



Bristol Bay Native Association

2026 Annual CEDS Update Report

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Adjustments to the Strategy:

In 2024 and 2025 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.

In 2025, one new project and new grant was approved. BBNA's Program Development Department Director retired in on May 23, 2025, and an acting Director was named in 2025 until the position is hired. 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.

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: Due to DOGE cuts and limitations, the months of May through September of 2025, there was a level of uncertainty within the federal government and awards. There was one award that was cut and other federal awards were on hold during this time. No official hold letters were sent, on these awards so BBNA continued to operate until officially notified. There was one application that was in the works, but limitations within BBNA did not allow for a complete submission of the grant packet.

Due to a federal government shutdown, October through November 2025, limited activities occurred.

Implementation: No new updates from communities as there was a level of uncertainty across the region from the DOGE and federal shutdown. Limited correspondence from federal government, BBNA was grateful there was coverage in some aspect, but no full coverage in others.

A no-cost-extension on the USDA-RUS award was granted and new term dated are through July 24, 2026. Award will have a report of the communities that have submitted information through surveys and in person interviews on the status of broadband within communities.

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 2025, 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, 2026.

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.