



[www.cityofbethel.org](http://www.cityofbethel.org)

# Bethel, Alaska

## City Manager Recruitment

The Bethel City Manager reports directly to the Bethel City Council and is responsible for providing complex administrative leadership within a dynamic, full-service, and community minded local government. Bethel's remote location, and unique challenges provides an unparalleled professional opportunity.

The City of Bethel is committed to compliance with the American Disabilities Act and is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Diversity and inclusion are critical to their success. They seek to recruit the most talented people from a diverse candidate pool and strongly encourage all qualified candidates to apply.

# THE COMMUNITY

Bethel, Alaska (Population: 6,500) is a remote city off the western coast of Alaska, approximately 400 miles west of Anchorage. Bethel is only accessible by air and river and it is the largest Kuskokwim River port, serving as a transportation and administrative hub for over 50 Alaskan villages.

The biggest city in western Alaska, Bethel is in the top ten most populated communities of the state. With a population of over 6,500, the city is about 48 square miles with approximately 5 square miles of water. Unlike much of Alaska, the geography is primarily treeless as it is in the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge, the second biggest wildlife preserve in the U.S.A. Providing many opportunities for outdoor adventures.

Within Bethel, there are approximately 36 miles of roads which are not connected to any contiguous highway system. The Port of Bethel is the northernmost medium-draft port in the U.S.A. River travel is the primary means of local transportation in the summer

and supports barge service that provides goods to Kuskokwim villages.

Health care is provided by Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation (YKHC) which is a Tribal Organization that administers a comprehensive healthcare delivery system for 58 federally recognized Tribes in southwest Alaska. They operate the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Regional Hospital in Bethel and have recently completed a major renovation that will allow patients access to essential services and comprehensive health care in one location.

Bethel is a vibrant and bustling community and continues to be a hub of commerce and transportation for its residents and surrounding villages. The city could see some potential growth in the coming years through two proposed housing developments. The median household income is approximately \$83,400 with 32% of the population under the age of 18 and only 7% of the population over the age of 65, it is a young community.



Southwestern Alaska was and still is the traditional place of the Yup'ik people and their ancestors for thousands of years. They called their village Mamterillermiut, meaning "Smokehouse People", after their nearby fish smokehouse. In 1885, the Moravian Church established a mission in the area and eventually moved Bethel from Mamterillermiut to its present location on the west side of the Kuskokwim River.

# THE POSITION

Bethel has been a fiscally conservative driven community placing value on keeping financial stability at the forefront of their capital planning and growth. The total budget for 2022-2023 including all funds is about \$31 million with a general fund budget of around \$15.3 million. The city currently has 100 FTE employees. The city manager position vacancy is due to city manager retirement.



The City of Bethel is seeking an experienced open minded leader who instills trust and confidence through dynamic leadership. The successful candidate will demonstrate creative problem-solving through teamwork, partnerships, sound judgement, and decision making. The City Manager oversees multiple projects and deadlines. They must be a strong communicator, detailed oriented, technologically savvy and outcome driven.

The candidate must appreciate Bethel's history and work on moving the organization forward while preserving the community's culture and identity. The candidate will present experience in community outreach and civic engagement and understand the importance of providing the public accurate and timely information.

## Education & Experience

A bachelor's degree in public administration, public policy, business or related field and a Master's in Public/Business Administration from an accredited college or university is preferred along with extensive progressively responsible experience (5 to 7 years) in local government management, including significant experience at a senior level interacting with elected officials and other stakeholder groups. Experienced assistant and/or deputy managers/administrators are also encouraged to apply. Alaska experience is preferred.

## Compensation and Experience

The starting salary range for the position is \$135,295-\$168,965, DOQ. The City offers an outstanding fringe benefit package including low cost health, dental and vision, and generous leave. Residence in the City is required. The City will provide relocation assistance, temporary housing assistance, and temporary take-home vehicle use.

**Apply at once but not later than November 10, 2023, to ensure consideration. Please apply with a cover letter, resume, and contact information for five (5) professional references to the attention of Sarah McKee, Senior Vice President, GovHR USA, 630 Dundee Road, Suite 225, Northbrook, IL 60062. Tel: 847-380-3240. Apply here: [www.GovHRJobs.com](http://www.GovHRJobs.com)**

## How to Apply



# INDOOR/OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

Bethel is home to the noted mid-distance dogsled race, the Kuskokwim 300. Held every winter since 1980, the race commemorates an early mail route that once tied the settlement to the outside world. Top mushers and hundreds of sled dogs participate in the race.



Bethel offers a variety of indoor and outdoor recreational opportunities. Whether fishing, canoeing, boating, swimming and kayaking, there's always plenty to do on the Kuskokwim River and surrounding lakes. Subsistence activities, such as hunting and fishing, are commonplace. On land, there are numerous activities offered throughout the year, including hunting, bicycling, snow machining and cross-country skiing.



# RECREATION



The Yukon-Kuskokwim (YK) Fitness Center provides residents of all ages year-round recreational opportunities, such as swimming, fitness and classes. The Center has a weightroom, dance room, hot tub, water slide and toddler pool and competition size pool.

The City maintains a number of other community parks, Pinky's Park which is a 30-acre natural area that has youth sports fields, playgrounds, and a mile of boardwalk.

# EDUCATION

Lower Kuskokwim School District, operates five schools in Bethel. Mekelnguut Elitnauriviat School ("M.E.") serves grades kindergarten through second grade and has approximately 260 students. Gladys Jung Elementary School serves third grade through sixth grade and has an enrollment of approximately 350 students. Ayaprun Elitnaurvic School is a kindergarten through eighth grade Yup'ik-English bilingual program.

Bethel Regional High School has approximately 500 students from grades seven through twelve. Kuskokwim Learning Academy is an alternative high school with approximately 60 students.

The University of Alaska Fairbanks's (UAF) Kuskokwim Campus aims to support the population through education and outreach. UAF offers many certificate and degree programs such as Nursing qualifications courses, medical billing, Associate of Applied Science, Bachelor's in Social Work or Education, and a masters degree in Education or Rural Development.

