordable rental units.
- Escalating construction costs, driven by supply chain issues, labor shortages, and the high cost of transporting materials.
- Widespread affordability issues.

Urban areas such as Anchorage and Juneau are seeing rising rents and home prices, while rural communities often lack core community infrastructure and face even greater barriers to new construction. In rural areas, the cost of building a new home can exceed \$300 per square foot, largely due to the expense of transporting materials and labor to remote locations. Meanwhile, median household incomes often fall below \$90,000¹¹, creating a substantial affordability gap.

Overcrowding is also a predominant and persistent issue, especially in rural and Alaska Native communities. Nationally, approximately 16% of Alaska Native households on tribal lands experience overcrowding¹². In Alaska's Alaska Native communities, that figure is estimated to be twice as high. Additionally, approximately 36% of homes in rural Alaska are affected by at least one major housing deficiency such as incomplete plumbing, missing kitchen facilities, or overcrowding. Many homes lack modern insulation, reliable heating systems, or access to centralized water and sewer services. These deficiencies increase the risk of respiratory illnesses and waterborne diseases¹³.

⁷ Mouhcine Guettabi, [Alaska's Economy: Then and Now](#), 2017.

⁸ Neal Fried, [December 2013 Trends.indd](#), 2013.

⁹ [Alaska Energy Data Gateway](#), 2025.

¹⁰ Alaska Housing Finance Corporation, Quarters 1 – 4 [Housing Market Indicators Report](#), 2024.

¹¹ U.S. Census Bureau, [QuickFacts: Alaska](#), 2022.

¹² Office of Senator Lisa Murkowski, [HUD Announces \\$64 Million In Critical Housing Funding Going To Alaska Native Communities](#), March 2021.

¹³ Green and Healthy Homes Initiative, [Weatherization and its Impact on Occupant Health](#), 2017.



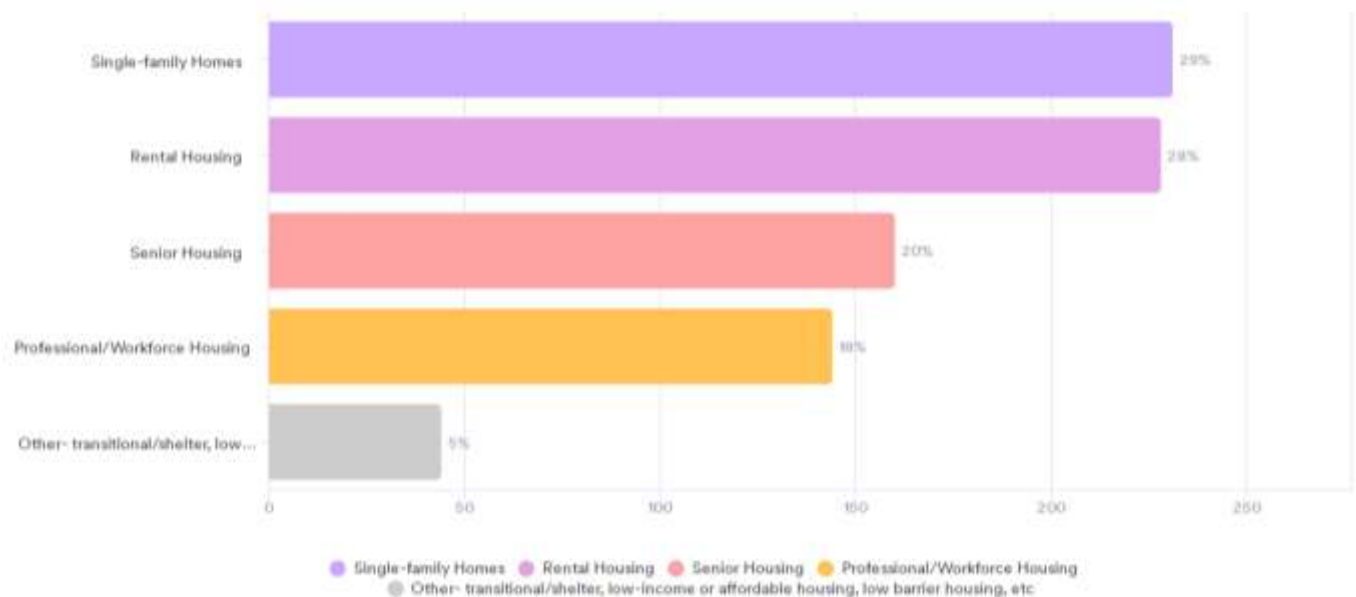
In addition to availability and overcrowding data, the consequences of the affordability gap is also visible in Alaska's homelessness statistics. In 2024, 36 out of every 10,000 Alaska residents experienced homelessness, totaling 2,686 individuals without a permanent place to live. Among them, 4% were unsheltered youth, and 11.3% were adults aged 55 and older¹⁴. These figures highlight the urgent need for expanded housing support services and long-term solutions to address housing insecurity.

In response to this reality, U.S. Housing and Urban Development has allocated upwards of \$64 million to Alaska Native communities to ensure access to safe and affordable housing through American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 funding¹⁵. Further, the Alaska Department of Health's 2024 Scorecard¹⁶, emphasizes the importance of supportive housing models, such as Housing First, and calls for increased investment in culturally appropriate, energy-efficient housing solutions tailored to Alaska's diverse communities.

Respondent Housing Data

Housing types across Alaska vary widely from multifamily apartment buildings, to single-family homes, mobile homes, and tribal housing. In response to questions surrounding preferred housing, respondents shared that the most desired housing types are single-family homes, rental housing, and then senior housing. This reflects the wide-ranging needs of the population, from families looking for permanent homes to seniors seeking specialized housing options. See Figure 6 below.

FIGURE 6. RESPONDENTS DESIRED HOUSING TYPES CHART



¹⁴ National Alliance to End Homelessness, [Dashboard: Point-In-Time Counts by State](#), 2025.

¹⁵ Office of Senator Lisa Murkowski, [HUD Announces \\$64 Million In Critical Housing Funding Going To Alaska Native Communities](#), March 2021.

¹⁶ Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority, [Alaska Scorecard](#), 2024.



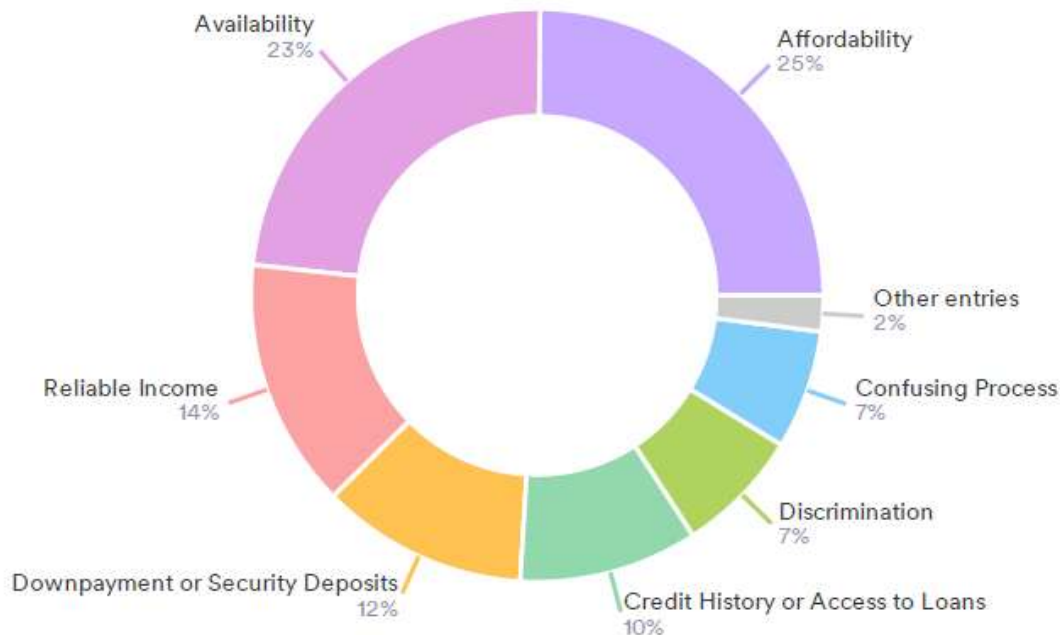
Respondents reported that the biggest challenges to securing housing include affordability (25%) and availability (23%). Other significant challenges are reliable income (14%), down payment or security deposits (12%), and credit history or access to loans (10%). These challenges highlight the financial and logistical barriers that many residents face in securing housing. See Figure 7 on the following page.



RurAL CAP's Supportive Housing site Safe Harbor Muldoon, Anchorage



FIGURE 7. RESPONDENTS' BIGGEST CHALLENGES TO SECURING HOUSING CHART



Respondents also expressed a need for various housing resources. The top four desired resources include home improvement and repair at 17%, income-based housing options at 15%, rental assistance at 15%, and first-time homebuyer education at 13%. Additionally, there is a significant demand for other resources (27%), such as emergency shelters, low-income housing, self-help housing, property tax restructuring, rental education, more land, funding to preserve older homes, land surveyors, sober and transitional housing, higher quality living spaces, and re-entry homes.

Respondents' perceptions of their housing characteristics provide further insight into the housing landscape. See Figure 8 on the following page.



FIGURE 8. RESPONDENTS' HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS CHART

Category	Poor	Fair	Neutral	Good	Excellent
Safety	7%	13%	11%	39%	30%
Cost	11%	21%	22%	30%	16%
Location	3%	12%	17%	35%	32%
Size	10%	13%	18%	36%	23%
Accessibility	13%	12%	20%	34%	21%

Safety is a concern, with 39% of respondents rating their housing safety as good and 30% as excellent. However, 7% perceive it as poor, and 13% rate it as fair, indicating that there is still work to be done to ensure all residents feel secure in their homes.

The cost of housing is varied, with 30% of respondents finding it good and 16% rating it as excellent. On the other hand, 11% consider housing costs poor, and 21% rate them as fair, highlighting the financial burden that housing can impose on some individuals.

The location of housing is generally well regarded, with 35% of respondents rating it as good and 32% as excellent. Only a small fraction (3%) find it poor, suggesting that most people are satisfied with where they live.

Size of housing also garners varied opinions. While 36% rate the size of their homes as good and 23% as excellent, 10% find it poor, and 13% rate it as fair. This diversity in opinion reflects the different needs and preferences.

Accessibility to housing is crucial, with 34% of respondents rating it as good and 21% as excellent. However, 13% find accessibility poor, and 12% rate it as fair, indicating that there are barriers that need to be addressed to make housing more accessible to all.

In summary, the housing data shows that while many people are generally satisfied with where they live, there are still major challenges, especially around affordability, availability, and access to support. People are looking for more single-family homes, rentals, and senior housing, along with help like home repairs, rental assistance, and first-time homebuyer education. These findings highlight the need for more housing options and better support services to make sure everyone in the community can find safe, affordable, and suitable housing.



Food Security and Household Costs Data

Brief Alaska Food Security and Household Cost Burden Profile

Alaska consistently ranks among the most expensive states in the U.S. due to its remote geography, limited infrastructure, and dependence on imported goods. In 2024, the cost of living in Alaska was estimated to be 28–32% higher than the national average, with rural communities facing even steeper costs due to transportation and energy expenses. Though, food and fuel are documented as major contributors to household cost burdens¹⁷.

As compared to the rest of the country, Alaskans as a whole consume a significant amount of wild food through subsistence and other wild harvesting activities. These practices remain vital, particularly in rural areas, where residents harvest an average of 295 pounds of food through subsistence annually¹⁸. Nevertheless, Alaskans are burdened by a reliance on imported food. *“Not including the \$1.2 billion value of harvested wild foods, or the \$98 million spent on non-wild foods grown in Alaska, Alaskans spend \$3.01 billion on foods imported from out-of-state”* (Alaska Food Strategy Taskforce 2024 Report¹⁹).

In many rural areas, fuel and food must be delivered by barge or air, significantly increasing the price and placing a disproportionate burden on household and program budgets. Alaska’s heavy reliance on external supply chains stems from mid-20th century shifts in infrastructure and food systems, when rapid urbanization reduced local food production. Today, this dependence is worsened by limited transportation access, 82% of Alaska communities are not connected to the road system²⁰, driving up food costs and deepening food insecurity.

Respondent Food Security and Cost Burden Data

The Community Needs Survey revealed significant financial pressures on households across various categories. Groceries and Housing costs were notable as major cost burdens for the majority of respondents. Loan debt, fuel and utilities, travel and transportation, internet and phone services, healthcare, childcare, and eldercare also presented substantial financial challenges for many households. These cost burdens varied in intensity, with some respondents experiencing major burdens, others facing some burdens, and a few reporting no cost burdens at all. See Figure 9 on the following page.



Photos from left to right: Herring Eggs on Hemlock, Buckets of Blueberries, Drying Fish, Beach Asparagus, Whale

¹⁷ US Bureau of Labor Statistics, [Alaska Economy at a Glance](#), 2025.

¹⁸ Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium, [Unmet Needs Report](#), 2024.

¹⁹ Alaska Food Policy Council, [AFSTF-Report-2024-FINAL-WEB.pdf](#), 2024.

²⁰ American Society of Civil Engineers, [Alaska’s Infrastructure Grade Improves to a ‘C’ | ASCE](#), 2025.



FIGURE 9. HOUSEHOLD COST BURDENS CHART

Category	No Cost Burden	Some Cost Burden	Major Cost Burden	Not Applicable
Housing	24%	29%	40%	8%
Groceries	6%	40%	52%	3%
Loan Debt	15%	36%	23%	26%
Fuel / Utilities	11%	43%	52%	4%
Travel / Transportation	22%	41%	32%	5%
Internet / Phone	24%	50%	19%	6%
Healthcare	30%	37%	23%	11%
Childcare	20%	16%	15%	48%
Eldercare	19%	16%	10%	55%

A significant portion of respondents to the Community Needs Survey have faced food insecurity within the past six months, with 51% of respondents indicating they struggled to access adequate food, while 49% reported no issues. This highlights a critical need for interventions to address food access and affordability.

Respondents emphasized the need for improvements in several areas. Ensuring access to fresh produce year-round, particularly during winter, was deemed crucial. Seasonal availability of fresh produce during spring, fall, and summer also needs enhancement. See Figure 10 on the following page.

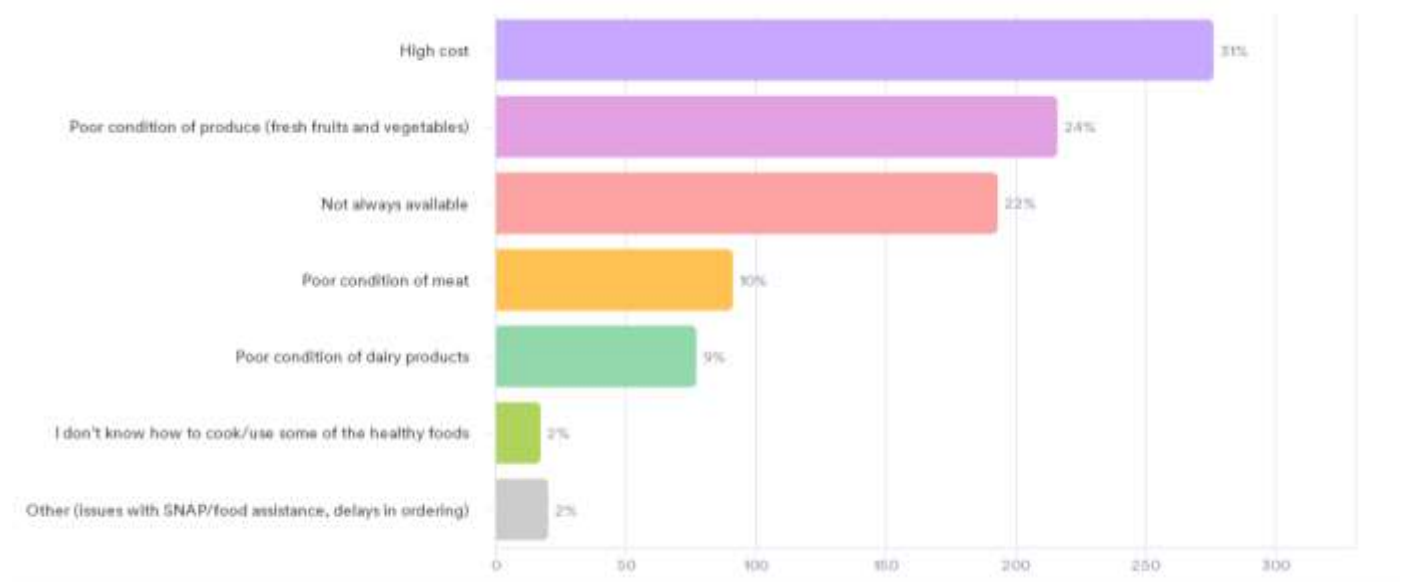


FIGURE 10. FOOD-BASED ACCESS PRIORITIES TO IMPROVE UPON IN COMMUNITIES

- 1. Fresh produce availability in stores in Winter**
- 2. Fresh produce availability in stores in Spring & Fall**
- 3. Ability to start or expand local / home gardens**
- 4. Ability to enhance preservation of locally grown or collected wild plants (e.g. canning/drying/storage)**
- 5. Fresh produce availability in stores in Summer**
- 6. Ability to expand collection of wild plants (e.g. greens / berries)**

Respondents identified several obstacles to obtaining healthy food. The high cost of nutritious options was the most common issue (31%), making it difficult for many to afford them. Additionally, the poor condition of produce, meat, and dairy products deterred people from purchasing these items locally. Limited availability of healthy food options, especially in remote areas, further exacerbated the problem. See Figure 11 below.

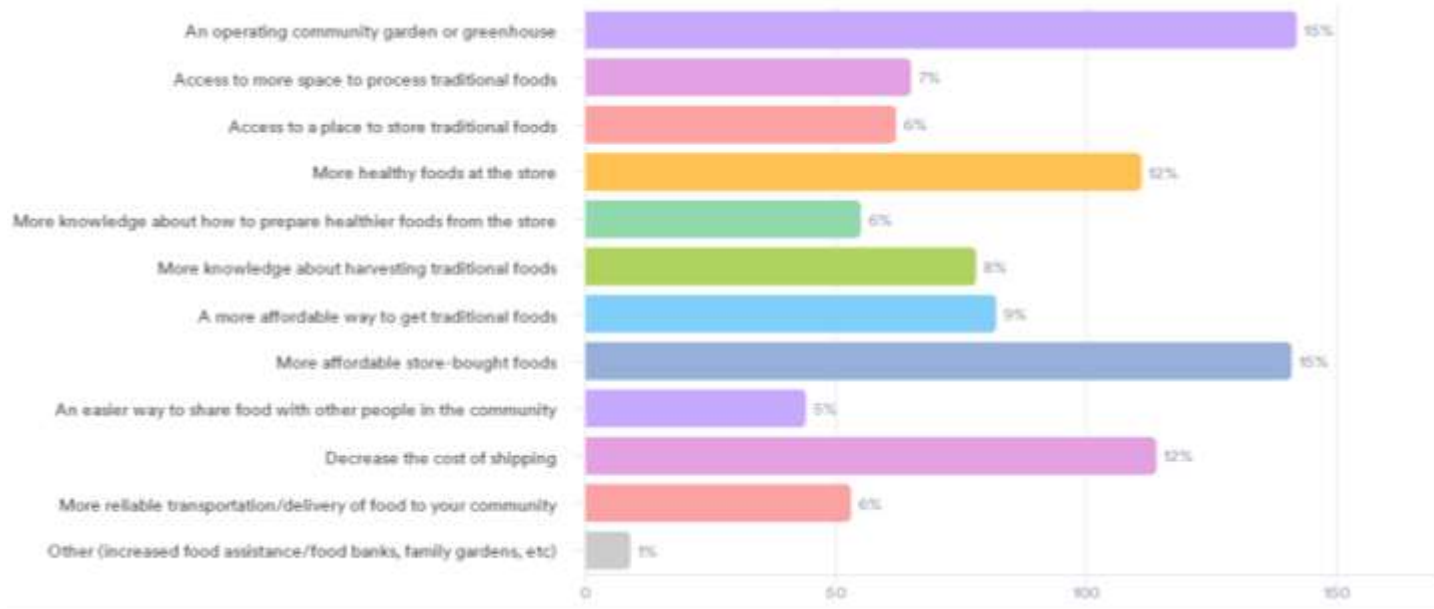
FIGURE 11. REASONS FOR DIFFICULTY IN ACCESING HEALTHY FOOD CHART



Encouraging self-sufficiency through local and home gardening was highlighted as a key priority. Techniques like canning and drying to preserve locally grown or collected wild plants were seen as essential for maintaining food supplies. Expanding the collection of wild plants, such as greens and berries, was also considered important. Respondents suggested operating community gardens or greenhouses can provide fresh, affordable produce. Reducing the prices of store-bought foods and decreasing the cost of shipping were seen as vital steps to make healthy food more accessible. See Figure 12 on the following page.



FIGURE 12. SUGGESTED WAYS TO IMPROVE ACCESS TO FOOD CHART:



Results underscore the pressing issues of food insecurity and financial burdens faced by households in Alaska. Despite the presence of critical food assistance programs like WIC and SNAP, many Alaskans continue to face significant barriers to accessing these resources. Recent reports reveal that Alaska's SNAP program has struggled with severe administrative delays²¹. While the WIC program provides vital nutrition and breastfeeding support, families often encounter hurdles such as complex enrollment procedures, limited clinic availability in remote areas, and the need for in-person visits despite recent efforts to implement hybrid service models. These delays have left thousands of residents, particularly in rural and remote communities, waiting weeks or even months for essential food support. Addressing these challenges requires targeted efforts to improve food access, affordability, and quality, alongside measures to alleviate household cost burdens across various essential categories.

²¹ Anchorage Daily News, [After backlogs, federal judge orders Alaska to speed processing time for food assistance applications](#), 2025.



Infrastructure Data

Brief Alaska Infrastructure Profile

Infrastructure challenges in Alaska remain substantial. According to the 2025 Alaska Infrastructure Report Card²² by the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), approximately 86% of the state is not accessible by road, underscoring the logistical difficulties in maintaining and expanding infrastructure across Alaska. Additionally, 47 communities and over 3,300 households still lack access to running water, highlighting persistent gaps in basic public health infrastructure. The state received an overall infrastructure grade of C, which ASCE defines as “mediocre and requiring attention.” Notably, drinking water and energy systems received a D+, underscoring persistent gaps in access and reliability, particularly in remote communities.

While Alaska’s roads, rail, and solid waste systems maintained average performance with a grade of C, the report highlighted the high costs of maintenance due to the state’s geography and harsh climate. Only about 6,188 of Alaska’s 17,637 miles of roads are paved. Compounding these challenges is Alaska’s heavy reliance on air transportation. In many rural communities, small aircraft are the only year-round means of transporting people, goods, and emergency services. Maintaining the state’s extensive network of rural runways and airstrips is both essential and costly, requiring continuous investment to ensure safety, reliability, and access, especially in regions where no road infrastructure exists.

Broadband access remains limited in many rural areas, with some communities lacking reliable internet altogether. This digital divide hampers access to telehealth, remote education, and economic opportunities.

The ASCE report emphasizes the need for dedicated and sustainable funding, long-term planning for resilience, and strategic investment to address aging infrastructure and improve service delivery across both urban and rural areas. Recent federal investments, including funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law²³, aim to address some of these challenges by supporting water, broadband, and transportation projects across the state.

Respondent Infrastructure Data

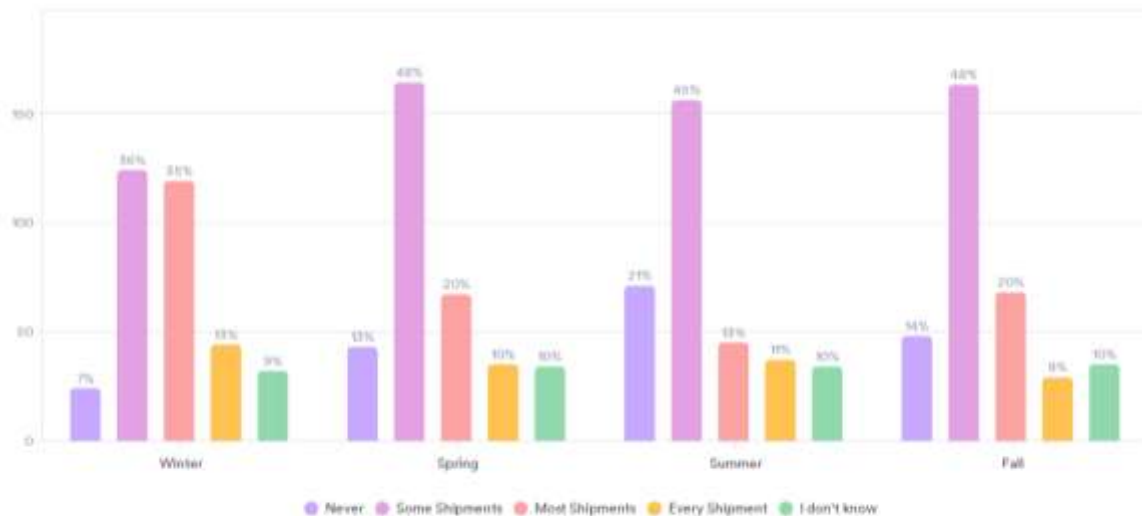
Community Needs Survey respondents provided varied feedback on several key areas. The survey revealed seasonal variations regarding the frequency of shipping delays. In winter, 7% of respondents reported never experiencing delays, 36% experienced delays with some shipments, 35% with most shipments, 13% with every shipment, and 9% were unsure. In spring, 13% never experienced delays, 48% experienced delays with some shipments, 20% with most shipments, 10% with every shipment, and 10% were unsure. Summer saw 21% of respondents never experiencing delays, 45% experiencing delays with some shipments, 13% with most shipments, 11% with every shipment, and 10% unsure. In fall, 14% never experienced delays, 48% experienced delays with some shipments, 20% with most shipments, 8% with every shipment, and 10% were unsure. See Figure 13 on the following page.

²² American Society of Civil Engineers, [ASCE's 2025 Infrastructure Report Card](#), 2025.

²³ While the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) has provided important funding to Alaska, future disbursements may face delays or termination due to changing priorities at the federal level.



FIGURE 13. FREQUENCY OF SHIPPING DELAYS CHART



Overall satisfaction with the delivery speed of goods was rated at 3.23 out of 5; 1 being not satisfied at all and 5 being very satisfied. Respondents' comfort level with drone delivery of goods to communities was rated at 2.87 out of 5; 1 being not comfortable at all and 5 being very comfortable. This comparison highlights a potential barrier to adopting drone-based delivery systems, suggesting that while current delivery methods are meeting expectations moderately well, emerging technologies like drone delivery may require further community engagement, education, or demonstration to build trust and acceptance.

When it comes to the quality of roads, 43% of respondents rated them as poor, 45% as fine, 10% as excellent, and 2% were unsure or found the question not applicable. Boardwalks received mixed reviews, with 22% rating them poor, 29% fine, 11% excellent, and 38% unsure or not applicable. The airstrip runway was rated poor by 10% of respondents, fine by 44%, excellent by 25%, and 22% were unsure or found it not applicable. Aviation weather services were considered poor by 12%, fine by 40%, excellent by 21%, and 27% were unsure or found it not applicable. The ability to fly-in was rated poor by 20%, fine by 45%, excellent by 20%, and 15% were unsure or found it not applicable. Boat launches were rated poor by 22%, fine by 42%, excellent by 13%, and 22% were unsure or found it not applicable.

Roads and boardwalks show significant dissatisfaction, indicating areas for potential improvement. The ability to fly-in and boat launches also show mixed reviews, suggesting room for enhancements. Overall, while the delivery speed and aviation infrastructure received moderate to positive ratings, significant dissatisfaction with roads and boardwalks highlights critical areas for investment.

In summary, the infrastructure data highlights both strengths and areas for improvement across surveyed communities. While delivery services and aviation infrastructure received moderate satisfaction, persistent issues with roads, boardwalks, and seasonal shipping delays point to critical infrastructure gaps. Addressing these concerns will be essential to improving transportation reliability and overall quality of life.



Healthcare Data

Brief Alaska Healthcare Profile

The Commonwealth Fund's 2023 Scorecard on State Health System Performance²⁴ ranked Alaska's health system as 39th out of 50 states, reflecting ongoing challenges across the sector. Key metrics highlighted in contributing to this ranking include "bottom performing state" classifications in uninsured adults (14%), potentially avoidable deaths (327 per 100,000), and potentially avoidable emergency visits for those ages 65 and over (156 per 1,000 Medicare beneficiaries). Other areas where Alaska's health care issues outpaced national averages include the percentage of youth with depression not receiving mental health services (67%).

The state's provider landscape is assorted and uniquely adapted. Physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, behavioral health specialists, and community health aides all play vital roles. Community Health Aide/Practitioners (CHA/Ps), in particular, are a cornerstone of rural healthcare, often serving as the first and only point of contact for medical services in rural areas.

Despite this adaptability, rural communities continue to face significant shortages of primary care providers. Many specialized services, such as dental care, mental health counseling, and pediatric or geriatric care, are only available on an itinerant basis, with providers flying in periodically. This model, while necessary, creates substantial access challenges, including long wait times, inconsistent follow-up, and limited continuity of care.

In recent years, the State of Alaska has made targeted investments in behavioral health, including funding for suicide prevention, substance use treatment, and crisis response infrastructure through grants, Medicaid, and provider agreements²⁵. Though met with access barriers to broadband, including the federal termination of multiple capacity building grant programs²⁶, telehealth has efforted to expand significantly, supported by legislative updates and regulatory flexibility that allow a wide range of licensed providers to deliver care remotely without requiring an initial in-person exam²⁷.

Respondent Healthcare Data

Healthcare access appears to be a significant concern for Alaskans. Nearly half of the respondents to the Community Needs Survey travel outside of their community for healthcare services between one to four times a year. For some, these trips are even more frequent, with 20% making five to eight trips and another 20% making nine or more trips annually. Only a small fraction, 12%, manage to access healthcare locally. See Figure 14 on the following page.

²⁴ Commonwealth Fund, Scorecard on State Health System Performance [Alaska.pdf](#), 2023.

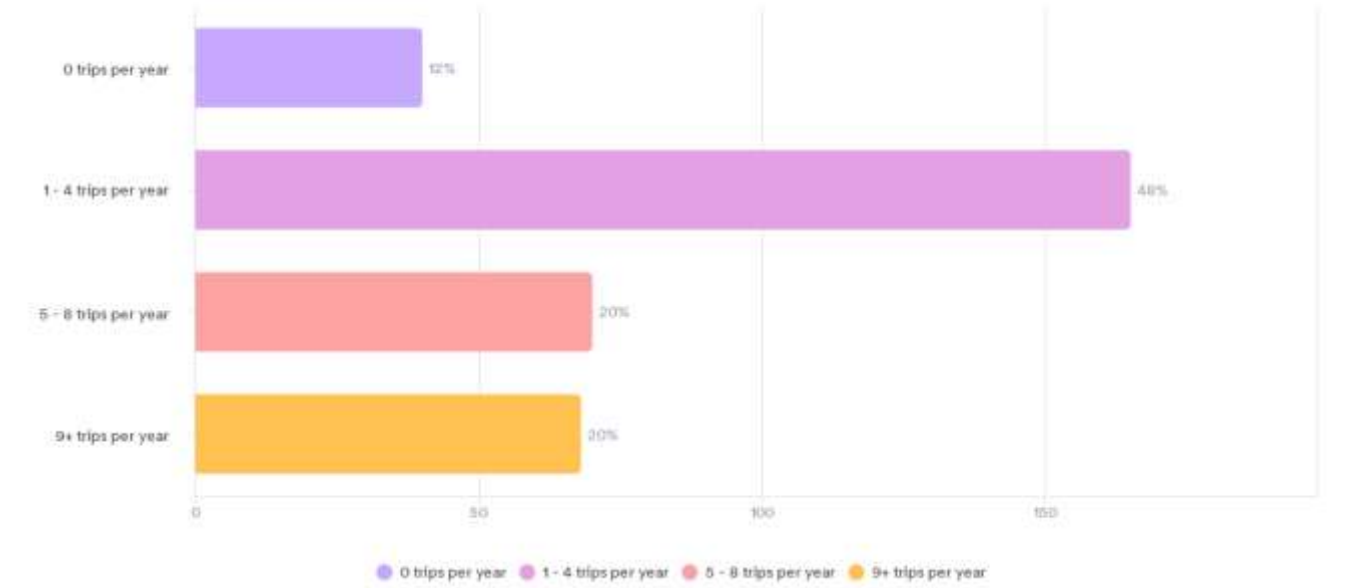
²⁵ State of Alaska, Department of Health, [Division of Behavioral Health](#), 2025.

²⁶ National Association of Counties, [NTIA terminates Digital Equity Act grants](#), June 2025.

²⁷ State of Alaska, Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development, [Telehealth Information, Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing](#), 2025.

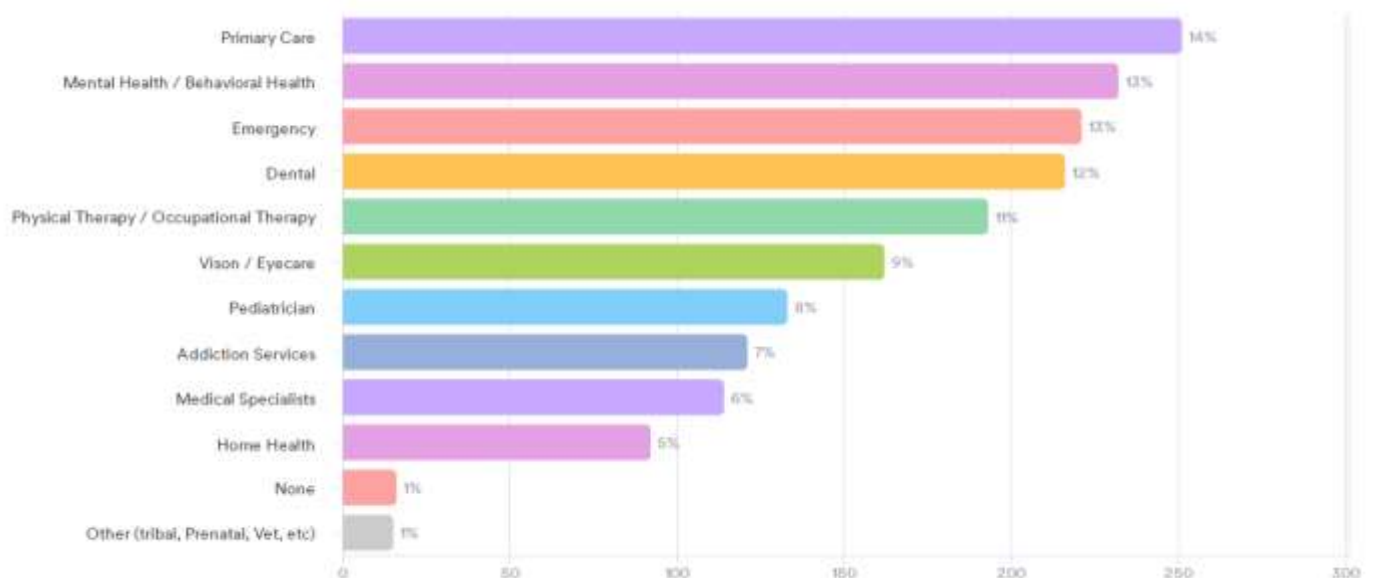


FIGURE 14. TRIPS OUTSIDE COMMUNITY FOR HEALTHCARE PER YEAR CHART



Within communities, primary care, mental health, and emergency services were reported as the most commonly available healthcare offerings respondents were aware of locally. See Figure 15 below.

FIGURE 15. RESPONDENT AWARENESS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN COMMUNITIES CHART





However, even these essential services are widely viewed as needing significant improvement in both quality and reliability. Dental care, physical therapy and occupational therapy, and vision/eyecare are present but reported as in need of improvements, while pediatric care, addiction services, medical specialists, and home health services are notably needed in general. These gaps highlight disparities in access to comprehensive care, particularly in rural or underserved areas. See Figure 16 below.

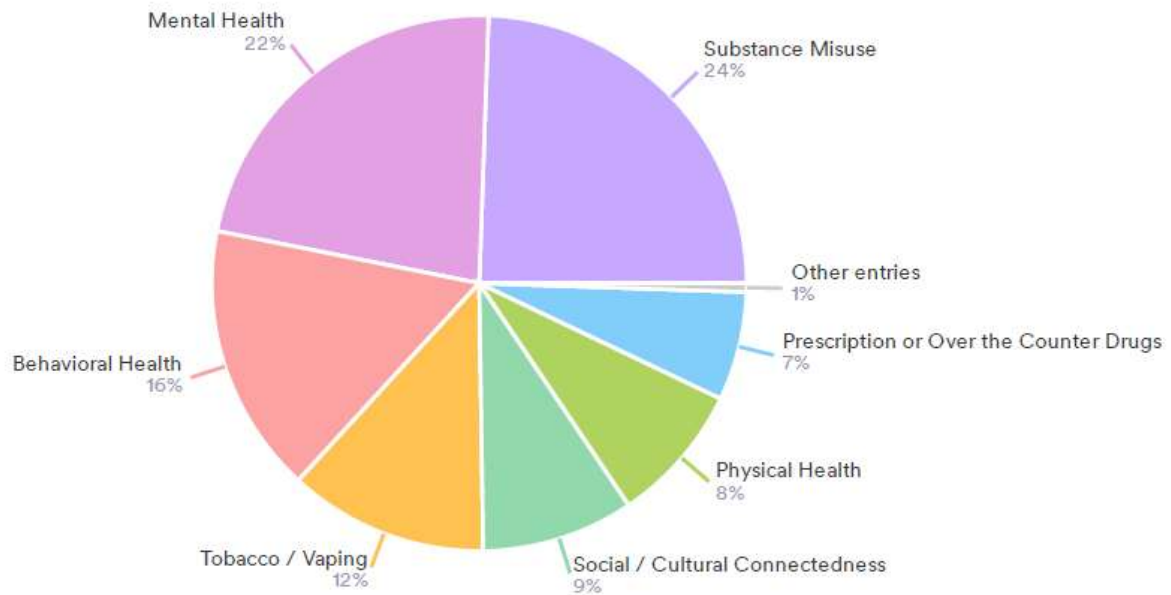
FIGURE 16. HEALTHCARE SERVICE CONDITION / MAKE AVAILABLE

Service Type	Improve This	Make Available
Primary Care	69%	31%
Pediatrician	44%	56%
Emergency	57%	43%
Mental Health / Behavioral Health	64%	36%
Physical Therapy / Occupational Therapy	54%	46%
Vision / Eyecare	45%	55%
Dental	59%	41%
Home Health	40%	60%
Medical Specialists	41%	59%
Addiction Services	47%	53%

Respondents reported that Alaska faces three major health-related challenges: substance misuse (24%), mental health issues (22%), and behavioral health concerns (16%). These challenges highlight the need for targeted interventions and comprehensive support systems to address the underlying issues and provide effective care. See Figure 17 on the following page.



FIGURE 17. TOP HEALTH-RELATED CHALLENGES CHART



The healthcare data reveals significant gaps in access and quality. Frequent travel for basic and specialized care, along with limited availability of essential services, underscores the need for expanded local healthcare infrastructure. Addressing challenges such as substance misuse, mental health, and behavioral health will require coordinated, community-based solutions and sustained investment in comprehensive care systems.



Workforce Data

Brief Alaska Workforce Profile

Alaska's labor market is highly seasonal due to the state's cultural and social history as well as geography and climate. According to the State of Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development's 2025 Alaska Monthly Employment Statistics, Alaska's economy is heavily reliant on natural resource extraction, tourism, and government employment. Though, health care is Alaska's largest employment sector, accounting for 13% of all workforce earnings and employing nearly 43,000 people as of 2022²⁸. Traditional employment typically peaks in summer months due to construction, fishing, and tourism, and dips in the winter months. This cyclical pattern affects unemployment rates and job availability, particularly in rural areas. Further, the majority of these sectors are highly sensitive to external factors such as commodity price fluctuations and federal policy changes.

It is important to note that the state's workforce is currently undergoing a nuanced transformation shaped by demographic shifts, economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, and evolving industry demands. According to the Alaska Department of Labor's 10-year occupational projections, the majority of job openings through 2032 will not stem from new job creation, but from workforce turnover, people retiring, changing careers, or exiting the labor force. These separations are expected to generate approximately 37,000 job openings annually, compared to just 2,210 new jobs created each year²⁹. Sectors with the strongest growth in 2025 are anticipated to be construction; health care; transportation and warehousing; professional and business services; and oil and gas³⁰.

To address workforce needs, the Alaska Safety Alliance, Alaska Workforce Alliance, and the State of Alaska (SOA) developed a Workforce 2030 Plan³¹ containing four overarching objectives:

- Develop a workforce compatible with the needs of Alaska's employers and the workers.
- Build talent pipelines that recruit, educate and train Alaskans for occupations in high demand.
- Reduce the outmigration of Alaska talent.
- Strengthen economic development through workforce development in every region.

The state's Workforce 2030 Plan aims to build a skilled, locally rooted labor force to meet future demands and strengthen regional economies.

Respondent Workforce Data

Education emerged as both the most needed job sector and the top career interest, underscoring its perceived importance in community stability and growth. Construction, social services, healthcare, and agriculture followed closely as high-demand sectors. These fields

²⁸ State of Alaska (SOA), Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development, [Alaska Health Care Workforce Development 2023](#), 2023.

²⁹ SOA Department of Labor and Workforce Development, [October 2024 Alaska Economic Trends](#), 2024.

³⁰ SOA Department of Labor and Workforce Development, [January 2025 Alaska Economic Trends](#), 2025.

³¹ Alaska Safety Alliance and Alaska Workforce Alliance, [Workforce - Alaska Safety Alliance](#), 2025.



reflect essential infrastructure, health, and support service needs that are foundational to community well-being. Career interests largely mirrored these needs, with education and social services again ranking highly. Construction and agriculture also appeared in both categories, indicating a practical orientation among respondents. Notably, arts and culture were identified as top areas of interest despite not being listed among the most needed jobs.

Respondents were asked both which fields were most needed in their community and those in which they were most interested in pursuing. Figures 18 and 19 below reflect the top five career fields mentioned for community need and respondents' own interest respectively.

**FIGURE 18. MOST
NEEDED
FIELDS**

- 1. Education**
- 2. Construction**
- 3. Social Services**
- 4. Healthcare**
- 5. Agriculture**

**FIGURE 19. MOST
INTERESTED
FIELDS**

- 1. Education**
- 2. Social Services**
- 3. Construction**
- 4. Agriculture**
- 5. Arts & Culture**

The data reveals a notable convergence between the types of jobs most needed in the community and the career paths that residents are most interested in pursuing. This alignment suggests a high level of community awareness regarding local economic demands and a willingness to engage in sectors that support regional development.

In addition to identifying workforce priorities, the survey highlighted three primary obstacles to employment. The most frequently cited challenge was the lack of accessible child and family care, which limits workforce participation, particularly among caregivers. Respondents also reported limited availability of job opportunities, especially in rural or economically constrained areas. Finally, inadequate compensation and benefits were noted as significant deterrents to job retention and satisfaction. Respondents highlighted three major challenges they face when seeking employment. See Figure 20 on the following page.



**FIGURE 20. TOP THREE
CHALLENGES WHEN
SEEKING EMPLOYMENT**

- 1.** Lack of child/family care
- 2.** Limited job opportunities
- 3.** Not enough pay or benefits



Participants at the 2024 AFN Conference in Anchorage

The workforce data reveals a strong alignment between community-identified job sector needs and individual career interests. Education emerged as the most frequently cited sector in terms of both workforce need and individual career interest. This dual emphasis highlights the central role education plays in supporting community resilience and long-term development.



Education Programs and Services Data

Brief Alaska Education Programs and Services Profile

Education and care for children in Alaska remains a critical issue across the state. Many systems intertwine to create the landscape of education and care services including school districts, afterschool programs, private childcare centers, Head Start programs, early intervention and special education services and programs, home visiting programs, language immersion programs, parent education and support services and more. In Alaska there are 17 Head Start providers, 54 school districts, 17 Infant Learning providers, approximately 500 licensed childcare centers and family childcare homes, and 17 home visiting program providers. All areas of the state experience significant challenges to access and quality of these services, but this is especially notable in rural areas.

According to thread Alaska's Early Childhood Education Data Dashboard³², there are approximately 55,854 children under the age of six in the state. However, in 2025, 61% of Alaskans reported having limited or no access to licensed childcare including afterschool care³³. The Data Dashboard also reports that more than 22,000 children statewide have a need for care but are not in care due to lack of capacity or availability of programs. This has great economic impacts, impeding parents' ability to participate fully in the workforce and leaving communities with under or unfilled jobs and canceled or delayed services. In 2021 it was estimated that \$165 million is lost from the state economy annually due to childcare breakdowns³⁴.

The childcare sector is of particular attention both statewide and nationally, even being deemed a crisis by Congress. Challenges like workforce recruitment, retention and training, affordability of care, availability of programs, supports for children with special needs or high behavioral needs, and cost burden of quality of programming combine to create hard to address systemic issues. Several regional and local entities have attempted to mitigate the childcare crisis by subsidizing childcare. Both Juneau and Anchorage Municipalities have chosen to direct specific tax funds to licensed childcare providers to supplement their operating budgets. In the Northern Region of the state, the Tribal Nonprofit Kawerak offers a similar subsidy to childcare providers utilizing Tribal funds. There has also been collective action from several organizations, universities, Tribal entities, schools and nonprofits to implement Teacher Apprenticeship programs to help address the workforce and training needs in both early childhood and K-12 education fields.

Alongside the childcare sector challenges, communities face challenges to schools and other educational programs (e.g. Head Start, Infant Learning Program, Home Visiting programs, PreK-12 Schools). These include workforce retention and training issues, declining student populations, and flat or decreased funding. Lack of access to early care and education settings also impact children's development including social and emotional skills, school readiness, and later academics. Only 33% of incoming kindergarteners meet 11 of 13 goals for school readiness as defined by the AK Development Profile tool and only 28% of 4th graders were rated

³² thread Alaska, [Alaska Early Care and Learning Dashboard](#), 2023.

³³ The Daily Yonder, [In Rural Alaska, A Powerful Documentary Flips the Script for Child Care Funding](#), 2024.

³⁴ U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation, [EarlyEd ALASKA 2021 DIGITAL.pdf](#), 2021.



as proficient on the English Language Arts assessment in recent years. In the 2025 Kids Count Data Book, Alaska ranked 49th of 52 (50 states, Washington DC and Puerto Rico) in education.

In rural areas, schools are often the sole provider of education and serve as vital community centers for events, recreation, and cultural activities. Maintaining and operating these schools is costly due to geographic and infrastructure challenges, but they are essential to community health. Many early childhood and mental health providers depend on school facilities to deliver services. When schools struggle, access to education, healthcare, and social support is disrupted, making school investment a public health priority.

Respondent Education Programs and Services Data

In response to questions about what education programs are most needed in communities, Cultural (16%) and Early Childhood Education (16%) emerged as top priorities, underscoring the importance of foundational cognitive and socio-emotional development, reflecting a systemic need for culturally responsive pedagogy.

Vocational Education (16%) also ranked highly, indicating a strong community interest in career and technical education pathways. This aligns with statewide workforce development strategies aimed at addressing labor shortages in sectors such as healthcare, construction, and renewable energy. The data suggests a need for expanded access to credentialing programs, apprenticeships, and dual-credit opportunities, particularly in rural and underserved regions.

After School Programs (15%) and Adult Education (14%) round out the primary categories, highlighting the demand for extended learning opportunities across the lifespan. After school programming supports youth development and family stability, while adult education addresses gaps in literacy, digital skills, and workforce readiness—especially critical in communities undergoing economic transition.

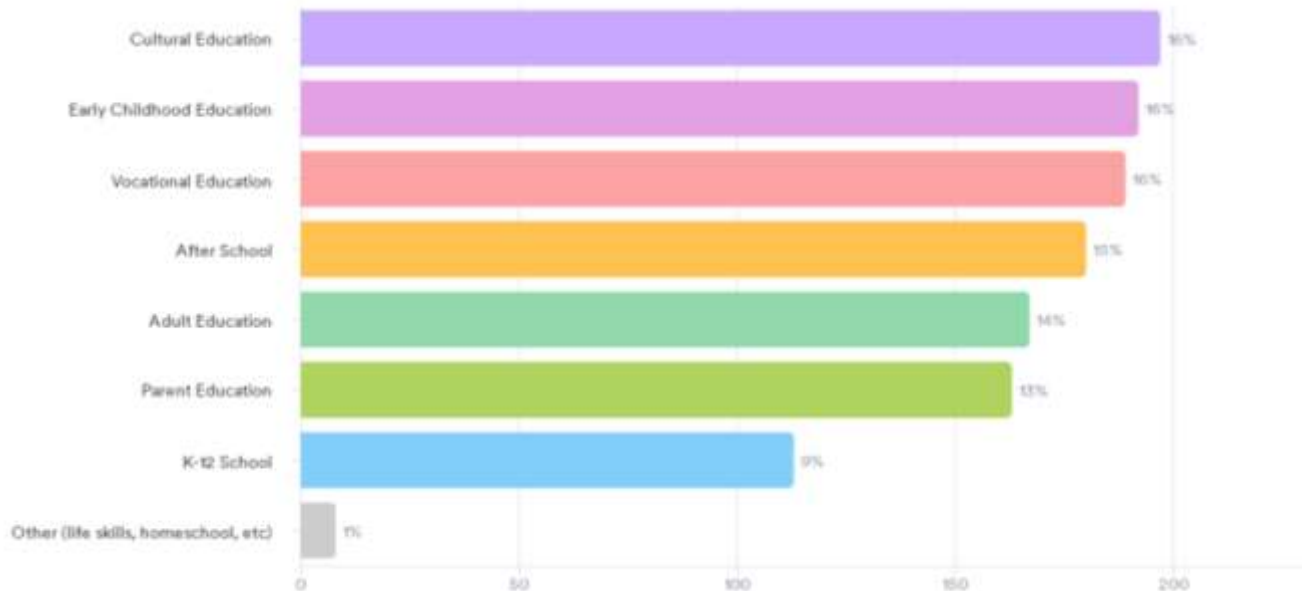
These findings suggest that while traditional educational categories remain relevant, there is a growing demand for flexible, community-driven, and culturally grounded educational frameworks that reflect the lived realities of Alaskan residents. See Figure 21 on the following page.



Parent and children in RurAL CAP's Parents As Teachers program read a book during a home visit



FIGURE 21. NEEDED EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS



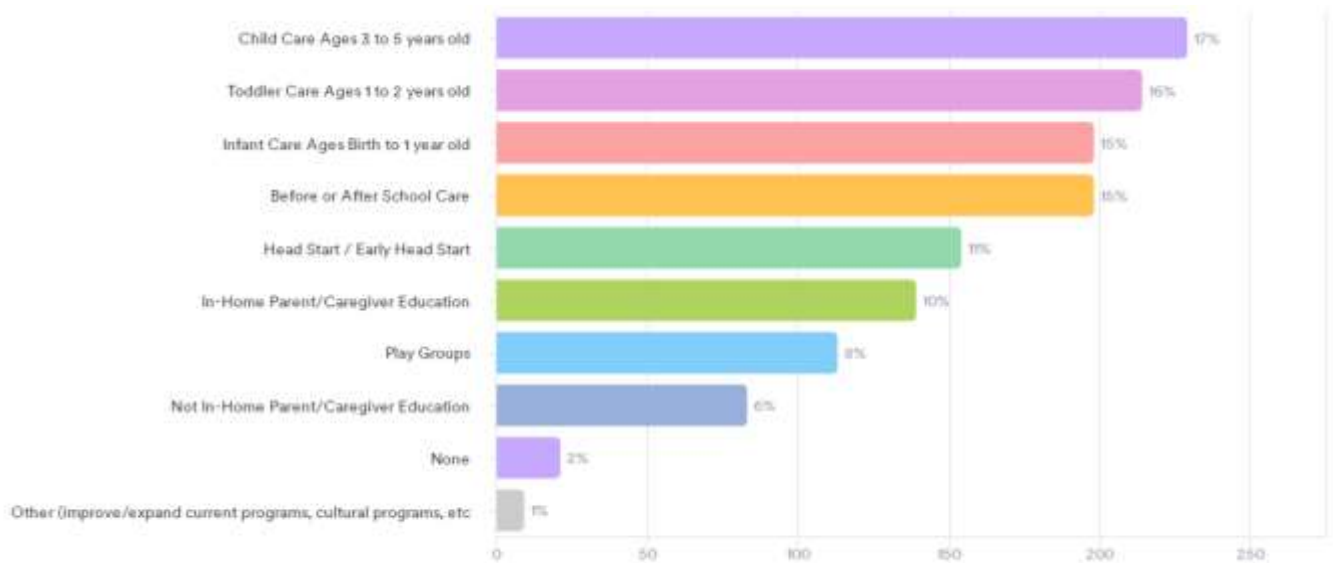
When asked about the most helpful childcare-specific services, childcare for children aged 3 to 5 years was the most frequently requested, representing 17% of the total. This was closely followed by toddler care for ages 1 to 2 years at 16%, and infant care for children from birth to 1 year old, which accounted for 15%.

Additionally, before or after school care was identified as a need by 15% of respondents, highlighting the demand for flexible childcare options that accommodate working parents' schedules. Head Start and Early Head Start programs were also noted, comprising 11% of the responses, reflecting interest in early childhood education and development support services.

These findings underscore the importance of offering a broad spectrum of childcare services to meet the varied needs of families in the community. See Figure 22 on the following page.



FIGURE 22. NEEDED CHILDCARE SERVICES OR EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS



Together, these insights point to a community vision for education that is inclusive, adaptable, and deeply rooted in cultural and developmental relevance. The data calls for a holistic approach to educational planning, one that spans early childhood through adulthood and integrates both academic and practical skill-building within a culturally grounded framework.



Teacher and child at the RurAL CAP Child Development Center put on shoes to go outside



Aging and Senior Care Data

Brief Alaska Aging and Senior Care Profile

Alaska is undergoing one of the most significant demographic shifts in the nation, with aging emerging as a critical issue for the state's future. According to the Alaska Commission on Aging's 2024 Senior Snapshot³⁵, the population aged 60 and older has increased by 77% since 2010 and now represents 22% of the total population, among the highest proportions nationally. This trend is expected to continue, driving increased demand for healthcare, housing, transportation, and long-term support services. A particularly urgent concern is the projected 270% increase in Alaskans aged 85 and older living with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias. This growth will place substantial pressure on healthcare systems and caregivers, especially in rural and remote communities where access to specialized services is already limited.

This demographic shift presents both a challenge and an opportunity: to build a more age-friendly Alaska that honors the contributions of older adults and ensures they can age with dignity, independence, and connection.

Central to addressing these challenges is the concept of aging in place, enabling older adults to remain in their homes and communities safely, independently, and comfortably for as long as possible. Aging in place is not only cost-effective compared to institutional care, but also supports emotional well-being, cultural continuity, and community connection, values that are especially important across Alaska's vibrant communities and cultures.

The Alaska Commission on Aging³⁶ emphasizes the need for expanded investment in memory care, caregiver support, home-based services, and accessible housing. Without proactive planning and sustained funding, the state risks being unprepared to meet the complex and growing needs of its older population.

Respondent Aging and Senior Care Data

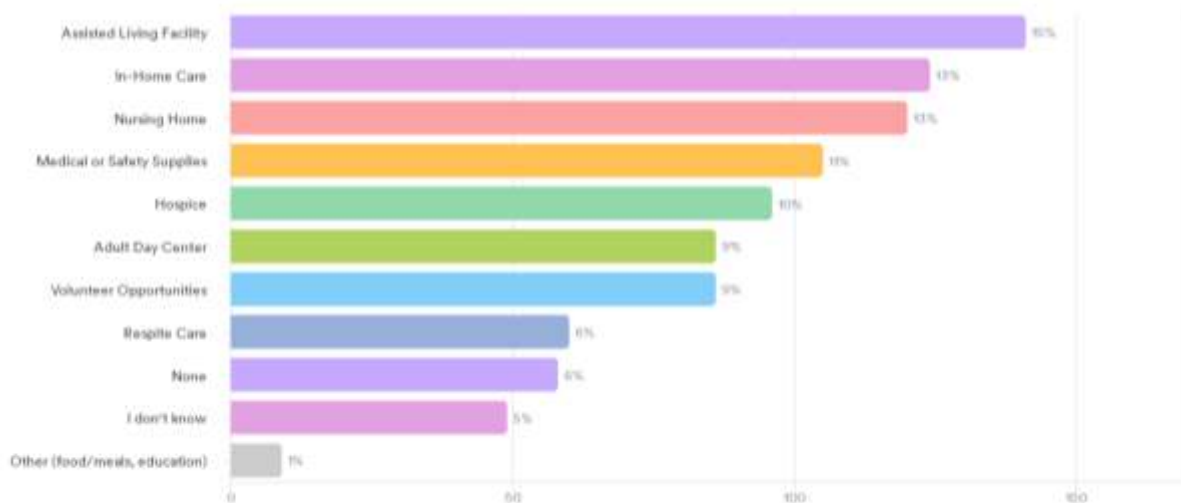
Respondents highlighted a variety of services and support systems that are currently accessible for seniors in their communities. See Figure 23 on the following page.

³⁵ State of Alaska, Department of Health, Alaska Commission on Aging, [Senior Snapshot](#), 2024.

³⁶ State of Alaska, Department of Health, [Alaska Commission on Aging](#), 2025.



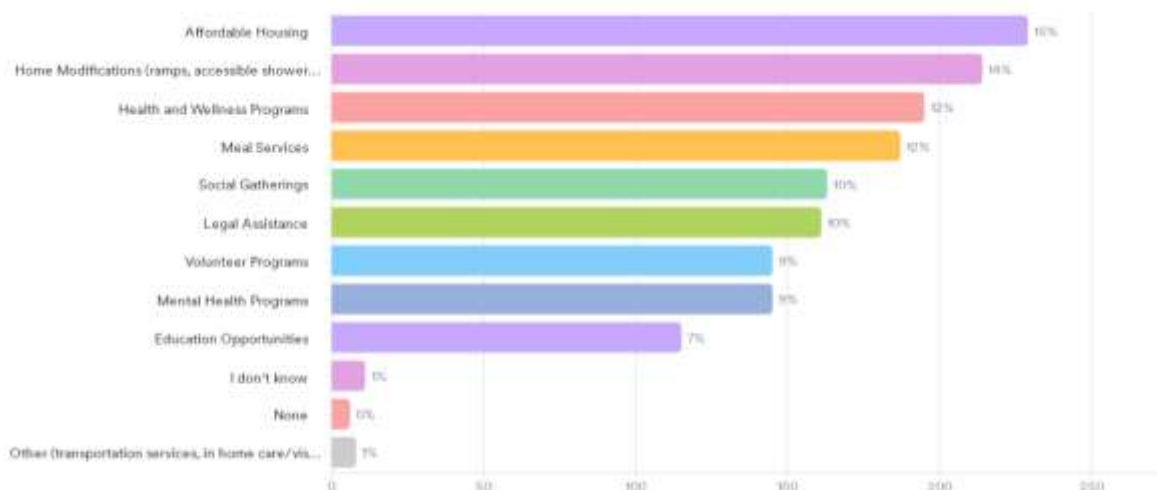
FIGURE 23. AVAILABLE RESOURCES FOR SENIORS CHART



The top five most available resources for seniors that respondents were aware of in their communities are: assisted living facilities (15%), in-home care (13%), nursing homes (13%), access to medical or safety supplies (11%), and hospice care (10%).

When asked about additional resources they wished to see in their communities for seniors, the responses were equally diverse. See Figure 24 below.

FIGURE 24. ADDITIONAL RESOURCES WANTED IN COMMUNITIES CHART





The top six most desired resources for seniors in communities across the state are: affordable housing (15%); home modification programs (14%); health and wellness programs (12%); meal services (12%); social gatherings (10%); and legal assistance (10%). These insights underscore the varied needs and preferences of the senior community, highlighting areas where additional in-home and age-in-place support and resources could significantly enhance their quality of life.

The data highlights both the existing support systems for seniors and the growing demand for additional resources that promote aging in place and overall well-being. While services like assisted living and in-home care are present in many communities, there is a clear call for more affordable housing, wellness programs, and social support. These findings emphasize the importance of expanding and diversifying senior care options to better meet the evolving needs of Alaska's aging population.



Elders enjoying activities at the 2024 Elders and Youth Conference in Anchorage



Law Enforcement Data

Brief Alaska Law Enforcement Profile

Alaska faces unique and persistent challenges in law enforcement, particularly in rural and tribal communities. Approximately 30% of the state lacks any local law enforcement presence, and many villages are accessible only by air or water. This geographic positioning contributes to delayed response times and limited investigative capacity³⁷. Communities that do have law enforcement presence are served by a combination of State Troopers, city Police Officers, and Village Public Safety Officers (VPSO).

Beyond these primary entities, additional layers of public safety support do exist. Tribal police officers, employed by Alaska Native tribes, operate in certain communities, although their jurisdiction is often limited by federal and state regulations. Tribal courts also play a vital role, particularly in civil matters and community-based justice, offering culturally relevant alternatives to the state system. In some villages, Community Safety Officers (CSOs) provide basic public safety services, such as patrolling and emergency assistance, though they typically lack arrest powers and formal law enforcement authority. Alaska Wildlife Troopers, while primarily tasked with enforcing fish and game laws, often serve as the only law enforcement presence in rural areas and may respond to general emergencies³⁸. Additionally, nonprofit tribal consortiums, such as the Association of Village Council Presidents (AVCP), support public safety efforts by coordinating training and resources for VPSOs and other personnel.

This fragmented and often inconsistent system underscores the persistent challenges faced by rural communities. The lack of a stable, full-time law enforcement presence contributes to vulnerabilities, particularly in addressing serious issues such as the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons (MMIP) crisis³⁹, which disproportionately affects Alaska Native populations.

The MMIP crisis is especially acute in Alaska compared to the rest of the nation. Although Alaska Native people make up less than 20% of the state's population, Alaska Native women account for 47% of all reported rape victims in the state and experience domestic violence at rates 250% higher than their proportion in the general population⁴⁰. The state ranks fourth nationally for MMIP cases, with Anchorage among the top three cities for reported incidents in the nation. As of April, Alaska had 229 reported cases of MMIP cases statewide⁴¹.

Respondents Law Enforcement Data

Community Needs Survey responses reflect a moderate level of effectiveness in law enforcement, with an average effectiveness rating of 2.98 out of 5 stars, with 1 being little to no law enforcement and 5 being very effective law enforcement. This score suggests that while some residents feel adequately served, there is a clear opportunity for improvement in public safety services and community engagement.

When asked what services are most needed to improve safety, respondents highlighted a range of social and preventative programs. See Figure 25 on the following page.

³⁷ Anchorage Daily News, [How we tallied Alaska communities without local law enforcement](#), 2019.

³⁸ State of Alaska, [Alaska Department of Public Safety](#), 2025.

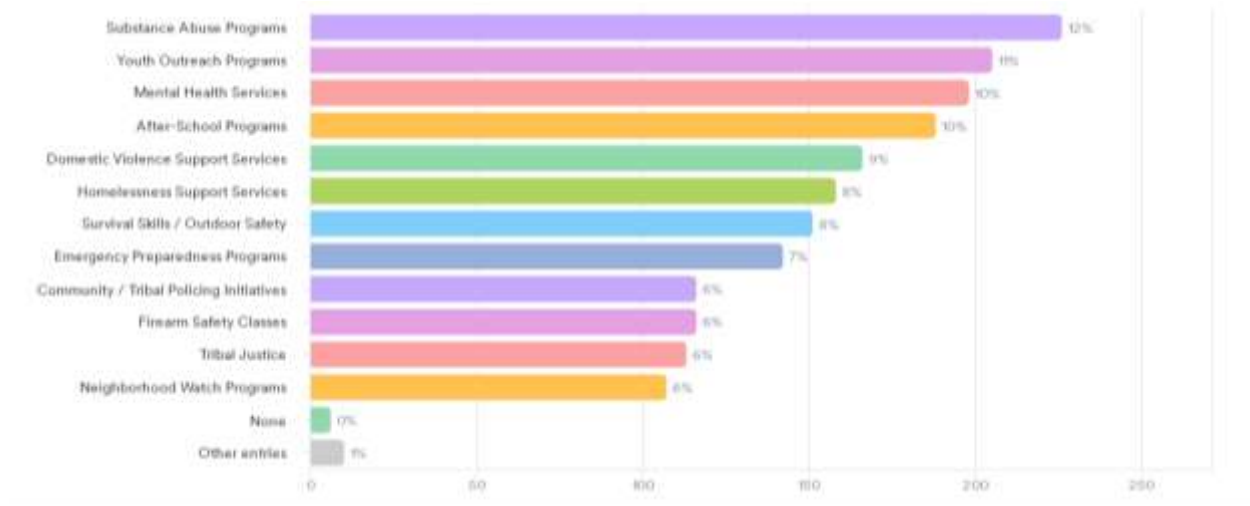
³⁹ For a current list of reported individuals that need to be found, see the [Alaska Public Safety Missing Persons Clearinghouse website](#), 2025.

⁴⁰ Office of Governor Mike Dunleavy, [Missing and Murdered Indigenous People Awareness Day](#), May 5, 2025.

⁴¹ MMIWG2S Alaska Working Group, [MMIWG Presentation - House Tribal Affairs](#), April 8, 2025.



FIGURE 25. NEEDED SERVICES TO IMPROVE SAFETY



The top priorities include: Substance Abuse Programs (12%); Youth Outreach Programs (11%); Mental Health Services (10%); After-School Programs (10%); Domestic Violence Support Services (9%); Homeless Support Services (8%); and Survival Skills and Outdoor Safety Education (8%). These responses indicate a strong community interest in addressing the root causes of crime and instability, particularly through youth engagement, mental health support, and substance abuse treatment.

Additional responses emphasized the need for emergency preparedness, community and tribal policing, and firearm safety education, tribal justice systems, and neighborhood watch programs each receiving 6–7% of responses.

Though less frequently mentioned, several highly specific suggestions were recorded as Other entries, including:

- Retention and recruitment of police officers
- Dedicated patrol routes
- Crime prevention for at-risk youth
- Reopening of rural trooper posts
- Reentry programs for formerly incarcerated individuals
- Partnerships between law enforcement and communities

These entries, while individually small in percentage, reflect localized concerns and a desire for tailored, community-informed safety strategies.

The data suggests that while law enforcement services are viewed as moderately effective, there is a strong community preference for preventative and supportive approaches to public safety. Respondents emphasized the need for mental health care, youth programs, and substance abuse treatment, indicating a desire to address the root causes of crime. Additionally, calls for localized strategies, such as tribal policing and reentry programs, reflect a push for more community-informed and culturally relevant solutions.



Environment and Climate Data

Brief Alaska Environment and Climate Profile

Alaska is on the front lines of climate change in the United States, and the effects are immediate, visible, and deeply personal for many communities. According to the Alaska Division of Community and Regional Affairs' Climate Change in Alaska online portfolio of comprehensive resources⁴², climate change is reshaping nearly every aspect of daily life across the state. From how people travel and store food to the safety of homes, schools, and public facilities, the impacts are widespread and growing.

Nowhere are these changes more pronounced than in rural and Alaska Native communities, where traditional ways of life are closely tied to the land, water, and seasonal rhythms. As Alaska warms faster than any other state, permafrost, once a stable foundation for homes and infrastructure, is thawing. This thaw leads to ground instability, which damages roads, buildings, and airports, and drives up the cost of maintenance and repair. In some areas, entire communities are facing the possibility of relocation due to erosion, flooding, and the loss of protective sea ice. These environmental shifts are not just physical, they are cultural and economic. Subsistence hunting, fishing, and gathering are being disrupted by changes in wildlife migration, fish populations, and plant growth cycles. This threatens food security and erodes cultural practices that have sustained Alaska Native people for generations. In addition, thawing permafrost and extreme weather are damaging water and sanitation systems, increasing health risks and reducing access to clean, safe drinking water.

In one response to these challenges, the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC), in partnership with National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), is leading a \$2.7 million initiative to expand tribal-led climate adaptation capacity⁴³. It supports all 229 Alaska Native tribes and focuses on erosion, flooding, and permafrost-related infrastructure threats⁴⁴.

Respondent Environment and Climate Data

Survey respondents were asked to respond to the open-ended question *"How have changes in the environment impacted your daily life and community?"* Similar to reports by Alaska Division of Community and Regional Affairs, responses overwhelmingly focused on impacts to local food, including to hunting, fishing, other subsistence activities, and agriculture/gardening. References to food impacts were often directly linked to statements about unusual weather patterns and the increased occurrence of extreme weather events. Mentions of extreme weather events were also frequently connected to impacts to transportation, namely due to impacts to roads and air travel. Other frequent responses included erosion, permafrost thaw, wildfires, lessened air and water quality, and general statements affirming that environmental changes had daily impacts.

⁴² State of Alaska Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development, [Climate Change in Alaska](#), 2023.

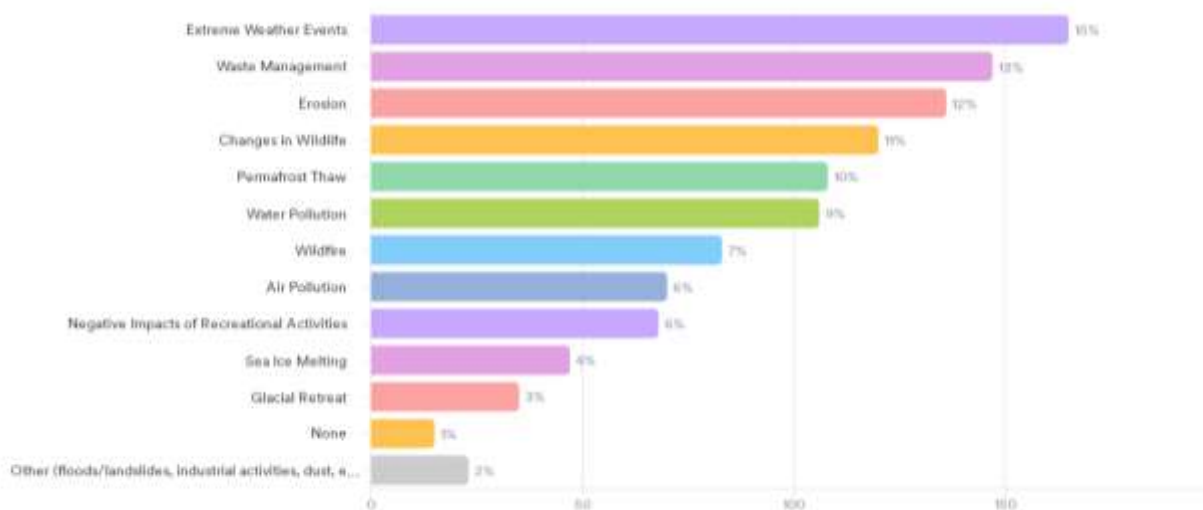
⁴³ This information is based on a news article published in December 2024. It is important to note that, since that time, the current federal administration has both frozen and rescinded a significant portion of Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) funding at the national level. The authors of this report cannot confirm whether or to what extent this specific award was affected.

⁴⁴ National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Sea Grant, [Expanding and Connecting Tribal-Led Climate Change Capacity To Serve Indigenous Community Needs In Alaska](#), December 19, 2024.



When respondents were asked about their biggest concerns surrounding the environment and climate, responses were varied, though the top five were: extreme weather events (15%); waste management (13%); erosion (12%); changes in wildlife (11%); and permafrost thaw (10%). See Figure 26 below.

FIGURE 26. BIGGEST ENVIRONMENTAL/CLIMATE CONCERNS



The data reveals that environmental changes are having a direct and growing impact on daily life, particularly through disruptions to subsistence activities like hunting, fishing, and gardening. These impacts are closely tied to extreme weather, which also affects transportation and infrastructure. Respondents' top concerns, ranging from erosion and permafrost thaw to waste management, reflect a deep awareness of both immediate and long-term environmental risks. The findings point to an urgent need for adaptive strategies that support food security, infrastructure resilience, and climate preparedness.



Homes in Utqiagvik AK with sandbags on the beach to slow coastal erosion.



Culture and Social Data

Brief Alaska Culture and Social Profile

Alaska's cultural and social landscape is defined by its diversity, resilience, and deep connection to place. Alaska Native cultures remain foundational to the state's identity, with 229 federally recognized tribes and approximately 20 distinct Alaska Native languages spoken across the state. These languages and traditions reflect millennia of deep-rooted knowledge, stewardship, and community life. However, this cultural continuity exists alongside a legacy of colonization, which disrupted traditional practices and imposed external systems that continue to shape community infrastructure and social dynamics today.

Beyond its cultural heritage, Alaska is also home to a growing multicultural population. In the Anchorage School District, Alaska's largest school district, students speak more than 112 different languages⁴⁵, illustrating the state's increasing linguistic and cultural diversity driven by global migration and resettlement patterns.

In over 200 rural communities, traditional practices such as subsistence hunting, fishing, and gathering remain central, not only for food security but also for cultural continuity and community cohesion. These practices are often interwoven with seasonal cycles, spiritual beliefs, and intergenerational knowledge-sharing.

Despite the strength of these traditions, rural communities face significant infrastructure challenges. Public gathering spaces are limited due to decades of underinvestment and constrained funding. Many communities lack dedicated facilities such as community centers, multipurpose halls, or adequately sized school gyms. In some cases, the only available gathering space may be a small tribal office or classroom, spaces that are often overutilized and not designed for broader community use.

This lack of infrastructure restricts opportunities for cultural expression, civic engagement, and coordinated service delivery. It also impedes public health outreach, educational programming, and emergency preparedness. High construction costs, logistical barriers, and limited local tax bases further complicate efforts to develop new facilities without substantial external investment.

Respondent Culture and Social Data

When asked what languages respondents wanted to have taught in school, English was the most frequently reported language, with 103 total responses. However, because English is the primary language of instruction and a core component of the statewide curriculum in Alaska, and because the survey did not distinguish between English as a first language, English as a Second Language (ESL), or other instructional contexts, it has been excluded from the language breakdown presented in Figure 27 on the following page.

⁴⁵ Anchorage Daily News, [Spanish, Yup'ik, Lao and more: Anchorage School District students speak a combined 112 languages](#), 2024.



Figure 27. Desired Languages to See Taught in Schools

- | | | | |
|-----------|----------------|------------|---|
| 1. | Yup'ik | 6. | Alaska Native Languages (in general) |
| 2. | Spanish | 7. | "All" or "As Many as Possible" |
| 3. | Inupiaq | 8. | Tagalog |
| 4. | Ahtna | 9. | Alutiiq |
| 5. | Tlingit | 10. | American Sign Language (ASL) |

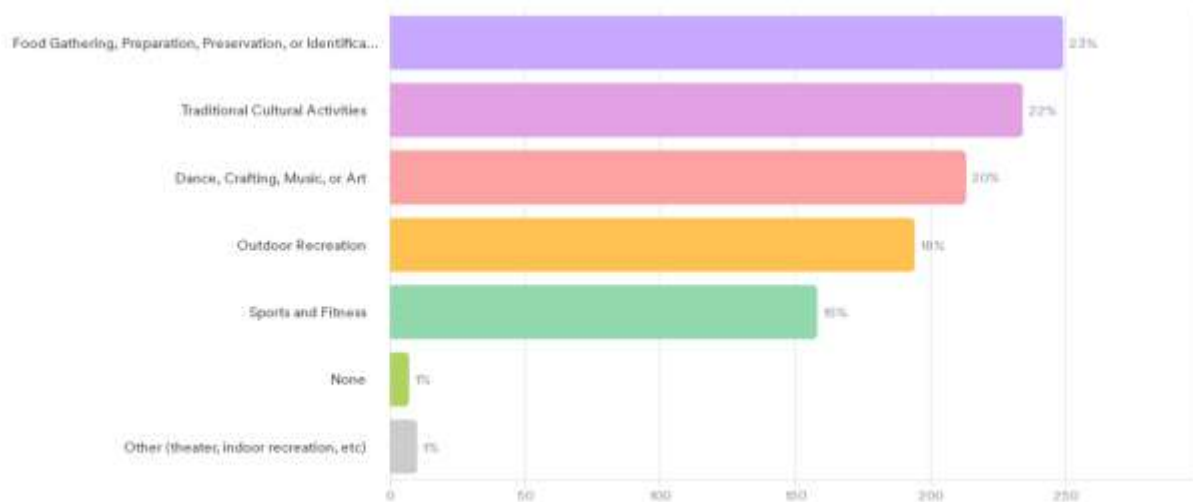
Additional languages mentioned, in order of frequency, were Denai'ina Athabascan, French, Unspecified Athabascan, Russian, German, Mandarin / Chinese, Koyukuk Athabascan / Koyukon, Tshimian, Elaut / Unangam Tunuu, Cup'ik, Japanese, Upper Tanana Athabascan, Haida / Xaat Kil, Norwegian, Ukrainian, Samoan, Pacific Islander Languages (in general), Italian, Esperanto, Korean, and Siberian Yup'ik.

Respondents' language preferences reflect a dual commitment: maintaining fluency in English while actively revitalizing Alaska Native languages. English remains the dominant language of instruction, but the strong presence of Yupik, Tlingit, and Ahtna among the top five preferred languages signals a deep cultural imperative. This prioritization suggests that educational institutions may be seen as key partners in cultural preservation. The desire to see Alaska Native languages taught in schools is a call for systemic support in reversing language loss and fostering intergenerational transmission.

When asked about desired cultural and recreational activities, respondents emphasized a strong connection to traditional lifeways. The top priority, food gathering, preparation, preservation, or identification (23%), followed by traditional cultural activities (22%), reflects the enduring importance of subsistence practices and food sovereignty. See Figure 28 on the following page.



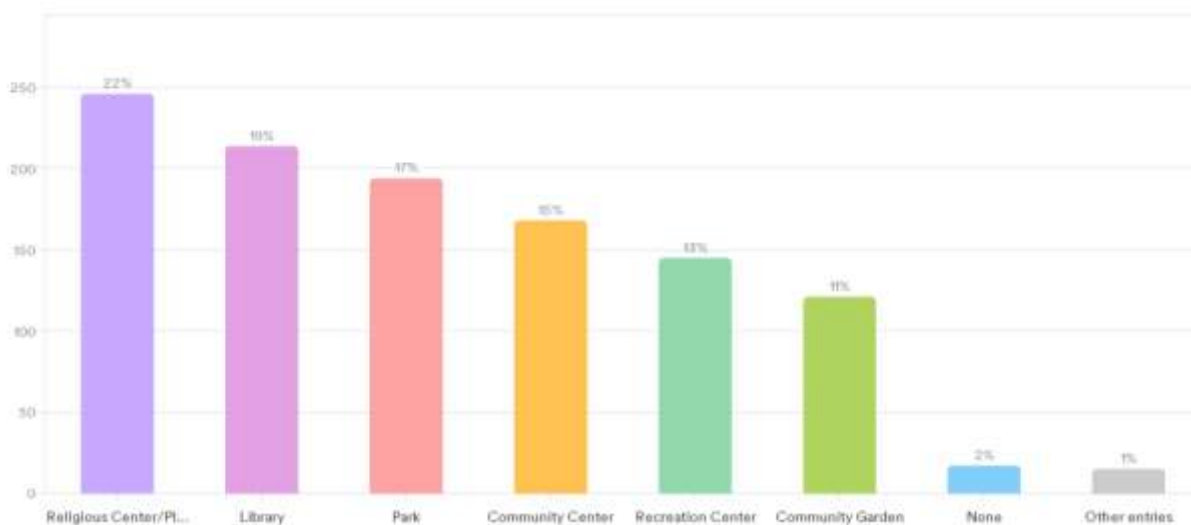
FIGURE 28. DESIRED CULTURAL OR RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES



The third priority, dance, crafting, music, or art, underscores the role of creative expression and heritage in community well-being. These preferences suggest a desire for programming that is also culturally affirming and intergenerational.

Survey responses on public space availability indicate a varied landscape of community infrastructure available for community gatherings. Religious centers (22%) and libraries (19%) are the most commonly available public spaces, followed by parks (17%), community centers (15%), and recreation centers (13%). See Figure 29 below.

FIGURE 29. AVAILABLE PUBLIC SPACES CHART





These findings suggest that while some infrastructure exists in communities, it often consists of a patchwork of spaces used to meet social and cultural needs. Notably, the majority of spaces are religious centers, a reality that reflects the enduring legacy of colonization in Alaska⁴⁶. Missionary efforts and assimilation policies historically displaced Alaska Native governance structures and cultural practices, often replacing them with church-based institutions. As a result, the reliance on religious facilities for community gatherings can be problematic, particularly when these spaces may not fully reflect or support the cultural values, spiritual beliefs, or autonomy of Alaska Native communities. This underscores the need for investment in neutral, culturally appropriate gathering spaces that are community-owned and designed to support a variety of uses, including traditional practices, civic engagement, and intergenerational connection.



Dancers perform at the 2024 Elders and Youth Conference in Anchorage

⁴⁶ [Alaska Native Knowledge Network](#), 2023.



Respondents' Closing Thoughts

To close out the survey questions, participants were asked:

“What do you love most about your community?”

Their open-ended responses revealed three dominant themes: community support, natural beauty, and cultural traditions.

Community support was the most frequently cited theme. Respondents described a strong sense of mutual aid, where neighbors come together during times of need, whether through shared meals, volunteerism, or simply checking in on one another. This theme reflects a deep-rooted culture of care and resilience, especially in rural and remote areas where interdependence is vital.

The second most common theme was natural beauty. Many respondents expressed appreciation for their proximity to mountains, rivers, wildlife, and open landscapes. The ability to engage in outdoor activities such as berry picking, hiking, and subsistence hunting and fishing was frequently mentioned as a source of both joy and identity.

Cultural traditions also featured prominently. Residents highlighted the importance of preserving cultural values, participating in seasonal gatherings, and passing down traditional knowledge. These practices not only strengthen community bonds but also serve as a foundation for intergenerational learning and cultural continuity.

Together, these themes illustrate the unique social and environmental fabric of our communities, where connection to people, place, and heritage remains central to community well-being.



PART IV. LINKAGES AND OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS GAPS

The responses to the assessment reveal a deeply interconnected set of challenges rooted in geography, cost of living, and systemic inequities contributing to the causes and reflective of the conditions of poverty. Housing, food security, and healthcare access are foundational issues that cascade into workforce participation, educational attainment, and community stability. The alignment between community-identified needs and career interests, particularly in education, healthcare, and construction, suggests a strong potential for targeted workforce development.

Cultural preservation and local governance are also central themes, with respondents advocating for solutions that are not only practical but also culturally affirming. The data underscores the importance of integrated, regionally tailored strategies that address both immediate needs and long-term resilience, particularly in rural and Alaska Native communities. Achieving meaningful impact requires strong partnerships and more effective coordination of existing resources, ensuring that efforts are aligned, gaps are minimized, and community strengths are fully leveraged.

Linkages

Alaska's expansive geography and diverse communities are home to a robust network of organizations and partnerships that deliver essential services. A wide array of entities including nonprofits, tribal governments, corporations, and public agencies work to address the unique challenges faced by Alaskans with low incomes.

Alaska's Nonprofit Sector

According to The Foraker Group's 2024 Economic Impact Report⁴⁷, Alaska is home to approximately 5,600 tax-filing nonprofit organizations. These nonprofits are active in every region from areas like Juneau to the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta and the North Slope. In many off-road communities, nonprofits are the primary providers of critical services such as healthcare, education, emergency response, and food security.

In 2023, over 1,200 nonprofits employed staff, contributing significantly to local economies through wages, procurement, and service delivery. These organizations rely on a mix of public funding, private donations, and earned income to sustain operations. However, they face persistent challenges, including high transportation costs, limited broadband access, and workforce shortages. Despite these barriers, Alaska's nonprofits remain vital to community well-being and resilience (The Foraker Group, 2024).

Community Action Agency

As Alaska's only federally recognized Community Action Agency, Rural Alaska Community Action Program, Inc., (RurAL CAP) has long served as a vital connector at the intersection of community need and collaborative action. For decades, the organization has worked alongside tribal councils, local governments, service providers, and residents to co-create solutions that are both culturally grounded and community-led. This collaborative model has enabled RurAL CAP to respond effectively to the diverse and evolving needs of Alaskans, particularly in rural and underserved areas.

⁴⁷ The Foraker Group, [Economic-Impact-Report](#), 2024.



RurAL CAP's work is organized into three primary service areas that collectively support the agency's mission to empower low-income individuals and strengthen communities.

The Family Services program portfolio delivers a comprehensive range of supports that promote stability, safety, and opportunity. These include early childhood education and parenting programs, including Head Start and Parents as Teachers models, outreach and services for individuals experiencing homelessness, and access to transitional, permanent, supportive, and affordable housing.

Through its Rural Housing programs, RurAL CAP addresses the critical housing challenges faced by remote communities. Services include homeownership support, home improvement and weatherization programs, credit counseling, and innovative housing models such as off-road construction and Mutual Self-Help Housing. The agency also provides loan packaging services to help individuals and families access financing for safe and sustainable housing.

The Community Development portfolio focuses on building local capacity and resilience. This includes initiatives in substance abuse and suicide prevention, victim services, and tribal and juvenile justice. The division also operates shelters for survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault and facilitates national service opportunities that engage community members in meaningful civic work. RurAL CAP also offers technical assistance and training to support local leadership and strengthen the infrastructure of community-based organizations.

Together, these service areas reflect RurAL CAP's holistic approach to community action, one that recognizes the interconnectedness of housing, health, education, and economic opportunity in building strong, self-reliant communities across Alaska.

The agency operates under a comprehensive five-year strategic plan (2023–2028) that reflects a commitment to strengthening the foundations of community well-being and resilience across Alaska. The current plan prioritizes:

- **Housing in Rural Alaska:** Addressing the acute shortage of safe, affordable, and energy-efficient housing in remote communities, where harsh climates and high construction costs have long hindered development. The agency is working to support innovative housing models and partnerships that align with local needs and cultural values.
- **Local Leadership and Capacity Building:** Investing in the development of local governance and organizational capacity to ensure that Alaska Native communities can lead and sustain their own development efforts. This includes training, technical assistance, and support for tribal and municipal leadership, with an emphasis on culturally grounded approaches.
- **Workforce Development:** Expanding access to education, training, and employment pathways that prepare Alaskans for high-demand careers, particularly in education and construction energy. The agency is aligning its efforts with statewide initiatives to build a skilled, local workforce.

These strategic priorities are designed to be mutually reinforcing, recognizing that stable housing, strong local leadership, and economic opportunity are all essential to sustainable and vibrant communities.



ANCSA Corporations

Established under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) of 1971, ANCSA Corporations are private, for-profit entities created to manage land and financial assets for Alaska Native shareholders. Today, 12 regional and over 200 village corporations collectively manage approximately 44 million acres of land⁴⁸.

While primarily economic entities, ANCSA Corporations play a pivotal role in community development, supporting the social and cultural well-being of Alaska Native communities. Many partner with regional nonprofits to deliver essential services in health care, education, and cultural preservation. These partnerships often operate under federal compacts and grants, enabling programs in behavioral health, language revitalization, scholarships, and community events.

A key structural feature of ANCSA is the revenue-sharing provision under Section 7(i), which requires regional corporations to share 70% of revenues from subsurface resource development with the other regional corporations. This mechanism helps balance disparities in natural resource distribution and reinforces a collective approach to economic equity across regions⁴⁹.

Together, ANCSA Corporations represent a unique and adaptive resource for Alaska Native communities, blending traditional values with governance to support long-term sustainability, cultural resilience, and regional self-determination.

Key Entities Supporting Alaskans

Across the state, a wide array of entities, spanning nonprofit, tribal, governmental, and private sectors, work in concert to deliver critical services and resources. These organizations play a vital role in addressing the complex and interrelated challenges faced by Alaskan communities. Their efforts are essential to advancing health, education, housing, infrastructure, and cultural preservation:

- Nonprofits and Grassroots Organizations: Delivering a wide array of programs, services, technical assistance, and supports to communities, individuals, and families.
- Cultural Centers: Enabling connection to tradition, cultural values, and ways of life.
- Housing Finance Entities: Provide access to affordable housing, energy efficiency programs, and weatherization services.
- Mental Health Authorities: Fund and advocate for mental health services.
- Healthcare Providers: Deliver comprehensive medical care and health programs.
- Foundations: Offer grants and foster community collaboration.
- Educational Institutions: Provide research and educational resources to support community initiatives.
- School Districts: Partner in implementing educational programs for children and families.
- Infrastructure Commissions: Support rural infrastructure and economic development.
- Tribal Governments and Entities: Ensure that development efforts reflect local culture, needs, and values.
- Local Governments: Align community development projects with local priorities.

⁴⁸ ANCSA Regional Association, [About the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act](#), 2025.

⁴⁹ University of Alaska Fairbanks, [Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act \(ANCSA\) 1971 | Tribal Governance](#), 2025.



- State and Federal Governments: Align community development projects with state and national priorities.
- Municipal Advocacy Groups: Support local governments and strengthen municipal governance.

Opportunity to Address Gaps

A key observation that emerged from the Community Needs Survey responses, in conjunction with secondary data analysis and stakeholder input, is the opportunity to enhance coordination across service sectors statewide to address persistent service gaps. While many organizations across Alaska are delivering high-impact and high-need work, there remains a critical need for more cohesive and equitable access to services. In many cases, services are operating in ways that are locally responsive but not yet equally accessible to those in need, particularly in rural and off-the-road-system communities.

This challenge is compounded by Alaska's unique funding landscape. The state is heavily reliant on federal funding and competitive grants to support essential services, including education, housing, healthcare, and infrastructure⁵⁰. Unlike many other states, Alaska lacks a broad-based state tax system, which limits its ability to generate consistent internal revenue. As a result, federal dollars often serve as the backbone of public service delivery, especially in rural areas where the cost of providing services is significantly higher due to geographic isolation, limited infrastructure, and extreme weather conditions.

Schools in remote communities frequently depend on federal education grants to maintain operations, recruit and retain qualified staff, and provide culturally relevant curricula. Similarly, housing development in off-road-system communities often hinges on federal housing programs and tribal partnerships, as private investment is scarce and construction costs are prohibitively high.

Recent significant changes in federal funding and policy priorities⁵¹ present a valuable moment to build on existing strengths and explore more integrated approaches that can increase efficiency, reduce duplication, and expand access to essential services. Rather than framing this as a deficit, it should be viewed as a strategic opportunity. By fostering intentional collaboration, shared infrastructure, and targeted investment, Alaska can improve service delivery outcomes, reduce administrative burdens, and ensure that Alaskans receive timely, culturally appropriate, and effective support.

Within this evolving landscape, public-private partnerships emerge as a strategic avenue for innovation and resilience. These partnerships offer a mechanism to engage the private sector in addressing critical needs, particularly in housing development, workforce training, and infrastructure expansion, by leveraging private capital, technical expertise, and operational capacity. In doing so, these partnerships can complement public and tribal investments, helping to bridge funding gaps, accelerate implementation timelines, and introduce scalable solutions tailored to local contexts. As Alaska continues to navigate fiscal constraints and shifting federal

⁵⁰ The Foraker Group, [Federal-Funding-Report-Final.pdf](#), 2025.

⁵¹ U.S. Government Accountability Office, [2025 Annual Report: Opportunities to Reduce Fragmentation, Overlap, and Duplication and Achieve an Additional One Hundred Billion Dollars or More in Future Financial Benefits](#), revised version May 13, 2025.



priorities, fostering these collaborative models will be essential to building sustainable, community-driven systems that are both responsive and adaptable.

Moving forward, a coordinated, cross-sector approach will be critical. This includes developing interoperable systems, aligning funding strategies, and creating shared accountability frameworks. By doing so, we can build a service ecosystem that reflects the ingenuity of our people and the realities of our geographic, social, and cultural landscape. As such, this report recommends a forward-looking strategy for RurAL CAP to address service gaps and inconsistencies:

- Coordinate cross-sector stakeholders to evaluate models for system alignment and shared infrastructure development.
- Support risk-informed mitigation planning to maintain service continuity under uncertain conditions.
- Conduct strategic planning with partners to assess opportunities for structural collaboration, as appropriate.
- Prioritize building local capacity and engagement with rural communities and tribal leadership in all planning and decision-making processes.
- Formalize structures for joint decision-making, braided funding, and shared accountability to streamline operations and improve outcomes for Alaskans.

These recommendations are designed to build a more integrated and resilient service ecosystem, one that reflects the ingenuity of Alaska's communities and the realities of our geographic, social, and cultural landscape. By advancing these strategies, Alaska can improve service delivery, maximize the impact of limited resources, and ensure that all people, regardless of location, have access to the support they need to thrive.



Mountains in Hatcher Pass, AK



PART V. CONCLUSION

Despite critical concerns, there are enduring strengths within Alaska's communities that serve as a foundation for progress and self-sufficiency. Through the identification of the challenges facing our state, RurAL CAP has, and will continue to, tailor locally informed services and enhance programs that empower individuals and families working to lift themselves out of poverty. This work is essential to building a strong economy and a brighter, more equitable future for Alaska.

Our geography is expansive, our communities are diverse, and our logistical challenges are unique compared to those of the lower 48 states. Yet these same conditions have cultivated a community that is resilient, resourceful, and deeply interconnected. Alaskans are known for their independence, but equally for their reliability and commitment to one another. These values are not only cultural, they are strategic assets. They form the social infrastructure that enables innovation, mutual aid, and adaptive problem-solving in even the most remote corners of our state.

Alaska stands at a pivotal moment, one that calls for coordinated action to strengthen and modernize the systems that support its communities. Across the state, organizations are delivering critical services with dedication and ingenuity. However, as we look to the future, there is growing recognition that greater alignment and collaboration across sectors can significantly amplify our collective impact. This moment calls for bold thinking, shared leadership, and a renewed commitment to our communities, our people.

Rather than focusing solely on structural gaps, this report emphasizes the potential for strategic integration. By fostering partnerships, streamlining systems, and coordinating efforts, we can enhance service delivery in ways that are more efficient, equitable, and sustainable.

RurAL CAP remains committed to advancing our vision of *Healthy People, Sustainable Communities, Vibrant Cultures* through collaborative leadership, data-informed strategies, and community-driven solutions. By aligning efforts across sectors and centering the voices of those most impacted, Alaska can build a more coordinated and resilient support system, one that not only meets immediate needs but also lays the groundwork for long-term opportunity and sustainability.

This document provides a limited snapshot of information captured by RurAL CAP employees; it should be reviewed alongside peer-reviewed articles and other reputable sources for informed decision making. Should additional content be developed out of this data, it will be attached to the end of this report. We welcome your feedback, please let us know if there is anything we may have overlooked: survey@ruralcap.org.



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