



Updates to ANCSA 14(c)(3)

Key takeaways from the Alaska Native Village Municipal Lands Restoration Act of 2025

The Alaska Native Village Municipal Lands Restoration Act of 2025 was signed into law on July 7, 2025, as Public Law 119-23 (P.L. 119-23). This law is an amendment to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) of December 18, 1971. Section 14(c)(3) of ANCSA requires Alaska Native village corporations to convey title to any municipal corporation (city) in the Native village for lands for existing and foreseeable community needs. If no municipal corporation exists (unincorporated village), such lands were to be conveyed to the State of Alaska in trust for the establishment of a future municipal corporation in the Native village.

What has changed:

- P.L. 119-23 redesignated the subsections of section 14(c) – so 14(c)(3) is now 14(c)(1) (C) (current language is found in 43 U.S.C. 1613(c)). You can still refer to 14(c)(3) in your communications with BLM.
- Village corporations in unincorporated Native villages are no longer required to convey lands to the State in trust for the establishment of a municipal corporation in the future.
- If a village corporation conveyed to the State in trust any lands required under 14(c)(3), and a municipal corporation has not been established as of to July 7, 2025, the village corporation and the residents of the Native village may formally request dissolution of the trust and reversion of the lands to the village corporation, subject to any valid existing rights. Reversion of municipal lands to village corporations is **not automatic**. Interested

village corporations should contact the Municipal Lands Trustee at the State of Alaska for further guidance.

What has not changed:

- For Alaska Native village corporations in communities where a municipal corporation (city government) does exist, **nothing** has changed. The city is still entitled to land for existing municipal purposes and foreseeable community expansion needs.
- BLM's ANCSA 14(c) process remains unchanged. All village corporations must still submit a Map of Boundaries to BLM showing all lands to be conveyed under the provisions of Section 14(c), including any 14(c)(1) or (2) claims. If the village corporation has no lands to be conveyed under 14(c)(3) pursuant to P.L. 119-23, a letter in lieu of Map of Boundaries should be submitted so that BLM can still issue the 1-year public notice to clear the village corporation's title and fulfill BLM's obligation to survey all 14(c) lands in the village. Contact BLM's ANCSA 14(c) Specialist with any questions regarding the 14(c) process.

Why finish 14(c) land conveyance obligations?

Finalizing 14(c) land conveyances will clear the cloud on the village corporation's title placed by the interim conveyance or patent, potentially unlocking funding opportunities for village infrastructure projects. Surveyed 14(c) lands provide legal descriptions for deeds and site control needed for infrastructure projects.

For more information on the State of Alaska's Municipal Lands Trustee Program:



For more information on BLM Alaska ANCSA 14(c)(3) Surveys:



Buckland, Alaska. BLM photo.

