

Start With Less Data

Practical AI choices for Tribal education
and community services

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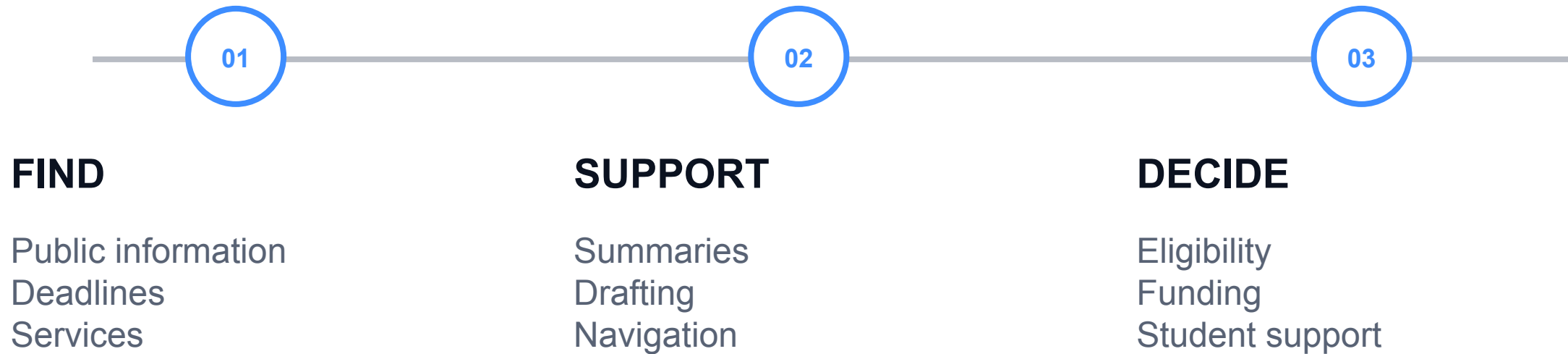
The first AI question is not:

What can it do?

It is:

What data must we give up to get the value?

For Tribal Education Departments, the stakes are practical



The farther right we move, the more authority and oversight matter.

Listening led us to a smaller, safer first build

The formal workshop proposal was turned down. So we did it over lunch - one hour, high-school students, 2025.

WHAT WE FIRST WANTED TO BUILD

PROPOSAL CONCEPT - NEVER BUILT

AI chat counseling
Daily mood check-ins
AI-assisted risk flags
School / counselor handoff



WHAT WE BUILT INSTEAD

No-login public information
Events, resources, scholarship sources
Visible sources + human next steps
No student record system

Then: what does it say to a student in crisis at 2 a.m.? We could not monitor it, and we could not control it.

The funding never came - and we had no authority over student health data.

What we kept was the method: co-design, at a scope we could govern.

What Olen Hub actually is

A free, no-login public information app for eight North Slope villages.

EVENTS

A community calendar from public posts

RESOURCES

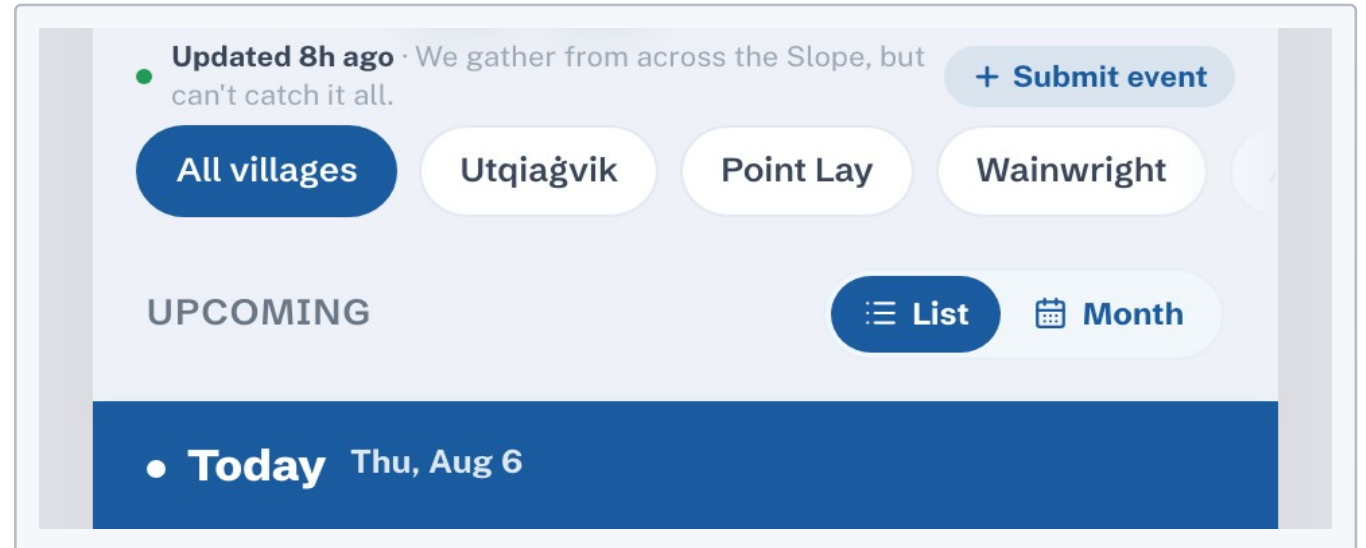
Curated local services and help

ASK OLEN

Cited answers with a next step

WHAT IT IS NOT

No student records. No eligibility engine.
No clinical assessment. No accounts.



**“We gather from across the Slope,
but can’t catch it all.”**

That line is in the product, not the marketing.

What this looks like for a student

“What scholarships can I apply for as a student here?”

First it asks which village you're in. Then:

Arctic Education Foundation — ASRC shareholders and lineal descendants. Deadline August 15.

UIC Foundation — Ukpeaġvik Iñupiat Corporation shareholders. Fall deadline August 15.

Iḷisaġvik College — tuition waivers for North Slope Borough residents.

Scholarships, resources, and deadlines are the part students and families actually use.

 This comes from an official local source.



Iḷisaġvik College
(Alaska's only tribal college)

[See source >](#)

● High



Arctic Education Foundation (AEF) scholarships

[See source >](#)

● High



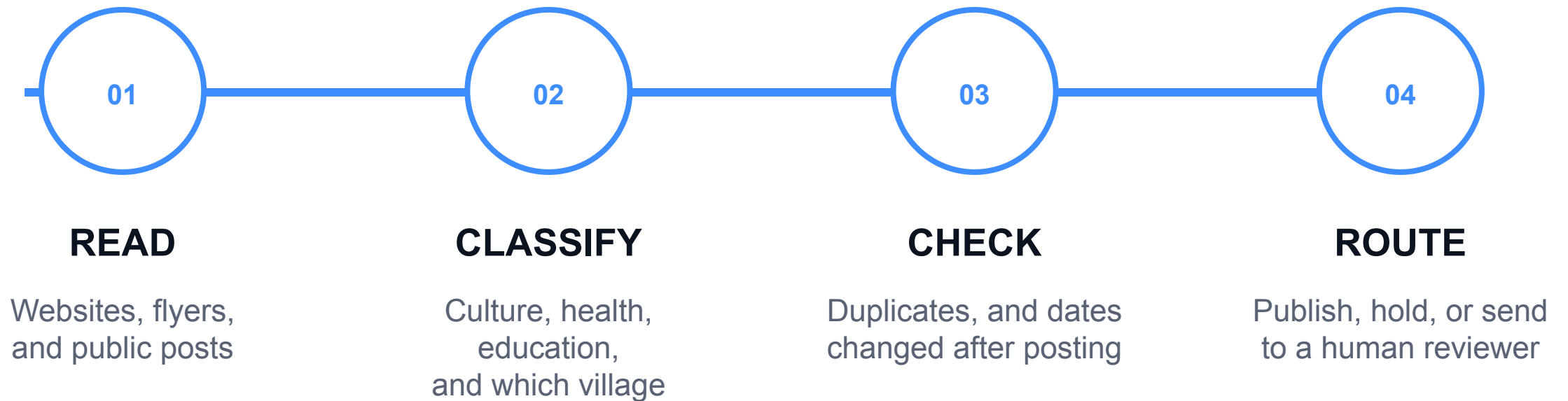
American Indian College Fund (for tribal college students)

[See source >](#)

● High

Every claim carries its source and a confidence label.

A source becomes useful only after four publishing decisions



The noise is concrete: the same event posted twice, a date quietly changed, a post that belongs in three categories at once.

A low-risk information tool still needs publishing controls.

CHOICE 1

Collect less before you secure more

3,760

of 4,935 candidate events
rejected

No account required

Village selected - not inferred

Less content can be more useful

**Ask: does this education task truly require
identity?**

The screenshot shows the first screen of the OlenHub app. At the top, there is a blue square icon with a yellow sun. Below it, the text "Welcome to OlenHub" is displayed, followed by "North Slope events, news, help & radio — all in one place, free." Below this, the question "Where do you live?" is shown. There are eight buttons arranged in a 4x2 grid, each containing a village name: Utqiagvik, Point Hope, Point Lay, Wainwright, Atqasuk, Nuiqsut, Kaktovik, and Anaktuvuk Pass. Below the buttons, there is a toggle switch for "Larger text" with the subtext "Easier to read across the whole app". At the bottom, there is a blue button labeled "Start exploring >" and a link labeled "Skip for now".

First screen. No email, no password.

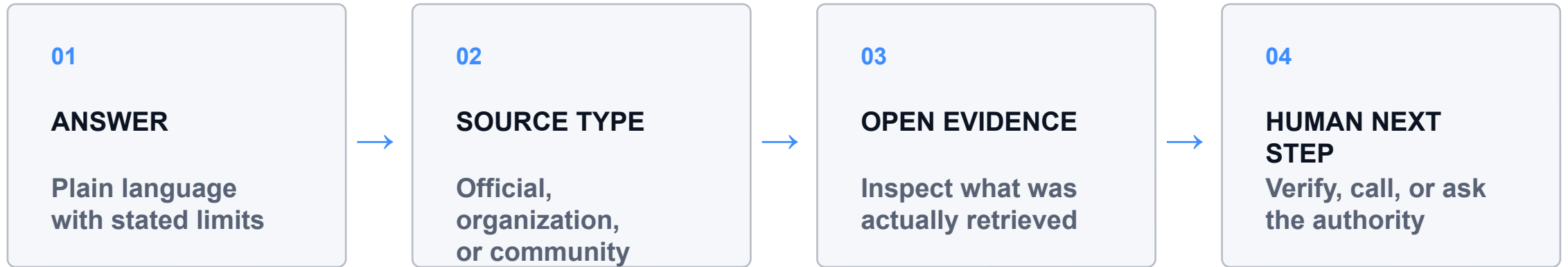
A no-login screen can still hide governance debt

We read public community posts to build the calendar. The replies came attached - and so did the names.



Privacy-friendly UX is not complete data governance.

Every useful answer should show where it came from



Traceability is part of the answer.

A link does not prove currency, correctness, or entity match.

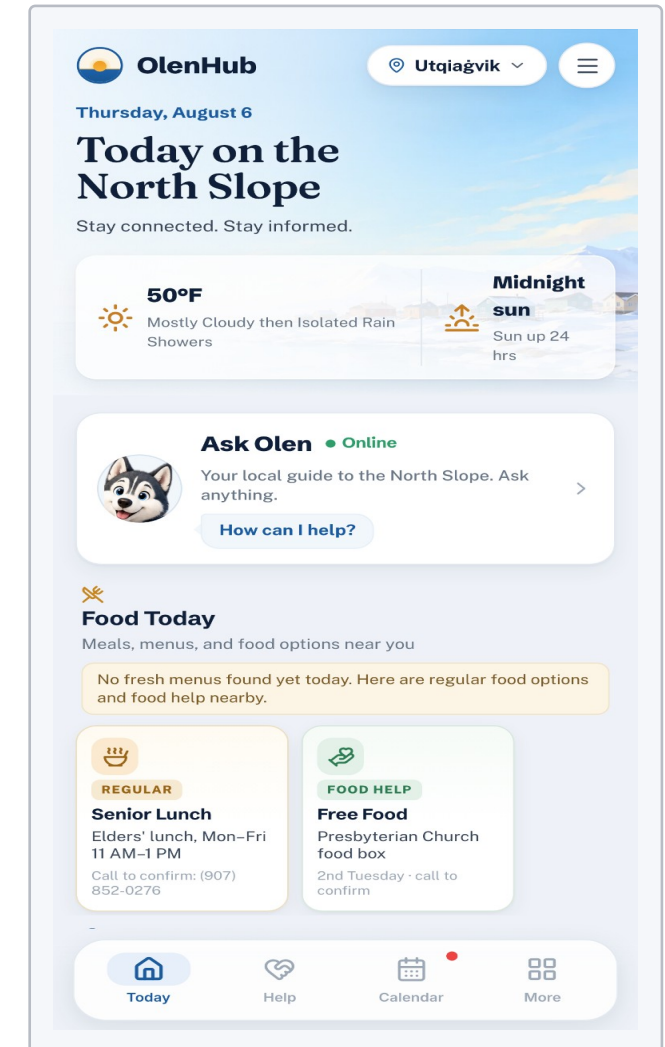
Citation is necessary. Conflict resolution is still a governance question.

Access comes before intelligence

Mobile-first entry
No account required
Larger-text option
Voice input available

Designed toward low-bandwidth access.

Not yet field-validated under real Arctic conditions.



Live today, on a phone.

CHOICE 4

A guardrail can hold - and still be incomplete

30 live production calls | 10 cases x 3 runs | August 6, 2026

0 / 30

fabricated
contact
details
observed

20 / 24

appropriate
declines
when it should
stop

6 / 6

positive-anchor
questions
answered

IN CODE

Contact details and source links are rebuilt from retrieved records.

Caveat: a real number can still attach to the wrong entity.

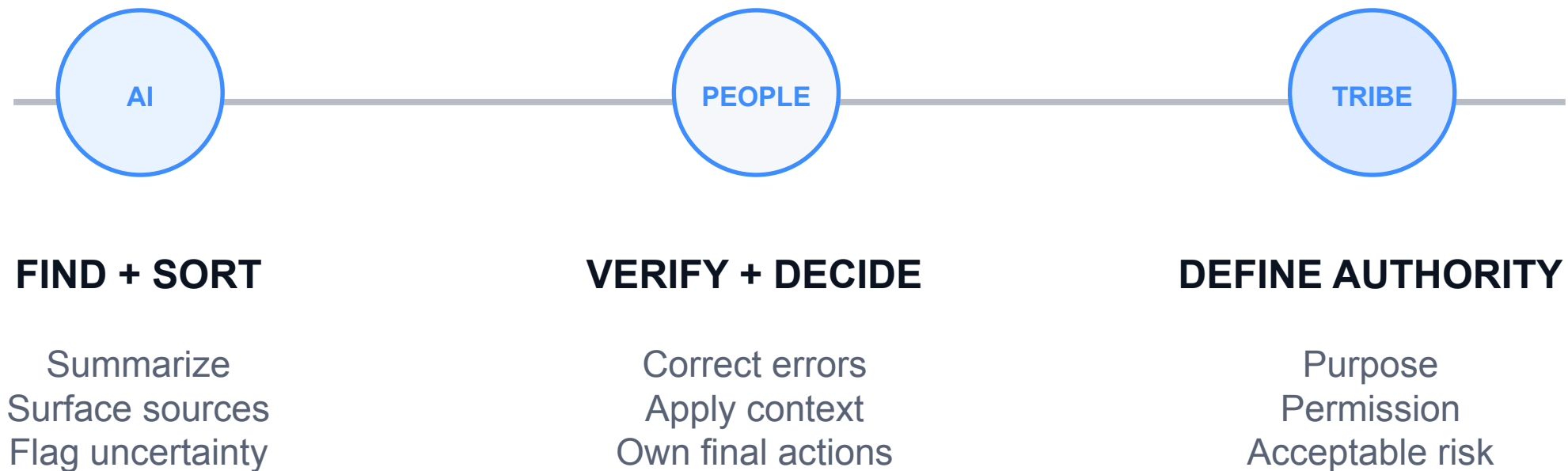
IN THE PROMPT

The model decides when to decline. That judgment did not hold every time.

One run answered a future school-closure question with unjustified confidence.

Ask which guardrail is enforced in code - and which depends on the prompt.

AI can assist. People remain accountable.



Ask: where exactly does the machine stop - and who is accountable next?

Public is not the same as permission

Public ≠ consented

ORGANIZATION PAGE

An institution publishes information for an audience.

MEMBER GROUP

Neighbors speak to one another in a shared space.

AGGREGATED OUTPUT

Names may disappear; context and re-identification risk remain.

Education examples: parent groups, student surveys, public comments, community listening sessions.

Removing names does not remove re-identification risk

VISIBLE INTERFACE

Names hidden

Direct permalinks removed

Themes summarized



BEHIND THE INTERFACE

Raw metadata remained

Derived IDs could reopen source paths

Stale cache appeared current

Retention and deletion were undefined

De-identification is a lifecycle property - not a blank name field.

A useful tool becomes governance only when authority is formalized

USEFUL TOOL

Solves a defined task
Reduces friction
Shows evidence and limits

GOVERNANCE SYSTEM

Authority and approved purpose
Access, retention, correction, deletion
Vendor rules, audit, exit, accountability

CARE is a lens - not a vendor certificate

Collective Benefit | Authority to Control | Responsibility | Ethics

Ten questions before you approve an AI pilot

Use these as a first gate - not a complete governance framework.

01 Who defines and approves the purpose?

02 What is the minimum data required?

03 Is identity actually necessary?

04 Where does information come from - and how current is it?

05 Who can access or reuse the data - including vendors?

06 How does the system show uncertainty or refuse?

07 Which decisions remain with authorized people?

08 Does it work on phones, weak connections, and without an account?

09 Can data be corrected, exported, deleted, and time-limited?

10 How can the Tribe stop the pilot or leave the vendor?

Start small.

Collect less.

Make the pilot reversible.

Keep people responsible.

Questions and discussion

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