
**TECHNICAL HANDBOOK FOR
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND ENGINEERING
VOLUME IV REAL PROPERTY
PART 33 LEASING**

CHAPTER 33-3.3 VILLAGE BUILT CLINIC LEASING PROGRAM

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33-3.3-1 PURPOSE

This chapter provides guidance related to leases of "Village Built Clinics" in Alaska by referencing specific Alaska Area Native Health Service policy. The Village Built Clinics Leasing Program is intended to lease space in isolated Alaskan locations where the Community Health Aide is the primary health care provider. It is not applicable to locations where physicians and other health care practitioners are permanently residing.

33-3.3-2 BACKGROUND

The Community Health Aide Program (CHAP) was initiated during the tuberculosis epidemic of the 1950s. Village volunteers known as "Chemotherapy Aides" helped to bring tuberculosis under control in rural Alaska. The role of the Chemotherapy Aide expanded to Community Health Aide when the Indian Health Service (IHS) formally established the CHAP in 1968. The Community Health Aide is a vital component of the rural health care system throughout Alaska.

33-3.3-3 AUTHORITIES

In 1969-1970, the Congress authorized the IHS to lease facilities in rural Alaska where Community Health Aides were providing primary health care. Years prior to this authorization, the Community Health Aides provided health care out of their homes to local residents.

The Department of Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act of 1989 expanded prior authorizations and authorized the maximum number of Village Built Clinics operated in Alaska to 170.

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33-3.3-4 GUIDANCE

The IHS leases space and facilities that meet the minimum requirements from the local communities to serve as Village Built Clinics where healthcare is provided. Through a lease agreement, the program funds rent, utilities, maintenance, cleaning, and other operational costs.

The Alaska Area Native Health Service (AANHS) Circular No. 91, *Village Built Clinic (VBC) Leasing Program* and Circular No. 93, *Environmental Health Standards* (current editions), provide specific guidance on leasing eligibility and criteria, facility health standards, description formula used to develop the lease amount and other information relevant to the clinic operation. These Circulars are available from the IHS, AANHS, Realty Management Officer, at 4141 Ambassador Drive, Suite 300, Anchorage, Alaska 99508.

33-3.3-5 FUNDING

Funding for the Village Built Clinic Leasing Program is included within the annual IHS appropriation. Since these leases are classified as 'full-service leases', the leased facilities are not eligible for maintenance and improvement (M&I) funds.