

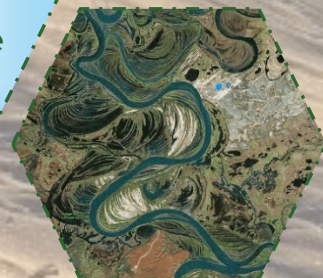
# Huslia Community Plan

2026-2031

Huslia  
Tribal  
Council

Tanana  
Chiefs  
Conference

Huslia  
Residents



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## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This Community Plan completed in 2025 for Huslia for reflection the current goals and objectives of the community of Huslia. The Information gathered was input given by the residents of Huslia, Huslia Tribal Council, City of Huslia, and Tanana Chiefs Conference Planning & Development Program in a Community Planning Meeting held in Huslia on 08/06/25. This is a living document to accurately portray the current goals of the community of Huslia. A list of attendees to the Community Planning Meeting included in Appendix A.

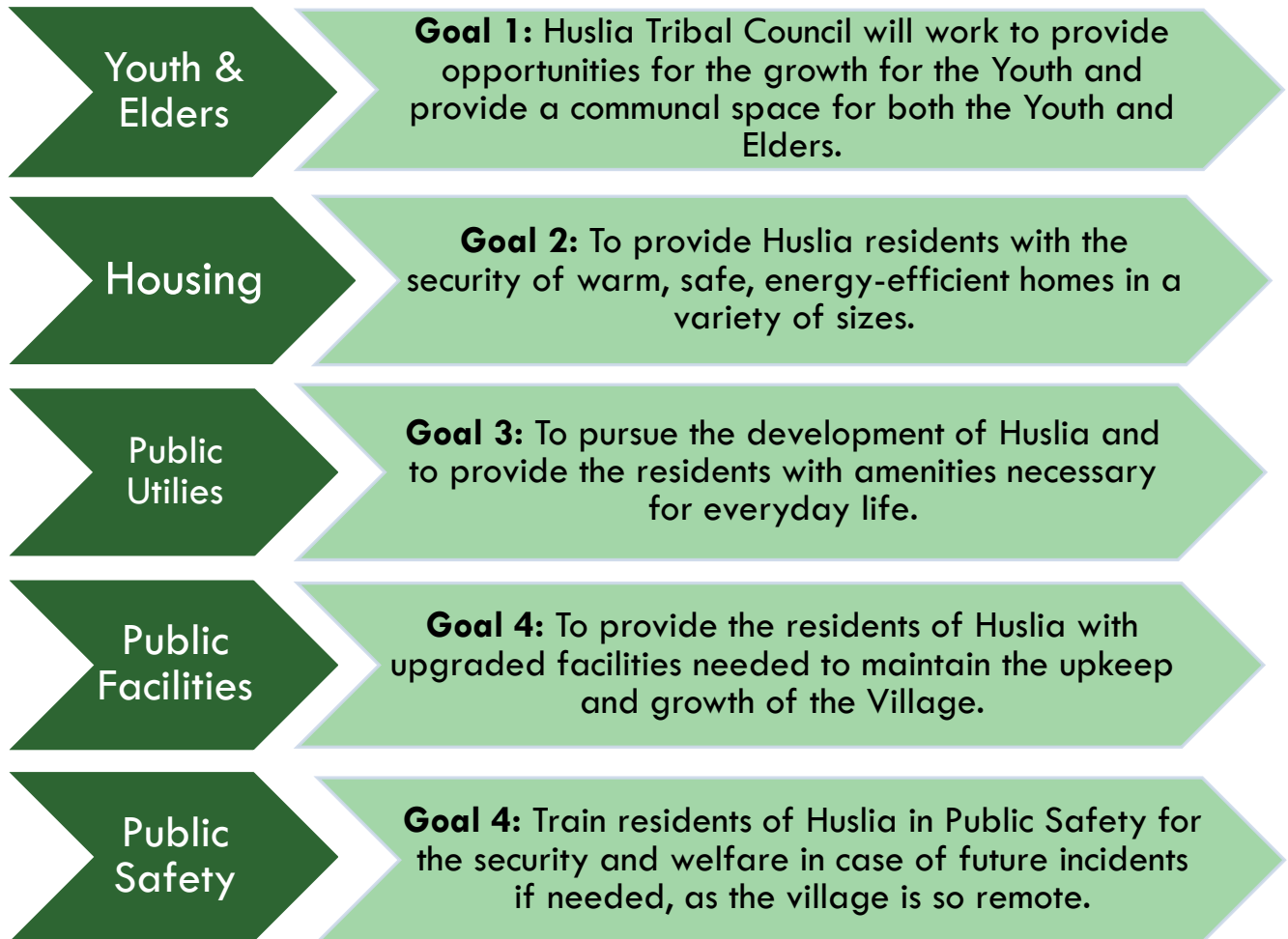
TCC Planning & Development Community Planning Coordinator Millena Jordan completed this Community Plan.

On April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2026, the Tribal Council held a meeting where the plan was then reviewed and adopted by Council members.

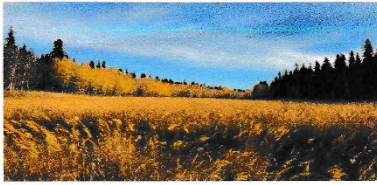
## **VISION STATEMENT**

The main goal of our community is to ensure the survival of our community and the preservation of our traditional way of life. We envision our community as a desirable place to live where future members will want to come back to after schooling to work and raise families. To reach this goal we need to create a self-sustaining economy and address social, cultural, and infrastructure issues in our community.

## GOALS



# RESOLUTION



## *Huslia Village*

*dba as Huslia Tribal Council*

*PO Box 70 Huslia, AK 99746*

*Phone 907-829-2294 Fax 907-829-2214*

### **Resolution 2026 – 08 Adopting Community Plan**

**Whereas**, this Community Plan is important to the future growth and development of Huslia and,

**Whereas**, this plan was created through a public process that captured the values and goals of our community: and,

**Whereas**, this plan is a tool that helps us manage change in our community: and,

**Whereas**, this plan is intended to coordinate future community development and service delivery; and,

**Whereas**; it is understood that this document was created for public use and will be made publically available and,

**Whereas**, we ask all public, private, and non-profit entities serving our community to recognize and use this plan; and,

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the parties of this resolution agree to work together to pursue the values, goals, and vision express in this plan.

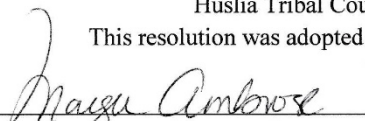
**DULY ADOPTED** this 7<sup>th</sup> day of April 2026.

  
Dereck Starr Sr., First Chief

#### **CERTIFICATION**

This certifies the above resolution was duly adopted at a convened meeting of the Huslia Tribal Council, at which time a quorum was present.

This resolution was adopted by a vote of \_\_\_ for, \_\_\_ against and \_\_\_ absent.

  
Margie Ambrose, Secretary/Treasurer

# COMMUNITY OVERVIEW

## HISTORY

The Koyukon Athabascans of Huslia traditionally occupied the land between the south fork of the Koyukuk River and the Kateel River. Living nomadically throughout the year moving to seasonal camps with the wild fish and game. In the summer, most families would float on a raft to the Yukon River to fish for salmon. The Koyukon Athabascans often traded with the Kobuk River Eskimos. By 1843, Russian explorers had initiation contacted the Athabascans approximately fifty miles downriver from the current site. The Western Union Telegraph Company explored the river around 1867, and missionary activity increased after 1870. Cutoff Trading Post (also called Old Town) established in the 1920s about four miles overland or sixteen miles from current Huslia. In 1949, the community moved to its present site because Cutoff flooded often, causing the ground to be swampy.

Huslia (originally spelled Huslee) was named after a local stream nearby. The Koyukon name is pronounced Ts'aateyhdenaade kk'onh Denh.

Huslia was historically a burial site since 1886, but by the time of the move a majority of the old cemetery had been destroyed from erosion. In 1950, the first school was established, followed by a post office, airport, and road construction in 1952. Around that time, families began to start living year-round in Huslia. In 1960, a health clinic was constructed. In 1963, 29 individual hand-pumped water wells were installed. Running water and indoor plumbing arrived in the village in 1974. (Huslia Tribal Council with assistance from the Department of Community and Regional Affairs, 1999)<sup>1</sup> Huslia was incorporated as a second-class city in 1969



**FIGURE 1 MOOSE SKIN WALL HANGING BY RENA DEWILDE IN HONOR OF HER GRANDMOTHER**

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<sup>1</sup> (Alaska Department of Commerce)

followed by the establishment of the local Tribal Government in 1977. Considering the small demographic and size of the town, a partnership was formed between the two governing entities.

## CULTURE

Huslia is a Koyukon Athabascan community where the survival of a traditional lifestyle is prevalent and important to the residents of the community. The preservation of traditional beliefs, practices, and the language has always been a goal for this community especially considering the influence of the western American lifestyle that made its way through Alaska in the early Missionary days. The dance group to preserve the language was started in the 90's.

## LOCATION

Huslia is located on the north bank of the Koyukuk River, about 170 river miles northwest of Galena and 290 air miles west of Fairbanks. The Koyukuk National Wildlife Refuge surrounds it. It lies at approximately 65.698610 North Latitude and -156.399720 West Longitude. (Sec. 33, T004N, R012E, Kateel River Meridian.) Huslia lies within the Koyukuk River flood plain and is surrounded by wetlands that are comprised of marshes, small lakes, meandering streams, and wooded areas. Soil in and around Huslia consist primarily of floodplain deposits of fine to medium-grained sand and micaceous silt and clay<sup>2</sup> threatening erosion and wildfires.



FIGURE 2 HUSLIA ON ALASKAN MAP

Huslia is in the Nulato Recording District. The area encompasses 16.4 sq. miles of land and 0.7 sq. miles of water. The area has a cold, continental climate with extreme temperature differences. The average daily maximum temperature is seventy-two °F during July; the average minimum is below 0 °F during January. Record temperatures have been recorded from -65 to

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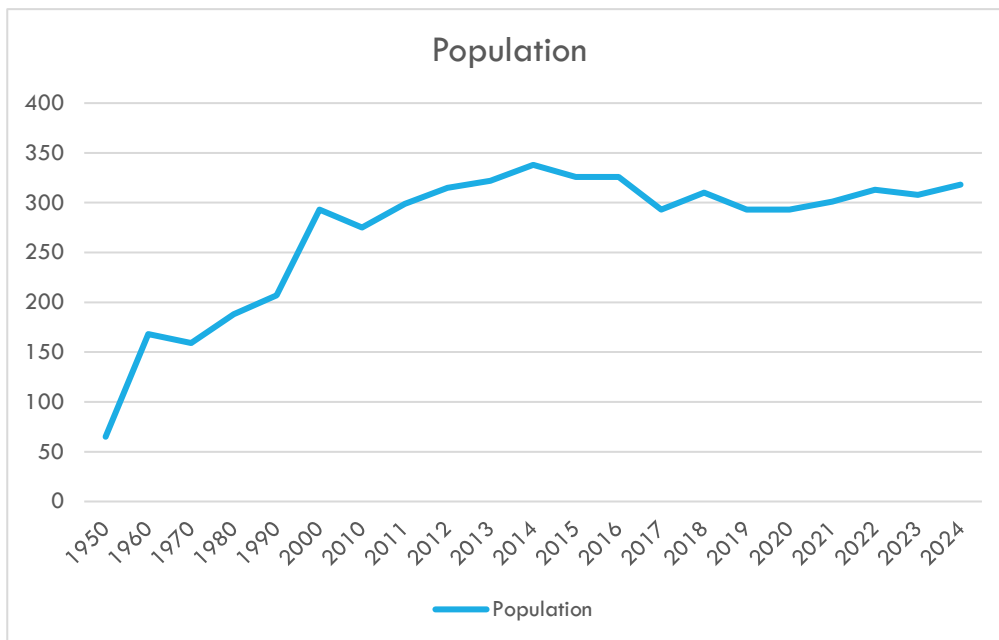
<sup>2</sup> (Montgomery Watson Harza, 2002)

above 90 °F. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Floodplain Management Service, has indicated that Huslia is at minimal risk of flooding. There are minor flooding events, particularly during spring break , however the town site of Huslia is located high enough from the Koyukuk River to not pose serious threats to the village. Erosion poses a considerable threat to Huslia, particularly structures located in “Old Huslia.” Several homes and structures have been relocated because of erosion. There have been some unsuccessful attempts to slow erosion in Huslia with willows and trees with sand, but nothing in years.<sup>3</sup>

The annual precipitation averages thirteen inches, with seventy inches of snowfall. The Koyukuk River is ice-free from May through September.

## POPULATION

The population according to the Huslia City Office is 315 as of August 2025. In comparison to the 2020 Census which reported a total population of 304 residents, 279 were Alaskan Native and 13 were others including Caucasians. The population estimation of male was 122 and the female was 153.



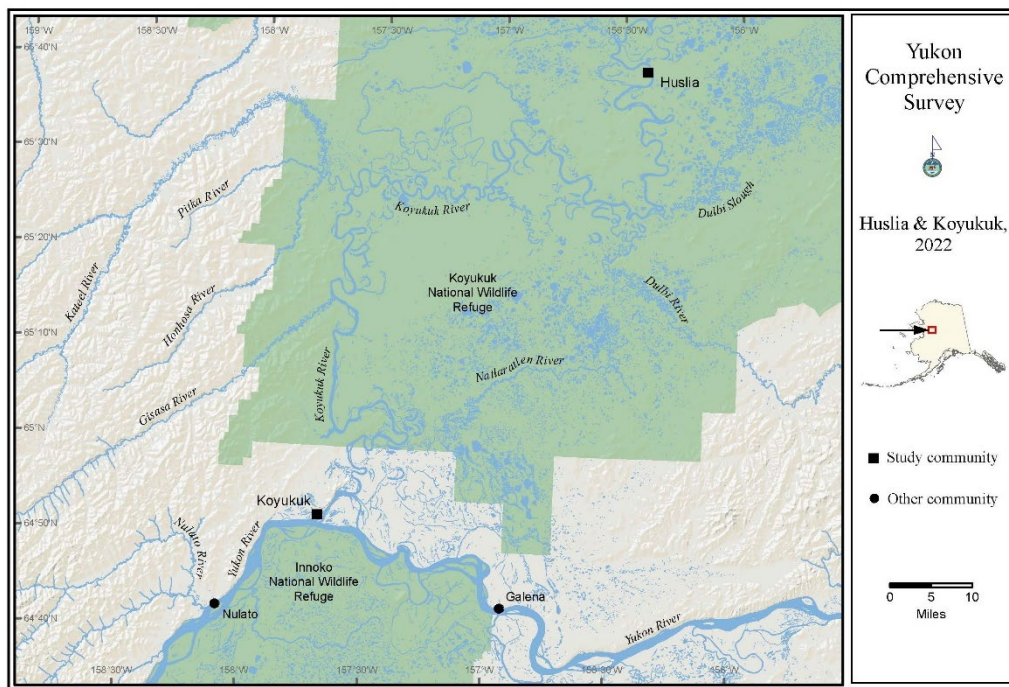

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<sup>3</sup> (Montgomery Watson Harza, 2002)

## LAND USE & ENVIRONMENT

The Koyukuk National Wildlife Refuge (KNWR), which encompasses 3.5 million acres, is located on the Koyukuk flood plain. It is adjacent to the 750,000-acre Innoko Wildlife Refuge; together they make the Koyukuk/ Innoko Wildlife Refuge Complex. This vast area consists of wooded lowlands and rich wetlands consisting of an extensive network of rivers, lakes, and marshes.

The Koyukuk National Wildlife Refuge retained its status in 1990 to protect the nesting areas of migratory birds, wildlife habitat, and fish hatcheries. The refuge is home to one of the most productive moose habitats in Alaska and home to the winter grounds of 450,000 strong Western Arctic caribou herd. The fish and wildlife of the Koyukuk flood plain remains an essential subsistence and cultural resource to the Native Village of Huslia who have relied on the abundance of this region for generations.<sup>4</sup>



**FIGURE 3 KOYUKUK NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE MAP**

Although Huslia has shifted to a cash-based economy, subsistence activities remain a principal component of the local economy. With very few year-round employment opportunities

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<sup>4</sup> (Koyukuk National Wildlife Refuge)

in Huslia, residents rely heavily on subsistence activities. Moose, caribou, salmon, whitefish bear, small game, waterfowl, berries, and gardening activities are important food supplements to residents. Many people of Huslia rely on what they can hunt and gather off the land to make it through the winter.

## GOVERNANCE & PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

Huslia is included in Election Region 3

House District	Senate District	House Representative	Senator	District Description
36	R	Rebecca E. Schwanke	Mike Cronk	Copper River Basin/Delta/Tok/Yukon Drainage

### HUSLIA TRIBAL COUNCIL

Huslia Tribal Council was established in 1972 as a Traditional Tribal Council consisting of a seven-member council. The Council includes the first chief, second chief, treasurer/secretary, and four additional council members. The Council members serve either two- or three-year staggered terms.

Elections are held in October every year. Council members serve staggered terms in order to ensure that all changes are made smoothly. In addition to the tribal government, a tribal office was established in 1977 and there are a number of staff part of the Tribal Government who are responsible for ensuring programs are properly run.

The Tribal staff and programs in Tribal Government include the Tribal Administrator, Tribal Administrator assistant, Tribal Family and Youth Specialist (TFYS), Bookkeeper, Bookkeeper assistant, Environmental Coordinator (IGAP) & Assistant, 3 Community Health Aides, Community Health Representative, Behavioral Health Aide, Respite Care worker, 2 landfill burn unit operators, 2 janitors, an on-call maintenance position, Tribal Work Development Specialists (TWDS), Elders' Nutrition Cook, Gaming Commissioner, Housing

Planner, Construction manager, a Transportation Planner, as well as numerous seasonal workers and TTP workers.

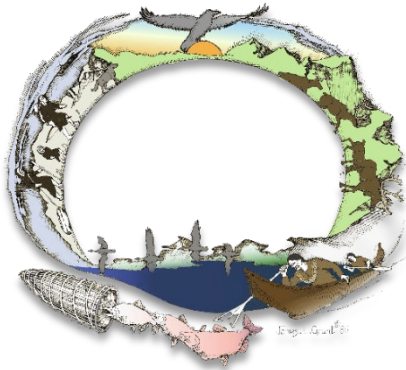
The Huslia Tribal Council is responsible for administering a variety of programs and services. Financial transactions are entered promptly to ensure the budget is kept up to date and accurate. Financial reports are compiled in monthly and quarterly reports. Audits are done independently and annually. The fiscal management system operates in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.

Huslia has a fully functioning Tribal Court that has been operating for over 25+ years. The court is in session on a case-by-case basis. There are ten Judges that preside over a voluntary basis and are not necessarily members of the Tribal Council. This allows for greater community involvement and participation in Tribal justice. There is also one tribal court administrator, one guardian ad litem, and a CINA.

## HUSLIA CITY COUNCIL

Huslia was incorporated as a second-class city in 1969 and is run by the Huslia City Office. The City Council consists of seven members, including the mayor who oversees the City of Huslia. Registered voters of Huslia elect all City Council members, elections are usually held in October. A City Administrator runs the Huslia City Office. The City's responsibilities include operating the water and sewer facilities in Huslia, though the tribe owns the Water facility. The city office building provides space for the Village Public Safety Officer (VPSO) as well as a small prison cell. Other resources provided are a fully operational search and rescue team and a volunteer fire department. The city and the Tribe of Huslia strive to work hand in hand to further community enrichment.

## TANANA CHIEFS CONFERENCE



**FIGURE 4 TCC LOGO**

Tanana Chiefs Conference was officially formed in 1962 and incorporated under Alaska State Law in 1971. We are organized as Dena' Nena' Henash or "Our Land Speaks;" an Alaska Native nonprofit corporation, charged with advancing Tribal self-determination and enhancing regional Native unity. TCC provides a unified voice in advancing sovereign tribal governments through the promotion of physical and mental wellness, education, socioeconomic development, and culture of the Interior.

TCC provides services while balancing traditional Athabascan and Alaska Native values with modern demands. TCC's objectives are to provide health, social, and economic services to the native people and villages of interior Alaska, known as the TCC region, using federal, state, and local resources. TCC is comprised of three core departments: 1. Administration; 2. Health Services; and 3. Tribal Client and Tribal Government Services.

Within those core departments, we offer services in the following categories: Tribal Development; Self Governance; Housing; Public Safety Officer; Natural Resources; Client Development; Elder Nutrition; Employment and Training; Child Development; Child Protection; Head Start; Staff Development; Vocational Rehabilitation; Work Assistance Program and ASAP; Dental; Quality Management; Laboratory; Contract Health; Registration; Environmental Health; Pharmacy; Medical; Family Medicine; Family Medicine RN; Specialty Clinics; Radiology; Community Health Outreach Program; Home Care Provider; Behavioral Health; Old Minto Family Recovery Camp; Psychiatry; SBIRT; Paul Williams House; Community Health Aide Program; Bertha Moses Patient Hostel; Eye Clinic; Housing First; Wellness and Prevention; and Willow House.

The Tanana Chiefs Conference region covers an area of 235,000 square miles in Interior Alaska, which is equal to about 37 percent of the entire state, and just slightly smaller than the state of Texas. Within our region there are six subregions:

-  Yukon Flats Subregion
-  Lower Yukon Subregion
-  Yukon Koyukuk Subregion
-  Upper Kuskokwim Subregion
-  Yukon Tanana Subregion
-  Upper Tanana Subregion

Within our six subregions there are thirty-nine villages, with an approximate population of 6700. The organization also serves clients in the Fairbanks area.

### PUBLIC SAFETY

The Village Public Safety Officer Program (VPSO) Program was designed to train and employ individuals residing in the village as first responders to public safety emergencies such as search and rescue, fire protection, emergency medical assistance, crime prevention and basic law enforcement. The presence of these officers has had a significant impact on improving the quality of life in the participating villages. As a result, the Village Public Safety Officers

(VPSOs) are the first to respond to many calls for help from community members; hence their motto: **“First Responders – Last Frontier.”**

There is an office and small prison cell space in the City Office of Huslia.

The City of Huslia has an established Search and Rescue team. The closest 1<sup>st</sup> responders are in Galena or Fairbanks Troopers.



**FIGURE 5 TCC VPSO PROGRAM**

## DOYON, LIMITED



**FIGURE 6 DOYON  
LOGO**

Huslia is a part of Doyon Limited, the Alaska Native Regional Corporation for Interior Alaska, incorporated in 1972 under the 1971 Alaska Native Claim Settlement Act (ANCSA). From provisions under ANCSA, Doyon is entitled to receive approximately 12.5 million acres of land across Interior Alaska, making Doyon the largest private landowner in Alaska. Management of Doyon’s land focuses on the protection of traditional shareholder uses and responsible economic development or natural resources. The corporation currently employs more than eight hundred people worldwide and over 550 employees in

Alaska.

### DOYON VISION:

Leader in All We Do

### DOYON MISSION:

To continually enhance our position as a financially strong Native corporation in order to promote the economic and social well-being of our shareholders and future shareholders, to strengthen our Native way of life, and to protect and enhance our land and resources.

### DOYON VALUES:

- Financially responsible
- Socially and culturally responsible Alaska Native people
- Pride and respect in Native ownership
- Commitment to the long-term sustainability
- Honesty and integrity
- Commitment to excellence
- Respect for employees
- Commitment to employee safety and sound environmental practices

## DENAKKANAAGA

Denakkanaaga, meaning “Our People Speak” in Denaakk’e (Koyukon Athabascan), is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization which serves as the voice for the Interior Native Elders in the Doyon and Tanana Chiefs Conference region. Denakkanaaga acts on behalf of the Elders, working to ensure their concerns are addressed regarding topics such as Native cultures, traditions, languages, subsistence and social issues. As the population, over the age of sixty-five, grows within Interior Alaska,

Denakkanaaga works with other organizations to maximize efforts to advocate for Native Elders.



**FIGURE 7**  
**DENAKKANAAGA LOGO**

### Denakkanaaga Core Values/Commitments:

- United Voice: Keep Native voice stronger together for positive action.
- Continue traditions, art, cultural values, language, and subsistence life.
- Unity among Native organizations and people

### Denakkanaaga Core Programs:

- Peer support for each other (elder to elder)
- Support/mentor the next generation.
- Cultural programs
- Regional voice on issues/concerns

## K'OYITL'OTS'INA, LIMITED



**FIGURE 8 KCORP LOGO**

K'oyitl'ots'ina, Limited is the village corporation that represents four distinct villages: Alatna, Allakaket, Hughes, and Huslia.

The name K'oyitl'ots'ina was proposed by Esther McCarty, and it means “Villages along the Koyukuk River” in Koyukon Athabascan. It is governed by a nine-member board of directors, elected from and by the corporation’s approximate eight hundred shareholders. K'oyitl'ots'ina, Limited secures about 345,600 acres of land.

K'oyitl'ots'ina, Limited is made of the merging of four villages, each village is represented by two seats, and the ninth is at large, and can be held by any shareholder. Two of the nine directors must have their principal place of residence in one of the respective villages of Alatna, Allakaket, Hughes and Huslia.

K'oyitl'ots'ina, Limited provides shareholders with the opportunity to apply for a scholarship twice annually.

### **K'OYITL'OTS'INA MISSION:**

K'OYITL'OTS'INA, LIMITED is dedicated to maintaining Native Ownership of Land and improving the quality of life of Shareholders through maintaining a profitable corporation, providing services to all its villages, and promoting economic development of its villages.

K'OYITL'OTS'INA, LIMITED, is dedicated to economic enterprise that will be of greatest benefit to all Shareholders through dividends and Shareholder employment.

K'OYITL'OTS'INA, LIMITED is dedicated to improving the standard of living of Shareholders through maximizing dividends generated by corporation earnings.

K'OYITL'OTS'INA, LIMITED is dedicated securing and protecting the assets of the corporation from erosion by inflation and the exploitation of corporation lands.

K'OYITL'OTS'INA, LIMITED is dedicated to improving the opportunities of Shareholders by the creation of jobs, promotion of education, care for the elderly and payment of dividends through the earnings of Corporation assets.

K'OYITL'OTS'INA, LIMITED is dedicated to the distribution of the assets received under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act to the Shareholders. It will only retain such funds as are necessary to ensure the reasonable use of Corporation lands until they can be used for the economic benefit of all Shareholders.

**Board of Directors Members from Huslia:**

- Seat G, Shane Derendoff – Resides in North Pole
- Seat I, Edwin Bifelt – Resides in Huslia

**INTERIOR REGIONAL HOUSING AUTHORITY**

Interior Regional Housing Authority (IRHA), a non-profit organization, is the Tribally Designated Housing Entity (TDHE) for Hughes Tribal Council. Formed in 1974, IRHA implements the Indian Housing Plans to improve and expand affordable housing. By designating IRHA as a TDHE, Tribes choose to use IRHA for building the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (NAHASDA) construction projects. IRHA offers professional services such as grant writing, environmental reviews, project managers, project site control, payroll, accounts payable, financial reporting, procurement, material inventory/shipment, homebuyer counseling and collections.



**FIGURE 9 INTERIOR REGIONAL HOUSING AUTHORITY LOGO**

Mission Statement:

To provide housing opportunities and support self-sufficiency through housing.

Vision Statement:

Thriving families with quality affordable housing.

Values:

- Innovation
- Respect
- Honesty
- Accountability

The Interior Regional Housing Authority (IRHA) is a non-profit organization with authority derived from both state and federal law. The IRHA was formed in 1974 along with thirteen other Alaskan housing authorities to administer programs of the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) throughout the state. The IRHA serves the tribes of the Doyon Region, encompassing remote traditional villages in the Interior, and Alaska's second largest city, Fairbanks.

Our Mission is to provide tribal housing opportunities to positively impact housing needs.

### **NAHASDA**

The Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (NAHASDA) reorganized the system of housing assistance provided to Native Americans through the Department of Housing and Urban Development by eliminating several separate programs of assistance and replacing them with a block grant program. There are two programs authorized for Indian Tribes under NAHASDA which are the Indian Housing Block Grant (IHBG) which is a formula-based grant program and the Title VI Loan Guarantee which provides financing guarantees to Indian tribes for private market loans to develop affordable housing. Each year tribes receive an allocation of IHBG funding, based on a funding formula that distributes equitable shares of the annual appropriation made by Congress. The Tribe may entrust its IHBG to a Tribally Designated Housing Entity (TDHE), who will conduct the Tribe's housing assistance program. The IRHA is the TDHE for the [Doyon Region](#) encompassing Interior Alaska and currently serves 31 Tribes.

### **The primary objectives, under which all Tribes and their TDHEs operate, are:**

- To assist with and promote affordable housing activities.
- To develop and operate housing in a safe and healthy environment on Indian reservations and in other Indian areas for occupancy by low-income families.
- To ensure better access to private mortgage markets for Indian Tribes and their members, and to promote self-sufficiency of Indian Tribes and their members.
- To promote self-sufficiency and coordinate activities to provide housing for Indian Tribes and their members.

- To plan for and integrate infrastructure resources for Indian Tribes with housing development.
- To promote the development of private capital markets in Indian Country and to allow such markets to operate and grow, thereby benefiting Indian Communities.
- By collaborating with Tribes, the IRHA is impacting housing needs throughout the region by making homes safe and energy efficient. Through innovative programs, the IRHA is bringing housing opportunities for homeownership to Alaskan Native and Native American families.

## **IRHA HOUSING PROGRAMS**

- Tribal Equity Advantage Mortgage (Team)
- Homeownership Program (HOP)
- Home Ownership Program for the Elderly (HOPE)
- Housing Based Assistance
- Rehabilitation of Existing Homes
- Village Rehabilitation Program
- Fairbanks Rehabilitation Program
- Meda Lord Senior Center Program (Nenana)

## **Communities We Serve**

Allakaket, Alatna, Anvik, Beaver, Birch Creek, Chalkyitsik, Circle, Dot Lake, Doyon (Canyon Village, Fairbanks, Lake Minchumina, Medfra), Eagle, Evansville/Bettles, Grayling, Healy Lake, Holy Cross, Hughes, Huslia, Kaltag, Koyukuk, Manley Hot Springs, McGrath, Minto, Nenana, Nikolai, Northway, Ruby, Shageluk, Stevens Village, Takotna, Tanacross, Telida, Tetlin and Tok.

# PUBLIC UTILITIES

## WATER & SEWER

Piped water and sewers have existed in Huslia since 1974. The completed project connected a total of twenty-seven homes to the water distribution system. In following years, more houses were added.



**FIGURE 10 HUSLIA WATER PLANT**

In 2002 the *Huslia Sanitation Master Plan* was completed. Studies completed as part of the Sanitation Plan revealed high rust contents in Huslia’s main water source. Community surveys conducted as part of the Sanitation Plan concluded that replacement of the water treatment plant was the community’s highest priority.<sup>5</sup> Major renovations of the original water system began in 2004 and

were completed in 2007. A new water treatment plant was constructed, the water mains were replaced, and a new Washeteria was constructed.

Data shows the current water content high in iron and manganese. The city operates the water and sewer plant, but the Tribe owns it. Since the completion of the water and sewer overhaul, small projects have continued including connecting homes to the main water system and installing fire hydrants throughout the village. Most recently the main water lines in Old Huslia were all replaced in the summer of 2010.<sup>6</sup> Costing close to 11 million dollars to complete. In 2011, eight scattered site wells and seven septic systems were installed. There were

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<sup>5</sup> Montgomery Watson Harza, 2002

<sup>6</sup> Burgett, 2010

multiple renovations completed on the washeteria. A whole new water plant is needed to accommodate the growing needs of the community.

## LANDFILL

The current landfill was constructed in 2006 and is located two miles out of Huslia. It was necessary to relocate the old landfill due to its proximity to the airport. The current landfill is a Class III landfill that is operated by the City of Huslia. Refuse collection services are provided by the Huslia Environmental Office with \$20/month for elders, sixty-eight customers who pay



**FIGURE 11 HUSLIA LANDFILL**

\$25/month as well as six business who pay \$50/month, the trash is collected daily. Once collected, the trash is placed in a burn unit that is run by two trained operators who run the unit five days a week. The two operators work one week, and one week off schedule. To reduce waste the Huslia Tribe also recycles aluminum cans and backhauls bulky items periodically. The city does spring cleaning once a year at the landfill for upkeep and maintenance of the site.<sup>7</sup>

## COMMUNICATIONS

ACS of Northland is the In-State telephone service provider and AT&T Alascom is the long-distance provider. Internet services are available through DRS – D-Link and Starlink. Some individuals have access to the internet, both Tribe and City governments, the school, and the clinic. Cable TV is offered through Dish Network and ARCS provides local television programming on three channels. The KIYU radio station is available in Huslia with periodic outages. GCI provides cellular phone service. Many community members opted to utilize Starlink, due to its affordability over other utility companies.

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<sup>7</sup> Alaska Department of Commerce

## POWER & ELECTRICITY

Electricity in Huslia is owned and operated by Alaska Village Electrical Company (AVEC). The City of Huslia is responsible for paying two full-time employees to AVEC. The AVEC employees alternate two weeks on and two weeks off in running the power facility. Power is its electricity through two diesel generators. The cost of a kilowatt of electricity according to the last PCE report was .32 cents per k/Wh. There was expressed interest in solar energy to help mitigate costs for electricity.



**FIGURE 13 HUSLIA POWERPLANT**

## Bulk Fuel

The city, school, and AVEC all possess bulk fuel storage. AVEC has tanks that store 67,174 gallons of fuel, Yukon-Koyukuk Schools can store 39,874, and the City of Huslia/Huslia Gas & Oil can store 60,559 gallons of gas.



**FIGURE 12 BULK FUEL**

### Bulk Fuel Inventory:

Owner	Owner Contact	Number of Tanks	Gasoline Capacity	Diesel Capacity	Total Capacity
Huslia Gas & Oil	907-829-2266	11	68000	74000	142000
Alaska Village Electric	907-565-5531	10	No Data	118200	118200

Cooperative - Huslia					
Yukon Koyukuk School district	907-474-9400; local - 907-829-2205; fax 907-829-2270	No Data	No Data	No Data	39874
Yukon Koyukuk School District - Huslia	907-374-9416	4	No Data	23000	23000
City of Huslia	907-829-2266	1	No Data	7000	7000
DOT&PF Huslia APT	907-451-5291	1	No Data	1000	1000

### Alternative Energy Plan

Cost of fuel in Huslia in 2025 \$7.00 per gallon and the cost of heating oil is \$7.25 per gallon, and \$0.32 per Kw/H for electricity. The high cost of energy remains a significant burden for residents in Huslia and investigating alternative energy options remains a high priority. Huslia created a Draft Long Range Alternative Energy Plan (LREP) in 2008. The plan outlines the current energy usage and sources in addition to highlighting alternative energy priorities for the community of Huslia. Through a series of community meetings Huslia developed a number of energy goals ranging from conducting studies on appropriate alternative energy options for Huslia, implementing alternative energy methods on new construction and older infrastructure existing in Huslia, and implementing strategies to reduce energy consumption such as weatherizing existing homes. The LREP outlines potential alternative energy sources that may be utilized including solar, geothermal, wind, hydropower, and wood energy systems.

Feasibility studies need to be conducted in all these areas to determine what would be the best sources of alternative energy for Huslia.<sup>8</sup>

In 2017, Huslia completed a Biomass project in addendum with community members from Yukon-Koyukuk school board, Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC), Alaska Native Tribal

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<sup>8</sup> Huntington, 2011

Health Consortium, HTC, & ANTHC. Total cost was \$723,464 (Federal Funds: \$361,731) funded by U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Indian Energy Grant, In-kind and cash contributions, Community members from Yukon-Koyukuk school board, Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC), Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortia (ANTHC).

## PUBLIC FACILITIES

### HEALTH CLINIC



**FIGURE 14 ROSE AMBROSE CLINIC**

The new health clinic in Huslia was completed in October of 2006 and was named in honor of Rose Ambrose, who served as a health aide for many years. The clinic has three full-time health aids who treat a wide variety of ailments. The health clinic sees an average of ninety patients per month. All health aides

frequently consult with physicians in Fairbanks and refer any delicate cases to Chief Andrew Isaac in Fairbanks. The clinic has an ambulance and an emergency staff that consists of health aids and volunteers. For serious emergencies patients are medevac'd to Fairbanks. Tanana Chiefs Conference operates the clinic. The TCC Behavioral Health aide also works out of the clinic.

Huslia is one of the five Tribal communities within the Tanana Chiefs Conference Region who has a Community Health Representative. A CHR is trained in health care, health planning, and disease control. Some of the tasks CHR assist their community with patient education, patient advocacy, home visits, and assisting elderly patients with transportation and travel. Huslia's community health representative has been fully staffed since 1998.

## JIMMY HUNTINGTON SCHOOL



**FIGURE 15 JIMMY HUNTINGTON SCHOOL**

The Jimmy Huntington School teaches students pre-kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade. There were approximately eighty-eight students attending school in 2023-2024. There are four elementary teachers and four junior high and high school teachers. The Jimmy Huntington School also employs a principal and principal aide. The Jimmy Huntington School is part of the Yukon-Koyukuk School

District. Fred Bifelt and Jeanette Williams serve on the YKSD school board with Leona Starr as their treasurer.

## POST OFFICE

Huslia has a post office that is open Monday thru Friday from 10:30 am - 5:30 pm with a full-time Postmaster.

### **Monday-Friday**

10:30am-12:00pm, 1:00pm-5:30pm

### **Saturday & Sunday:**

Closed



**FIGURE 16 HUSLIA POST OFFICE**

## ELDER'S CENTER

An Elder's Nutrition Program is run by the tribal government. There is an open Elders Nutrition Cook position who prepares meals part time Monday through Friday. There is also an alternate cook position currently open. The Elder's Nutrition Facility is at multipurpose building. The Elder Nutrition Program cooks primarily traditional food gathered through subsistence activities and serves meals such as moose stew, salmon, and fried bread. Elders talk about the

need for an Elders Assisted Living Center in Huslia that would allow them to stay in their community instead of going to a place like Fairbanks that is away from family and their home.

## COMMUNITY HALL

Huslia community hall was built in 1980-81 and is in the middle of town next to the old baseball field. Most of the local events take place at the hall such as bingo, fundraisers, potlatches, wellness activities planning and other community functions. The community hall is in poor condition and needs to be remodeled or build a new hall. In 2008 the City of Huslia was awarded a \$40,000 legislative grant for planning the construction of a new multi-use building.



**FIGURE 17 HUSLIA COMMUNITY HALL**

To complete a comprehensive planning document including blueprints, an amount twice that much will be necessary due to the excessive cost of travel to and from the village of Huslia. Constructing a new multi-use building that could house a new community hall and offices for tribal and city governments is a high priority for the Huslia community members.

## HOUSING

There are 108 houses in Huslia and eighty-nine are occupied, with nineteen uninhabitable houses. Of those houses that are occupied twelve are rented and the average rent a month is \$675. The average household is 3.33 people with the average family household being 3.83. The total number of family households is sixty-four houses with twenty-four non-family households. The median value of the houses is 78,800. Seventy-five of the homes in Huslia have running water, eight homes have a well system, and six homes have no running water. Many homes are constructed of logs and are heated with fuel oil. In recent years Huslia has experienced growth in

their community both through Huslia Tribal members moving home and the presence of many growing families. Due to this growth Huslia is currently experiencing a housing shortage that has resulted in multiple families living in the same home. There are not enough livable homes in Huslia to house the current growing population.

## TRANSPORTATION

Huslia is not connected to any highways making travel to and from Huslia possible, year-round, though air travel. The air carrier that travel regularly to Huslia is Wrights Air. In addition to this carrier, Evert’s Air and Lynden Cargo also bring in freight. Huslia has 4,000’ x 75’ air strip surfaces with gravel which is owned and maintained by the State of Alaska. Construction of Huslia’s current airport was completed in 2003. The airstrip resurfaced in 2010 and again in 2025. Excess \$1.90

Air Carrier	Dates	Price
Wrights	M-Sat	\$200/One way \$400/RT

Type	0-2 lbs	3-10 lbs	11-39 lbs	39+ lbs	Outsized
\$Total/lb	\$20 (flat rate)	\$25 (flat rate)	\$35 (flat rate)	\$0.90	\$1.80

Water travel is the principal mode of transportation during the summer. Cargo and fuel arrives by barge twice each year, in May and September. Groceries are flown in weekly by bypass mail. Snowmachines, ATVs, and skiffs are used for local transportation.

In 2023 Huslia was awarded a grant by the Denali Commission to extend the Barge Landing Road (BIA Route 1012) by one half mile.

Huslia has a total of one hundred miles of roads that are constructed primarily of sand and gravel. This network of winter trails, and the frozen river is used as an ice road to neighboring villages. The Huslia Tribal Council is responsible for maintaining the roads. There are over 100 miles of unrecorded trails outside Huslia which need improvement and upgrades to

ensure safe travel. Modes of transportation vary throughout the year. In the winter months the roads are infrequently plowed making it difficult to utilize vehicles.

Huslia, also known as an avid dog mushing community, utilizes a network of winter trails and frozen rivers to travel between neighboring villages. Snow machines are the most common mode of transportation in the winter both within the village and to surrounding areas. Trail marking and the construction of emergency shelters along these winter byways remain a high priority for residents of Huslia and surrounding villages. Extreme winter temperatures and limited daylight make winter travel dangerous often contributing to life threatening circumstances.

In the summer months residents use ATVs and vehicles in town. In the summer travel by boat is the most common mode of transportation to surrounding areas. Transportation priorities and current conditions are outlined in Huslia's Long Range Transportation Plan which is currently being updated to reflect the changing transportation needs of Huslia.

## **LAND USE & ENVIRONMENT**

In 1971 the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) was passed by Congress which was an effort to address land ownership, sub-surface, and surface rights. Under ANCSA, traditional native uses of lands were recognized and amendments to land ownership were made through conveyance to regional and village corporations established for that purpose. ANCSA 14(c) establishes that land may be transferred to individuals, non-profits, or to the community for facilities that are needed. Land in and around Huslia was surveyed in 1983, most of the land being retained by K'oyitl'ots'ina, Limited and subsurface rights being retained by Doyon Limited.<sup>9</sup>

Landholders in Huslia include Doyon Limited, K'oyitl'ots'ina, Limited, Huslia City, the State of Alaska, and private landowners. The city of Huslia lies on approximately forty acres of land which consists of residential, commercial, and public use facilities.

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<sup>9</sup> Montgomery Watson Harza, 2002

## SUBSISTENCE

Although Huslia has shifted to a cash-based economy, subsistence activities remain a principal component of the local economy. With very few year-round employment opportunities in Huslia, residents rely heavily on subsistence activities. Moose, caribou, salmon, whitefish bear, small game, waterfowl, berries, and gardening activities are important food supplements to residents. Many people of Huslia rely on what they can hunt and gather off the land to make it through the winter.

Although rising temperatures and other threats are limiting subsistence rights and the communities traditional way of life

## ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS

Currently the highest Environmental Concern for the residents of Huslia is the extreme erosion of the riverbanks. Others have mentioned permafrost thaw, Disappearing lakes and water systems (Engineers, 2007), Fire – Wildland & Community Conflagration, Severe Weather, Ground Failure, Earthquake, and Drought. All listed in the Hazard Mitigation Plan the City of Huslia compiled in 2018 and is planning on updating as of 2026. (Huslia,, Alaska Local Hazard Mitigation Plan 2018 Prepared for City of Huslia, 2017)

Rapid erosion threatens the current infrastructure in Huslia. In 2025, a \$20 million federal grant intended to move homes and build new water/septic systems was cancelled leaving the community susceptible to erosion vulnerability. Historically between 2003 – 2005 the riverbank eroded inland at rates of up to 100 feet per year.

“Big Lake” drainage in October 2025 and in 2006 residents reported that more than half of the areas lakes have vanished over the past two decades, many turning into meadows as the permafrost “seals” holding them in place.

In the community of Huslia there are four active contamination sites and four where the sites are considered clean up complete. Areas of concerns of diesel contamination from former AVEC tank farm that held eight vertical tanks of fuel oil for the city power plant that have eroded or are at risk of eroding into the river. Contaminates include high concentrations of Diesel Range Organics (DRO) and Gasoline Range Organics. The tanks were in operation for over thirty years in an unlined, sandbag-bermed area prior to relocation.

Another incident involves a 1985 incident where a buried fuel line supplying the Water Treatment Plant Tank Farm froze and leaked. Approximately 90% of the fuel-soaked area was removed in the 80's visual contamination and diesel odors remain on the subsurface soil.

## CAPITAL

Much of the economic activity in Huslia originates through federal, state, and grant funded projects and positions. Like many interior rural Alaskan villages Huslia is arduously making the transition from a subsistence-based economy to a cash-based economy. Although Huslia faces many obstacles one of the primary goals set forth in Huslia's Community Development Plan in 1999 included reducing Huslia's reliance on government monies through encouraging local business and industry. Surveys done during the creation of the Comprehensive Community Development Plan indicated that upwards of 90% of revenue in Huslia was the direct result of government transfer. With such a high reliance on transfer money Huslia is subject to yearly funding decisions that do not take into consideration the needs of the community. Without a continuous effort to capture revenue generated through capital projects in Huslia before it is spent outside of the community, Huslia's economy will never be sustainable, and sovereignty will not be actualized. Promoting sustainable economic development and creating supportive resources for new business development remains a high priority among community members today.<sup>10</sup>

Huslia is considered a "distressed community", according to the Denali Commission (2025). The distressed status is determined by comparing average income of a community or CDP to full-time minimum wage earnings, the percentage of the population earning greater than full-time minimum wage earnings and a measure of the percentage of the population engaged in year-round wage and salary employment (2025 Distressed Communities, 2025). 30% or more of the residents earn less than \$24,398, the state's annual minimum wage for 2024. (Commission, 2025)

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<sup>10</sup> Huslia Tribal Council, 1999

## Active business licenses in Huslia:

(As of Nov 03, 2025)

Business Name	License Number
1st Hill Consulting & Grant Writing Services~	2223509
Alaska Native Renewable Industries	2177832
BIFELT-AC, LLC	306708
DeWilde Air	2123393
Dotson' t'uh	2197448
Dotson'sa LLC	2192996
Henry's Store, LLC	2191080
Huffman Guide Service	2214483
HUSLIA CITY COUNCIL	90322
Koyukon Designs	2203040
Lakeview	2204617
R & M MERCANTILE, INC	312980
R.J.'S HARDWARE & GEN. STORE	291042
S.E.S FIRE	1094107
Subzero Electric, LLC	2090066
Sun Dog Telecom	2198246
Vent Street Market	2220688
Wright Way Enterprises	2224346

## INDUSTRY & CAPITAL PROJECTS

Currently, the Native village of Huslia does not support any major industry. Much of the economic activity is generated through capital improvements of community infrastructure. Huslia has completed several significant capital improvements projects including the construction of a new airstrip, health clinic, washeteria, water treatment plant, and landfill. A new road was built to the boat landing in 2013. By 2025 the Denali Commission awarded Huslia

a grant to extend the Barge Landing Road (BIA Route 1012) by one half mile. These projects create some temporary employment opportunities for Huslia’s residents; however, contractors from outside do not always prefer local hire and bring in their own workers.

## STORES

There are two locally owned stores in Huslia. R&M Mercantile is co-owned by Alisha and Nakon’ Vent which sells groceries, cleaning products, and other miscellaneous items such as shoes, pots & pans, beads, and local artwork. Bifelt Enterprise is owned by Fred and Audrey Bifelt and sells groceries.

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The City of Huslia, Tribal Government, school, health clinic, and local stores provide the only year-round employment in Huslia. The City of Huslia has one full-time staff member. The city is also responsible for providing wages to the employees of the water treatment plant and AVEC. The school employs eight full-time teachers, four teachers’ aides, a principal, principles aide, and a special education teacher. There are two locally owned stores in Huslia that provide several year-round employment opportunities.

During summer months there are often seasonal jobs available including firefighting with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and construction jobs in and outside of the village. As well as Scorched Earth Services (SES). There are also opportunities with Alaska Native Renewable Industries (ANRI). Many of Huslia’s residents rely on seasonal employment as their primary source of income for the entire year.

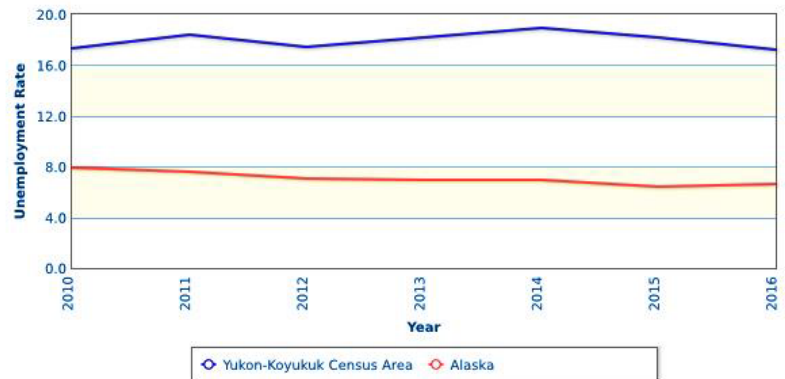
Some residents run dog teams. Although dog mushing is not considered a lucrative business, it does provide opportunities for generating some income through local and international competitions. Huslia is known for its dog mushing traditions and is home to the renowned dog musher George Attla who won 10 Fur Rendezvous World Championship sprint titles and 8 North American Open sprint championships.<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>11</sup> George Attla, 2007

## EMPLOYMENT & INCOME LEVELS

According to information gathered in the 2000 U.S. Census there was a total of 188 persons that was part of the potential workforce, of which ninety-four were employed. The unemployment rate was 18.3%, which did not include a total of seventy-three adults who were not actively looking for work. The total percentage of adults over the age of sixteen who are not working was 50% of the population. The average per capita income was \$10,983, the median household income was \$27,000 and the median family household income was \$31,000. An estimated eighty-five people were in poverty or 28.1 % of the total population.<sup>12</sup>



Local data gathered put some of those figures at a different level. There is 171 people in the potential workforce with forty-nine being employed, six seasonal workers, nineteen school employees, twenty-eight retired, sixty-one unemployed and two disabled. The number of people employed and unemployed is at about the same level.

## BARRIERS TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Huslia's remote location and inflated cost of energy pose some of the most significant challenges for economic development. Due to these two factors providing goods and services at an affordable price is challenging and difficult. Current and prospective business owners must contend with these factors using creative and innovative ideas.

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<sup>12</sup> Alaska Department of Commerce

## LOCAL ASSETS

One of Huslia's strongest assets is its traditions and the strength of the community. Huslia's residents take pride in their culture and where they come from. Many of Huslia's Elders remain in the village and contribute the overall strength and identity of the community.

## POTENTIAL FOR GROWTH

The area for the greatest potential for economic growth in Huslia is its cottage industries. There is a potential market for several small-scale services such as small engine repair, monitor and stove repair, hair salon, and a coffee shop/ internet café. Many of Huslia's residents travel regularly to the regional hub of Fairbanks for basic supplies and services. Not only would the businesses supply steady income for business owners, but it would also potentially allow the village to capture and circulate revenue that is generated through state and federal jobs and capital projects.

Another area for potential growth is tourism. Huslia has had some tourism activities in the past through Athabascan Cultural Journey. Although this business is no longer running it does provide a potential model for Huslia to build from. Some residents and leadership have voiced an interest in reviving cultural tourism in Huslia. Huslia is known for its local arts and crafts, historical sites, dog mushing traditions, and beautiful scenery. All of these would provide an excellent basis for a small-scale tourism industry. By promoting tourism within the village there would be a potential market for arts and crafts produced by residents, it could also potentially provide an income for guides and those interested in running small B&B's.

## CHURCHES

There are three churches in Huslia: The Saint Francis Regis Catholic Church, which is currently inactive, and the Good Shepherd Episcopal Church, and a local Community Church. The Saint Francis Regis Church was named after Franciscan Friars of Galena who ministered at the church around 1986. Huslia also has a strong congregation for Episcopal worship with a Christian foundation with Anglican Communion.

## COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTER

Huslia currently has a Community Resource Center that can be utilized by people of all ages in the community. Originally the center was used as a Youth Recreational Center but was later changed to the Community Resource Center to better serve the whole community. The Center is used to provide residents with healthy activities to do, such as board games, arts/crafts, sewing, ample collection of books/magazines, television, and other preventative activities. The community holds resource meetings there and is hoping to start an alcohol anonymous support group in the future.

## GOALS & OBJECTIVES

### YOUTH & ELDERS

❖ Goal #1: Huslia Tribal Council will work to provide opportunities for the growth for the Youth and provide a communal space for both the Youth and Elders.

➤ Objective: Utilize current opportunities to implement Denakke' into everyday life to ensure knowledge is being passed to the youth.

Action Items:

- Youth learn language through everyday activities to encourage constant utilization of the language.
  - Denakke' over CB (radio)
  - Work with the school to build it into the school curriculum
    - ◆ Contact YKSD to inquire about next steps in integrating Denakke' into the day as much as possible.
  - Lean on the community to ensure that meetings and activities or gatherings have Denakke'.
  - Teach detailed explanations of sayings to pass on the meanings of common sayings.
  - Activate a Huslia dance program and seek funds for regalia.
    - ◆ Nominate a local leader to take initiative in starting this group up.

- They would need to teach the songs and work closely with the Tribe to coordinate travel if needed and what needs to be done for the success of the dance group.
- Create a space for a mentorship program between the Youth & Elders that can be utilized as a teen center as well.
  - Elders dinner service that is currently in effect : have youth volunteer to help prepare elders food
    - ◆ Propose to the school that they may receive extra credit and use this experience to build their resume
  - As of the end of 2025 there was a newly constructed multi-use building in the final stages of phase I of III. Adding onto these buildings might be the most cost-effective.
    - ◆ Cultural building/resource center
    - ◆ Daycare center
    - ◆ Teen Center equipped with a TV, gaming area, crafts, etc.
    - ◆ Complete a cost estimate on installing an indoor pool for year-round activity.
- Allocate funds to hire an employee to open the gym for physical activity (work with the school on this as well)
- Rebuilding area around baseball field to accommodate to ability to house other activities such as a:
  - Basketball court
  - Volleyball, Laser tag
- Contact Dancing with the Spirit (Non-Profit) to travel to Huslia and teach the youth music.
  - Seek funding for continuous visits (yearly or at the tribes discretion)
  - Program funding as sourced from Dancing with the Spirit comes from schools, tribal councils, RurALCAP Foundation, Tanana Chiefs Conference, Doyon, individuals, the St. Matthews Endowment Fund, and the Episcopal Diocese of Alaska.
- Seek state and federal funds to construct an Elders home as the population is aging and needs assisted living.

- Research Galena and Tanana’s business model on their elder homes, what works, what needs improvement, etc.

## HOUSING

❖ Goal #1: To provide Huslia residents with the security of warm, safe, energy-efficient homes in a variation of sizes.

➤ Objective 1: Source funding and conduct surveys to secure the construction of the 34 homes needed as of now on the housing list.

Action Items:

- Write a letter to the city for lots/land that they have, easing the obligations of the Tribe of finding sustainable lots for new construction.
- Conduct housing surveys for the residents of Huslia questioning the quality of their homes and needs assessments including but not limited to;
  - Mold remediation
  - If any rehabilitations needed
  - Weatherization upgrades
  - Need for water/sewer connections
  - Electricity hookups needed

- Conduct a survey if not already completed, for the needs of the types of houses for the housing list applicants. I.E. Single-family, Single person homes, 1–5-bedroom homes, townhouses/sharing for elders/duplex

- Contact Interior Regional Housing Authority, TCC Housing, ANTHC and any other housing entities to collaborate with constructing these houses for the growing community.

➤ Objective 2: Relocate all current houses by the river to the new area, out of danger of flooding.

Action Items:

- Assess the current plans to connecting the new Birch Grove subdivision to the current water systems.
  - Seek funding to connect the existing water systems with upgrades to service the growing populace.

- Source funding to move the remaining 20 – 30 homes by river to new area.
  - EPA grant – doing needs assessments for funding the relocation.
  - Survey land plots available in the new subdivision area for the houses that need to be moved.
  - Make plans for which houses need to be moved, and a timeline to follow easing the process of this surmountable task.

## PUBLIC UTILITIES

- ❖ Goal #1: To pursue the development of Huslia and to provide the residents with amenities necessary for everyday life.
  - Objective: Secure the longevity of the Huslia by ensuring the upkeep and maintenance of functionalities needed to maintain the growth of Huslia.

### Action Items:

- Research the plans completed in the past solar projects in the TCC region as the community expressed interest in a Solar farm for the community and individual homes.
  - Contact TCC Infrastructure division for assistance in applying for energy grants and any other funding agencies that can contribute.
  - The current power plant in place goes through electric surges, which affects the whole town. With the interest in Solar energy to help offset high operating costs it'll also benefit the consistency of constant power for the village.
    - ◆ Seek multiple grants and pool funding sources to achieve this renewable energy goal.
  - Current construction plans for AVEC to install more streetlights, adding solar compatibility will be of benefit.
- Assess the current water supply power systems and make sure it's adequate enough for the growth and relocation of Huslia and explore if a second water pumphouse is needed.
  - Evaluate the probability of upgrading the washeteria or if only renovations can be made, and what the contribution of a second water pumphouse would be to the current aging system in place.

- Work synonymously with the City of Huslia as they the owners of the current water and sewer systems.
  - ◆ Research options the current Sewer truck has for longer hoses and seek funding.
  - ◆ Investigate installing metered water usage for the town, if plausible seek funding through proper channels.
- In the housing surveys conducted see how many households would be interested in holding tanks for water.
- Research outside retrofitting water as there was interest in the Community Planning Meeting and insert that in the housing surveys as well.

## PUBLIC FACILITIES

❖ Goal #1: To provide the residents of Huslia with upgraded facilities needed to maintain the upkeep and growth of the Village.

➤ Objective: Assess the current facilities conditions, areas that can be developed and plan future endeavors that can be accomplished.

Action Items:

- Evaluate current plans for construction and areas that can be developed.
  - Identify other aging structures that need to be demolished and can be backhauled through the IGAP program, evaluate if the current Community Hall needs to be demolished. (In time, as finding funding might prove to be an obstacle)
  - For the new Community Hall, develop a plan on whether a new location, rebuilding on the current plot is needed, or connecting it to the new multipurpose building is still viable.
    - ◆ Seek funding to construct a new building connected to the water lines and that is equipped with bathrooms and a commercial kitchen.
- Examine areas that can serve as plots for greenhouse space, one located uptown and one downtown for easier access.
  - Research multiple grant and funding agencies in to assist in the construction and maintenance of these greenhouses.

- Seek out agricultural grants to fund purchasing all needed supplies for caring for the greenhouses.
- Research similar projects completed for example the TTCD's Tyonek Grown Program which has had significant success.
- Research ways for the greenhouse to be operable year-round (Bio-mass heat, Glass or rigid plastic greenhouse to help keep the heat) UAF has conducted extensive research into best practices to keep an operable year-round greenhouse.
  - ◆ <https://www.uaf.edu/ces/publications/database/gardening/files/pdfs/HGA-00336-Controlling%20GreenHouse%2011-27-24.pdf>
  - ◆ <https://www.akenergyauthority.org/Portals/0/Programs/AEEE/Biomass/Documents/PDF/317BiomassHeatedGreenhouseManual.pdf?ver=2019-06-18-123109-157>
- RurAL CAP foundation could be obtained to contribute to overall price. [https://www.ruralcapfoundation.org/\\_files/ugd/233a66\\_cd662e124a6641bd94d6cd9aee2351c5.pdf](https://www.ruralcapfoundation.org/_files/ugd/233a66_cd662e124a6641bd94d6cd9aee2351c5.pdf) (Deadline Periods: April 30, August 31, November 30)
- Dedicate an area near the Communal Greenhouse to provide a space for a communal compost area.
- Seek funding for the purchase of a water delivery truck, firetruck, and ambulance
  - For public safety purposes these are a necessity.
  - To maintain the life expectancy of these purchases, seek funding for a garage to hold this new equipment.
- Explore the possibility of combining the City and Tribal offices into one building complex.
  - Propose the pros of having all the communal entities in one local to the City of Huslia.
  - Seek funding for the construction of this duplex.
- Seek funding for the construction of a sheltered area at the airport, to wait in the harsh weather conditions.
- Seek funding for a picnic area – gazebo.

## PUBLIC SAFETY

❖ Goal #1: Train residents of Huslia in Public Safety for the security and welfare in case of future incidents if needed, as the village is so remote.

➤ Objective: Prepare, Protect, Preserve.

Action Items:

- Contact educational agencies to hold FTT training for community
- Seek funding to purchase fire hydrants and connections throughout the community.
  - Ensure each household is equipped with fire extinguishers up to code.
- Seek funding and allocate funds to purchase search and rescue equipment such as: Sleds, vehicles, snowmachines, boats, survival kits, satellite phones, survival backpacks, Life vests, etc.
- Allocate funds to hire another VPSO to relieve current, preventing burnout.
- For the clinic, upgrade the current aging X-Ray equipment, and purchase additional dental chairs to provide space for more staff to work.
- Provide funding for PA training, and hire a new X-Ray technician
  - Contact TCC Employment & Training for assistance.
- Host an array of trainings for the community including but not limited to: CPR, First aid, and Gun safety
- Seek funding for construction of housing for health professionals.
- Contact TCC Transportation to seek funding for the construction of hot springs safety cabins – adding trails to the roads inventory.
- Conduct annual maintenance on the boilers at the clinic and all connections for the longevity of the machine.
- Seek funding to provide public transportation, research total cost of purchasing a van and shipping to Huslia via barge.

## APPENDIX A: MEETING ATTENDEES

# Huslia Community Planning Meeting 08/06/25

### Sign-in Sheet

Name	Title	Survey Completed?
Selina Sam	elder	Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>
Liz Wright	T.A. Huslia Tribe	Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>
Kambria		Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>
Rosie Pilot		Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>
Barney		Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>
Ricky + Tracy Vent	member	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>
Eric Aurasse	member	Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>
Doreen David	CHR	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>
Mabel Vent	Elder	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>
ZANE Roberts		Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>
Damion Pavlick		Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>
Darlene Sam		Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>
Campton W.	child	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>
LeAnn Bifelt	Grant Writer (Transportation)	Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>
Maverick Vent		Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>
Kairon	Francis Nohmer	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>
Abby		Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>
Aubrey Bifelt		Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>
Hester Sam	Elder	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>



Tanana  
Chiefs  
Conference

# Huslia Community Planning Meeting 08/06/25

## Sign-in Sheet

Name	Title	Survey Completed?
Madison Attla	Office Asst. / Community Member	Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>
Be		Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>
Avz Vent	HTC Grant Writer	Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>
Shandara Swatling		Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>
Steve Swatling		Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>
Annetto Moses	Tribal Council Member	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>
Danielle Layton	CHAIV	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>
Zoe Ballard-Huffman	CHA-1	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>
Jess Olin	Tribe Member	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>
Jeanette Williams	Cultural Coordinator	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>
Margie Ambrose		Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>
George Yaska Sr (Butch)	elder	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>
Anastasia Whitaker	Teacher	Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>
Alex Vent		Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>
Barrett Whitaker		Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>
Ryan Whitaker		Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>
Justin Zait	BOSS	Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>
Jeanne Parlebo	Lorraine	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>
Ricky Vent		Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>



Tanana  
Chiefs  
Conference

## APPENDIX B: REFERENCES

- Anon. (2017). *Huslia,, Alaska Local Hazard Mitigation Plan 2018 Prepared for City of Huslia*. Retrieved from <https://www.tananachiefs.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/Huslia-City-HMP-2018.pdf#:~:text=Plan%20Administration.%20The%20Huslia%20Hazard%20Mitigation%20Plan,Administration%20for%20approval%20once%20every%20five%20years>.
- Commision, D. (2025). *2025 Distressed Communities Report*. Anchorage: Denali Commision. Retrieved from <https://denali.gov/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/2025DistressedCommunitiesReport.pdf>
- Engineers, U. S. (2007). *Alaska Baseline Erosion Assessment*. Retrieved from [https://www.poa.usace.army.mil/Portals/34/docs/civilworks/BEA/Huslia\\_Final%20Report.pdf](https://www.poa.usace.army.mil/Portals/34/docs/civilworks/BEA/Huslia_Final%20Report.pdf)
- Huslia Tribal Council with assisstance from the Department of Community and Regional Affairs. (1999). *Huslia Comprehensive Community Development Plan*. <https://www.commerce.alaska.gov/dcra/admin/Download/GetFile/?documentUID=dc27da53-62ca-4c4e-a2d9-36ef25808f89&isPdf=true>.

# APPENDIX C: COMMUNITY SURVEY QUESTIONS 2025



## Huslia Community Feedback Survey 2025

*This survey will help document the needs of the community in the community plan.*  
**ALL INFORMATION WILL BE CONFIDENTIAL AND YOUR ANSWERS WILL REMAIN ANONYMOUS**

**Return Completed survey to: Huslia Council Office or bring to the Community Planning Meeting on August 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at the Huslia Community Hall.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

### Basic Demographics:

Age:  Youth  18-30  31-40  41-50  51-60  61-70  71-80  81-90  91+

Gender:  M  F Veteran?  Y  N

### Goal Questions

What do you enjoy most about living in your community?

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What are the biggest issues and challenges facing your community?

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---

What goals would you like to see happen in your community in the next 5 years?

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---

### Housing

Do you feel that housing is a priority and needs to be addressed? (1 is not a priority, 5 is a high priority)

1  2  3  4  5

Please describe why you selected this rating:

---

What types of housing do you think should be built to meet the needs?

Rental  Elder  Single-family  Temporary/Seasonal  Other: \_\_\_\_\_

What are your primary concerns regarding the home you are living in?

- Overcrowded
- High Energy cost
- No Water/Sewer
- Rehabilitation
- Weatherization
- Lack of Space
- Lack of Storage
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## Infrastructure

What are the main infrastructure needs in the community?

---

Please rate each facility on their overall condition: (1 being poor condition, 5 being good condition)

- Clinic  1  2  3  4  5
- Tribal Building  1  2  3  4  5
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_  1  2  3  4  5

## Transportation

What are the main transportation issues in the community?

- Fuel Prices
- Freight Costs
- Poor Road maintenance
- Airfare/Flights
- Road safety
- Drunk drivers
- Dust Control
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

What transportation needs would you like addressed for the community?

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## Culture/Tradition

What culture activities are most important for the community?

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Do you participate in cultural and traditions? If so, which activities?

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## Health and Wellness

What are the main Health and Wellness issues in the community?

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What healthy activities would you like to see occurring in the community?

---

## Public Safety/Enforcement Questions

What are the main Public Safety/Enforcement issues in the community?

---

Do you feel safe in our community?  Y  N  Sometimes  Most of the time

What would help you to make you feel safer?

---

Do you feel that the Public Safety support is adequate?  Y  N  Sometimes

## Economy

What are the main economy challenges in the community?

---

Where do you spend more money?  Local Store  In the city  Shopping Online  Other \_\_\_\_\_

What can be done to create stable jobs in the community?

---

What sort of business opportunities would you be willing to support in the community?

---

What education and training would prepare you for the workforce?

---

---

### Education & Youth Questions:

What is the main education & youth issues in the community?

---

What are some suggestions for activities that we can do for youth throughout the year?

---

---

What ideas do you have about educating youth? Cultural, language, family, and parent support?

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### Public Utilities:

What are the main public utilities issues in the community?

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What other public utilities are needed?

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### Land and Environment

What are the main land and environment issues in the community?

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What idea(s) do you have to help address the issue?

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### Additional Comments:

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---

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**Submit with name to be entered into the drawing at Community Meeting.**

## APPENDIX D: SURVEY RESULTS

### What do you enjoy most about living in your community?

- The close-knit community
- When a loved one passes, everyone works together to help each other out
- Community relationships are life long
- We are working together to build our community
- Remoteness
- Sense of security
- Hunting, berry picking, boating
- Traditional Community
- Dedication to culture and elders
- Peaceful
- No Liquor Store

### What are the biggest issues and challenges facing your community?

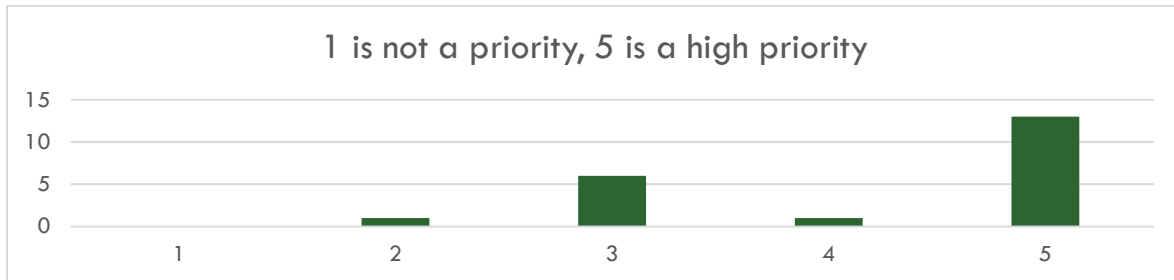
- Water/sewer
- River erosion
- Housing shortage
- water plant upgrade
- dust control during summer months
- Communication between elders + youth
- Solar power to offset high energy costs
- Alcohol and drug use
- The generator going out-power outages
- Need new community hall
- No place for youth to hang out
- Freight/Airline prices
- Need more job
- Parent involvement

### What would you like to see happening in your community in the next 5 years?

- More homes with water and wastewater, sewer
- River erosion
- water plant upgrade
- dust control
- More housing
- More community activities involving parents and their children
- Bigger MPB
- outdoor recreation area for laser tag, volleyball, horseshoe softball, basketball, gazebo, grilling and bands
- specific targeted counseling like for example one just focused on grief
- Become a dry community
- more opportunities for our youth
- road work

- more than 1 VPSO that is here for 2 weeks and leaves again

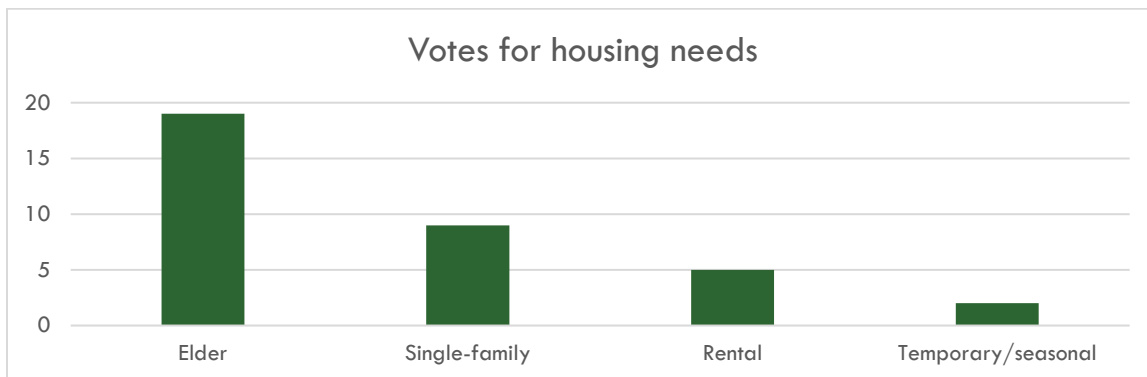
**Do you feel that housing is a priority and needs to be addressed?**



**Please describe why you selected this rating:**

- A single mother of 4 and I'd like 2 of my children to move home but no place to stay
- We have people moving home and families are growing
- A lot of families living together
- There are 2-3 generations living in one house
- Bank caving in and housing needs move
- Huslia is growing somewhat rapidly

**What types of housing do you think should be built to meet the needs?**



**Other (): Duplex's, 3-4 bedroom houses**

**What are your primary concerns regarding the home you are living in?**

- **Overcrowded - 8**
- **High Energy Costs - 4**
- **No Water/Sewer - 6**
- **Rehabilitation - 5**
- **Weatherization - 8**
- **Lack of Space - 2**
- **Lack of Storage – 7**
- **Other - Mold**

**What are the main infrastructure needs in the community?**

- Water/Sewer/Installation-Infrastructure
- River erosion
- water plant upgrade and water to new homes on Birch Grove
- Housing
- Solar Power Energy
- Larger Multipurpose Building
- Jobs
- Traditional/Cultural Building
- Dust Control

**Please rate each facility on their overall condition: (1 being poor condition, 5 being good condition)**

**Clinic** 1- 0, 2 – 0, 3 – 3, 4 – 9, 5 – 5

**Tribal building** 1 – 1, 2 – 3, 3 – 10, 4 – 2, 5 - 2

**Other:** 2-Multipurpose building, 2- Gas+Oil, 1- Hall, 1- Old Hall Community, 3- The Hall

**What are the main transportation issues in the community?**

**Dust control - 16**

**Poor road maintenance - 5**

**Road safety - 5**

**Drunk drivers - 12**

**Fuel prices – 7**

**Freight costs - 9**

**Other – Airfare/Flights**

### **What transportation needs would you like addressed for the community?**

- Fuel Prices
- Freight Costs
- Airfare/Flights
- Dust control
- A van/bus to transport elders and people who live on birch grove
- Wider view at intersections
- Less vehicles approaching airplanes
- Drunk driving
- More stop signs
- Enforcing underage driving

### **What culture activities are most important for the community?**

- Memorial Potlaches
- Holiday gatherings
- Subsistence and language
- Cultural potlaches
- Culture camps
- Hunting seasons
- Fishing
- Races
- Picnics
- Sewing nights
- Dog mushing
- Activities for youth to do in evenings
- Native dancing
- Denakka Language
- Trapping
- Story telling
- Native singing
- Community gatherings
- Denakka Night

### **Do you participate in cultural and traditions? If so, which activities?**

- Yes- Snow shoe
- Yes-Beading & sewing, singing & dancing, native language/songs
- Yes! Sewing get togethers, races, picnics, etc.
- Yes, all except racing dogs. But I always go to the races
- Sometimes culture camps, hot springs and hunting trips with students
- Yes, in potlaches, moose hunting, fishing (when we can)
- Yes. All cultural and traditional activities
- Work on moose and fish
- Building log homes
- Yes, berry picking

### **What are the main Health and Wellness issues in the community?**

- Behavioral Health
- Under 18 vaping and smoking weed
- Drug and alcohol abuse
- The water
- Dust Control
- Sand causing breathing issues
- Grief and depression
- Cancer
- Lice
- More healthy exercise

### **What healthy activities would you like to see occurring in the community?**

- More community gatherings
- Less alcohol + drugs
- Parents + children doing activities together
- Physical activity
- Gathering(mental health/women+men's gatherings)
- Laser tag
- Volleyball at the outdoor rec area
- Grief fairs or events to bring more awareness
- More activities/sports for youth year around
- Bingo for elders or elderly activities
- AA meetings
- Hiking
- Chiropractor
- Health fair with services that visit. There is a lady who visits and provides Narcan and safety things
- Talking circle

### **What are the main Public Safety/Enforcement issues in the community?**

- Domestic Violence Drugs + alcohol
- VPSO got to be more involved
- Drinking & when people get violent
- Briefing fire safety
- Driving too fast or on the wrong side of road, corner visibility
- Could use 2 VPSO's
- Drinking & Driving
- Gun safety & shooting in town
- When troopers are called, seems like no one gets picked up
- Need more control with letting alcohol in the village
- Driving reckless

- Theft Elders/youth being bothered by crime/fires

**Do you feel safe in our community?**

**Yes – 8      No – 8      Sometimes – 4      Most of the time – 8**

**What would help you to make you feel safer?**

- Follow up on DV reports
- More law enforcement, a quicker response
- Strict laws on importing alcohol+drugs
- Becoming a dry village
- Certain people who have access to weapons
- Drive slower in town
- Better corner visibility
- 
- Something on the roads to keep dust down
- Enforced justice
- Random night patrol Security
- Better VPSO
- Kids don't feel safe because of youth bullying and intimidation
- People being seen for mental health

**Do you feel that the Public Safety support is adequate?**

**Yes – 7      No – 4      Sometimes – 9      Most of the time – 0**

**What are the main economic challenges in the community?**

- Low paying jobs for high food, gas, & freight costs
- No Jobs in winter; need long term jobs
- Children like to play games
- Diesel prices
- Electricity costs - solar investments

**Where do you spend more money?**

**In the city – 4 Shopping online – 11      Local store – 7      Other:      Electricity, Lights/AVEC**

**What can be done to create stable jobs in the community?**

- More project implementation
- More infrastructure
- Younger generation needs to go to school or military
- More local activities
- Getting more grants
- Full time grant writers with good training
- Proper training for employees
- More activity buildings
- Fuel costs
- New workers
- Involve local businesses to invest in youth work
- AA program w/housing available for women in need

**What sort of business opportunities would you be willing to support in the community?**

- B+B
- Small café/bakery
- Restaurant
- Tourism
- Fishing & guiding
- Open to creating more revenue in the village(not liquor stores)
- Youth recreational area/center
- Vehicle maintenance shop
- A childcare business
- More stores
- Car rentals
- Baking/bike fixing services/ small engines etc.

**What education and training would prepare you for the workforce?**

- Have discipline in school
- Unions, mechanic, basic carpenter
- Drivers Ed
- Gun safety, alcohol, drugs
- Mentor programs and volunteer needs for elders kitchen from high school going to workforce

**What are the main education & youth issues in the community?**

- Criminal mischief
- Need community service program
- Not prepared for college or technical schools
- Lack of opportunities
- No structure; easy for the children to run around during school hours
- No discipline

- Lack of self-motivation in school
- Youth leaving for other communities
- Need more community encouragement for students
- More frequent youth events: kids getting into trouble, they need more opportunities
- More activities/sports! Not enough activities/sports year around
- Teaching our youth how to work together
- Finishing high school
- Youth being out late

### **What are some suggestions for activities that we can do for youth throughout the year?**

- More funding for cultural camps and dog mushing programs
- Seasonal activities
- More classes that involve small engine repair, truck/car repair, carpentry
- Culture camps, softball camps, basketball camps, swimming
- Parents + child involvement
- More gatherings/healthy activities
- Gaming place, a club for young people to play video/board games, watch movies, and bowl
- Learning to trap & garden
- T-Ball, official league, running, ballet, gymnastics, shooting, art classes (not just through school)
- Bring back Indian ed to school
- Open gym for elementary in winter
- Outdoor camping
- Let the youth say what they want to do
- Travelling

### **What ideas do you have about educating youth?**

- Online language learning program creation
- Get young adults to leave the village, get an education, join military or trade school
- Cultural language, respect, not just play out all the time
- Limit on electronic activities
- Birch bark baskets, sewing, cooking traditional foods
- More and/or longer culture camps
- More sports opportunities, cultural + language
- Can have youth visit people in the evening to bead, work on meat, moose, beaver

- Teaching traditional values
- Start Indian Ed sewing + singing, boys can learn to make sleds

**What are the main public utilities issues in the community?**

- Water House/Washeteria - Needs renovation
- Sewer/water systems in Birch Grove subdivision
- Water plant upgrade
- Powerplant upgrade
- New well
- Power outages, lack of water
- Uptown needs running water & sewer installed
- Hall to old and small
- Lights

**What other public utilities are needed?**

- Renovated gas station
- Transitional housing for DV survivors
- Solar farm, water and septic
- A second water house / well
- Water to all homes
- Computer room with printer
- Lights on roads
- Dust control

**What are the main land and environment issues in the community?**

- Fishing
- Airport building at the end of the old runway needs to be demoed or moved
- Fuel contaminations
- River erosion
- Road erosion
- Wider roads & more roads
- Dusty roads
- Sand Caving

**What idea(s) do you have to help address the issue?**

- Stop trollers in sea's surrounding
- Alaska Pilings along riverbanks
- Gravel/chemical road
- Widen all the roads
- More job opportunities for people to water the roads daily in the summer
- Funding
- Less big trucks

## CONTACT INFORMATION

### **Huslia Traditional Council**

P.O. Box 70 Huslia, AK 99746

Telephone: (907) 829-2294

Fax: (907) 829-2409

### **City of Huslia**

P.O. Box 10 Huslia, AK 99746

Telephone: (907) 829-2266

Fax: (907) 829-2224

### **Jimmy Huntington School**

P. O. Box 110 Huslia, AK 99746

Huslia School Boulevard Huslia, AK 99746

Phone: (907) 829-2405

<https://www.yksd.com/o/yksd>

### **Rose Ambrose Health Clinic**

66 Spring Camp Rd., Huslia, AK 99746

Mailing: P.O. Box 90, Huslia, AK 99746

Phone: (907) 452-8251 ext. 3520 or

(907) 829-2283 (after hours only)

Fax: (907) 829-2203

### **Huslia United States Postal Service**

34 Dakli St, Huslia, AK 99746

Phone: (800) 275-8777

### **K'oyitl'ots'ina limited.**

1603 College Road, Suite 2

Fairbanks, AK 99709

Phone: (907)452-8119

Fax: (907) 452-8148

Website: [www.koyitlotsina.com](http://www.koyitlotsina.com)

Email(s): [info@kcorporalaska.com](mailto:info@kcorporalaska.com)

### **Tanana Chiefs Conference**

122 First Avenue, Suite 600

Fairbanks, AK 99701

Telephone (907) 452-8251

Toll Free in Alaska: 1(800) 478-6822

<https://www.tananachiefs.org/>

### **Koyukuk National Wildlife Refuge**

C/O Koyukuk/Nowitna National Wildlife  
Refuge 101 Front Street Galena, AK 99741

Phone : (907) 656-1231

<https://www.fws.gov/refuge/koyukuk>