

The Essential Air Service Program in Alaska

The Airline Deregulation Act, passed in 1978, gave airlines almost total freedom to determine which markets to serve domestically and what fares to charge for that service. The Essential Air Service (EAS) program was put into place to guarantee that small communities that were served by certificated air carriers before deregulation maintain a minimal level of scheduled air service. The US DOT (United States Department of Transportation) administers the EAS program to ensure that smaller communities retain a link to the national air transportation system with a Federal subsidy where necessary.

There are currently 59 communities in Alaska that receive subsidized air service under the EAS program, and Little Diomede Island under the Air Transportation to Non-Eligible Places (ATNEP) program.

Alaskan communities receiving EAS subsidies set benchmarks for need and cost effectiveness in the program.

- Alaska Communities receiving EAS are the most remote and isolated in the nation.
- Of the 60 communities that receive subsidized air service, only 6 are connected to the road system.
- Of those 6, only McCarthy, does not have road maintenance in the winter months.
- Of the remaining 5, only one is on a paved road (Gulkana) and that one is over 210 miles from the nearest medium hub airport.
- The remaining 54 communities are completely isolated from the road system and rely on air travel as their primary means of transportation.
- Alaska communities receiving EAS subsidy far exceed the recommendations to qualify as remote communities.
- The average community subsidy in Alaska is \$399,561
- The average EAS subsidy for communities in the rest of the U.S. is \$2,685,264
- The average annual subsidy for the 54 non-jet serviced communities in Alaska is \$243,215
- Air travel in Alaska is not a convenience; it is a critical transportation mode that provides basic day to day necessities and access to health facilities.

Subsidized Essential Air Service Locator Index

Adak HH13	Koliganek M7	West Point O8
Akhiok N8	Lake Minchumina O5	Wrangell Y8
Akutan I9	Levelock M7	Yakutat V7
Alitak N8	Manley P4	Zachar Bay O8
Amook Bay O8	Manokotak L7	
Angoon X8	May Creek T6	
Atka II12	McCarthy T6	
Central S4	Minto Q4	
Chignik L8	Moser Bay N8	
Chignik Lake L8	New Stuyahok M7	
Chisana T5	Nikolski G10	
Circle S4	Olga Bay N8	
Clarks Point L7	Pelican W8	
Cordova S6	Perryville L9	
Diomede G4	Petersburg Y8	
Egegik M7	Pilot Point M8	
Ekwok M7	Port Alexander X8	
Elfin Cove W7	Port Bailey O8	
Excursion Inlet X7	Port Heiden L8	
False Pass J9	Port Williams O7	
Gulkana S5	Seal Bay O7	
Gustavus X7	South Naknek M7	
Healy Lake S5	St. George G8	
Hydaburg Y9	Tatitlek R6	
Igiugig N7	Tenakee X8	
Kake Y8	Twin Hills K7	
King Cove J9	Uganik O8	
Kitoi Bay O7	Ugashik M8	