What are the greatest needs for the rural population in Alaska?

This is the first question I ask when I partner with Alaska Native village corporations. As a Yup’ik Alaskan with roots in Bristol Bay, I understand that there are many issues that weigh heavy on villages throughout our great state. I think about wages, unemployment rates, graduation rates, substance abuse, subsistence limits, and others. However, I am encouraged by the fact that we’ve just joined an association that represents what I think is our greatest need: a voice for Alaska Natives. Without a voice to identify our challenges, collaborate on solutions, and unify our communities, our needs will not see the results we desire. The Alaska Native Village Corporation Association (ANVCA) provides a strong voice in Alaska, in our nation, throughout the Native world, and beyond. As a Financial Consultant with Charles Schwab, I am compelled to use the knowledge I have gained over the last 16 years in the industry to empower Alaskans to make healthy financial decisions and improve their quality of life. From my experience, that starts with education. Charles Schwab Foundation offers a robust suite of financial educational resources designed to give both youths and adults the information and tools they need to build a secure financial future. In order to improve financial literacy in Alaska, I have connected with schools across the state, offering to present financial education programs developed by Charles Schwab Foundation. Additionally, I work with nonprofit organizations to engage people with more specific needs. I am asking you – Alaska Native corporation leaders – to help me improve financial literacy in our great state. Please contact me at 907-263-2337 or paul.hurley@schwab.com to discuss how we can collaborate for the benefit of Alaska Native villages, corporations, leaders, shareholders and children. Join me as we empower Alaskans to forge a stronger future, one financial decision at a time.

By Paul “Uyavgan” Hurley, Financial Consultant, Charles Schwab