

MRAD: Supporting Stronger Local Government

The fundamental purpose of the Municipal and Regional Assistance Division is to help local and regional governments to become more self sufficient in providing effective government services to community residents. The Alaska Constitution specifically provides for maximum local self-government. However, the framers of Alaska's Constitution recognized that many local governments in the state were not fully developed and would not have the resources to achieve strong local self-determination unless

they were assisted in this effort. Also, a large part of the state consists of the "Unorganized Borough" in which there is no regional form of government. To address this situation, the writers of the constitution mandated the creation of a "local affairs agency" in State government to advise and assist local governments. MRAD fulfills this function by offering local governments and other community entities a broad range of technical and financial support.