

OFFICE OF NATIVE AMERICAN PROGRAMS BEST PRACTICES

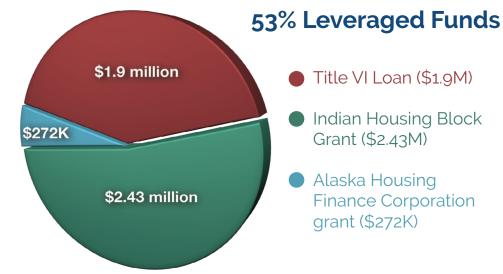




Bering Straits Regional Housing Authority's Savoonga Housing

A Title VI loan allowed for the construction of the six housing units in the Native Village of Savoonga on the St. Lawrence Island in the Bering Sea (Alaska). These were the first units built in this remote community in 10 years because of the complexity and high cost of construction.

The total cost of almost \$4.6 million includes \$2.4 million in HUD IHBG funds and \$1.9 million in Title VI funds. BSRHA budgeted that Title VI loans would be 40% of the total project cost to keep the debt service payment realistic.





"We have the issues faced by the rural US but the costs faced by urban US."

- Chris Kolerok, President/CEO Bering Straits Regional Housing Authority

Native Village of Savoonga:

- Using a force account crew kept the cost well below the lowest general contractor bid and employed local residents.
- The houses, located in an unforgiving climate, are built to last at least 25 years and be highly energy efficient.
- St. Lawrence Island can only be reached by air and sea. Freight and shipping add an additional 30% to budget costs and 30% to contingency costs. Forgetting to order an item is very costly.

In this community of 700, **more than 40%** of residents are **under 18** and overcrowding is estimated at **more than 60%**.

For more information, contact:

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Community Features:



BRSHA serves 17 communities, including Savoonga. Communities must alternate years for housing construction.



The barge brings supplies in summer only, but delivery is complicated when there is no dock!



Living and dining spaces are a little larger recognizing that sometimes 13-14 people to live in a three bedroom house – far over HUD's definition of severe overcrowding.