

Strategic Management Plan – Shishmaref

Facts

- 2010 Population: .563
- Approximately 126 miles north of Nome and 100 miles southwest of Kotzebue
- 151 housing units, 141 occupied

Draft Vision Statement

Shishmaref is a safe and resilient community. We want to relocate to a new village that respects and honors our Inupiaq culture and traditional values. We will work together and with partners to develop projects and policies to protect our residents, infrastructure, natural environment, and subsistence resources. We will preserve and enhance our community for us and future generations.

Summary of Community Issues

Based on literature and community input.

Lack of/Inadequate Community Infrastructure

- Lack of piped water and sewer
- Water tank does not have sufficient capacity
- Road to the landfill and airport is vulnerable to erosion
- Better roads are needed
- School needs to be enlarge to accommodate a growing student population
- Learning Center needs repairs
- Health clinic needs expansion
- Several city buildings needs the end of their service life
- Additional facilities are needed such as a cultural center, day care center, and senior center.

Inadequate Housing

- Houses are overcrowded
- Many housing units need repair
- Little or no room to build additional houses

Jobs and Economic Development

- Shortage of jobs and economic development opportunities
- Artisans need more opportunities to sell their crafts
- More regular employment is needed
- Additional technical training for adults is needed

Extend and Maintain Seawall

- Existing seawall needs to be maintained
- Seawall needs to be extended to protect airport, drying racks, and landfill

Lack of Evacuation Shelter/Place of Refuge

- No adequate evacuation shelter
- School and church serve as shelters but they are not large enough to house everyone and may be impacted by storms. Church lacks running water and emergency supplies which may limit its usefulness as an emergency shelter
- Elders and other residents may need assistance to get to shelter
- Need evacuation/emergency plan with residents trained on what to do during a disaster

Funding

- Limited amount of State and federal funds available; some sources require local match
- Increasing competition for those funds

Other

- Easier to contact Village Public Safety Officer
- Substance abuse
- More activities for children and adults
- Need Inupiaq tradition and language classes
- Need ways to keep youth living and working in Shishmaref after they complete their education
- Interest in alternative energy
- Meal program for elders/help elders
- Maintain and expand existing and future youth programs
- Improved government-to-government relations
- Cost of living
- Need more heavy equipment
- Need elder transportation
- Need port