

ExhibitAExecutiveSummary

State of Alaska

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The State of Alaska's application addresses the disaster-impacted, distressed, and unmitigated conditions of Alaska Tribal and rural communities with subsistence economies attempting to continue their traditional cultures and practices in their native lands. This need to remain close to traditional hunting and gathering sources leaves native rural communities exposed to the effects of climate change, flooding and severe storms. There are cyclic impacts to people, their homes and property, food security, community infrastructure, and services. Impacts are even more significant on vulnerable populations.

The State Interagency Working Group (SIWG) narrowed down its list of 29 impacted Native Alaskan communities within the three target areas through analysis against NDRC criteria of MID; URN; tieback; community engagement; regional impacts; idealized (model, scalable and replicable) projects; leverage; long-term commitment/planning; and capacity. The SIWG further refined the list to four projects in the Native Alaskan communities of Galena, Newtok, Emmonak and Teller. These four projects have a combined request of \$286M. We recognize the magnitude of this request given our state's population. Alaska is a costly place to work, ranking fourth in the nation in terms of highest living costs, second only to New York among other eligible NDRC jurisdictions (*Missouri Economic Research and Information Center; and The Council for Community and Economic Research*). Working in remote native communities is even more costly given the high cost of transportation of materials.

Each project presents a unique opportunity to recover in a resilient fashion with regional and statewide effects. Newtok is a well-known Alaskan Native Village threatened by erosion and climate change, whose youth suffer disproportionately from respiratory disease due to housing and infrastructure challenges. The proposed project for Newtok is relocation of the community from Newtok to the new village site of Mertarvik. The SIWG leveraged previous work from the Newtok Planning Group and partners to develop a complementary approach to ensure resiliency in the community's relocation effort, focusing on housing and infrastructure. Emmonak is a repetitively flood-damaged regional hub

community on the lower Yukon River. The central theme of the Emmonak project is transportation infrastructure which will increase resilience of regional transportation systems to repetitive flooding, bring significant regional socio-economic opportunities, and potentially stabilize the cost of regional goods, services, and fuel. Central to this theme are Emmonak's port project, airport expansion, and mitigation of local roads. Galena suffered significant damage to its infrastructure in its 2013 qualifying event. Galena is a Middle Yukon River regional transportation, cultural and educational hub community. The cores of Galena's project activities make its people and infrastructure more resilient to the effects of flooding. Teller is an Arctic coastal Native community with integral ties to its location near the Bering Straits and sister community of Brevig Mission with access to traditional hunting, fishing and gathering culture. Teller's projects developed from a "protect in place" perspective and the community's desire to ensure their cultural way of living thrives in a resilient manner, especially in the face of rising sea level, erosion, and the lack of protective sea ice which are the realities of climate change. The Teller Sea Wall and the elevation of Front Avenue, connecting Teller to the road to Nome is a mandated protective measure, as the sea wall defends the spit upon which the community resides from flooding due to storm surges. Teller's resiliency project, which meets the national objective, brings basic water and sewer services to the community and will lower the cost of energy. Each project provides unique opportunities to address adaptation to climate change, benefit low-moderate income and vulnerable populations, and contribute towards resilient, sustainable Tribal cultures in Alaska. See Exhibit E for detailed project information.

In addition to four community resiliency projects, the State is proposing two Statewide/regional umbrella planning projects that will document the increasing awareness, assessment and monitoring of climate change and environmental impacts within rural communities. This will be the first concentrated effort in the US to develop a comprehensive methodology, using citizen science, k-12 curriculum and community engagement to help tribes make the decision to migrate their community or defend in place

against climate change. The \$1.48M request for this project will provide a basis for state and national policy on climate change adaptation strategies.

The State of Alaska is submitting an additional target area for threshold qualification - the Kawerak Tribal Area. This area is submitted for qualification with new FEMA project worksheet information resulting from qualifying disaster DR-4050. Details are provided in Exhibits B and D.

The State of Alaska is committed to community engagement. The SIWG engaged project communities in an iterative fashion in developing projects. SIWG members travelled to these remote villages and engaged in community meetings where they briefed and collected input from tribal and city councils. Projects were further developed with inputs from other stakeholders to include regional, state and federal partners. See Attachment D. Daily interagency collaborations by all the State Departments support this commitment, as detailed in Exhibit E in Phase 1 and Phase 2. The State with its partners has the capacity to successfully execute any funding that HUD should award, as detailed in Exhibit C. As a demonstration of its commitment to resilience, the Governor's Office recently engaged the White House in an effort to collaborate with the Denali Commission on planning activities supporting the relocation of Alaska communities threatened by climate change. See Exhibit G.

All projects will meet the national objective by benefiting low- and moderate-income persons and meeting community development needs having particular urgency. For overall benefit, at least 50% of all monies from this grant will assist in activities that provide sufficient benefit to low/moderate-income persons in the form of services, area benefits, housing or jobs.