

City of Aniak

P.O. Box 189

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January 24, 2022

To Whom It May Concern, FEMA Direct Technical Assistance (DTA)Program

My name is Diana Lehman and I am the city manager for the City of Aniak Alaska. As a small Alaska community, which is located off the road system in remote rural Alaska, the infrastructure that we rely on faces a harsh and changing climate which regularly even stretches the limits of modern construction. Our small administrative staff (currently two people) are stretched between maintaining COVID safety and updating important infrastructure programs (seasonal river flooding and levee maintenance; seasonal wildfires; winter storm events and midwinter stormwater flooding) and simply maintaining our usual sewer, road, levee and landfill services. We recently became aware of the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) Direct Technical Assistance (DTA) program and are interested in participating.

When key parts of our infrastructure are inevitably disabled by age or extreme weather, there are many challenges unique to Alaska which can prevent critical services from being maintained, such as delays in receiving parts, limited local resources, and tightening budgets across the state. One example of our local infrastructure which needs greater investment is stormwater flooding mitigation. In the last three years repeated mid-winter thawing due to unusually warm weather followed by extreme snow fall has drastically increased the damage caused by stormwater flooding. This, on top of the seasonal spring flood risk with the Kuskokwim River breakup, makes flood mitigation a priority for our community.

We need Direct Technical Assistance to effectively propose, secure, and implement the infrastructure and resilience projects that our community needs to thrive. Given the restraints of our staff and budget, we would particularly benefit from grant writing assistance for stormwater and river flooding mitigation programs.

If our community were selected for DTA, we would have the capacity to work well with those providing the assistance. Our public works department, in cooperation with the Alaska

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Department of Transportation (ADOT)-Airports-and the Alaska Army Corp of Engineers (ACOE), work on Aniak levee maintenance. The city staff and city council members work with the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (DHS&EM) to maintain an updated Community Hazard Mitigation Plan, as well as maintain our Small Community Emergency Response Plan (SCERP).

Here's our timeline and objectives for technical assistance through the DTA program:

- May 2022: After Kuskokwim River breakup and flood watch, meet with potential partners (ADOT & ACOE, Aniak Tribe, DHS&EM, FEMA) to discuss stormwater mitigation measures.
- August 2022: Present potential mitigation projects to the community in public meeting.
- Sept. 2022: begin BRIC application process.
- January 2023: Submit BRIC grant application

You can contact the City of Aniak at 907-675-4481 or email cityofaniak@gmail.com. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Diana Lehman

City Manager

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