THE QASGIQ MODEL
In traditional Yup’ik culture the qasgiq (kuz-geek), or “men’s house/communal place,” was a centralizing structure in the community, connecting everyone together as one. The qasgiq served many important purposes for the people. It was a place to live during the long winter months. It was a place to work on the tools that were needed to survive in the arctic climate. It was the place where important decisions were made and where people could go to get answers for life’s great questions.
“Will there be enough food?”
“Will spring come early?”
“Are the spirits content?”
“Am I living rightly?”
It was a sacred place, a place for ceremony and a place for purification. It was a place for teaching and learning and a place for healing and treating wounds, those old and new.
The qasgiq brought the people and the families together and created community.
When people began coming in from places far away, the Yup’ik world changed. The qasgiq structures stopped being built and new places brought new practices, and new problems for the people. Without the qasgiq there to center the community, questions began to go unanswered and some wounds went untreated.
The Qasgiq (sacred space) Model demonstrates how some Yup’ik communities are re-centering their communities and connecting youth to their healing pasts and hopeful futures using a thousands-of-year-old process to bring about change today.
QASGIQ
QASGIQ

Families
Elders
Youth
Community Members
QASGIQ

- Village Corp
- School
- Clinic
- Churches
- Families
- Elders
- Youth
- Community Members
- City Council
QASGIQ

City Council
Village Corp
School
Clinic
Churches
Families
Elders
Youth
Community Members
YKHC
AVCP
CDQ's
Calista
QASGIOQ

City Council
Village Corp
School
Clinic
Churches
Families
Elders
Youth
Community Members

YKHC
AVCP
CDQ’s
Calista
State of Alaska
UAF
NIH
Activity

Family Level

Protective factors

Praise and Affection
Treated as Special
Clear Limits
Role Models for Sobriety
Activity

Individual Level Protective factors

Ellangneq - Awareness
Communal Mastery
Wanting to be Role Model
Knowing Who You Are
Belief in Yourself
Giving
Activity

Community Level Protective factors
Safe Places • Opportunities
Role Models • Limits on Alcohol Use

Individual Level Protective factors
Ellangneq - Awareness
Communal Mastery
Wanting to be Role Model
Knowing Who You Are
Belief in Yourself
Giving

Family Level Protective factors
Praise and Affection
Treated as Special
Clear Limits
Role Models for Sobriety