

Julie Anderson
Commissioner

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Department of Commerce,
Community, and
Economic Development

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STATE OF ALASKA

PRESS RELEASE

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DCCED Announces AK-ARPA Business Relief Program

Thursday, August 5, 2021 (Anchorage, AK) – Today, the State of Alaska Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development (DCCED) announced the structure for the AK-ARPA Business Relief Program authorized in the FY2022 Budget.

“Alaska’s business community is resilient and has partnered with our State throughout the COVID-19 response. As Alaskan-owned businesses continue to assess short-term and long-term economic effects of the pandemic, my administration is eager to distribute relief funding to provide certainty,” **said Governor Mike Dunleavy**. “My message to struggling Alaskan entrepreneurs is this: help is on the way.”

The Alaska Legislature appropriated \$90 million from the State’s American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Covid State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (CSLFRF) toward a tourism and business relief grant program to be administered by DCCED, now known as the AK-ARPA Business Relief Program. The Governor’s original proposal requested an appropriation of \$280 million for this purpose. The amount was reduced during the budget process in part due to the decision by the Federal Department of Treasury to distribute CSLFRF in multi-year tranches.

“We are grateful for the opportunity to expeditiously distribute relief funding to Alaskan businesses,” **said DCCED Commissioner, Julie Anderson**. “We recognize that the need far exceeds this appropriation, and that we cannot provide assistance to every business in need. It is our hope that this is the first, not the last, appropriation of ARPA funds to Alaskan businesses and look forward to continuing to work with the Legislature to support the businesses and industries not reached by this program.”

The AK-ARPA Business Relief Grants issued under this program are capped at \$1 million. Unlike grants issued under the AK CARES program in 2020, AK-ARPA grants will not be issued on a first come, first-served basis. Eligible businesses will have a 30-day window in which to apply, opening in early Fall 2021. After evaluation, grants will be issued based on demonstrated need. Businesses must have filed their 2019 and 2020 taxes and must have held an active State Business License as of January 1, 2021 unless exempt under AS 43.70.105 in order to apply.

For more information on the AK-ARPA Business Relief Program, including eligibility requirements, eligible expenses, information required to support an application package, FAQs, and more, please visit <https://www.commerce.alaska.gov/web/AK-ARPABusinessReliefProgram>.

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