

# **Newtok Village Council Relocation Project**

## **Steering Committee #1**

### **Meeting Agenda**

**April 26, 2023**

**5:00-7:00PM**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88410422075?pwd=cnJ0Z3RuWnppMGVhR1Q0TIBKOXY5QT09>

Meeting ID: 884 1042 2075

Passcode: 949586

One tap mobile

+12532158782,,88410422075#,,,,\*949586# US (Tacoma)

**Participants:** Newtok Village Council, Newtok Native Corporation, Denali Commission, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Housing and Urban Development and the State of Alaska

1. Introductions
2. Steering Committee Meeting Notes (None for first meeting)
3. Newtok Updates
  - a. Newtok Village Council
  - b. Newtok Native Corporation
4. Critical Path Items
  - a. 2023 Construction Plan
  - b. BIA Funding \$25m
  - c. Implementation Plan
  - d. Community Engagement
  - e. Housing Plan/Policy
  - f. Legal Introduction
5. Agency Reports
  - a. State of Alaska
  - b. Denali Commission
  - c. Bureau of Indian Affairs
  - d. Housing and Urban Development
  - e. Association of Village Council Presidents
  - f. Lower Kuskokwim School District
  - g. Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium
  - h. Other
6. Financial & Funding Issues
  - a. 2023 Finances
  - b. Grant Applications
  - c. Funding Gaps
7. Closing Comments/Next Meeting

### 2023 Work Plan

- Grade the upper road STA 169+00 to STA 193+50 (2,450-feet), constructed in October 2022.
- Place E-1 gravel on all house pads constructed in September 2022.
- Alaska Line Builders will install the remaining power poles on the upper road and connect homes as they are completed.
- Alaska Line Builders to install power poles to the new well, the future location of the tank farm, and the future location of the equipment shop.
- Complete the Domestic Violence Shelter. Work includes interior painting, flooring, kitchen cabinets, interior doors, deck, front steps, and interior flooring. This unit has been connected to the power grid.
- Complete the six 4-bedroom homes. Work includes electrical and interior framing, interior walls and insulation, interior painting, flooring, kitchen cabinets, interior doors, deck, front steps, and interior flooring. Work will start after the materials barge arrives.
- Construct 1,200-feet of road from STA 157+00 to STA 169+00. Rock has been purchased and is stored up at the Brice Pit.
- Possible construction of "D" Street (675-feet). Pending Approval.
- Crag Taylor Equipment Mechanic to repair Rock Truck #2.
- Crag Taylor Equipment Mechanic to repair Loader #2.
- Replace hydraulic line on the Dozer. This ruptured in March during snow removal.
- Purchase oil, gear oil, hydraulic oil, and filters for all the equipment. This will be shipped on the spring barge.

### Known issues being worked.

- Install replacement Indirect Hot Water Heater in the Old Man Camp Bathroom.
- Install replacement push button for the watering point.
- Add an eve venting system to prevent blowing snow from getting into the attic of homes. The venting system was shipped to Mertarvik in December 2022.
- Check all foundation footers and level homes as needed. This task has been done yearly since 2021 on all homes east of the MEC.
- Door Replacement.

### 2022 and 2023 purchased.

- A new Ram 2500 was purchased in 2022 and delivered in August. This truck is for sanitation only. Three people are insured to drive it.
- A new V619 Bobcat Telehandler with snowblower attachment will be arriving on the Spring Barge.

# GRW/ ANTHC RELOCATION UPDATE COMMUNITY MEETING

An aerial photograph of a coastal village, likely Mertarvik, showing a long road running parallel to the shoreline. The road is lined with numerous small, colorful houses and buildings. The surrounding landscape is a mix of brown and green vegetation, with some areas appearing to be under construction or recently cleared. The water is visible on the left side of the image.

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26, 2023**

**7:00 – 9:00 PM**

**MERTARVIK PIONEER  
SCHOOL**

# Housing Policy for Mertarvik

Newtok Council Meeting December 28, 2020

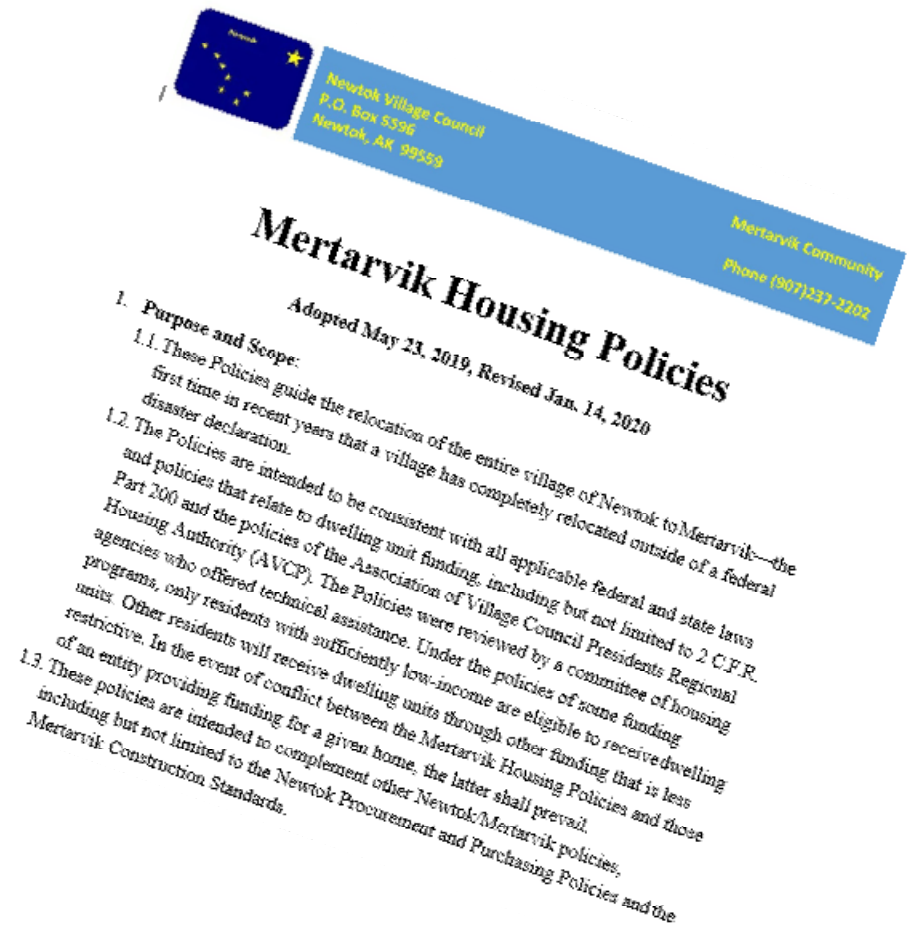


Dr. E. Barrett Ristroph, Esq. | Ristroph Law, Planning, and Research  
[ebristroph@gmail.com](mailto:ebristroph@gmail.com) | 907-342-9090 | <https://ristroph.wordpress.com>



# Outline

- Background
- Overview of most recent policy
  - Adopted May 23, 2019, Last Revised Jan. 14, 2020
- Discussion of potential amendments
  - Pros and Cons



# Why have policies?

- Fairly allocate so everyone has house
- Ensure enough money to build all houses
- Get agency support for more funding



Newtok houses on the edge, AK, 2018/Romy Cadiente

# Can't agencies pay for the houses?

- Agencies have paid some....
  - Some of Denali Commission grant
  - FEMA Hazard Mitigation grants
  - BIA Housing Improvement Program
  - HUD Programs
  - CARES Act Isolation units
- But they won't pay all
- Many grants require "matches"

# How policies made?

- Council assigned score to every house in Newtok in July 2018
- Council drafted policies in Anchorage in spring 2019
- Committee with state and federal agencies reviewed and supported

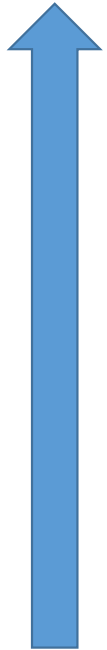


Newtok houses on the edge, AK, 2018/Romy Cadiente



## How priority works

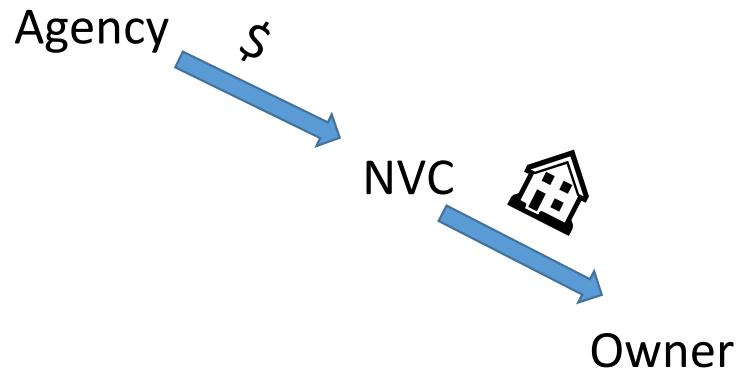
Higher priority



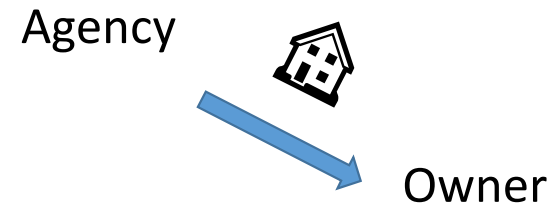
- High erosion risk
- Flooding risk
- Black mold
- More kids to provide for school
- Tiebreaker—jobs needed in Mertarvik

Potential for “line-skipping” if grant arises and next-in-line not qualified

## Included Houses

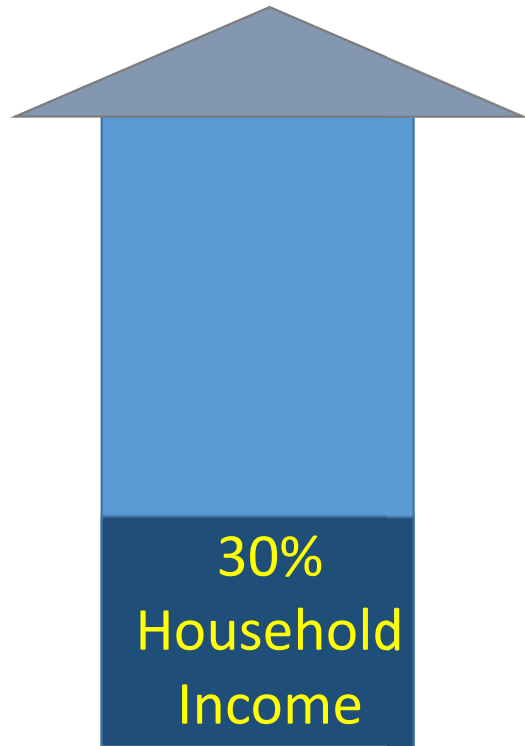


## Excluded Houses



- AVCP-sponsored
- BIA HIP-sponsored
- People who “opt out”

# Payments—How much



House Payments  
 $\geq \$50$

+



Insurance  
\$75



Utilities  
~\$50

# Payments—Deductions from income



\$480



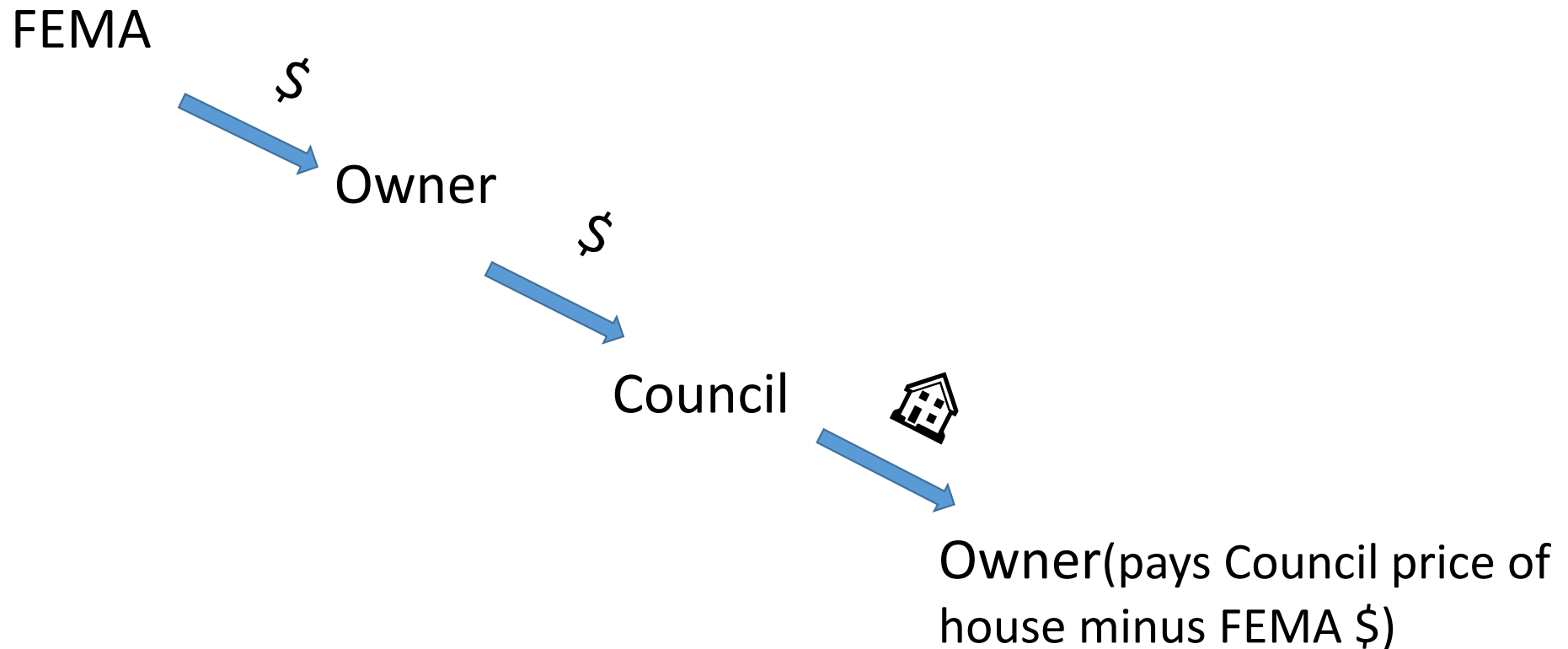
\$400



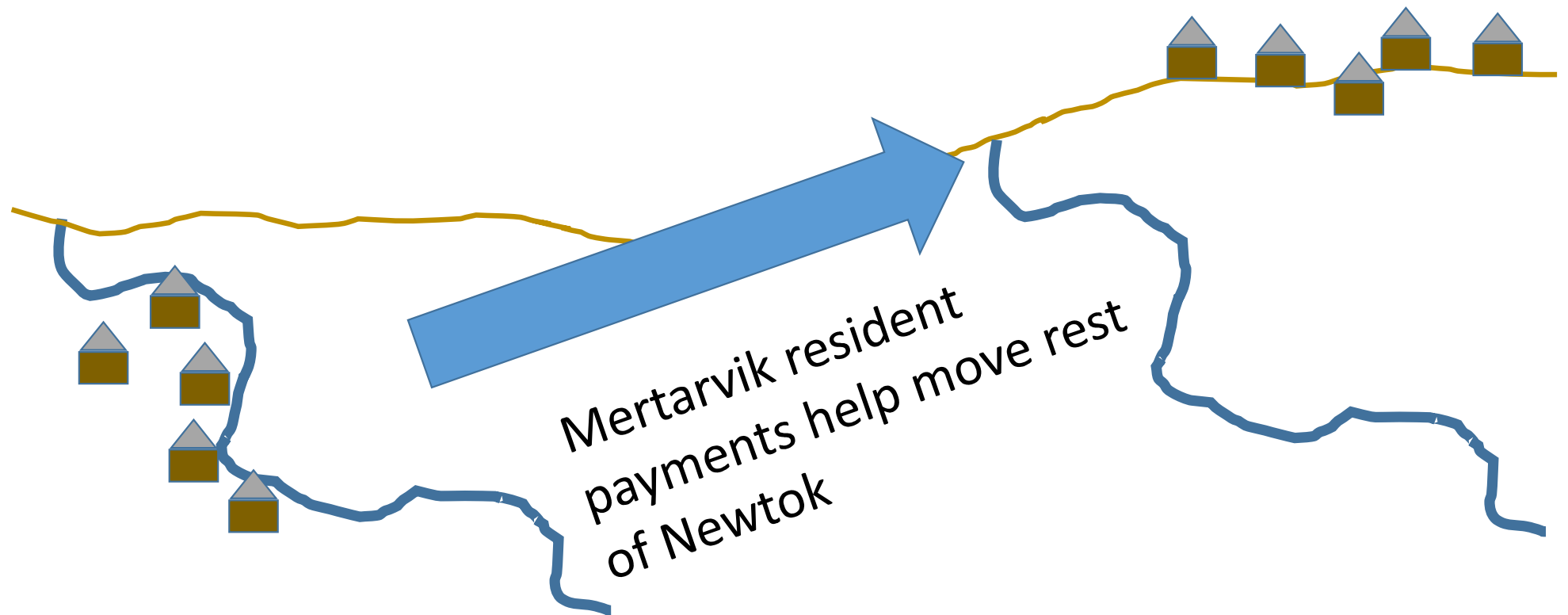
Welfare and social security (if included in income calculation)



# Payments—Deduction for FEMA payments



# What does Council do with money?



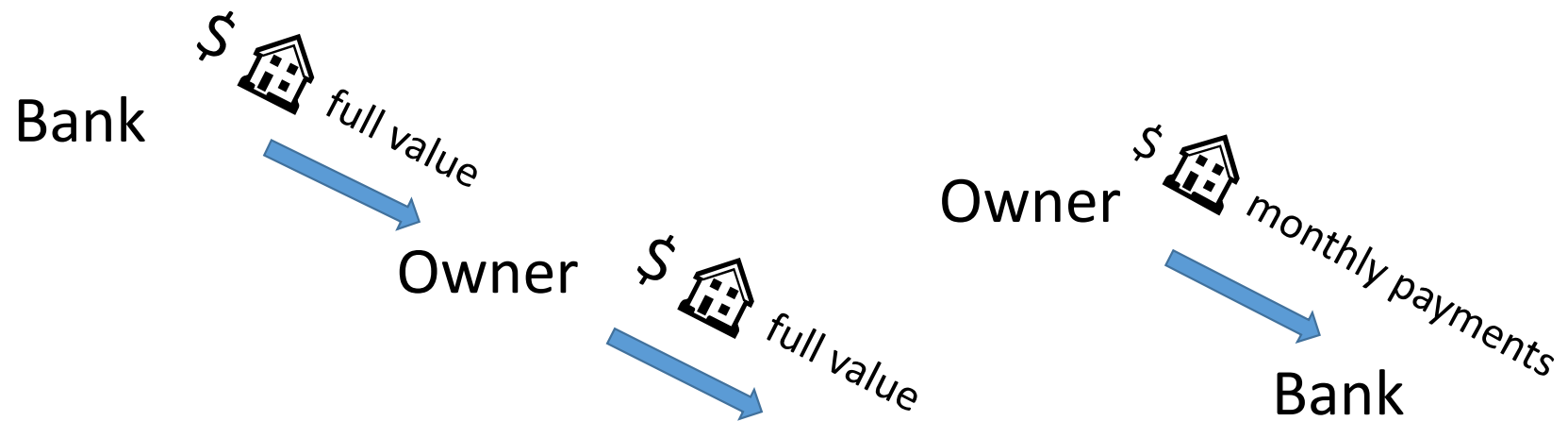
Household Payments—How long?

20 years or until done,  
whichever comes first

Housing Policy—How long?

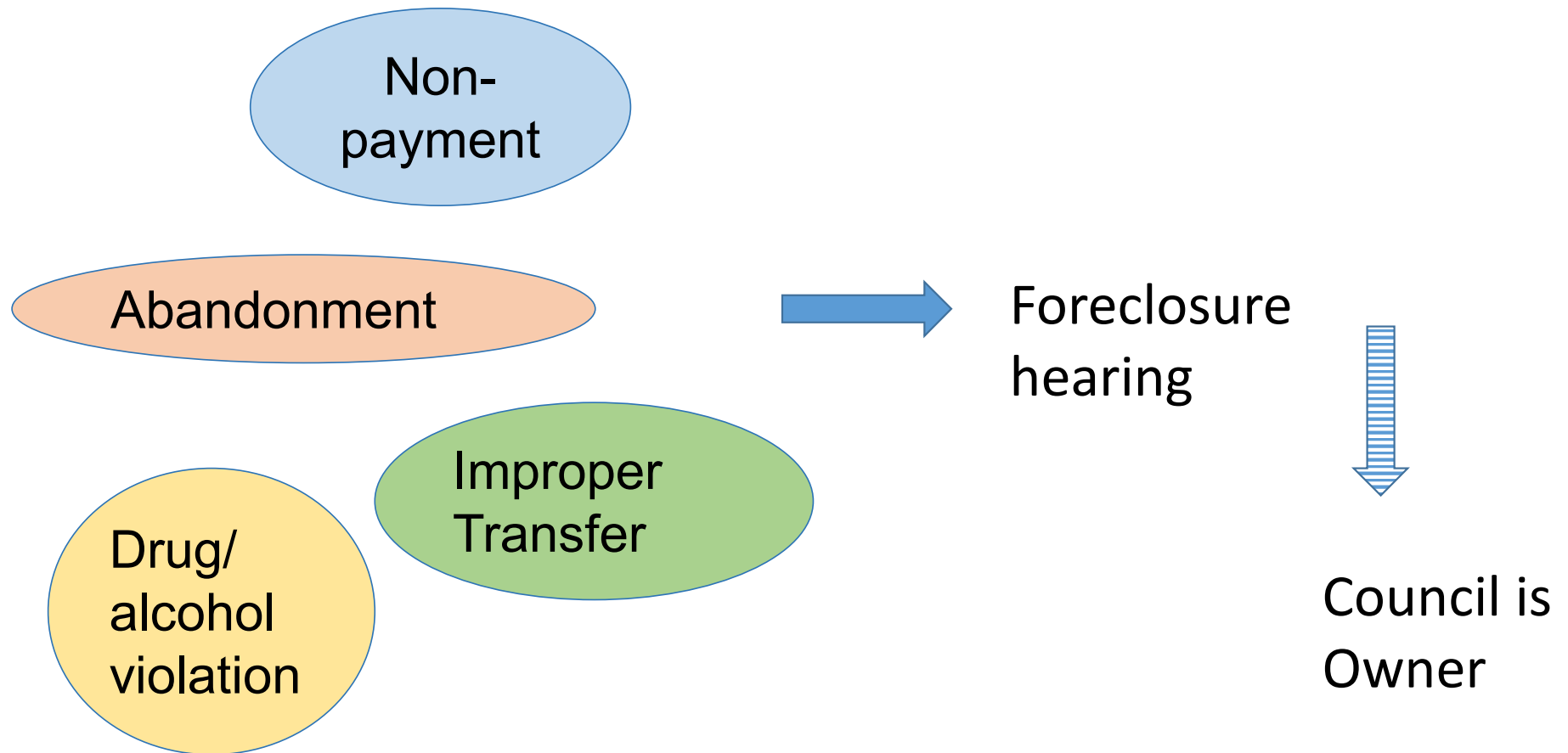
Until every household and  
new household has a house

# Opting out of Housing Policy





# Potential for Losing House



# Potential Unfairness

Moving at  
different  
times

Different  
home values

Different  
FEMA payouts

Different  
funding

Different kinds  
of homes



# Potential Amendments

Smaller %

Limit to primary  
wage earner

Payment Cap

Seasonal adjustment

Fixed rate  
schedule

Pay before  
move

Pay UPC

Yurts

## Pros and Cons

Option	Pro	Con
Reduced payments	Saves family money	Harder and longer for people to get new houses
Flexible payments	Adaptable	Harder to administer
Fixed payments	Predictable	Potentially unfair if income changes



# Questions and Discussion on Desired Changes



# Newtok Site Visit, SEPTEMBER 2022



Boardwalk, Power poles



Newtok Slough Flyover



Steps of School to River

Newtok photos, 9/22  
Post Storm Merbok



Newtok Ayaprun School, Ningliq River



Boardwalk on permafrost





River Erosion, Newtok

Newtok photos, 9/22  
Post Storm Merbok



River erosion, Newtok Ayaprun School



Old dump site, Newtok (inaccessible)



Power infrastructure, Newtok



Relocation community of **Mertarvik**, 9 miles from Newtok  
Photo taken 9/22 post storm Merbok



New runway in the relocation community of **Mertarvik**, 9 miles from Newtok  
Photo taken 9/22 post storm Merbok





Newtok Water  
Source Map, 6/22

Pre-Merbok storm



# ANTHC DEHE PROJECTS UPDATE APRIL 2023

DEHE Program	NEWTOK	MERTARVIK
PROJECT MANAGEMENT	<b>ACTIVE</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>N1K Washeteria: TUS team is planning on finishing this work this summer.</li><li>X83 Newtok Village Infrastructure: Prevent contamination of the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge by demolishing infrastructure in advance of erosion into Mertarvik in Newtok, Alaska.</li></ul>	<b>ACTIVE</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>X79 Mertarvik Townsite Development: Funding for this project will be used for program management, planning and design, and construction. The Denali Commission prepared an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to evaluate the potential environmental impacts associated with proposed infrastructure development in Mertarvik, Alaska. In March 2018, the Denali Commission published the Final EIS. The Record of Decision was signed on April 19, 2018.</li></ul>
	<b>FUTURE</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Dump closure</li><li>Relocation of water source if necessary</li></ul>	<b>FUTURE</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Piped water/sewer: Best case scenario executing CPA next fall of 2023, complete design in a year and a half, (Spring of 2024), begin construction in 2024. Commission entire system in 2028-2029.</li><li>Solid Waste Completion</li></ul>
TRIBAL UTILITY SUPPORT (TUS)	<b>ACTIVE</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>In 2022, we redid all the electrical and indoor plumbing and installed the clothes dryers in the Washeteria.</li><li>In 2023, all that’s left is to install the wastewater sumps under the building and connect them to the lagoon discharge line.</li><li>Staff is trying to get out there to complete that work as soon as the snow melts.</li></ul>	
CONTRACT DELIVERY TEAM (CDT)		<b>ACTIVE</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Boiler Replacement project in Mertarvik for CCHRC designed homes</li></ul>
CONTAMINATED SITES (BROWNFIELDS)	<b>FUTURE</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Providing home heating oil tank assessments and recommendations for reinforcement to protect against future storm damage</li><li>Helping identify potential brownfield sites at high risk of erosion damage</li><li>Helping evaluate the integrity of any Engineering Controls/Institutional Controls (e.g. fences, site caps) that are or were in place on contaminated sites affected by the storm</li><li>Taking drone imagery of potentially contaminated properties or any compromised ECs/ICs</li><li>Helping the community leverage upcoming EJ grant opportunities to address contamination issues/concerns</li></ul>	
CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTALLY THREATENED COMMUNITIES (CETC)	<b>FUTURE</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Grant Development</li><li>Grant Support</li></ul>	
TRIBAL CAPACITY & TRAINING	<b>FUTURE</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Update Master Plan (2023-2027)</li></ul>	<b>FUTURE</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Update Master Plan (2023-2027)</li></ul>
CLIMATE INITIATIVES	<b>FUTURE</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Oversight and support for relocation</li><li>Coordination of ANTHC projects</li></ul>	<b>FUTURE</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Oversight and support for relocation</li><li>Coordination of ANTHC projects</li></ul>