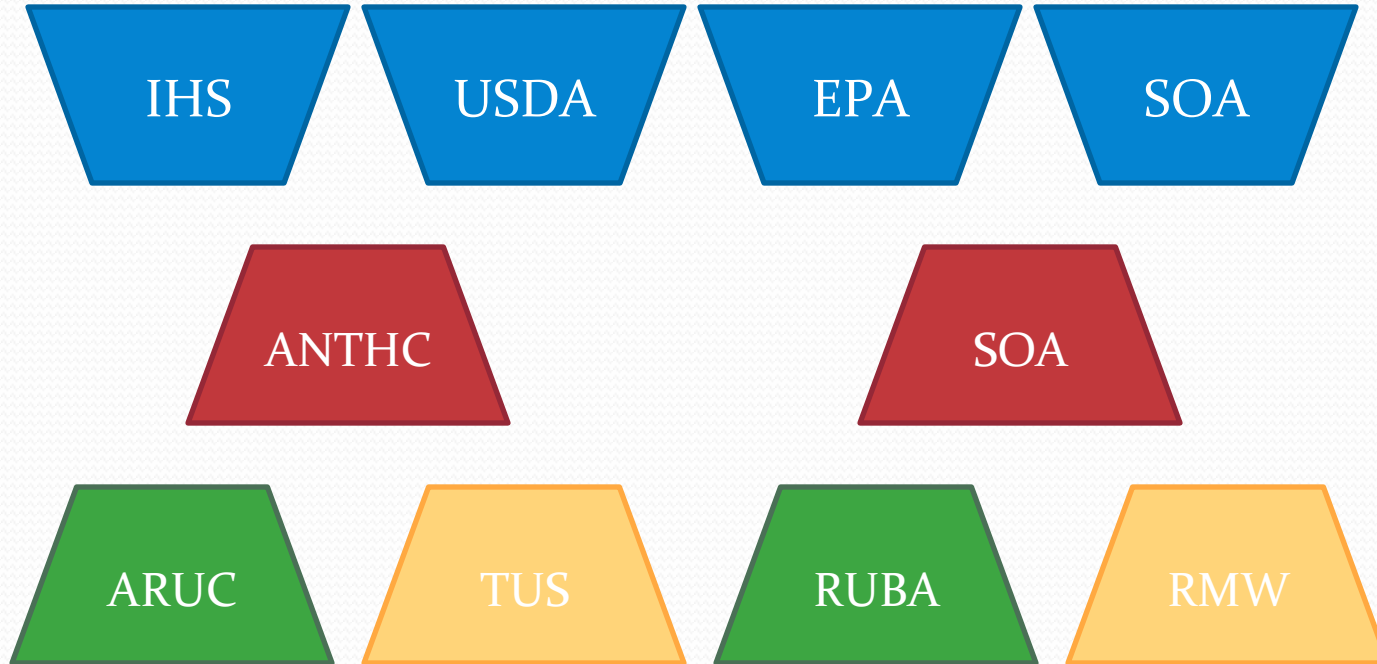


**Rural Utility Business Advisor &  
Remote Maintenance Worker  
State of Alaska Technical Assistance Programs**

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Carrie Bohan, ADEC

# Program Resources

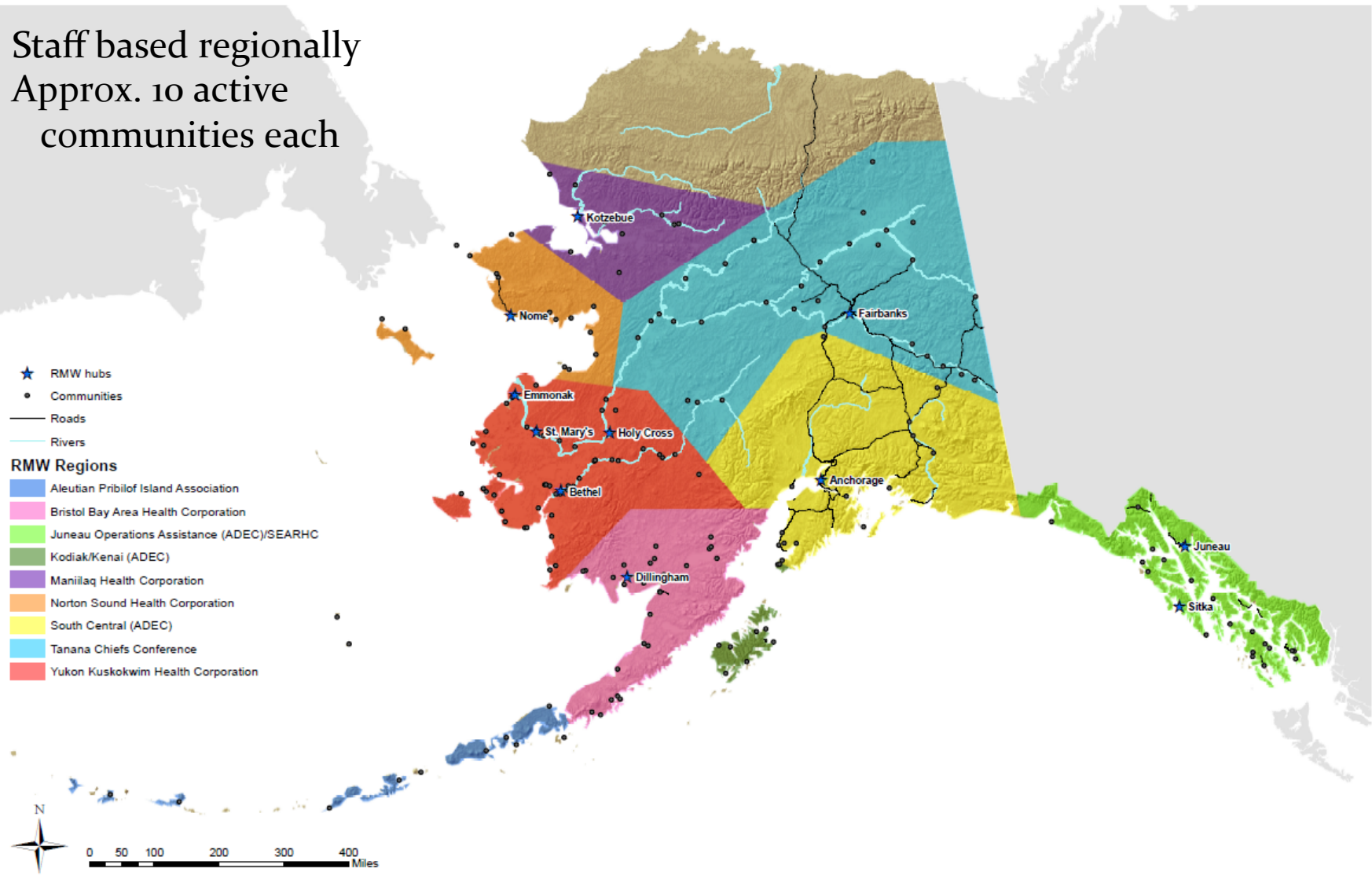


Shared goals of protecting public health and infrastructure investments by building technical and managerial capacity.

ARUC - Alaska Rural Utility Collaborative; TUS - Tribal Utility Support  
RUBA - Rural Utility Business Advisor; RMW - Remote Maintenance Worker

# State Programs – RUBA & RMW

Staff based regionally  
Approx. 10 active  
communities each



# RUBA Program

- Dual roles as Local Government Specialists and RUBAs
  - LGS - Assist with all aspects of local government management and administration
    - Elections, boards and councils trainings, municipal authority and procedures, ordinance writing and codification
  - RUBA - Specialized attention regarding financial and managerial responsibilities related to water and wastewater utilities
    - 8 Utility Management Training courses, QuickBooks training, RUBA Assessments
- Require an invitation as a demonstration of the community's investment in the process

# RUBA Program

- How RUBA Works
  - *“RUBA assesses a community’s ability to provide management and administration of sanitation utilities. Based on the assessment, a work plan and budget are developed to deal with the problems. The work plan is revised periodically to reflect changing conditions. Efforts to bring communities up to an acceptable management performance standard are tracked. Continued RUBA assistance to these communities depends on the community meeting a baseline level of progress towards improvements.”*
- Unintended negative connotation to RUBA and RUBA assessments as they became a tool for determining funding eligibility.
- RUBA staff aim for two community visits per month.
- Frequent changes in administration and governing bodies require repeated training within communities.

# RMW Program

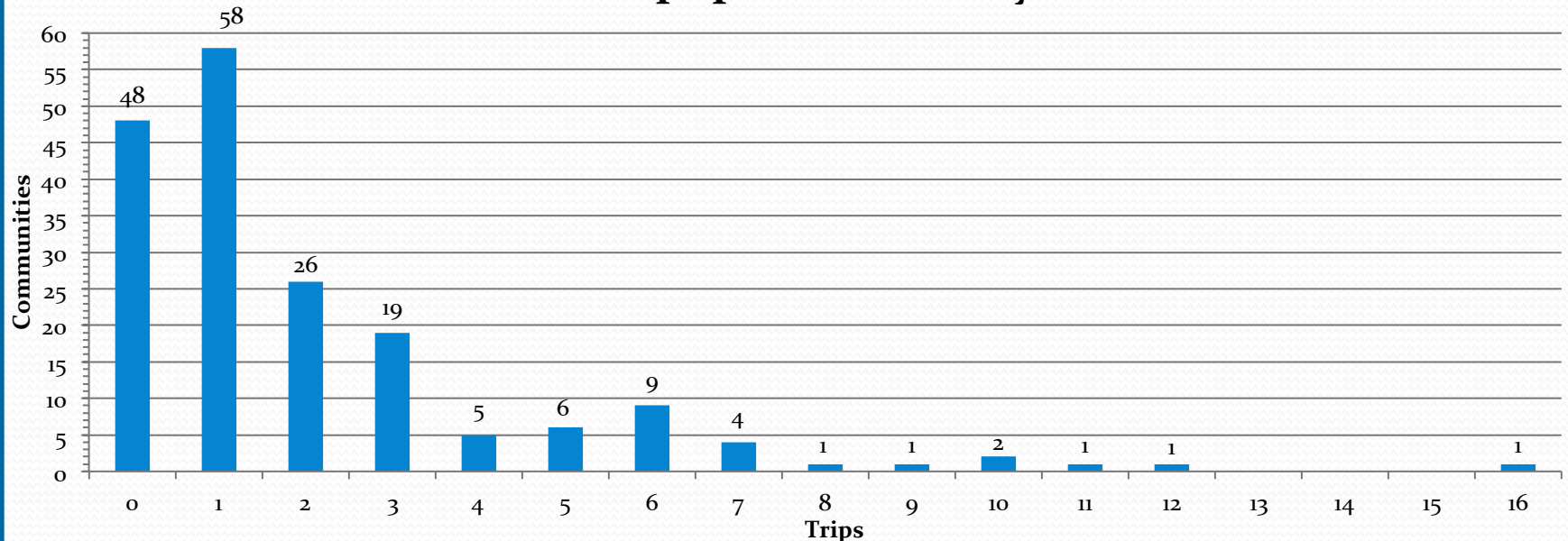
- 13 of 16 RMWs are employed regional health corporations and funded by State grants, 3 DEC RMWs
- Meant to provide on-the-job, over-the-shoulder training locally and encourage and assist operators with attaining proper certification
- Response becomes driving force, rather than prevention and O&M
- Lack of O&M at community level requires RMW assistance
- Frequent operator turnover requires repeated training within communities
- RMW longevity has a noticeable positive impact



# RMW Program

- Grants require twice as many trips per year as communities; not necessarily 2 trips per community
  - Originally meant to be a trip in the fall to prepare for winter, another in spring to prepare for summer
  - Does not inherently focus attention where it is most needed or effective for long-term improvement in capacity

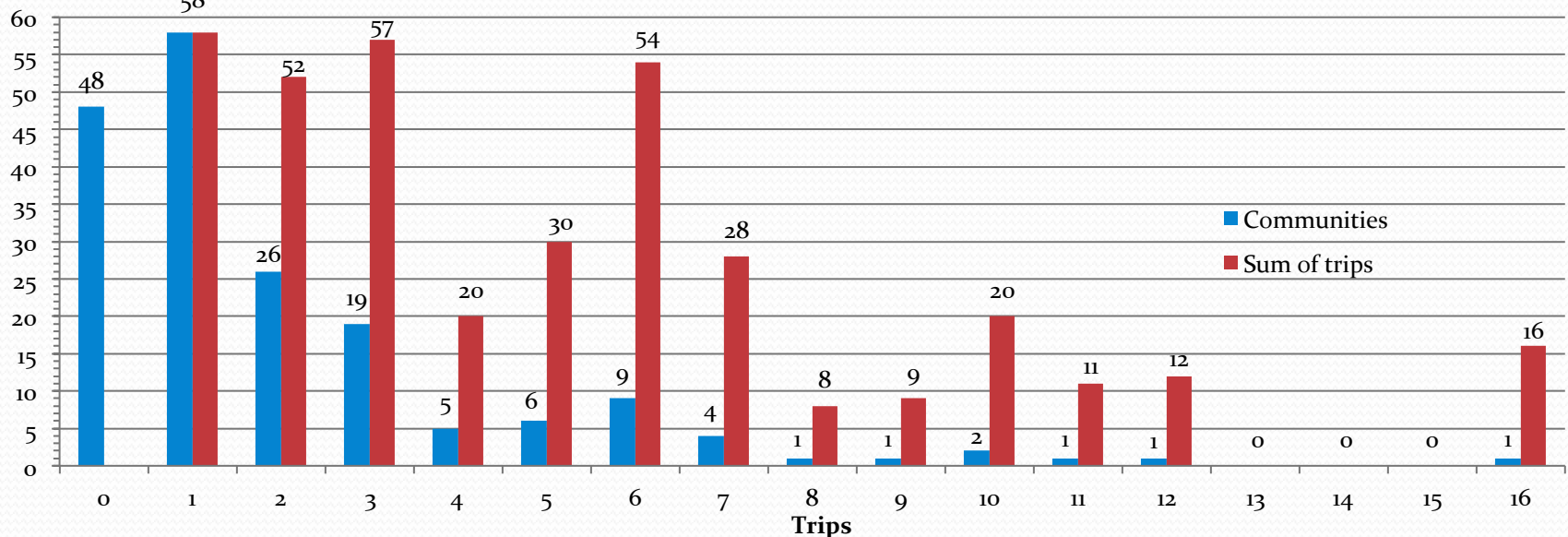
RMW Trips per Community SFY12



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RMW Trips per Community SFY12

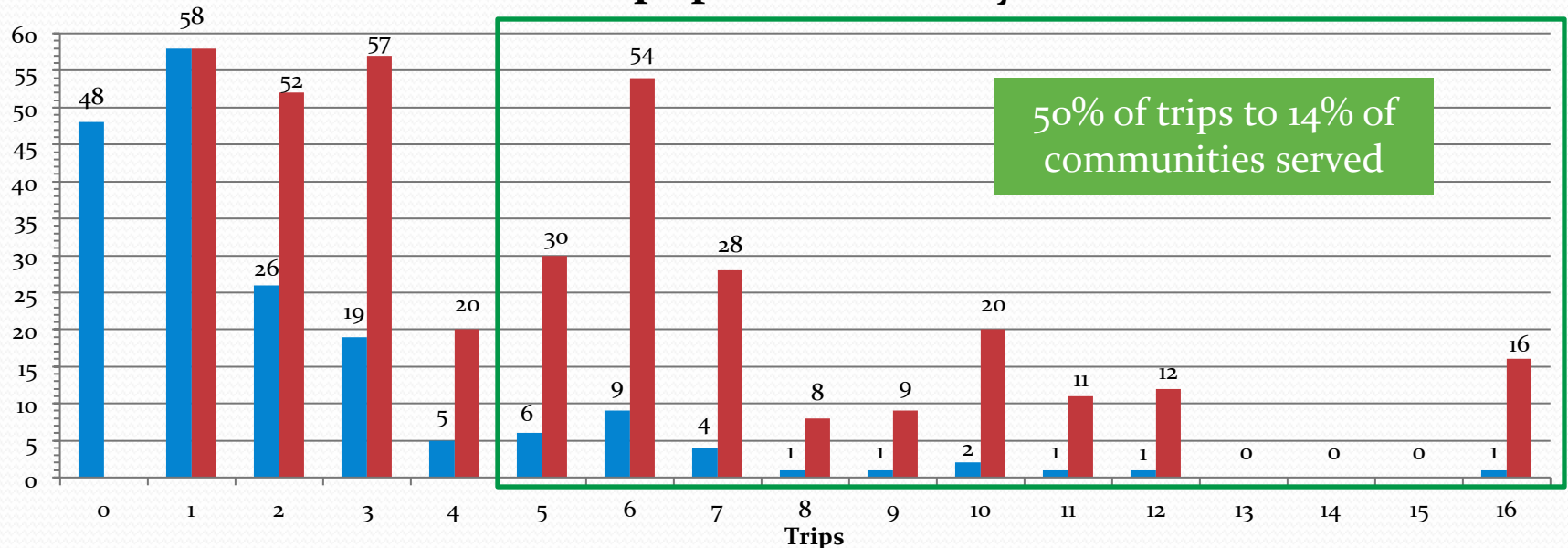




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RMW Trips per Community SFY12



# Technical Assistance Programs

- Addressing operational capacity without corresponding managerial capacity or vice versa reduces effectiveness and is not likely to result in long term improvements.
- Need to work collaboratively to direct our efforts and resources where they are needed most and will make the greatest impact.
- Opportunities exist to improve coordination and efficiency, and reduce duplicative efforts.