



## Bristol Bay Native Association

### 2025 Annual CEDS Update Report

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#### **Adjustments to the Strategy:**

In 2024 the Bristol Bay CEDS implemented several changes with the strategy of the 2022-2026 CEDS. A new industry was added, Broadband, which went through its public comment period in March 2024. Eighteen new projects were added or updated in 2024 and 7 community/borough Capital Improvement Project Resolutions were supported. Due to community leaders at capacity this year the CEDS did not remove any projects. BBNA has worked to ensure all communities do not miss energy and climate adaptation opportunities. BBNA IT staff continued to make efficiencies in the search functions of the online version of the CEDS, which will help locate specific projects based on community or project type.

The Steering Committee changed drastically this year due to committee members not having the capacity to participate or change in staff. Those seats were not removed but places in inactive status to hold the organization's place on the steering committee but also to ensure the committee could meet quorum. Inactive seats are the planner for the Lake and Peninsula Borough and the CEO for Bristol Bay Economic Development Corporation. Seats pending inactive status or needing outreach for engagement are Wells Fargo Branch Manager, SWAMC Director, and the Bristol Bay Borough Planner seats. Formal changes to add McKinley Alaska Growth Capital a CDFI and changing the Togiak BBNA Board of Directors from Bertha Pavian-Lockuk to Tessa Nickerson. The steering committee went from 16 to 11 in 2023/2024.

Over the past year the Bristol Bay region has seen another decline in population with a 2.35% (162 people) decrease in population, which continues to have a major impact on the workforce availability.

#### **Report on Economic Development Activities:**

*Development:* In April 2024, Kristina Andrew was no longer employed with BBNA. In November 2024, Brice Eningowuk was hired as the Economic Development Program Manager. Online EDA training and in person meeting EDA Alaska EDR Shirley Kelly in December 2024 to get an overview of the CEDS grant.

*Implementation:* From May 17, 2024 through January 25, 2025, BBNA received 3 updates from the online CEDS update tool. BBNA has submitted to the Program Department a proposal to "Build an ABC facility to support ABC activities", the City of Togiak has submitted interest for their "Tuyuryaq Youth Activities and Cultural Center" that will help renovate their

current facilities within Togiak, and BBNA has submitted interest for a “Bristol Bay Seafood Innovation Center”.

In January 2024 and on through February, the Broadband Technical Support (BTS) grant with USDA RUS was transferred from BBNA Transportation Department to the Planning Department with the assistance of Patty Heyano and Dan Breeden. The USDA RUS BTA, NTIA, and with the Denali commission, are all working with BBNA to secure Broadband Equity projects and programs for the Bristol Bay Region.

### **Evaluation of Progress on Action Plan and Goals:**

The CEDS goals are well supported in the action plan with eighty-four projects submitted by individual communities or organizations that are working at implementing the goals. Since the Bristol Bay Region has such a small population many leaders hold multiple roles and are over capacity, reporting back on project status is not a priority when they deal with many issues each day. However, based on community participation and engagement it is clear they are working on the implementation of projects which means the goals are being addressed.

*BROADBAND GOAL:* This goal is new and supports one project that impacts all thirty-one tribes, twenty-eight communities and supports efforts around broadband infrastructure and digital equity.

*CULTURAL GOAL:* This goal has six projects supporting implementation, additionally many regional organizations and tribes are working on cultural revitalization efforts outside of the CEDS.

*ENERGY GOAL:* This goal has fourteen projects supporting implementation, additionally the Bristol Bay Native Corporation is working on a utility collaborative to help tribal capacity for this goal.

*FISHERY GOAL:* This goal has six projects supporting implementation. BBNA continued to help the local campus and fishery groups implement the Crew Class to help local access. The Bristol Bay Economic Development Corporation, Bristol Bay Career and Technical Education Program, Chignik Intertribal Coalition, United Tribes of Bristol Bay, BBNA and others are always active in advocating for local participation in the fisheries. Fisheries is a cornerstone of the local economy and many people are very engaged in advocacy of the industry and protection of the resources. In 2023 due to Bristol Bay’s recent increase in salmon run size there is an over stock of salmon on the market, this decreased the average exvessel value paid out to fishers, having a negative impact on the local market and local spending power.

*TOURISM GOAL:* This goal has four projects supporting implementation. BBNA has looked for ways to break into this industry, which is difficult with prohibitive costs and limited options for transportation into the region. The Bristol Bay Native Corporation has invested in regional tourism and is a leader in the industry. The Bristol Bay Career and Technical Education Program

also has education tracks to help local participation. The Bristol Bay Borough Chamber of Commerce is also a leader in helping local businesses connect to visitors.

*TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE GOAL:* This goal has forty projects supporting implementation. The Bristol Bay Economic Development Corporation and BBNA worked with Alaska Federation of Native and Alaska Municipal League to ensure communities have access to funding to implement the projects. These organization are also working on advocating with state and federal leaders the needs of communities to ensure funding opportunities align with needs. The increased number of projects only justify the federal government’s need to invest in infrastructure across the country as infrastructure in Bristol Bay continues to need improvements or replacements.

*WORKFORCE GOAL:* This goal has eleven projects supporting implementation. Due to the Great Resignation, there is a region wide focus on workforce development, the Bristol Bay Native Corporation is leading a regional planning effort to address needs and identify opportunities, other organizations are working on recovery and wellness programs and have high education opportunities for the workforce. Not much has changed from 2023 to 2024, the workforce is stagnant with many vacant positions across the region.

### **Schedule of Goals for the Next Year:**

BBNA is committed to working with all granting agencies to ensure that broadband equity equality within the region is continued.

#### **1. Year 1: FY2024 1.1. OTHER ACTIVITIES:**

- 1.1.1. Submitting EDA progress reports by the due dates.
- 1.1.2. Working with the Alaska Economic Development Representative.

#### **1.2. COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY:**

- 1.2.1. Providing public outreach for new CEDS projects and programs.
- 1.2.2. Adding projects that support the BBCEDS and EDA priorities.
- 1.2.3. Providing 30-day public comment period.
- 1.2.4. Holding two full CEDS steering committee meetings.
- 1.2.5. Holding 2-5 Industry Cluster Sub-Committee meetings.
- 1.2.6. Finalizing the update for FY2022-2027 CEDS by May 31, 2024.

#### **1.3. PARTNERSHIP COORDINATION:**

- 1.3.1. Facilitating partnerships between entities to coordinate efforts.
- 1.3.2. Promoting participation in the CEDS supporting BBCEDS, EDA priorities, and encouraging economic resiliency.
- 1.3.3. Attending public forums to learn about issues and trends.

#### **1.4. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE:**

- 1.4.1. Gaining support and securing funding for BBNA based projects to increase regional capacity.
- 1.4.2. Implementing BBNA based projects that support the CEDS.
- 1.4.3. Distributing funding announcements to regional contacts.

1.4.4. Distribute to regional partners weekly updates on job opportunities, funding opportunities, learning opportunities, upcoming events, and new relevant to the region's economic development.

**1.5. BUILDING STAFF CAPACITY AND MANAGEMENT STRENGTH:**

1.5.1 Attend meetings and webinars to increase understanding of current economic needs.

1.5.2 Distribute to BBNA staff weekly updates on job opportunities, funding opportunities, learning opportunities, upcoming events, and new relevant to the region's economic development.

1.5.3 Identify opportunities to increase EDA investments for the region.