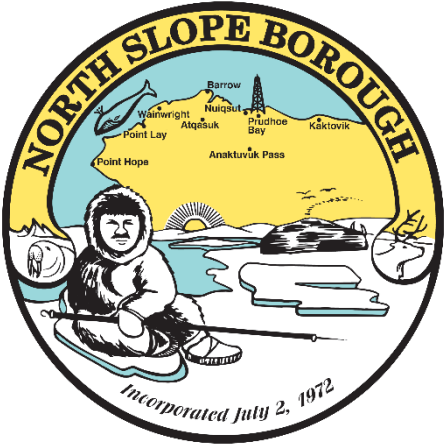


NSB CWAT Alternative Shipping Assistance Program Program Handbook



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About the Program

The North Slope Borough of Alaska (“NSB”) created the NSB CWAT Alternative Shipping Assistance Program (“NSBCAS”) to assist those residents that reside in Point Hope, AK, Point Lay, AK, and Kaktovik, AK, which do not have access to the Community Winter Access Trails (CWAT). The CWAT serves as an alternative to air shipment and seasonal barge services to reduce the extraordinarily high cost associated with freight transportation costs on the North Slope.

Program Goals and Objectives

The primary purpose for establishing the NSBCAS is to provide direct financial reimbursement contribution for offsetting the costs to ship vehicles, lumber, fuel tanks, sewer tanks, and home goods to the communities of Point Hope, AK, Point Lay, AK, and Kaktovik, AK.

Availability of Funds & Funding Terms

The NSB Assembly will determine the amount of funding available each NSB Fiscal year. NSBCAS funds will be made available for qualified residents living in Point Hope, AK, Point Lay, AK, and Kaktovik, AK.

- 1) Funds will be made available in the following forms:
 - a) Assistance for shipping vehicles, lumber, fuel tanks, sewer tanks, and home goods.
 - b) Qualifying requests are eligible for 50% reimbursement on approved shipping costs per calendar year.
 - c) Maximum contribution will be \$5,000 per family per calendar year, limited to one payment per calendar year.
 - Example: \$10,000 approved shipping cost is eligible for \$5,000 reimbursement upon submission of paid receipt.

Eligibility

Threshold Review

All applicants must be in good standing with the NSB at the time of application, owing no taxes or other NSB receivables including but not limited to utilities, rents, loans. All reimbursements are subject to compliance review which include:

- 1) Review to determine that the applicant is in financial good standing with the NSB.
- 2) Review to determine that the applicant is a resident of Point Hope, AK, Point Lay, AK, and Kaktovik, AK, for a minimum of two years for this program.
- 3) Review to ensure all items are legal items to ship in to each community. No shipment of drugs or alcohol is permitted with this program.
- 4) Review to ensure no other shipping programs outside of the NSBCAS or NSBHSA are utilized by applicant.

Staff will review each application upon receipt to ensure the minimum eligibility threshold requirements are met. If an applicant does not meet these requirements, staff will notify the applicant. Applications not meeting the minimum requirements of the above will be disqualified and removed from consideration until requirements are met.

Eligible Uses

Funding is available for the following items to be reimbursed for shipping expenses:

- 1) Personal vehicles, lumber, fuel tanks, sewer tanks, and home goods.
- 2) Items not eligible for shipment: Drugs and Alcohol, any product with intended business use.
- 3) For any questions what can and cannot be shipped contact program manager at HousingDevelopment@north-slope.org or call 907-852-0203, NSB Housing Department.

Application and Review Process

Applications will be made available upon Mayor's determination of funding availability for Fiscal Year.

Completed applications will be reviewed by NSB staff. The Housing team will determine eligibility and award assistance based on the selection criteria included in this guideline.

Applications are to be filled out and emailed to HousingDevelopment@north-slope.org, or mailed to NSB Housing Dept., P.O. Box 69, Utqiagvik, AK 99723, or dropped off at NSB Housing Dept., 1689 Okpik Street, Utqiagvik, AK 99723, within 90 days of the Applicant paying the shipping invoice in which they are seeking reimbursement. Invoices pre-dating December 3, 2024 will not be eligible for this program. Deadline for applications to be received is no later than close of business 90 days after paying for shipment.

All applications are ultimately approved by the Housing Department, using the criteria outlined below. Applicants should expect that their submitted applications and other supporting documentation will be available to the public. Potential applicants are encouraged to contact the NSB Housing Department with questions about the program and how individuals may utilize the funds.

Selection Criteria

Application Rules

The NSBCAS Program has the following rules for pre-approval process:

- 1) Applicant shall fill out application in its entirety and submit all items to be shipped to program manager for pre-approval. Once program manager has reviewed request, they shall inform applicant if items approved or disapproved.
 - a. All items to be shipped shall be fully disclosed during pre-approval. If any items being shipped are not disclosed, shipper may be disqualified from program.
 - b. Once items are pre-approved shipper may not change the request unless given approval from program manager. If shipper changes request to add or deduct from request it must be in the form of a new request canceling previously approved request.
 - c. If multiple shipments are requested in one application shipper must provide all back up to program manager for all items requested to be shipped. Items list shall be stored with program manager and marked as either approve or disapproved.

- 2) Applicant may combine up to 3 different shipments per annual shipping reimbursement. Qualified max reimburse expenses shall be \$10,000, to be reimbursed at 50% and at no more than \$5,000 cost to NSBCAS. Items shall be shipped within the 90 day time limit of each other, as shown on receipt of payment of shipping, or reimbursement shall be forfeit for expired items.
 - a. If total of shipping expenses is greater than \$10,000, only \$10,000 of the expenses shall qualify for the 50% reimbursement.
 - b. NSBCAS shipping program shall make one payment per calendar year per qualified family.
- 3) All items shall be marked as pre-approved or disapproved on application and sent back to applicant. Applicant is encouraged to contact program manager after 5 business days to request an update on pre-approval if none is given.

The NSBCAS Program has the following rules for final reimbursement:

- 1) Ensure application is filled out in its entirety prior to submitting the application for review by the Housing Department. Any application that is incomplete shall not be considered.
- 2) Provide the supporting documentation requested by NSB Housing, as part of the application, to include the following documents:
 - a) Copy of valid government-issued photo identification.
 - b) Itemized receipt from vendor for materials.
 - c) Itemized receipt from shipper for materials.
- 3) Submit application within 90 days of their payment of the shipping cost for the requested reimbursement.
- 4) There shall be **NO** reimbursement assistance awarded for any shipping costs that were incurred **prior to December 3, 2024.**
- 5) There is one award given per family per calendar year.
- 6) The cost of shipping materials has already been remitted to the shipper.
- 7) This program is for shipping vehicles, lumber, fuel tanks, sewer tanks, and home goods for residential use only.

Compliance and Monitoring

Inspection and Monitoring

The NSB, at any time, could inspect and monitor the records and materials purchased with this program to evaluate the performance and compliance with NSBCAS program rules.

Termination

The NSB Housing Department may terminate any agreement if awardees:

- 1) Did not ship materials to either Point Hope, AK, Point Lay, AK, and Kaktovik, AK;
- 2) Make material alterations to the project;
- 3) Make any material misrepresentations about the project or reimbursement request;
- 4) Any attempt to mislead the NSB shall be cause for immediate termination of application process and applicant shall be required to reimburse the NSB.
- 5) Attempt to ship any drugs or alcohol.

Legalese

Non-Discrimination

No person shall on the grounds of race, color, religion, sex, national origin or age be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits or be otherwise subject to discrimination under this program.

Conflict of Interest

The NSB Municipal Code governs an employee's ethics in the scope of their job functions. No employee of NSB may receive this assistance, if they are the one making the decision on the application. NSB Housing shall follow all conflict of interest best practices when awarding any assistance.

Indemnification

The Applicant shall indemnify, hold harmless and defend NSB, their officers, agents, and employees from all liability, including costs and expenses, for all actions or claims resulting from injuries or damages sustained by any person or property arising directly or indirectly as a result of any error, omission, or negligent act of the Applicant, its contractors, or anyone directly or indirectly employed by Applicant in the performance of this Agreement. All actions or claims, including costs and expenses, resulting from injuries or damage sustained by any person or property arising directly or indirectly from Applicant's performance under this Agreement which is caused by the joint negligence of NSB, and the Applicant shall be apportioned on a comparative-fault basis. Any such joint negligence on the part of NSB must be a direct result of active involvement by NSB.

Governing Law

Any recipient of this assistance understands that the assistance agreement is made and entered into in the State of Alaska and shall be governed by the laws of the State of Alaska and any Federal laws and regulations pertaining to this assistance program. Any action relating to this program, and any subsequent agreement, shall be brought in the courts of the State of Alaska, Second Judicial District, at Utqiagvik, Alaska.

Definitions

Qualifying Resident

Applicant is a resident of Point Hope, AK, Point Lay, AK, and Kaktovik, AK, for a minimum of two years for this program. Applicant must be 18 years of age or older.

Household

A household is a group of people who live together in a housing unit, such as a house or apartment, as their primary residence. This includes related family members, as well as unrelated people like lodgers, foster children, wards, or employees. A person living alone, or a group of unrelated people sharing a housing unit, is also considered a household.

Family

A family is a group of people who share an economic and social unit, connected by blood or by legal relationship through marriage, adoption, or fostering. This includes biological parents, children, siblings, and extended relatives. Married couples that are living in the same household with parents will be considered a second family unit for this program.