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Commissioner

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Department of Commerce,
Community, and
Economic Development

Anchorage, Alaska

STATE OF ALASKA

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

23-015

DCCED Office of International Trade Awarded \$100,000 from SBA to Assist Small Business Exporters

Wednesday, September 20, 2023 (ANCHORAGE, AK) – The State of Alaska Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development (DCCED), Office of International Trade has been awarded \$100,000 from the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) through the State Trade Expansion Program (STEP). This grant program is designed to assist small businesses with exporting activities such as participating in foreign trade missions, market sales trips, designing international marketing campaigns, participating in export trade show exhibits, and attending training workshops.

“International trade has played a critical role in the success of Alaska’s economy throughout our history. Industries like oil and gas, fishing, mining, and timber have demonstrated the value of exporting to foreign markets,” said **DCCED Commissioner Julie Sande**. “Unfortunately, the concept of exporting can seem daunting and cost-prohibitive to smaller businesses or emerging industries, which is why the STEP grant is so important. We are optimistic about how the improvements in connectivity and cargo continue to promote innovation for talented and hard-working Alaskans throughout our state. This reimbursement program will provide opportunities for business owners to participate in activities that help to build relationships and diversify their markets. We recognize that small businesses are the heart of our communities and this program is one more way we can support Alaskan business owners to reach their goals and strengthen our economy.”

The Small Business Jobs Act of 2010 created STEP to assist small businesses with entering and expanding into international markets. Through awards to U.S. states and territories, STEP helps small businesses overcome obstacles to exporting by providing grants to cover costs associated with entering and expanding into international markets.

This is the first STEP grant the State of Alaska has received in six years. The Office of International Trade will be working closely with partners around the state that also assist businesses with exporting such as; the World Trade Center Anchorage, the Small Business

Development Center, U.S. Commercial Service Anchorage, the Export Council of Alaska, and the Alaska Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP). The State's program is currently under development and an announcement will be made when applications are ready to be received from eligible small businesses.

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