

## Scorecard Denali Commission



### Denali Commission

500 W 7th Ave, Suite 1230  
Anchorage, AK 99501  
[\(907\) 271-1414](tel:(907)271-1414)  
[denali.gov](http://denali.gov)

### About the Denali Commission

The Denali Commission partners with Tribal, federal, state, and local governments and collaborates with all Alaskans to develop basic public infrastructure and enhance the quality of life in Alaska's communities.

This page provides information on how **the Denali Commission** is working to advance environmental justice for communities across America. It is part of Phase One of the Biden-Harris Administration's Environmental Justice Scorecard.

### Justice40 Initiative

As part of President Biden's [Justice40 Initiative](#), the federal government is working toward the goal that 40 percent of the overall benefits of certain federal investments reach disadvantaged communities that are marginalized and overburdened by pollution and underinvestment. In particular, the President's Justice40 Initiative applies to federal investments that address climate change, clean energy and energy efficiency, clean transit, affordable and sustainable housing, training and workforce development, remediation and reduction of legacy pollution, and the development of critical clean water and wastewater infrastructure.

This Phase One Scorecard provides an update on initial progress made by **the Denali Commission** in implementing the Justice40 Initiative. Future versions of the [Share your feedback](#)

Environmental Justice Scorecard will provide additional information and updates on the benefits of Justice40 covered programs.

Phase One Scorecard metrics and highlights in Fiscal Year 2022 include:

- **2** Justice40 covered program(s)
- **1** funding announcement(s) covered under the Justice40 Initiative
- **Approximately \$19,500,000** in funding made available from Justice40 covered programs<sup>1</sup>
  - The Denali Commission had one combined funding opportunity that included work in the following areas: climate adaptation, clean energy & energy efficiency, clean transportation, affordable and sustainable housing, workforce development, water and wastewater infrastructure.

<sup>1</sup> This funding amount describes examples of the funding that was made available in Fiscal Year 2022 through Justice40 covered programs. The amount does not represent the total funding that benefits disadvantaged communities. The funding was made available through grants, notices of funding opportunity, and other funding announcements. These funding announcements were from Justice40 covered programs that were funded through discretionary and mandatory appropriations, as well as supplemental appropriations, such as those enacted under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (Pub. L. 117-58). The Justice40 Initiative sets a goal that 40 percent of overall benefits from certain federal investments flow to disadvantaged communities.

## Environmental and Civil Rights Protection

### The Commission's Highlights

The Denali Commission often meets with Alaska Native tribes and provides one-on-one technical assistance with grant applications, completing award paperwork, project management, or quarterly reporting and through traditional channels such as information sessions.

Other technical assistance and outreach events conducted by the Denali Commission include: Center for Environmentally Threatened Communities, Alaska Municipal League Technical Assistance, Utility Operator Training, Virtual Reality Training Improvements, Alaska Grants Symposium Spring 2022 and Fall 2022, Alaska Federation of Natives Conference Outreach, Arctic Encounter Symposium, Alaska Housing Innovations Summit, Southeast Conference Mid-Session Summit and Annual Conference, Alaska Sustainable Energy Conference, Alaska Forum on the Environment, and Village project site visits (Chefornak, Shishmaref, Kotzebue, Dillingham, Bethel, Nome).

In addition, Denali Commission conducts public Q&A sessions for funding opportunity announcements, and has two public comment periods for their annual workplan (Federal Register and public testimony) as part of the annual planning process.

Federal agencies are advancing environmental justice by carrying out their responsibilities under the law to identify and address disproportionate and adverse public health and environmental, climate-related, and cumulative impacts on communities with environmental justice concerns. Agencies are working to ensure that all communities experience the protection of our country's bedrock environmental laws. The following information reflects some of the environmental and civil rights work **the Denali Commission** has done from January 2021 to September 2022.

For more information, please visit [Strategic Plan - Denali Commission](#) .

## **National Environmental Policy Act**

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires federal agencies to consider and disclose the environmental, health, and community impacts of certain decisions or actions before taking them. Environmental reviews help ensure the public is informed about potential actions, and give communities an opportunity to participate in the government's decision-making process. Environmental reviews also ensure that federal agencies consider ways to protect and enhance public health and the environment, and advance environmental justice in their decision-making. The following information highlights some work **the Denali Commission** has done from January 2021 to September 2022.

Phase One Scorecard metrics and highlights include:

- The Denali Commission has policy and guidance to address environmental justice in the NEPA process.

## **Centering Environmental Justice in Decision-Making**

Federal agencies work to ensure that the voices, perspectives, and lived experiences of communities are heard and reflected in the priorities, policies, and decision-making of the federal government. Agencies also take steps to respect Tribal sovereignty and ensure government-to-government consultation on federal policies. The following information highlights work **the Denali Commission** has done from January 2021 to September 2022 to center environmental justice in its decision-making.

## **Community Input and Engagement**

Phase One Scorecard metrics and highlights include:

- **13** technical assistance outreach event(s) in Fiscal Year 2022

# Institutionalizing Environmental Justice

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Since the start of the Biden-Harris Administration, federal agencies have been working to embed environmental justice into all aspects of their work, including by implementing [Executive Order 12898](#) and [Executive Order 14008](#). The following information shares some of the work **the Denali Commission** has done from January 2021 to September 2022 to institutionalize environmental justice.

Phase One Scorecard metrics and highlights include:

- **6** staff that work on environmental justice, either in a full- or part-time capacity
- The Denali Commission has always focused on distressed communities that are marginalized, underserved, and overburdened by pollution. By law, two of the purposes of the Denali Commission are to “provide job training and other economic development services in rural communities, particularly distressed communities,” and to “promote rural development.” The Denali Commission implements much of its work in distressed communities that are marginalized, underserved, overburdened by pollution, and many on the front lines of climate change. These communities are also remote, not connected by road to any other village, face some of the harshest climates in the country, are composed of almost entirely Alaska Native residents, and frequently do not have access to quality healthcare, educational opportunities, economic opportunities, quality housing, lending opportunities, and have been “historically underserved, marginalized, and adversely affected by persistent poverty and inequality.”

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## Contact

Council on Environmental Quality

730 Jackson Pl NW

Washington, D.C. 20506

(202) 395-5750

### More information

[Whitehouse.gov](https://www.whitehouse.gov)

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