



Alaska Regional Development Organizations



Fiscal Year 2019 Annual Report

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State of Alaska

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Table of Contents

INTRODUCTION	3
ANCHORAGE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION	5
BERRING STRAIT DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL	7
COPPER VALLEY DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION	10
FAIRBANKS NORTH STAR BOROUGH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION	11
KENAI PENINSULA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT	13
NORTHWEST ARCTIC BOROUGH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION	15
PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT	17
SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE	19
SOUTHWEST ALASKA MUNICIPAL CONFERENCE	23
YUKON-KUSKOKWIM ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL	27
REGIONS MAP	29



INTRODUCTION

The Alaska Regional Economic Assistance Program was established in 1988 under AS 44.33.895 to encourage the formation of regional development organizations in locations across the state. These Alaska Regional Development Organizations (ARDORs) prepare and implement regional development strategies that incorporate local knowledge. Qualified ARDORs have historically received annual base project funding from the Alaska Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development (DCCED) that may be leveraged for funding from federal, local, and private programs. All ARDORs were required to provide matching funding equal to a minimum of 33.33 percent of the grant amount; in practice, many ARDORs matched funding at far greater levels.

ARDORs are the primary economic development agencies providing support services for their regions, communities, and businesses. ARDORs throughout the state have similar challenges and implement similar scopes of work, but the form and function of each ARDOR is customized to each specific region. As partners of the State of Alaska, ARDORs encourage economic development and growth in their regions, and are strengthened by their connections to other regions through the statewide program.

ARDORs are directed at the local level by elected or appointed boards of directors that reflect the economic diversity and the character of the region. Some ARDORs have achieved additional federal designations, which enable the organizations to qualify for increased federal funding. ARDORs have also developed business, municipal, and private memberships that reflect the distinct needs of each region.

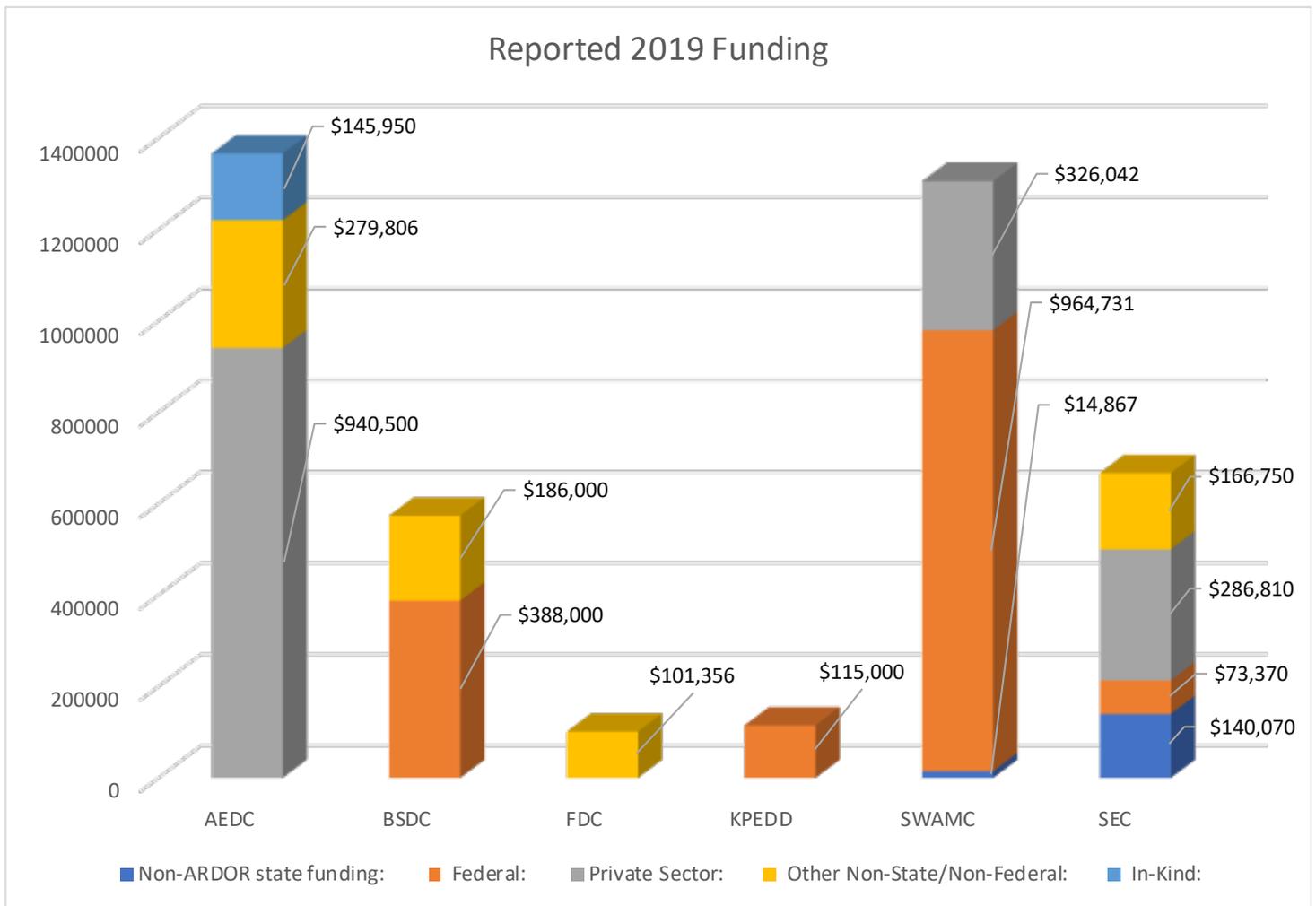
Fiscal Year 2019 (FY19) saw the publication of a number of newly developed Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies (CEDs) for many regions. Acting upon, maintaining, and updating CEDs is an ongoing responsibility for the regional organizations as it provides a clear understanding of the region's current economic situation and helps to direct and encourage economic growth.

The ARDOR program was reauthorized for five years by the Alaska Legislature in 2016, though funding for the annual ARDOR grants was removed from the Fiscal Year 2017 (FY17) budget. No ARDOR grants have been appropriated since, though other state grants have become available to ARDORs. The Denali Commission will be making available \$75,000 to each eligible ARDOR for the pursuit of their efforts to advance economic development across Alaska.

The ten currently designated ARDORs represent areas that range in size from the Municipality of Anchorage to the sparsely populated and sprawling Southeast, Southwest and Western regions of Alaska. Several rural regions like the Arctic Slope and large expanses of the Interior do not currently have designated ARDORs. The overall ARDOR program and network is still active, though several ARDORs did not respond to this year's annual report request, though, where possible, major goals and accomplishments have been included as identified in their newly released CEDs. Those include Copper Valley Development Association, Northwest Arctic Borough Economic Development Commission, the Prince William Sound Economic Development District, and the Yukon-Kuskokwim Economic Development Council. While some organizations are struggling financially, others are seeking additional sources of funding or going without in the wake of state budget cuts. The influx of grant funds from the Denali Commission will aid in organizational cooperation and increase a shared identity.



REPORTED 2019 FUNDING





Anchorage Economic Development Corporation



CONTACT Bill Popp, President and CEO
510 L St, Suite 603
Anchorage, AK 99501
(907) 258-3700
www.aedcweb.com

Mission:

To grow a prosperous, sustainable and diverse economy.

The Anchorage Economic Development Corporation (AEDC) is a private, non-profit corporation, in operation since 1987. It exists to encourage growth and diversity in the Anchorage economy, promote a favorable business climate and improve the standard of living of Anchorage residents. AEDC provides industry expertise and economic resources to both large corporations and growing companies interested in locating or expanding their business in Anchorage. AEDC produces trusted employment data and economic research that provide a clear snapshot of the municipality's economy. Funding sources for the corporation are a combination of private contributions, municipal and state grants, and contracts.

Financial Overview

In FY 2019, AEDC reported the following sources of revenue:

- \$254,000 in grants from the Municipality of Anchorage.
- \$389,500 in private sector funding.
- \$392,586 in event earnings.
- \$26,000 in Live. Work. Play. sponsorships.
- \$111,071 in program, contract, and miscellaneous funding.
- \$102,010 in in-kind revenue.

Current Activities

- Catalyzed sale of Municipal Light and Power (ML&P) to Chugach Electric Association.
- Facilitated housing policy research that resulted in changes to Municipal Code: Tax Abatement Strategy for Downtown Anchorage.
- Sustained outreach to membership.
- Conducted ongoing research into past development and funding efforts in Anchorage.
- Built relationships with key stakeholders in downtown, U-MED and Chester Creek areas.
- Continued Research Efforts:
 - o Employment Report.
 - o Cost of Living Index.
 - o Business Confidence Index.
 - o 1 Year Forecast.
 - o 3 Year Outlook.
 - o Consumer Optimism Index.
 - o Assisted 150+ businesses.



Continuing and Future Projects

- Continue to generate meaningful research, complete a Study on Senior Citizens.
- Develop business partnerships to focus on redeveloping downtown Anchorage, revitalize the Chester Creek Greenbelt, and grow the U-MED District.
- Continue to assist businesses both local to and outside of Anchorage.
- Continue to foster relationships with ARDORS in other regions.





Bering Strait Development Council



KAWERAK, INC.
Our People & Tribes are Thriving

CONTACT Barbara Nickels, Program Director
Kawerak, Inc.
P.O. Box 948 Nome, AK 99762
907-443-5231
www.kawerak.org

Mission:

The purpose of the Bering Strait Development Council (BSDC) is to serve the people, communities, and businesses of the Bering Strait Region of Alaska by promoting economic opportunities that improve the economic, social, and environmental quality of life. The Council is composed to represent the diverse social, economic, environmental, and political interests of the region.

Funding Summary

BSDC is operated by Kawerak, Inc. and In FY19 received \$388,000 in federal funding and \$186,000 from other sources.

Summary of FY19 Activities

- Worked with University of Alaska Center for Economic Development (UACED) to compile data and develop the region's new 5-year CEDS .
- Assisted in the preparation/update of three local economic development plans for Bering Strait communities.
- Provided support, training and mentorship to regional development coordinators in planning and implementing priority projects in Bering Strait communities.
- Collaborated with the Alaska Small Business Development Center to host eight small business training workshops and webinars over two months to regional residents.
- Provided Social Media, Business Development and accounting workshops during the Kawerak Regional Conference.
- Actively worked to provide funding information to regional communities to implement priority projects.
- Hosted a Grant Workshop as a part of the Bering Strait Regional Energy Summit.
- Partnered with Northwestern Alaska Career and Technical Center (NACTEC) to provide an Intro to Heavy Equipment class.
- Coordinated a regionwide Lemonade Day for our young business persons with support from multiple local and regional businesses including the Nome Chamber of Commerce, Wells Fargo and the City of Nome.
- Provided financial support to artists seeking more profitable markets for their artwork for them to attend the second annual Friday Artisan Markets in Nome over six weeks, including the Berry Festival when the Maasdam cruise ship, with 1200 passengers, was scheduled to arrive.
- Continued one-on-one coaching, connections to subject matter experts and training and workshop opportunities including multi-day QuickBooks workshop to persons applying to the Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation Small Business Initiative grant opportunity.



Summary of FY19 Activities (cont.)

- Continued efforts on the three-phase tourism project. Received \$115,000 to leverage Economic Development Administration (EDA) funds from the Betty and Gordon Moore Foundation.
- Distributed arts and crafts surveys region-wide with assistance from Dartmouth Interns. 172 surveys were collected, and the data is being compiled to identify resources and tools needed to support artisans and crafters to gain supplemental cash income via small businesses.
- Co-sponsored a three-day Tourism Workshop with Northwest Campus and Nome Discovery Tours with over 30 participants.
- Ensured the Bering Strait region has a voice at the policy-making table; the felt threats of climate change, increased vessel traffic and risks to subsistence lifestyle loom overhead.
- Completed a majority of Small Community Emergency Response Plan (SCERP) and other Emergency Plans for communities.
- Assisting in completing all community Energy Plans.

Continuing and Future Projects

Education and Workforce Training

- Determine the feasibility of reestablishing an accredited apprenticeship program that certifies individuals in trades. Industries include, but are not limited to: diesel engine mechanic, boiler and plumber technician, electrician, maritime industry, engineer, carpentry, heavy equipment operations, fisheries, bookkeepers, accountant, healthcare, teachers, and administrators

Small Business Startups in the Tourism Industry

- Determine the process of getting started in the tourism industry as a small business, including more accessible information on the process of obtaining necessary permits and licenses to do business.
- Educate legislators and regulators outside Alaska on the difference between elephant ivory and walrus ivory and advocate for policies and regulations that do not prevent tourists from purchasing Alaska Native art made from walrus ivory.
- Educate tourists on the sustainability of walrus ivory and how to visually distinguish between walrus ivory and elephant ivory.

Development and Monitoring of Mining Projects

- Monitor mining activity and development in the region for environmental protection, such as in-river mining activity that could be disruptive of salmon streams.
- Explore mining development and work with potential mining developments to ensure local residents receive the training required to work on projects, thereby maximizing the regional benefits of the jobs created.

Potential Revenue from Natural Resources

- Explore the creation of taxing authorities, such as a borough and/or port authority, in order to tax resources like gold and graphite to increase revenue for local communities.

Continuing and Future Projects (cont.)

Local Priorities

- Improving transportation by land, sea, and air
 - o This would increase the accessibility and affordability of goods and services to rural areas, including food, fuel for energy (diesel and oil), healthcare services (medical and behavioral), other emergency services such as fire and search and rescue, and educational opportunities outside of local villages.
 - o Next steps include evaluating seaport and airport infrastructure, to determine where improvements are necessary and exploring the feasibility of establishing a regional cooperation model, such as port authority.
- Infrastructure (i.e., a building or rooms) for a variety of social and economic activities
 - o Examples of the activities to take place at this building include sewing, carving, AirB&B space, and a teen center.
 - o Next steps include working with local schools to collaborate on the use of their spaces, such as a gym, as a community gathering place.
- A gathering place for activities for teens, elders, and the whole community
 - o This facility would be a place to help preserve the culture and language of the community. This is a priority for cultural preservation because it provides a space for elders to connect with youth and pass on traditions and native languages. It would also provide youth with a safe place to spend time with peers and elders.
- Public safety improvements
 - o This includes improved response times for emergency medical services, increased capacity, and transportation infrastructure for the volunteer fire departments, public safety officers, and search and rescue departments.
 - o Next steps include assisting grant writers across the region to obtain funding for public safety projects, tracking emergency services outside of Nome, and developing Memorandum of Agreements (MOAs) between Nome Emergency Management Services (EMS) and village entities.





Copper Valley Development Association



CONTACT Mile 111 Richardson Highway
P.O. Box 9
Glennallen, Alaska 99588
(907) 822-5001
www.coppervalley.org

Mission:

Facilitating partnerships to improve the quality of life in Alaska's Copper Valley through economic development, while fostering cultural and natural resource development through education and good stewardship.

The Copper Valley Development Association (CVDA) serves the Copper River Valley, an area of approximately 20,649 square miles and a population of 2,997. CVDA functions as a public and private partnership to address natural resource and economic development opportunities. CVDA does this through information gathering and dissemination and by acting as a liaison between government and the private sector, with the goal of creating self-sufficiency throughout the region through development and wise use of sustainable resources.

Overview

No report was submitted by CVDA and no CEDS is readily available.





Fairbanks North Star Borough Economic Development Commission



CONTACT Brittany Smart,
Special Assistant to the Mayor
P.O. Box 71267
Fairbanks, Alaska 99707
(907) 459-1351
www.co.fairbanks.ak.us/mayor/EconomicDevelopment/

Purpose:

To actively promote, foster and coordinate public and private initiatives that create capital, diversify the economy and utilize economic capacity in ways that improve standard of living, quality of life and sustainability of urban and rural lifestyles.

The Fairbanks North Star Borough (FNSB) was incorporated in 1964 and the Economic Development Division was founded in 1980. The Fairbanks North Star Borough Economic Development Commission (FNSBEDC), located in the Borough Mayor's Office, is comprised of the Mayor and eight commissioners appointed by the Borough Assembly. FNSBEDC is focused on growing, diversifying and defending the region's economic base, and coordinating economic development initiatives that increase employment opportunities and improve residents' standard of living and quality of life.

Financial Overview

In 2019 the FNSBEDC received \$101,356 from the Fairbanks North Star Borough's general funds specifically allocated for economic development.

Activities and Accomplishments in FY 2019

- The FNSBEDC continued to meet regularly on the fourth Tuesday of each month throughout 2019. They held a total of 10 meetings, but did not meet quorum to conduct business in February or December.
- The most recent CEDS report released in 2016 has guided the activities and goals of the FNSBEDC. These include supporting geothermal energy production and bringing affordable, sustainable natural gas to the borough.
- The FNSBEDC has also been collaborating with the FNSB in the implementation of the Eielson Regional Growth plan. The plan will analyze the gaps between existing resources and projected needs as the borough prepares for possibly 4,000 new residents thanks to the installation of two new F-35 Lightning II fighter jet squadrons. Next steps and recommendations will be provided to improve the quality of life for both current and new borough residents.



Continuing and Future Projects

- The FNSBEDC will continue to support the creation and maintenance of a talent pipeline within the borough through the University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF). The provision of workforce development and training is high priority and FNSBEDC will advocate for sustainable funding to ensure that programs and initiatives within UAF will remain.
- The FNSBEDC will continue to address the challenges within the region that limit economic growth. These include finding solutions to the lack of available and affordable childcare which can impact local school attendance and test scores; leveraging the current workforce to fill gaps within the private sector; and removing barriers for military spousal employment.
- Work on updating the CEDS for the region will continue through 2020. The FNSBEDC will release the new CEDS later in the year.





Kenai Peninsula Economic Development District



CONTACT Tim Dillon, Executive Director
14896 Kenai Spur Highway
Suite 103A
Kenai, Alaska 99611
(907) 283-3335
www.kpedd.org

Mission:

To serve Kenai Peninsula Borough residents by enhancing their quality of life through responsible and sustainable regional economic and workforce development.

The Kenai Peninsula Economic Development District (KPEDD) became an ARDOR in 1989. Throughout the past 27 years, KPEDD has worked to broaden the economic development of the Kenai Peninsula Borough in southcentral Alaska. Over the organization's history, KPEDD has been involved in a variety of projects promoting economic development in the region, including public works projects, shellfish industry development, international trade, promoting a natural gas pipeline from the North Slope to Cook Inlet and employee recruitment.

Financial Overview

In FY19, KPEDD received \$75,000 in Economic Development Administration (EDA) planning grant funding, a \$25,000 EDA Workforce Planning Grant, and a \$15,000 Workforce Grant from the Denali Commission. KPEDD also received an undisclosed amount of private sector sponsorship for its Industry Outlook Forum event. KPEDD does not receive revenues from memberships or fees.

Activities and Accomplishments in FY19

- KPEDD submitted the updated Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy in July to the EDA. This annual update incorporated public comment and was approved by the KPEDD Board of Directors. The CEDS included updated resiliency planning objectives, progress on outlined goals, and area-wide information on education, housing, cost of living, business and personal propensity, industry spotlights, and community profiles.
- KPEDD launched its new website in August (www.kpedd.org) which incorporated 2019 Situations & Prospects Report data, KPEDD reports, schedules of community engagement events, and resources for existing and relocating residents and businesses. KPEDD also utilized search engine optimization for viewers to find the desired area information more efficiently.
- KPEDD held quarterly City Manager Meetings on May 31 and August 23 to discuss funding opportunities, insurance plans, partnerships with the chambers of commerce, land management, and specific community needs.
- KPEDD met with the other Alaska Regional Development Organizations to support state-wide initiatives.
- Monthly Complete Count Committee meetings have been held by KPEDD to prepare communities for the 2020 Census. The committee includes borough-wide representation of both incorporated and unincorporated communities. Information and resources are disseminated through the group to each area to inform residents of the importance and benefits of census representation. Each participant will equate to approximately \$2,959 in federal funds for the State of Alaska.
- KPEDD Executive Director, Tim Dillon, assisted in the mediation of the Seward airport rehabilitation discussions between the City of Seward, Federal Aviation Administration, and Alaska Department of Transportation.



Activities and Accomplishments in FY19 (cont.)

- The KPEDD Board of Directors has extended an invitation to the Tyonek Native Corporation to join the board. Tyonek Native Corporation has nearly 800 shareholders and holds contracts in defense manufacturing and engineering, aircraft maintenance, information technology services, construction, and oilfield support services.
- KPEDD has made presentations to the Kenai Peninsula Borough, cities, and rotaries on topics such as available resources and tools, KPEDD projects and goals, and borough-wide programs. These presentations have allowed direct communication with residents looking for information and sharing concerns.
- Individual assistance and consultation have been provided throughout the reporting period for businesses in the Kenai Peninsula Borough. Examples included discussions about entity types and tax requirements, purchasing a new business, government contracts and reporting, financial record keeping, and locating investors.
- KPEDD has worked alongside the Small Business Development Center to support incorporated and unincorporated communities with natural disaster resiliency. Assistance has been provided through funding source identification in both grant and loan opportunities.
- KPEDD Program Manager, Caitlin Coreson, spoke on two separate panels at the Amundsen Educational Center to small business owners and new bookkeepers about proper policies and procedures regarding business financial reporting and record keeping. Accurate financial information is a critical component of small business growth and development.
- KPEDD chaired the Industry Appreciation Day Committee which held the Industry Appreciation Day event free to the community. Industry Appreciation Day celebrates the diverse businesses that make up the Kenai Peninsula economy and offers free food and prizes to residents. There were roughly 3,000 attendees at this year's event.

Continuing and Future Projects

- KPEDD will continue hosting Industry Appreciation Day
- In partnership with the Cities and Chambers of Seward, Homer, Kenai and Soldotna, the Kenai Peninsula Economic Development District continues to host its annual Industry Outlook Forum. The forum offers a variety of topics and speakers discussing the economic outlook for the Kenai Peninsula and the State of Alaska.
- KPEDD will develop and inventory of maritime-, tourism-, and fisheries-related infrastructure projects, will continue to assess industry needs by hosting listening sessions and community dialogs, and will seek to create an airport authority.
- KPEDD will assess the impacts of changes in Alaska Marine Highway services to its communities.
- KPEDD will pursue retraining programs for workers dislocated by layoffs in oil and gas, government, construction, and other industries.
- KPEDD will develop and implement a youth training program leading to certifications, with the goal of retaining a local workforce.
- KPEDD will continue to annually create the Situation and Prospects report.
- KPEDD will field requests to engage in industry-based information dissemination.



Northwest Arctic Borough Economic Development Commission



CONTACT Chuck Greene,
NAB Economic Development Director
163 Lagoon Street
Kotzebue, AK 99752
(907) 442-2500

Mission:

Promote economic enhancement, research and development consistent with the traditional culture and values of the people of the region.

The Northwest Arctic Borough Economic Development Commission (NWABEDC), established in 1989, is located within the Northwest Arctic Borough. With 36,000 square miles of land and 3,560 miles of coastline, it is the second largest borough in the state. A population of 7,500 residents is spread throughout 11 villages. As a rural ARDOR, NWABEDC works to achieve a higher quality of life by promoting economic development while respecting and protecting Alaska Native Iñupiat values and traditions.

Overview

No report was submitted by NWABEDC. The following summary of continuing and future projects is derived from NWABEDC's CEDS report, available at <http://www.nwabor.org/wp-content/uploads/NAB-CEDS-Final-Approved-Report-8.27.2019.pdf>.

Continuing and Future Projects

Enact Regional Energy Plan

- Collaborate with partners on pilot projects for testing purposes.
- Continue to seek funding, opportunities, and monitoring of renewable energy projects.
- Educate residents on how to reduce energy costs.
- Create a business plan for energy efficiency co-op.
- Create joint action agency for co-op and use organization to support energy infrastructure build out.
- Develop adequate fuel storage in communities.
- Create co-ops or MOAs to buy fuel together and collaborate in funding approach with partners.

Increase the number of affordable housing units in the Northwest Arctic Borough

- Assess land use policy, right-of-way, and zoning barriers for residential development.
- Assess utility development barriers for residential development.

Support development of Cape Blossom road and port

- Support lobbying efforts to enhance community access and address national security.
- Execute MOA to maintain road from Sadie Creek to port site with Borough Assembly approval.



Continuing and Future Projects (cont.)

Enact Regional Energy Plan

- Collaborate with partners on pilot projects for testing purposes.
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- Educate residents on how to reduce energy costs.
- Create a business plan for energy efficiency co-op.
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Increase the number of affordable housing units in the Northwest Arctic Borough

- Assess land use policy, right-of-way, and zoning barriers for residential development.
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Support development of Cape Blossom road and port

- Support lobbying efforts to enhance community access and address national security.
- Execute MOA to maintain road from Sadie Creek to port site with Borough Assembly approval.

Diversify natural resource development

- Research and examine feasibility of locally-sourced plant product manufacturing.
- Complete feasibility study for hydroponic gardens and/or greenhouses.
- Evaluate the recommendations of the Fish/Meat Processing Facility Feasibility Study for implementation.
- Explore potential for Community Development Quota (CDQ) expansion to Northwest Arctic fisheries.

Promote economic diversification

- Research and implement an entrepreneurship development program.

Engage tribal governments and communities to ensure economic development is done in a culturally appropriate way

- Build tribal government and local community capacity for early and continuous engagement prior to economic development planning and permitting.
- Provide interpretation of project documentation at each stage of development.

Develop visitor industry opportunities in the region

- Complete a visitor market potential assessment, feasibility study, and implementation plan to assess marketing, promotion, facilities, services and amenities, tour packages, and operational needs.
- Advance Sulianich Art Center by creating a consistent and reliable art market and providing workshops instructed by highly skilled artists.
- Support development of an Iñupiaq cultural center.

Implement entrepreneurship, business, financial, and technical training for borough residents

- Provide small business education and adult basic education in accounting, computer science, customer service, small engine repair, child day care, and personal in-home care services.

Increase transfer of culture from one generation to the next to strengthen educational outcomes

- Establish culture camps in all villages in the Northwest Arctic Borough.
- Promote community mentorship of teachers to integrate cultural activities into the academic curriculum.
- Implement the Iñupiaq Language Plan to preserve and perpetuate Iñupiaq language and culture.



Prince William Sound Economic Development District



CONTACT Wanetta Ayers, Executive Director
610 East 5th Avenue, Suite 104a
Anchorage, Alaska 99501
(907) 222-2440
www.pwsedd.org

Mission:

To serve as a forum for the discussion of regional economic issues and to foster economic growth and job creation through strategic planning and infrastructure development.

Prince William Sound Economic Development District (PWSEDD) was established in 1991 to address the need for a coordinated region-wide planning authority, receiving designation as an ARDOR at that time. In 2001 the agency received designation as a federal Economic Development District. PWSEDD serves the communities of Chenega Bay, Cordova, Tatitlek, Valdez and Whittier with a combined population of 6,700. The Chugach National Forest surrounds the region's coastal communities. Economic activity is focused on oil distribution and support services; the maritime sector, including seafood harvesting and production; and the visitor industry and outdoor recreation.

Overview

No report was submitted by Prince William Sound Economic Development Council (PWSEDD). The following summary of continuing and future projects is derived from PWSEDD's 2016-2021 CEDS – 2019 Update. This report is available at https://acb084ff-450c-4310-956d-dde05d574117.filesusr.com/ugd/c8be42_89ed8492180c4d4cbed1490eb1a0ecb1.pdf.

Continuing and Future Projects

Business Retention and Expansion (BRE)

- Sponsor business development and financing workshop in conjunction with the Small Business Administration, UA Business Enterprise Institute, Alaska Development Team, Prince William Sound College, and private lenders.
- Complete periodic updates to the Prince William Sound (PWS) Business Climate survey and supplement with face-to-face BRE interviews as resources dictate.
- Develop awareness and advocacy program for business preparedness.
- Partner with Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) and Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management (DMVA/DHSEM) on one business continuity planning workshop or webinar.

Workforce Readiness and Retention

- Convene regional Career and Technical Education (CTE) educators and employers to identify resources and priorities.
- Partner with Alaska Maritime Works to align regional efforts with statewide plans and other local initiatives to develop maritime sector CTE and training opportunities.
- Apply for workforce development grants to extend the Voyage to Excellence or similar programs throughout the district.



Continuing and Future Projects (cont.)

Expand Economic Base

- Inventory and assess the maritime support sector in the region.
- Develop online marine services directory.
- Promote the online marine services directory.

Infrastructure Development

- Monitor and advocate for AMHS routes within the region.
- Partner with Southeast Conference on its contract to develop a new business model for the Alaska Marine Highway Systems (AMHS).
- Seek funding to evaluate the feasibility of a municipal authority or privatization of the PWS ferry routes.
- Partner with Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities (ADOTPF) to update the Prince William Sound Area Transportation Plan.
- Facilitate a household energy efficiency program in partnership with the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation, North Pacific Rim Housing Authority, and RuralCap Energy Wise Program.
- Promote use of the Alternative Energy Loan Fund for energy retrofitting of commercial buildings.
- Advocate for regional and community infrastructure projects with state and federal funding agencies.

Regional Cohesion

- Complete the CEDS Revision.
- Track and report attendance at all PWSEDD convened meetings, workshops, and events.
- Advocate for the formation and coordination of Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPCs) in Chenega Bay, Cordova, Tatitlek, and Whittier.
- Partner with the Division of Homeland Security, LEPCs, and other response agencies on staging an all-community emergency drill to alternate between years when Alaska Shield is held.



Southeast Conference



CONTACT Robert Venables, Executive Director
612 West Willoughby Avenue Suite B
Juneau, Alaska 99801
(907) 586-4351
www.seconference.org

Mission:

Undertake and support activities that promote strong economies, healthy communities, and a quality environment in Southeast Alaska.

Southeast Conference (SEC) was established in 1958 to advocate for the marine transportation needs of Southeast communities. In 1989, SEC became an ARDOR and a federal Economic Development District. The region extends 500 miles along the southeastern Alaska coast from Metlakatla to Yakutat, encompassing more than 1,000 islands. SEC combines state and federal support with private-sector investment to serve as Southeast Alaska's economic development planning engine, providing a forum for community leaders to gather, decide upon regional priorities and implement strategies to improve social and economic well-being.

Financial Overview

In FY 2019, SEC had a budget of \$667,000. Federal money accounted for \$73,000; non-ARDOR State funding accounted for \$140,000, local revenue including membership fees, sponsorships made up \$446,800; and other revenue including in-kind donations was \$6,600.

Activities and Accomplishments in FY19

- The first Alaska State ferries ever to be built in Alaska were completed in 2019. The first of the two ferries, Tazlina replaced the Fairweather and was put into service in Southeast Alaska in 2019. The second ferry, Hubbard, was completed in 2019 and is expected to enter service in 2020. This success of the two 300-passenger, 53-vehicle Alaska-class ferries for the Alaska Marine Highway System is due to public-private-partnerships supporting the expansion and durability of Southeast Alaska's marine industrial capacity through employer-led co-investment of private and public resources. University of Alaska Southeast (UAS) Maritime Training Center in Ketchikan was able to serve 608 students through 100 courses to ensure an adequate supply of well-trained, knowledgeable, and highly skilled marine industrial workers.
- In 2019, six Southeast Alaska aquatic farm applications (for both new farms and expansions) were submitted to the state by small to large companies, varying in size from three to 154 acres. Legislation (HB 41 and 116) was introduced to allow shellfish enhancement and improvements to the farm leasing program. The Mariculture Task Force (MTF) completed a Five-Year Action Plan to focus activities to grow the industry. The new state administration is supporting mariculture development and has the Alaska Development Team to work closely with the MTF to implement priorities. The largest aquatic farm in Alaska to date (127 acres) was established near Craig, with the fall planting of seaweed, making it the largest seaweed farm in the US.



Activities and Accomplishments in FY19 (cont.)

- In 2019, the Alaska Fisheries Development Foundation (AFDF) organized the Alaska Symphony of Seafood, an annual competition for new, commercial-ready products made from Alaska Seafood. Events were held in Juneau, Boston and Seattle. Ten products were entered, and the winner of the four different categories was Trident Seafoods' Protein Noodles, which were also submitted into Seafood Excellence Awards (SEA) at the Seafood Expo North America (SENA). For the 2019-2020 event, twenty new products were entered, including four seaweed products. The winner of the Retail Category was the Bullwhip Hot Sauce by Barnacle Foods in Juneau, which qualifies them to attend SENA and enter the SEA.
- The State of Alaska hired a consultant to independently research options to "reshape" the Alaska Marine Highway System (AMHS). Southeast Conference provided the AMHS Reform project data and along with its members and stakeholders offered support for that effort. SEC continued the AMHS Reform initiative, working with the statewide steering committee to provide information and outreach to broaden understanding and support for a reformed and reliable ferry system. Resolutions of support were received by many communities, the Alaska State Chamber of Commerce, Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN), and Alaska Travel Industry Association (ATIA). In addition to working with the administration and Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities (ADOTPF), SEC also worked with the Legislature as a resource for policy and funding discussions. Work also continued on draft legislation that could establish AMHS as a public corporation with its own staff and a professional board of directors that would outlast the usual political cycle.
- In 2019, Southeast Conference was actively working on biomass heating projects in Haines, Klawock, Craig, Kake, and Hoonah. Southeast Conference organized a 2019 Biomass Operator training in partnership with the State of Alaska, Department of Labor, Division of Forestry, US Forest Service (USFS), Alaska Energy Authority (AEA), and Alaska Center for Energy and Power, resulting in 12 graduates. Southeast Conference organized the Alaska-Yukon Wood Energy Conference in 2019, with over 100 attendees. This was the first cross-borders collaboration with the Yukon government, and offered an 8-hour technical course on biomass boiler mechanics for engineers and plumbers, and a 3-day field trip to look at installed biomass boilers. Southeast Conference is working with U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development to provide technical assistance to businesses wanting to deploy renewable energy resources, and with Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference (SWAMC) to continue energy efficiency efforts. SEC continues to partner with the Alaska Energy Authority, U.S. Dept. of Energy, the Denali Commission, Renewable Energy Alaska Project (REAP) and Sustainable Southeast Partnership (SSP) to assist businesses and communities achieve their energy goals and objectives. In 2019, Southeast Conference provided assistance to Metlakatla, Kake, and Angoon to displace diesel through development of hydroelectric facilities and interties to dispatch nearby hydro resources. Alaska Electric Light and Power (AEL&P) has provided leadership in promoting electric vehicles in Juneau and Southeast Alaska.



Activities and Accomplishments in FY19 (cont.)

- SEC worked on phase 2A of Alaska Mental Health Trust land exchange. SEC worked on tariff relief efforts. SEC worked on Red Cedar language so that timber sales showing a deficit are no longer allowed. SEC continued to work with industry and the State of Alaska on timber supply issues. SEC supported state's petition & USFS preferred alternative to exempt the Tongass from the Roadless Rule. SEC joined a coalition of 21 associations and businesses in providing comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). SEC urged USFS to adopt exception language created by the Citizens Advisory Committee. SEC advocated for improved forest management and has been working for revisions to the 2016 Tongass Forest Plan to assure road access for mining, renewable energy, and restoration of the transportation and utility system land to maintain transportation corridors.
- Tourism is growing significantly in Southeast. In 2019, 40 cruise ships visited the region, carrying 1.36 million passengers on 577 voyages. With this growth, there have been major efforts to create supporting infrastructure, including port and dock investments in Ketchikan, Juneau, and Hoonah. In 2019, SEC supported Central Council Tlingit Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska (CCTHITA) and Sealaska Heritage's efforts to promote cultural tourism in the region, hosting a Destination Southeast: Community Development, Sustainability and Growth forum. SEC also hosted Southeast Cruise Port Association and Regenerative Tourism discussions.

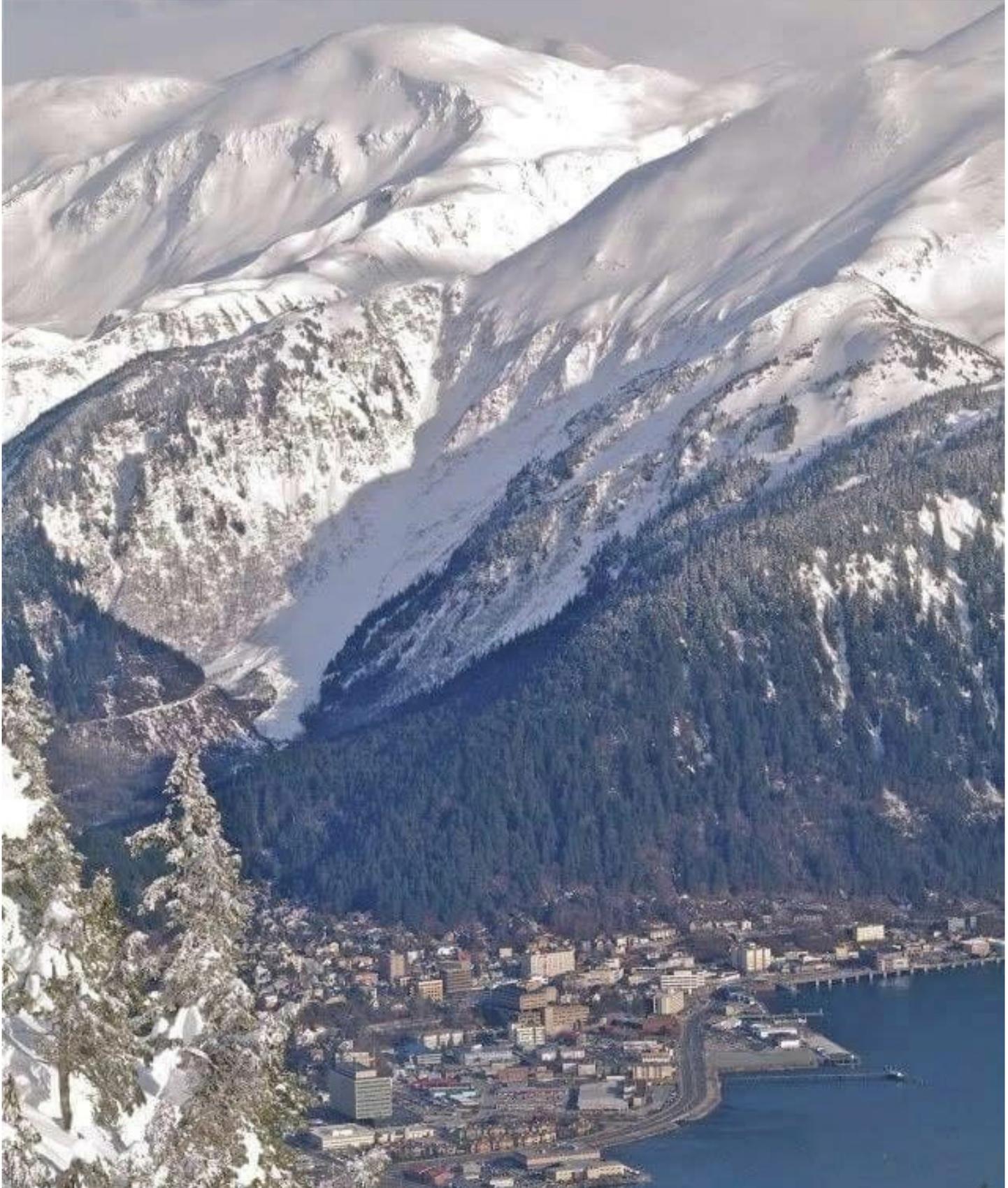
Continuing and Future Projects

Southeast Conference is passionate about resource development in the region. These priorities include regional transportation, energy, industrial maritime, seafood, tourism, healthcare, timber, and mining. But our most valuable resource is our local workforce. Southeast Conference is very proud of our partnership with the University of Alaska Southeast to prepare the next generation of entrepreneurs and skilled labor who will fill and create future jobs. We are committed to providing critical economic research and information for our membership so that we can be a resource for policy makers, program managers and project proponents.

A plan is the first step toward a more certain future. Our region looks to the State for a fiscal plan that will support our economic sectors. Southeast Conference and our statewide partners will stay engaged with the Administration and Legislature to forge a long-range plan for the ferry system. Our goal is to also work with businesses and communities during this time of change and transition to develop a plan to stay connected and support commerce in coastal Alaska.

A plan is critical for regional economic development. Southeast Conference has the responsibility to develop a CEDS every five years. Our last CEDS won a national award and has been a valuable tool for businesses and communities as they plan strategically throughout southeast Alaska.

Southeast Conference members and stakeholders will work throughout 2020 on the next 5-year CEDS. This plan will lay the foundation for economic resilience toward future prosperity. We continue to work with all municipalities, tribes and industries in the region to lead, nurture, and support the changes needed to build healthy economies and communities. That has been our mission together in the region for 62 years and counting.





Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference



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Mission:

Advancing the collective interests of Southwest Alaska people, businesses, and communities, promoting economic opportunities to improve quality of life, and influencing longterm responsible development.

Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference (SWAMC) is a non-profit, regional economic development organization for Southwest Alaska comprised of the Alaskan Peninsula, Aleutian/Pribilof Islands, Bristol Bay and Kodiak. Since 1989, SWAMC has been the designated ARDOR and federal Economic Development District entity tasked to pursue public-private partnerships based on sound strategic planning efforts. SWAMC is a liaison between state government and regional leaders, hosting summits, communicating priorities and opportunities, implementing initiatives and acting as a unified voice for the region. SWAMC was originally founded to advocate for rural community needs and the responsible development of the region's commercial seafood industry; it remains committed to issues associated with commercial fishing, as well as telecommunications and energy infrastructure in the region.

Financial Overview

Roughly 74 percent of SWAMC's \$1,305,640 budget was from federal funding (\$964,731). State money from the AEA Energy Match accounts for 1.1 percent (\$14,867), and the remaining 25 percent was from private funding and memberships (\$326,042).

Activities and Accomplishments in FY19

The SWAMC Board met thirteen times in Fiscal Year 2019 (FY19), receiving updates on the organization's financials and staffing. Other discussions included passage of an Fiscal Year 2020 (FY20) budget, operational and policy decisions regarding the discontinuation of Manufacturing Extension (MAKE) Partnership program, oversight of the EDA Aleutian Broadband grant, participation in the DOE grant program, review and comment on the preparation of the CEDS 5-year update funds, and passage of board resolutions and approval of member resolutions to take before the Members at the February 28, 2019 Membership Meeting, and initiation of a recruitment process to hire a new Executive Director.

In 2019, the MAKE Partnership Program implemented thirteen contracts with organizations and contractors to deliver programs and services that train manufacturers in best practices, brought experts and resources to the field, and supported projects that grow manufacturing activities in Alaska. The largest sub-grantee is the Sea Grant Marine Advisory Program, primarily delivering regulatory, quality, testing, and consulting services to seafood processors utilizing the Kodiak Fish Technical Center. MAKE has delivered services to 60-plus established manufacturing businesses since inception in 2016.



Activities and Accomplishments in FY19 (cont.)

SWAMC organized an annual Economic Summit and Membership Meeting and held the conference on February 27-28, 2019. The SWAMC Economic Summit and Membership Meeting brought together over 140 leaders from the Southwest Alaska region to learn about economic development, public safety, and political issues affecting Southwest Alaska. The SWAMC Membership approved nine resolutions at its Membership Meeting on: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) funding, K-12 public education funding, University of Alaska funding, continuation of shared fisheries tax programs, supporting a progressive graduated statewide income tax, supporting sustainable AMHS funding, preserving the Power Cost Equalization (PCE) Endowment Fund, supporting continued funding for the Alaska Public Broadcasting Commission, and supporting the continuation of state Medicaid expansion. SWAMC continues to publish a monthly e-newsletter to inform its membership and others interested in economic development in the SWAMC region. Twelve newsletters were written, curated and published and distributed to nearly 800 subscribers.

Under the U.S. Department of Energy Office of Indian Energy Grant, SWAMC worked with the Kodiak Area Native Association, Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association, and the Bristol Bay Native Association to deliver energy planning, energy project assistance, and human energy capacity building services to the communities in the SWAMC region. With help from its partners, SWAMC conducted extensive outreach and gathered registrations for the USDA business energy audit program. In FY19, over twenty audits were completed under the grant.

SWAMC staff also worked in support of the Southeast Conference on the Alaska Marine Highway System Reform Initiative.





Continuing and Future Projects

Energy Planning

SWAMC has administered a Department of Energy, Office of Indian Energy (DOE-OIE) grant focused on building human capacity and developing partnerships to help regional communities identify, plan, and pursue energy projects to achieve their goals. This grant has helped fund personnel in the three Native non-profit organizations in the SWAMC region – the Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association, the Bristol Bay Native Association, and the Kodiak Area Native Association – to work one-on-one with community representatives to fulfill their needs through education, networking, and grant assistance. SWAMC has supplemented this DOE-OIE grant with a grant from USDA Rural Development which has been awarded two years in a row, in 2018 and 2019. With the USDA-RD grant, SWAMC has conducted dozens of subsidized energy audits for southwest Alaska businesses, including commercial fishing vessels, providing them with information on how to lower their energy usage (and therefore costs) and directing participants to a follow-on USDA grant that provides funds to help cover the costs of upgrades identified in the audit.

A no-cost time extension was granted by DOE-OIE for SWAMC's DOE energy grant, allowing SWAMC and partners more time to finish up tasks and spend down the funds. Originally scheduled to end at the end of September 2019, the DOE grant is now scheduled to end at the end of March 2020. SWAMC plans to apply for a third round of the USDA grant in January 2020, focusing statewide to capture a larger audience and better align the program with our partners. Through this third round, SWAMC anticipates conducting at least 26 more energy audits on businesses.

Broadband

SWAMC continues to manage an EDA Economic Adjustment Assistance (EAA) grant to identify the best way to bring broadband to the Alaska Peninsula, Aleutian Islands, and the Pribilof Islands. This project involves working with the Aleutians East Borough, the Aleut Corporation, Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association, Aleutian Pribilof Islands Community Development Association, the Aleutian Housing Authority, Eastern Aleutian Tribes, and the City of Sand Point. Phase 2 was nearing completion at the end of FY19. This phase will recommend the best strategy to advance construction of broadband infrastructure through a public-private partnership. One of the best prospects is grant or loan funding from the U.S. Department of Agriculture ReConnect program.

SWAMC will promote extension of broadband service to the Alaska Peninsula and Aleutians/Pribilofs through its administration of the \$200,000 Economic Development Administration Economic Adjustment Assistance (EDA/EAA) grant. SWAMC will monitor new developments in this arena with potential broadband service to the unserved area from Phase 2 of the Quintillion project (Nome to Northern Japan), GCI's TERRA Aleutian project, and low-earth orbiting service provided by OneWeb.

Economic Summit

SWAMC will plan for and hold the 2020 Economic Summit and Membership Meeting scheduled for March 5-6, 2020. SWAMC will continue producing a monthly newsletter to promote SWAMC activities and inform subscribers of economic development opportunities in the SWAMC region.





Yukon-Kuskokwim Economic Development Council

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The Yukon-Kuskokwim Economic Development Council is no longer active as an ARDOR.

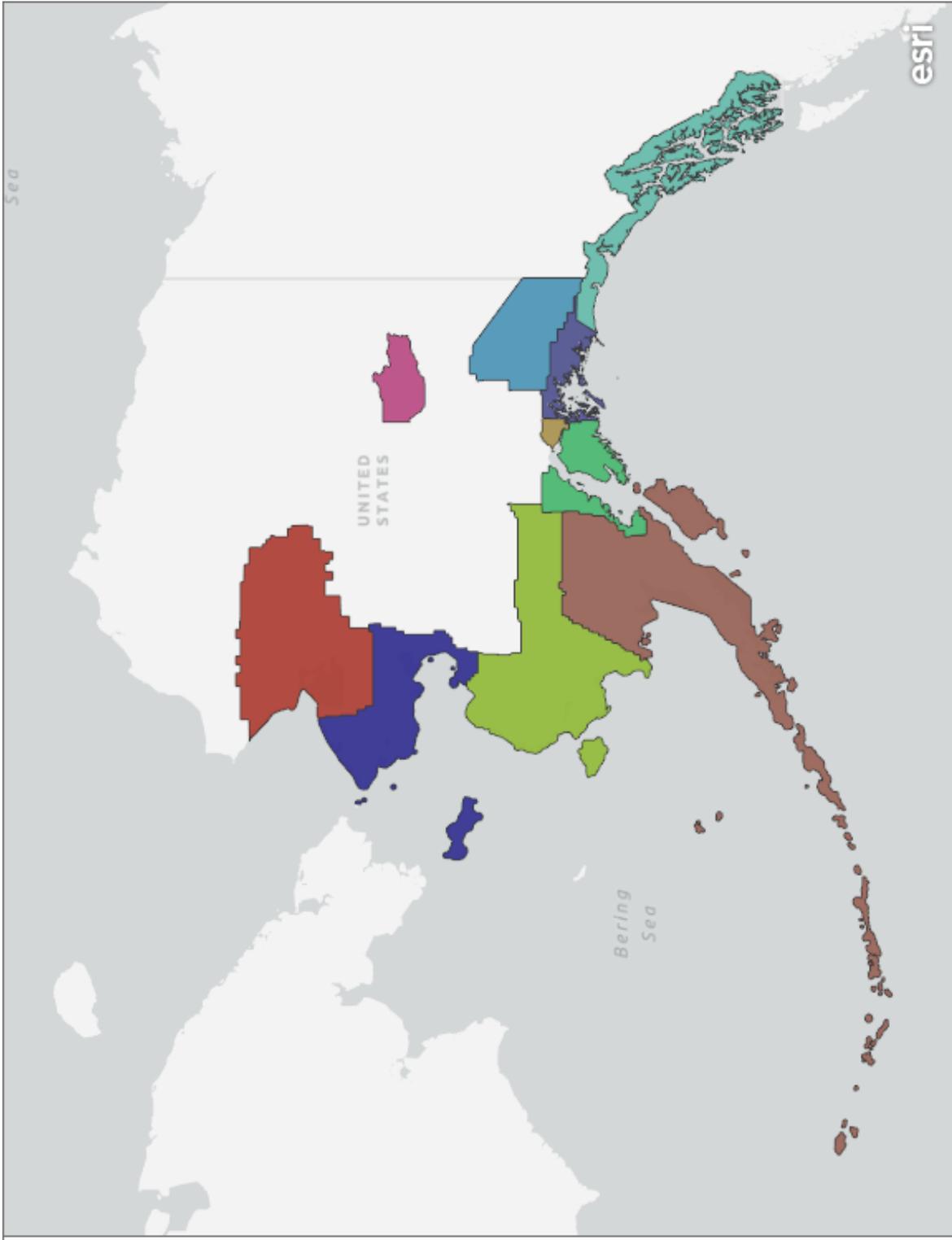
The Association of Village Council Presidents (AVCP) has overseen economic development programs in the region and developed a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) with funding from the U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration (EDA). By developing a CEDS, the regional strategies developed by AVCP and its partners are eligible for EDA funding.

AVCP closely collaborates with the following regional partners:

- AVCP Regional Housing Authority.
- Calista Corporation.
- Coastal Villages Region Fund.
- Yukon Delta Fisheries Development Association.
- Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation.
- Yuut Elitnaurviat.

More information about AVCP's economic development activities in the region may be found in its CEDS, available online at http://www.avcp.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/Y-K-CEDS-2018-2023_FINAL_7-31-18_FULL.pdf.





Alaska Regional Development Organizations (ARDORs)

-  Anchorage Economic Development Corporation
-  Bering Strait Development Council
-  Copper Valley Development Association
-  Fairbanks North Star Borough Economic Commission
-  Kenai Peninsula Economic Development District
-  Northwest Arctic Borough Economic Development Council
-  Prince William Sound Economic Development District
-  Southeast Conference
-  Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference
-  Yukon-Kuskokwim Economic Development Council



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STATE OF ALASKA

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, COMMUNITY, AND
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

DIVISION OF COMMUNITY AND REGIONAL AFFAIRS