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#### **Bristol Bay CEDS**

Kristina Andrew, Economic Development Program Manager

In March, the CEDS Steering Committee approved the 2023 update of the Bristol Bay Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy or CEDS, which supports new and continued projects originated by regionally based communities, tribes, and organizations. The major benefits of participating in the regional CEDS are access to new funding sources and regional support for the project. The CEDS can be found online and entities can contact Kristina for a PDF copy or to learn more about participating in the planning process. To view the CEDS, visit: https://bbna.com/CEDS



#### **CEDS** Industry Meetings

Kristina Andrew, Economic Development Program Manager

On May 16, 2023, the Economic Development Program hosted the Tourism and Cultural CEDS Industry meeting. Participants were able to hear from LaRece Egli and Carol Wren. Carol shared opportunities for BBNC shareholders to be a Cultural Presenter at Katmai, and LaRece spoke about Cultural Tourism Outreach and Infrastructure. To view meeting materials, visit: <a href="https://bbna.com/CEDSMeetings">https://bbna.com/CEDSMeetings</a>



#### Broadband Technical Assistance

Kristina Andrew, Economic Development Program

Last fall, BBNA received the award from the USDA to help all 31 Tribes in the Bristol Bay region navigate broadband infrastructure and digital equity opportunities. The goal of this project is to ensure all tribes can apply for broadband opportunities. If your tribe is interested in accessing this technical assistance, please reach out to Kristina Andrew, Economic Development Program Manager, and she will connect you with our technical assistance consultant, DeerStone Consulting.

Two large broadband infrastructure projects have been funded in our region – BBTC's USDA ReConnect Round 3 award and Choggiung's NTIA Tribal Broadband award. Emily Dodge, Grant Writer and Broadband Specialist with our TA provider DeerStone Consulting, recently interviewed BBTC and Choggiung about these exciting projects.

#### Remote Work Study

Kristina Andrew, Economic Development Program Manager

BBNA received an award from the Denali Commission to explore remote work opportunities in the region once communities have access to reliable broadband. The Study has five sections focusing on different aspects of implementing remote work opportunities. Once completed, the sections of this study will be combined to become an implementation plan to be executed by regional organizations, tribes, and educational organizations to increase remote or telecommute job opportunities across the region. Results of the study can be found online: <a href="https://bbna.com/broadband">https://bbna.com/broadband</a>

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Interview with Brendyn Shiflea, CFO for Choggiung Ltd. May 8, 2023

> Kristina Andrew, Economic Development Program Manager

Congratulations on your NTIA TBCP award! Can you tell me more about the project and the broadband service (speed, pricing, etc.) people can expect to have access to after the network is built?



**Brendyn:** Choggiung has partnered with Nushagak Electric & Telephone Cooperative (NETC) for this project to deploy upgraded broadband service to NETC's core service area (which includes 2,604 people, 944 households, nine schools, eight essential community facilities, three health care facilities, and 223 businesses). Beyond fiber to the home in this area, the project will also construct 77 miles of middle mile to extend the GCI fiber in Levelock to Aleknagik, and then down the Lake Road corridor to Dillingham for roughly another 30 miles. This middle mile extension will tie into other currently funded and future planned projects in western Alaska. NETC will ultimately be the Internet Service Provider (ISP) on this network, but this strategic partnership between Choggiung and NETC allows for investment of capital to directly benefit these communities through reduced cost of service. The intent is to deliver faster, more reliable service (up to 300 Mbps) at the rates customers currently pay for much slower speeds.

#### What is the timeline for construction?

Brendyn: We are in the final phases of environmental approvals. The bulk of the fiber middle mile installation will be done in the winter, and if environmental approvals come through on time, we could start constructing the middle mile to Aleknagik this winter (2023-2024). Local work in Dillingham and Aleknagik could begin as soon as this summer.



Interview with Earl Hubb, CEO and General Manager for Bristol Bay Telephone Cooperative - May 5, 2023

> Kristina Andrew, Economic Development Program Manager

Congratulations on your USDA ReConnect 3 award! Can you summarize the project and the broadband service residents can expect to have access to after the network is built?



Earl: In the early 80s, BBTC got a USDA loan to build the networks we have today, which at the time were very advanced communications systems. They're now past end of life - this project will replace the entire telephone network, from the home to the Central Office, and will carry us into the future for at least 20 years. It will be a fiber network to connect all BBTC villages together, including a fiber connection from Levelock to New Stuyahok and from New Stuyahok to Ekwok and Koliganek. The project will also build fiberto-the-home in New Stuyahok, Levelock, King Salmon, New Koliganek, Naknek, South Naknek, and Ekwok. BBTC has already invested in and installed routing equipment in Igiugig that provides access to the Terra system in Igiugig through BBTC. Once this project is constructed, customers in these markets will have access to internet plans with at least 100 Mbps symmetrical service at competitive rates.

#### What is the timeline for construction?

Earl: We are hoping to begin construction in Q4 of 2023. We are in the final phase of the environmental process and right-of-way approvals.

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Interview with Brendyn Shiflea, CFO for Choggiung Ltd. May 8, 2023

> Kristina Andrew, Economic Development Program Manager

#### Who are your partners in the region (local labor, equipment rental, etc.)?

Brendyn: Of course, NETC is a key partner as the ISP. Choggiung Tribe was a collaborator on the application and will continue to play a part in the project. As the technology improves in the region, there will be more need for resources in tech support, etc. so we are actively pursuing partnerships to build up these local resource pools. One example is our partnership with BBNC to create an IT (information technology) apprenticeship program, ideally based in Dillingham. More information on that program can be found here: https://www.bbnc.net/apply-for-bbncs-itapprenticeship-2/

#### What is Choggiung's broadband vision for the Bristol **Bay Region?**

Brendyn: My vision is to have a connected community -COVID really made the need for this obvious. Affordable, high-speed, reliable connectivity to open all the doors for our region that we know high-speed internet can. Choggiung has numerous business interests including housing and commercial development in Dillingham, and improved connectivity

will help us do better business. 30% of our shareholders live in Dillingham so the improved connectivity will have a direct impact in their lives and opportunities.



Interview with Earl Hubb, CEO and General Manager for Bristol Bay Telephone Cooperative - May 5, 2023

Kristina Andrew, Economic Development Program Manager

#### Who are your partners in the region (local labor, equipment rental, etc.)?

**Earl:** BBTC has a large trenching fleet of equipment and is actively pursuing a local workforce to construct the project. We've held two fiber optic cable splicing classes in partnership with the Southwest Alaska Vocational and Education Center (SAVEC) and have hired graduates of the program to work for BBTC. If you or someone you know is interested in being a part of this exciting project, please visit our website and apply! https://www.bristolbay.com/job-opportunities.html

#### What is BBTC's goal for the Bristol Bay Region? Where do you see the cooperative in 10 years?

Earl: BBTC has recently invested over \$1 million to become an Internet Service Provider (ISP) and connect to the Terra system in Levelock. This allows us to move our customers off the Rural Broadband Service and offer improved internet plans to our cooperative members. I see our cooperative providing a better service to our members than most people in the Lower 48 have, with direct internet access that is more affordable, more reliable, and faster per Mb than satellite alternatives.

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### Ciulistet - Emerging Leaders Program

Kristina Andrew, Economic Development Program Manager



Shaun Andrew, Analouise Hoseth, Emma Wetter, Mariam Nanalook; Back Left to right: Sally Paul and Angelina Phillips.

Ciulistet - Emerging Leaders Program: The second Ciulistet Cohort completed May 26th graduating eight participants. The Ciulistet Cohort participated in a 21week internship with local organizations, developing their professional skills in monthly check in calls, and engaging in two retreats to deepen learning, skills, and relationships.

This year's Cohort learned about ANCSA, ANILCA, Fisheries Equity & History, Language Preservation efforts, Tribal Administration, Native Corporations, Leadership Values, and so much more.



The most important thing the Cohort learned about was each other; the relationships they formed with each other during this internship will accompany them for the rest of their lives and will help make their transition into leadership more efficient and meaningful. Bristol Bay is blessed with these young people and their passion to contribute to the work we do every day.

This program has had two successful cohorts in 2022 and 2023; some past interns were offered full-time employment after the program, while others were simply happy with the experience. BBNA looks forward to continuing this program for young leaders in partnership with the Bristol Bay Economic Development Corporation, Bristol Bay Native Corporation, UAF Bristol Bay Campus, The Nature Conservancy, and The Administration for Native Americans. To learn more about the program, visit: http://bbna.com/ciulistet

#### CONGRATULATIONS

# Ciulistet Cohort of 2023

Analouise Hoseth- Dillingham Lynette Eversole- Togiak Mariam Nanalook- Manokotak Sally Paul- Manokotak Clarissa Franklin- Manokotak Angelina Phillips- Perryville Emma Wetter- Ekuk Shaun Andrew-Igiugia

Ciulistet is a program designed to help young leaders ages 18 to 28 learn more about the various management systems that impact the Bristol Bay region but are not regularly addressed in public schools.

June 2023













#### HR Director, Rose Fisher, retires after 27 years at BBNA

Rose Fisher, HR Director

BBNA has been a huge part of my every day. So, I am learning that once a mind is made up to "retire", the "missing" begins! You just can't escape the heartsqueezing emptiness for people you've developed such tight bonds with.

But, I pack up knowing that down the hall, in and around the other buildings, and across the region, there is a generation of brilliance poised to take on BBNA's future. We just need to let emerging leaders know we'll have their backs and be there when the going gets hard. Set the standards high but remember the highest standard is self-determination.

And young people - you got this! So off I go knowing the worries, laughter, tears, dreams, and always being pushed to learn more, have made me one of the luckiest people in the world. Quyana cakneq!



Rose joined BBNA in 1996, becoming a huge part of Bristol Bay before taking the role of the BBNA Human Resource Director.

Rose's retirement does spell "The End" for her at Bristol Bay Native Association but not for BBNA; her policies and dedication will continue as a part of its heartbeat for many years to come.

As we say goodbye to a legend, it is important to remember you will see her hiking and camping, fishing and skiing, watching birds over the Wood River, enjoying moments with her family, and most of all taking time for herself.

Happy Retirement from all at Bristol Bay Native Association

#### Welcoming Crystal Coulter, BBNA Comptroller

Crystal Coulter, Comptroller



BBNA has successfully filled the Comptroller position after many months of vacancy.

Crystal Coulter was selected to fill the position. She has over 25 years managing federal and state funds, managing various accounting software, and developing efficiencies in the accounting process. Thank you to the Senior Administration team for taking the time to spend with Crystal during the interview process.

Crystal began her new role on May 8th. She will begin work here in the Central Office with the Finance team to get started, but her regular duty station will be at the BBNC building in Anchorage. Her schedule in/out of the Central Office is yet to be determined, depending on department scheduling, lodging availability, and reasonable travel costs. Fortunately, technology makes it possible to fully access the accounting system, network platforms, and have close communications.

BBNA would like to acknowledge Venita Flensburg, Senior Accountant, for leading the Finance team during the long recruitment period. Venita, we are grateful for your courage to step up to that challenge.





Manager

June 2023











### CDC Preparedness and Response

Caldon Nashookpuk, Project Manager: COVID CDC

The Program Development Department: COVID Preparedness and Response Project began on April 28, 2020, and completed on March 31, 2023. The program involved 150 supply requests with 700+ boxes of supplies shipped from our offices here in Dillingham with hundreds more shipped directly from suppliers.

Boxes contained personal protective equipment like masks, gloves, and disinfectant, emergency response supplies like lanterns, MRE's, and emergency kits. All the supplies were selected by the tribes, and I hope that it has helped those tribes receive some of the scarce items they needed early in the pandemic and help them with any future emergencies.

During this project, Patty Heyano, Program Development Director, was able to secure additional funds to distribute items for all 33 tribes which included a laptop, mouse, external hard drive, laptop carrying case, and USB flash drive. During COVID, working from home was a reality; providing these laptops and accessories was designed to provide the tribes with options for social distancing during that time.

Bristol Engineering Service Company, LLC. (Bristol) has developed Emergency Response Plans (ERPs) and Small Community Emergency Response Plans (SCERPs) for 20 tribes that signed a resolution to participate in the project, plus a "How to" guide for those that couldn't participate during the timeframe of the project.



Attending a meeting between Bristol and one of the tribes, I was happy to see them working closely with the tribe to identify all types of emergency situations that may arise and what needs to be in place to effectively work through those situations. At the time of writing, Bristol is working on the remaining ERPs and SCERPs for the tribes.

In mid-April, the CDC approved an amendment to provide Internet Assistance to the tribes and households of Bristol Bay as a recovery project. Funds will support the adoption of a more reliable and affordable internet service.

With the project ending June 9, 2023, there was a short timeframe for tribes to take advantage of this Internet Assistance Project with agreements due to us by May 15, 2023, and available funds distributed by May 31st. Restricted by time and available funds, we made our best effort to provide an opportunity for all 33 tribes, and I hope to see households in the area receiving some relief on their internet bill or assistance in getting started with internet for their household.

I have a great deal of respect and appreciation for everyone here at the PDD Department: Patty Heyano for securing the grant, mentoring me, and providing a wealth of knowledge; Kristina Andrew, who has aided with this project and been a great resource since I began with PDD; Jayne Bennett and Jayne Hardin's efforts for outreach, completing tasks at hand; everyone contributing to work as a team to help those in the Bristol Bay region with this project.

I appreciated the efforts of those working in the tribes to provide for their communities; I got to see supplies utilized here in the community, efforts by Bristol helping tribes identify and plan for emergencies and look forward to seeing tribes and households receive some internet assistance. I appreciate my time here at BBNA and those I've gotten the pleasure to communicate with during this project.



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#### Employee of the Quarter

Keesha Nanalook, ICWA Caseworker Manokotak



Keesha is joyful, bold, kind, and does her work with integrity. As with all of our staff who engage in the deeply challenging work that is Tribal child welfare, Keesha is familiar with secondary trauma and has handled the often desperate circumstances of the families she serves with grace, empathy, and a positive attitude. Keesha, you are inspiring and remind us of why we all started doing this important work in the first place.

Keesha was just hired in December 2022. Even though she is young and new in this field, she is genuinely thriving. She's been a fast learner and is even quicker to respond. She is reliable not only for our team but also for the AK Office of Children's Services who often shows up in the community with little notice and needing a lot of time and support. She makes herself available whether it is convenient or not to ensure that the children and families in her community have an advocate present.

Thank you, Keesha, for being a huge team player; for volunteering to be the note taker at staff meetings and sharing your great ideas. We appreciate when you call upon more experienced staff because we know it is to find ways to best match your clients' needs. Thank you for the fabulous Easter egg hunt activity this spring. Enjoy this special recognition by your peers! And, also the two days of paid administrative leave!

#### A note about Employees of the Quarter and Newsletter schedule changes

BBNA is aligning its various quarterly activities with its fiscal year to improve reporting. This is the new schedule for Employee of the Year/Quarter, Newsletters, and the Annual Report.

- Quarter 1: Oct Dec
  - EoQ announced with the newsletter in Feb.
- Quarter 2: Jan Mar
  - EoQ announced with the newsletter in May
- Quarter 3: Apr Jun
- EoQ announced with the newsletter in Aug.
- Quarter 4: Jul Sep
  - EoQ/EoY announced with the annual report in Nov.

#### Tribal Men's Services Program

Romeo Santos, Men's Services Coordinator

The Tribal Men's Services Program supports male victims — and male victims with their accompanying dependents – who have suffered physical or emotional abuse from domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, etc., including those who survived victimization when they were a child or youth.

The Program offers options for male victims to establish safety, self-determination, self-sufficiency, and healthy family relationships.

Upon screening, potential clients may receive emergency travel to safe shelter to flee unsafe environments, referrals to other supportive services, and other necessities during transition to selfsufficiency.

Since its launch in November 2022, three (3) men have been served by the program. They were offered temporary housing and were referred to services benefiting their needs.

Please help us get the word out by sharing our program. Abused men's lives matter; let's help them speak up and get help!

For more information about the program, please call 907-843-3014 or email: mensservices@bbna.com. You can also visit <a href="https://bbna.com/mensservices">https://bbna.com/mensservices</a>



Bristol Bay Native Association PO Box 310 503 Wood River Road, A203 Dillingham, AK 99576

Patty Heyano, Program Development Department Director / Program Manager pheyano@bbna.com 907-842-6221

Romeo Santos Men's Services Coordinator mensservices@bbna.com 907-843-3014

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#### Reentry Program

Karl Clark, Reentry Program Manager



The Bristol Bay Reentry Program collaborates with the State of Alaska Department of Corrections (DOC), regional service providers, and successful reentrants through the Bristol Bay Reentry Task Force (BBRTF). The BBRTF works to find needed supports and solutions to reduce recidivism and improve public safety by focusing on 4 areas:

- Housing
- Employment/Training/Education
- Treatment/Wellness
- Community and Cultural connectedness

#### Who is Eligible for Case Management Services?

- Individuals who have served over 30 days and are within 90 days of release; or have been released withing the past 6 months.
- Medium to High-risk felony offenders
- Sex offenders
- High-Risk Misdemeanants

#### What does the Reentry Program offer?

- Case Management
- Supportive Services including assistance with: housing; transportation; obtaining personal identification, social security card, and driver's license; and work clothing and tools
- Guidance to self-sufficiency

#### **BBRTF Meetings Schedule:**

#### Quarterly:

- Housing Workgroup- May 18th 10am
- Employment/Training/Education Workgroup May 17th 1:30pm
- Treatment/Wellness Workgroup May 17th 2:30pm
- Community and Cultural Connectedness Workgroup - May 18th 9am
- Steering Committee date to be determined, planned to occur in June

#### Bi-Annual:

• Full BBRTF - date to be determined, planned to occur in June

Meetings to be held in the BBNA central office boardroom. If you would like more information, please contact the Reentry Program Manager Karl Clark at 907-842-6146 or via email at karl.clark@bbna.com.

BBRTF meeting schedules can be found on the BBNA website: <a href="https://bbna.com/ReentryTaskForce">https://bbna.com/ReentryTaskForce</a>

For information about organizations, community advocates, and public entities that support success after incarceration around the state, please visit www.akreentry.org

Positions open for the Bristol Bay Reentry program -Bristol Bay Reentry Task Force Coordinator. To view the job description, download the job application, and for information on how to apply, please visit the BBNA Employment website page at:

https://bbna.com/employment/



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CSD is hiring! **VPSOs** 











#### VPSO Program

Deon Lopez, VPSO Program Manager

The Village Public Safety Officer (VPSO) Program provides a "First Response" officer for public safety emergencies such as search and rescue, fire protection, emergency medical assistance, crime prevention, and basic law enforcement.

The Program currently has 5 Officers: First Sergeant Gust Tunguing Jr. in Koliganek; Sergeant Byron Wise in Pilot Point; Corporal Roger Wassillie in Togiak; VPSO Martin Gardiner in Aleknagik; and VPSO Kenneth Brockman Jr. in Newhalen/Iliamna.

The Program Manager, Deon Lopez, is located at the BBNA Central Office.

VPSO Program Manager, Deon Lopez, attended Village Public Safety Officer Academy Session 23-01 Graduation on April 27, 2023, in Sitka, Alaska; which was the Inaugural VPSO Academy Graduation. The VPSO Certification Training done under the new VPSO Academy allows VPSOs to receive their training quicker and thus able to return to their assigned community to provide services sooner.

Go to the BBNA website: https://bbna.com/jobs for information on open VPSO positions, how to apply, job qualifications and requirements; and to download the job description, eligibility form, and employment application.

Employment information is also available by calling (907) 842-5257 / toll-free 1-800-478-5257 or emailing: Deon Lopez, VPSO Program Manager at deon.lopez@bbna.com or Personnel Manager, Olga Kropoff, at <a href="mailto:okropoff@bbna.com">okropoff@bbna.com</a>

Additional information about the VPSO Program is available on the State of Alaska Department of Public Safety VPSO website: http://dps.alaska.gov/ast/vpso/



#### VPSO Office and Holding Facility Improvements Project Update

Deon Lopez, VPSO Program Manager

BBNA was awarded an infrastructure improvement grant by the State of Alaska to make improvements to the public safety buildings that house VPSO offices in the communities of Aleknagik, Koliganek, Manokotak, Pilot Point, and Togiak.

The Koliganek project was completed last December.



Construction for the Togiak project started in December and is now 95% complete; improvements made include:

- Installed new heating system.
- Installed the security camera system.
- Installed fire alarm panel.
- Installed a new toilet, counter, sinks, and shower.
- As-build drawings

Construction for the Aleknagik project is scheduled to start May 15, 2023; the Manokotak project June 12, 2023; and the Pilot Point project August 1, 2023.



### CSD is hiring! I-II; Egegik Tribal Administrator I-II; Pilot Point

### Tribal Administrator I-II: Egegik A DIGITAL NEWSLETTER

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#### Presidents & Administrators Workshop

Bonnie Kropoff, CSD Director



In April, the Community Services Department, Tribal Government Services (CSD TGS) sponsored the annual Presidents & Administrators Workshop – the first since before the pandemic and CSD TGS's first hybrid inperson / virtual event. 21 tribes were in attendance. represented by 20 Administrators and Clerks, and 10 Presidents/Chiefs.

Attendees received training on: BBNA's Tribal Pass-Through Policy and MOA Regarding Shared Supervisory Responsibilities for the Administrator position, from CSD TGS; Supervising Best Practices, from the Human Resources Department; and Tribal Operations, from the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Tribal Operations.

Participants heard from each department about the services provided to tribes and learned about their work, projects under development, and plans to provide more opportunities to the native people of Bristol Bay.

BBNA's new President and Chief Executive Officer, Garvin Federenko, welcomed participants, met many attendees for the first time, enjoyed learning some new things along with everyone, encouraged tribes to share their priorities, and provided inspiring closing remarks.

We also heard from other agencies working hard for tribes, including BIA Housing Improvement Program; BIA Office of Justice Services; Bureau of Indian Education (BIE), Office of Sovereignty in Indian Education, Johnson O'Malley (JOM) Program; Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) Navigator Program; US Department of Justice, US Attorney's Office-District of Alaska, Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons; United Tribes of Bristol Bay (UTBB); State of Alaska, Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development - Division of Community and Regional Affairs (DCCED-DCRA), and Bristol Bay Housing Authority (BBHA).



CSD's Programs Assistant, Andrew Akelkok, working hard, making it possible for us to offer the workshop virtually for 7 attendees unable to travel in for the event.

Andrew did a wonderful job learning how to run the online system and keeping presenters updated after experiencing the inevitable, and luckily fairly few, freeze ups during internet outages.



BBNA's Workforce Development Department allowed us to use their new Starlink RV mobile satellite internet kit and technical expertise of their Database Services Division Manager, Alec Arellano.

Alec and CSD Programs Assistant, Andrew Akelkok, were determined to provide us with more reliable internet service during the workshop; their success was due to their creativity in positioning the satellite dish outside the meeting space.



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#### BBNA's Annex Renovations Complete

Kyle Hardin, BBNA's Network Administrator

BBNA's Annex building on the corner of Kanakanak Lake Road and Wood River Road received a face lift this year. This season's renovations targeted the interior first floor of the building, and is the second recent renovation, after the basement remodel last year. The first floor renovation began mid-February and completed mid-April.



The wood paneling displayed in the image below was removed, wires were cleaned up, and new sheet rock was installed.



BBNA worked with Willaert Construction, who performed prior work on the Annex basement during a separate remodel last year.

As part of this project, all the building's original data cabling was torn out and replaced with fresh Ethernet cables and wall ports. The first floor switch was relocated to the second floor, requiring a high degree of coordination between Willaert, BBNA's IT, and Facilities departments.

BBNA updated the layout of the first floor to incorporate a new kitchenette area, and to add and remove doorways.



New walls and flooring make for a much brighter entry



The conference area has been moved to its own dedicated room, and was given some much-needed improvements.



**UNDER CONSTRUCTION** 

June 2023

BBNA is Hiring!













