

2025

# ALASKA SBDC ANNUAL REPORT

We grow small business



Alaska Small Business  
Development Center

UAA BUSINESS ENTERPRISE INSTITUTE

Statewide data collected from January - December 2025



# 2025 SBDC ANNUAL REPORT

## MESSAGE FROM 2025 LEADERSHIP



**KENDRA CONROY**  
SBDC Interim State Director

The past year was one of transition, growth, and continued momentum for the Alaska SBDC and the small businesses we serve. Across the state, entrepreneurs navigated rising costs, workforce challenges, shifting markets, disaster impacts, and the everyday complexity of running a business in Alaska. Through it all, they continued showing up with creativity, resilience, and a deep commitment to their communities.

In 2025, the Alaska SBDC supported businesses in 107 Alaska communities through one-on-one advising, training, specialized programs, and expanded access to resources. Our clients launched new businesses, supported jobs, and reported capital infused through loans, grants, owner investment, and other funding sources. Alaska's SSBCI programs also continued expanding access to capital statewide through both the State and Tribal programs. This year highlighted the strength and reach of our statewide network. Alaska SBDC advisors worked with entrepreneurs from Utqiagvik to Ketchikan, Unalaska to Tok, and dozens of communities in between. Our Rural Center alone supported businesses in 71 communities, demonstrating that entrepreneurship in Alaska thrives far beyond our largest cities.

Our special programs also continued expanding what business support can look like in Alaska. The AI Resource Program helped businesses better understand and apply artificial intelligence in practical ways. BuyAlaska strengthened the local-first movement by connecting consumers and visitors with Alaska-owned businesses. TREND advanced innovation and technology entrepreneurship through the 2025 SBDC Summit and Virtual AI Pitch Competition. Alaska's SSBCI programs also reached major milestones, with the State SSBCI program ranking first in the nation for capital deployment and the Tribal Consortium completing its first full year with remarkable results.

Training, partnerships, and disaster response remained central to our work throughout the year. Through workshops, webinars, and on-demand learning, the Alaska SBDC helped entrepreneurs access timely, relevant information wherever they are in Alaska and wherever they are in their business journey. Our partnership with the U.S. Small Business Administration was especially meaningful this year, from statewide outreach efforts to supporting disaster recovery resources for impacted Alaskans.

As I reflect on 2025, I am especially grateful for the Alaska SBDC team, whose expertise, flexibility, and care for Alaska's small businesses make this work possible. I am also thankful to our partners, funders, lenders, and community organizations who continue investing in Alaska's entrepreneurial ecosystem.

Most of all, I am grateful to Alaska's small business owners. Your work strengthens local economies, creates jobs, serves communities, and helps shape the future of our state. It is an honor for the Alaska SBDC to support you.



2025 SBDC SUMMIT STAFF PHOTO



2025 SHOP SMALL SATURDAY

**107**

COMMUNITIES  
SUPPORTED

**12.5**

EXPERT  
ADVISORS

**27**

CLIENT SUCCESS  
STORY FEATURES

**213K**

TOTAL  
WEBSITE VISITS

**13.6K**


SOCIAL MEDIA  
FOLLOWERS

**23K**

E-NEWSLETTER  
SUBSCRIBERS

# 2025 LEADERSHIP & STAFF

Alaska SBDC advisors complete rigorous ongoing training to provide expert guidance across industries and business stages.



**Jon Bittner**  
 State Director  
 \* through Sept. 30, 2025



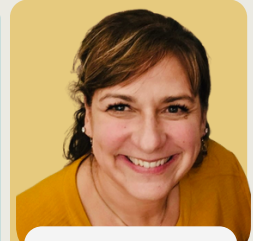
**Kendra Conroy**  
 Interim State Director



**Gretchen Fauske**  
 Director of Special Programs & Strategy




**Jay Halverson**  
 SSBCI Director




**Angie Gerken**  
 Anchorage Center Director




**Ginny Grabowski**  
 Anchorage Business Advisor



**Trish Moreland**  
 Anchorage Business Advisor



**Jade Greene**  
 Fairbanks Center Director




**Sandy Hussain**  
 Juneau Center Director




**Cliff Cochran**  
 Kenai Peninsula Center Director




**Robert Green**  
 Homer Business Advisor




**Kelly Ann Cavaretta**  
 Seward Business Advisor



**Misty O'Connor**  
 Mat-Su Center Director



**Kristi McDonnell**  
 Mat-Su Business Advisor



**Ruth Wolfe**  
 Rural Center Director



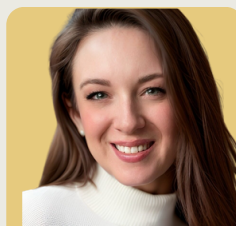
**Katie Nave**  
 Rural Business Advisor




**Carlos Machuca**  
 AI Resource Program Director



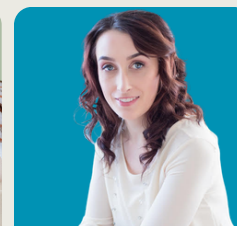
**Pascual Reig-Munoz**  
 Program Specialist




**Harley Hedlund**  
 Director of Marketing & Communications




**Sami Jo Lewis**  
 Communications Specialist




**Dante Medema**  
 Communications Specialist



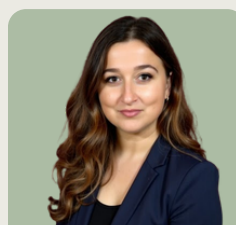
**Aurora Agee**  
 SSBCI Lending Program Assistant Director



**Viola S. Smith**  
 Tribal SSBCI Lending Program Assistant Director



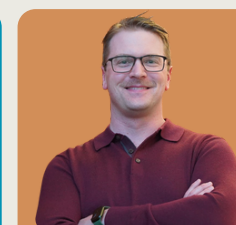
**Dawn Humenik**  
 Alaska SSBCI Operations Specialist



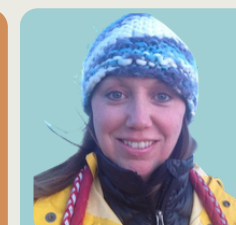
**Genta Lena**  
 SSBCI Tribal Operations Specialist




**Geoff Wright**  
 SSBCI Funding Specialist



**Casey Pape**  
 SSBCI Funding Specialist



**MaryAnne LeMaitre**  
 Learning & Development Manager



**Frances Wesley**  
 Client Coordinator

# STATEWIDE

In 2025, the Alaska SBDC supported 1,724 clients through 7,893 hours of advising, including 932 new clients who joined our network. This support resulted in 165 new business starts, sustained 3,937 jobs, and contributed to more than \$82 million in statewide capital reported, driving meaningful economic impact across 107 of Alaska's communities.

**1,724**

Clients Served

**3,937**

Jobs Supported

**7,893**

Advising Hours

**165**

Businesses Created

**932**

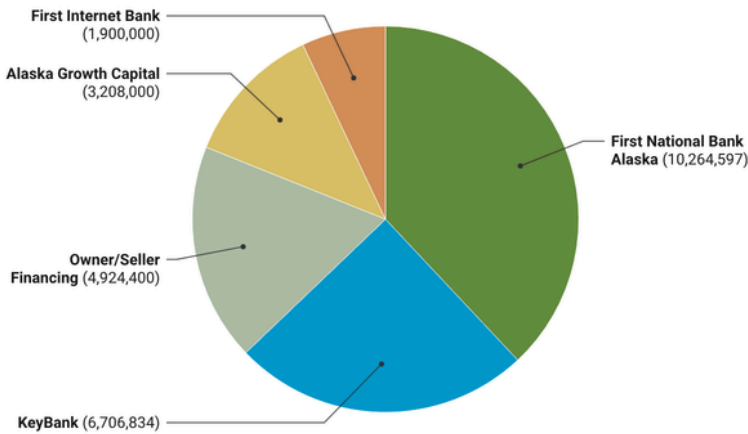
New Clients

**\$82,261,735**

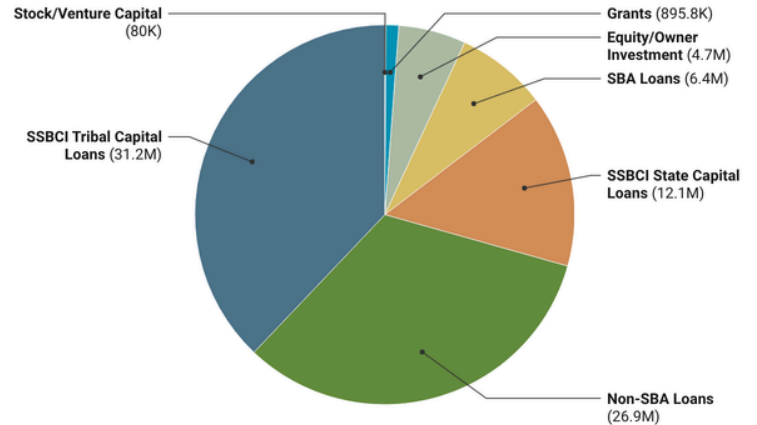
Statewide capital reported in 2025

The total statewide capital infusion reported includes **\$38,968,273** in capital reported by SBDC clients and **\$12,109,450** issued for SSBCI State capital loans, with **\$31,184,012** issued for SSBCI Tribal capital loans to small businesses.

## SBDC Capital Infusion (\$): Top 5 Lenders in 2025



## 2025 Statewide Capital Reported



## SBA PARTNERSHIP & DISASTER RESPONSE

In 2025, the Alaska SBDC worked closely with the U.S. Small Business Administration to support Alaska businesses through outreach, preparedness, and disaster recovery. Following the fall storms and flooding that impacted Western Alaska communities, the Anchorage Center hosted an SBA Disaster Loan Outreach Center, providing space for affected businesses and individuals to receive in-person support. The collaboration included advisor training, public outreach, translated communications, and a visit from SBA Administrator Kelly Loeffler, Governor Mike Dunleavy, and members of Alaska's federal delegation. Throughout the year, the Alaska SBDC also partnered with SBA leadership on Small Business Saturday, lender engagement, regional outreach, and efforts to reduce barriers for small businesses statewide.



# ANCHORAGE



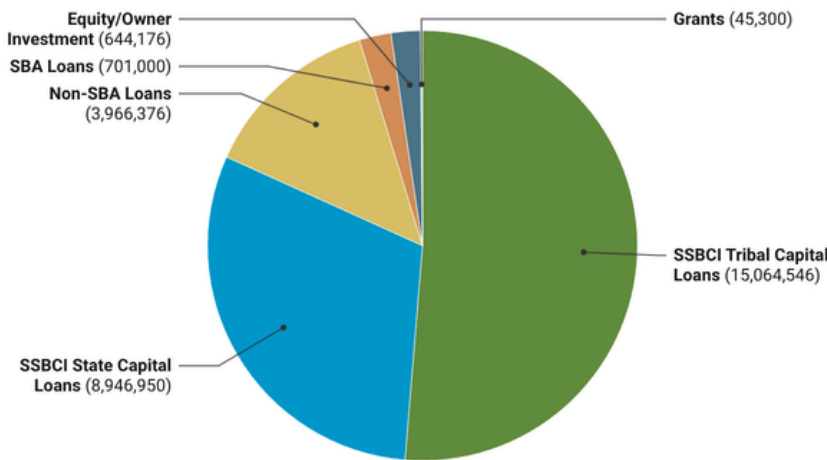
The Anchorage SBDC expanded its impact in 2025 under **Center Director Angie Gerken's** leadership, serving 554 clients through 1,876 hours of personalized advising. The center welcomed 300 new clients, helped launch 28 new businesses, and supported 1,392 jobs throughout the Municipality of Anchorage (Girdwood-Eklutna), a 41% increase over the prior year. The Anchorage capital infusion is \$29,368,348 reported by SBDC clients and \$24,011,496 issued for SSBCI loan programs, demonstrating the center's commitment to helping businesses access the resources they need to thrive.

**\$29.3M**    **554**    **1,392**    **1,876**    **28**    **300**

Capital Reported    Clients Served    Jobs Supported    Advising Hours    Businesses Created    New Clients

## 2025 Anchorage Center Capital Reported (\$)

\$29,368,348 total funding secured, including \$5,356,852 in non-SSBCI capital and \$24,011,496 in SSBCI loans.



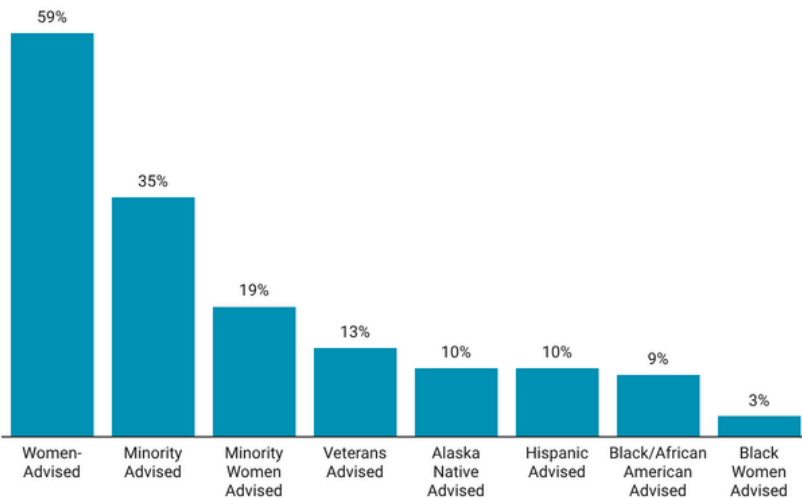
## EXPERTISE & CERTIFICATIONS

- SBDC International Trade Certification
- North Star Cybersecurity Certification
- SBDC AI U Certification
- Expertise in Human Resources, QuickBooks, and business ownership
- Industry focus: Alaska Non-Medical Medicaid Providers

**459**

BUSINESSES LISTED  
**BUYALASKA**

## Anchorage Center Clients Advised in 2025



## TOP 3 INDUSTRIES ADVISED

- Professional, Scientific & Technical Services
- Accommodation & Food
- Healthcare & Social Services

## TOP 3 ADVISING NEEDS

- Start-up Assistance
- Financing/Capital
- Managing a Business

## SUCCESS STORIES



Alaska SBDC **published 2 success stories** of Anchorage-based businesses.

### 49<sup>TH</sup> STATE RETROFITS

*Trish has been fantastic to work with and her suggestions are sound and very insightful. Having a guide to walk the path to entrepreneurship is invaluable and the access to resources have been very helpful.*

# FAIRBANKS



In 2025, the Fairbanks SBDC served 152 clients through 875 hours of one-on-one advising under the leadership of **Center Director Jade Greene**. The center welcomed 82 new clients, supported the launch of 21 new businesses, and helped sustain 301 jobs across the Fairbanks North Star Borough. The Fairbanks capital infusion is \$2,500,000 reported by SBDC clients and \$2,151,685 issued for SSBCI loan programs, reinforcing the center's role in expanding access to capital and supporting business growth in Interior Alaska.

**\$2.5M**

**152**

**301**

**875**

**21**

**82**

Capital Reported

Clients Served

Jobs Supported

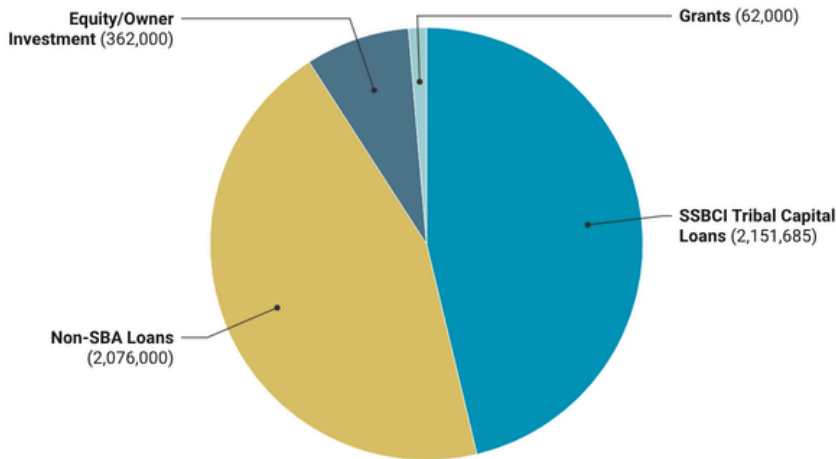
Advising Hours

Businesses Created

New Clients

## 2025 Fairbanks Center Capital Reported (\$)

\$4,651,685 total funding secured including \$2,500,000 in non-SSBCI capital and \$2,151,685 in SSBCI loans.



## EXPERTISE & CERTIFICATIONS

- Master of Business Administration (MBA)
- Professional in Human Resources (PHR)
- SHRM Certified Professional (SHRM-CP)

**166**

**BUSINESSES LISTED  
BUYALASKA**

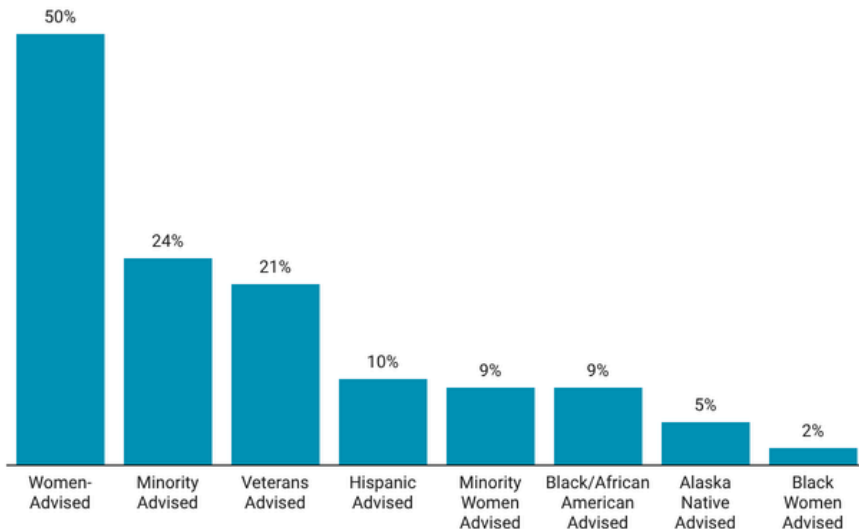
## TOP 3 INDUSTRIES ADVISED

- Accommodation & Food
- Services
- Professional, Scientific & Technical

## TOP 3 ADVISING NEEDS

- Financial Planning
- Financing/Capital
- Start-Up Assistance

## Fairbanks Center Clients Advised in 2025



SHERPA TREE SERVICE

*Jade did an awesome job of assessing where I am at in my business and helping me take the next step forward.*

## SUCCESS STORIES



Alaska SBDC **published 1 success story** of Fairbanks-based businesses.

# JUNEAU



The Juneau SBDC increased its impact in 2025 under **Center Director Sandy Hussain**, serving 114 clients through 891 hours of advising, more than doubling the prior year. The center welcomed 70 new clients, tripled new business starts to 6, and sustained 142 jobs across Alaska's capital city.

The Juneau capital infusion is \$2,613,779 reported by SBDC clients and \$3,350,000 issued for SSBCI loan programs, reinforcing the center's role in expanding access to capital and supporting business growth in the state's capital.

**\$5.9M**

**114**

**142**

**891**

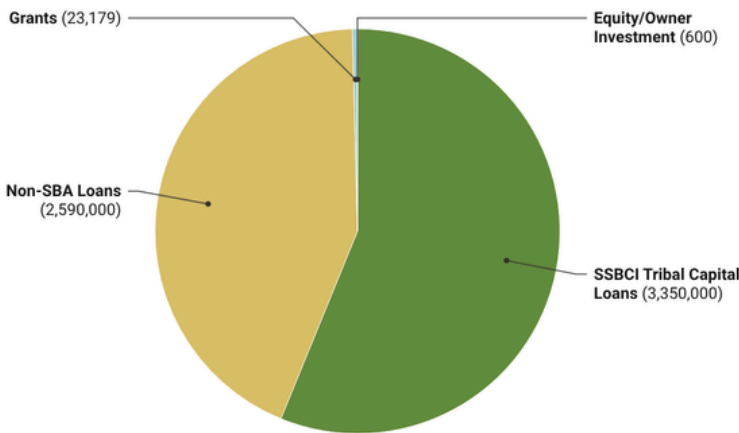
**6**

**70**

Capital Reported   Clients Served   Jobs Supported   Advising Hours   Businesses Created   New Clients

## 2025 Juneau Center Capital Reported (\$)

\$5,963,779 total funding secured, including \$2,613,779 in non-SSBCI capital and \$3,350,000 in SSBCI loans.



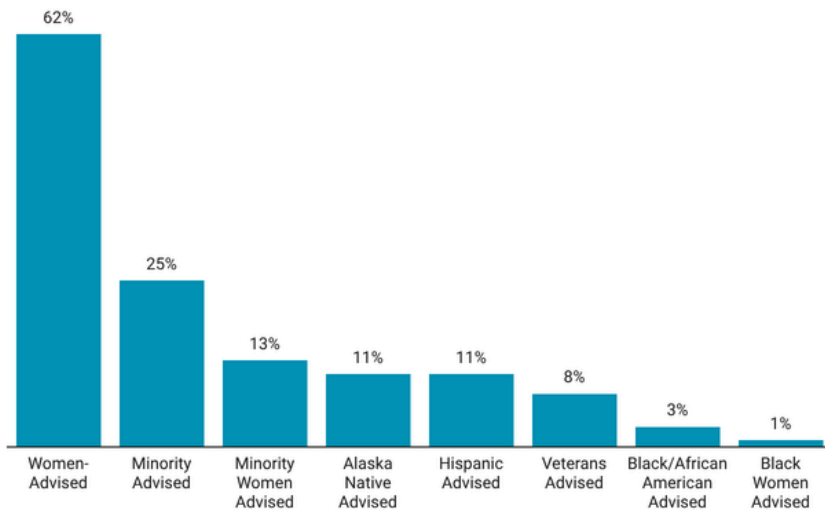
## EXPERTISE & CERTIFICATIONS

- Master's in Urban Planning (Real Estate Development)
- Google AI Essentials Certification
- North Star Cybersecurity Certification
- Certified Brand Strategist
- Export & Trade Counseling Certification

**89**

BUSINESSES LISTED  
**BUYALASKA**

## Juneau Center Clients Advised in 2025



## TOP 3 INDUSTRIES ADVISED

- Professional, Scientific & Technical Services
- Retail
- Accommodation & Food

## TOP 3 ADVISING NEEDS

- Start-Up Assistance
- Financing/Capital
- Managing a Business

## CLIENT FEEDBACK

*"Sandy Hussain with the Juneau SBDC has been a valuable partner as I have worked to turn my vision into a reality. From refining my business plan and financial projections, to encouraging me to be patient for the perfect location. Her guidance has been thoughtful and encouraging. Having a trusted advisor who understands my small business and our special Alaskan market has made all the difference. I am grateful for her support."* - HALIBUT COVE

*"The expertise along with the resources help to make you feel supported and that your journey to starting your business does not need to be a solo adventure. Alaska SBDC is worth your time."* - SPEAK-ITS

## BIALUME TECHNOLOGIES

*"From strategic planning and operational efficiency to introductions, contract review, and idea vetting, her guidance has been invaluable. Beyond her technical expertise, Sandy brings integrity, honesty, and genuine care for the entrepreneurs she supports. We simply would not be where we are today without her."*

# KENAI PENINSULA



In 2025, the Kenai Peninsula SBDC served 304 clients through 1,668 hours of advising under the leadership of **Center Director Cliff Cochran**. The center welcomed 139 new clients, supported the creation of 52 new businesses, and helped sustain 968 jobs across the Kenai Peninsula Borough, an 18% increase over the prior year. The Kenai Peninsula capital infusion is \$6,334,418 reported by SBDC clients and \$2,676,500 issued for SSBCI loan programs, reinforcing the center's role in expanding access to capital and supporting regional economic growth.

**\$9M**

**304**

**968**

**1,668**

**52**

**139**

Capital Reported

Clients Served

Jobs Supported

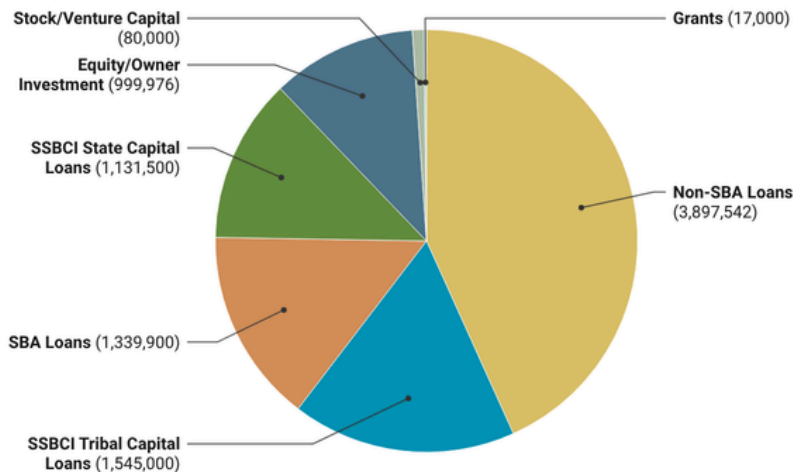
Advising Hours

Businesses Created

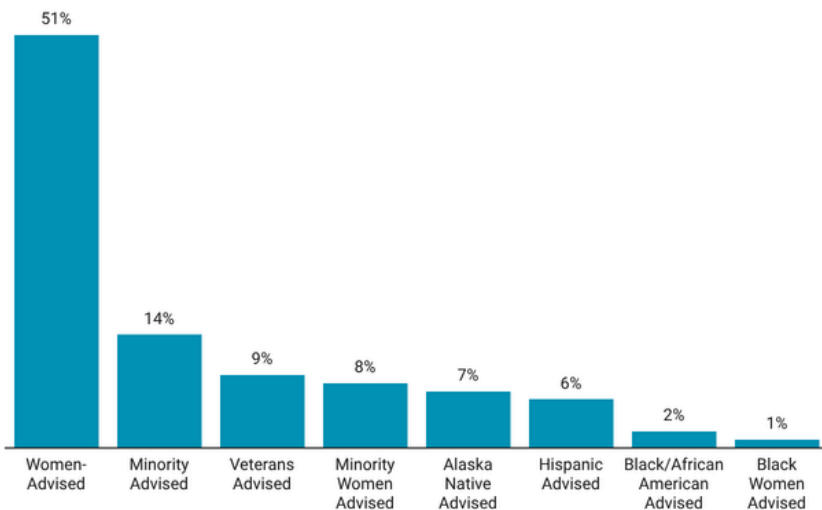
New Clients

## 2025 Kenai Peninsula Center Capital Reported (\$)

\$9,010,918 total funding secured, including \$6,334,418 in non-SSBCI capital and \$2,676,500 in SSBCI loans.



## Kenai Peninsula Center Clients Advised in 2025



**BOOKEEPEASE, LLC**  
*Cliff is very knowledgeable, personable, and prepared with all the information needed to help get me on my way. He helped me feel like I really can start my own business and be successful.*

## EXPERTISE & CERTIFICATIONS

- Master of Business Administration (MBA)
- Expertise in financial projections, feasibility analysis, and business planning
- Accredited Small Business Consultant (AASBC)
- Certified Member, American Association of Airport Executives (AAAE)

**174**

BUSINESSES LISTED  
**BUYALASKA**

## TOP 3 INDUSTRIES ADVISED

- Accommodation & Food
- Services
- Retail Trade

## TOP 3 ADVISING NEEDS

- Start-Up Assistance
- Financing/Capital
- Buy/Sell a Business

## SUCCESS STORIES



Alaska SBDC **published 10 success stories** of Kenai Peninsula based businesses.

# MATANUSKA-SUSITNA



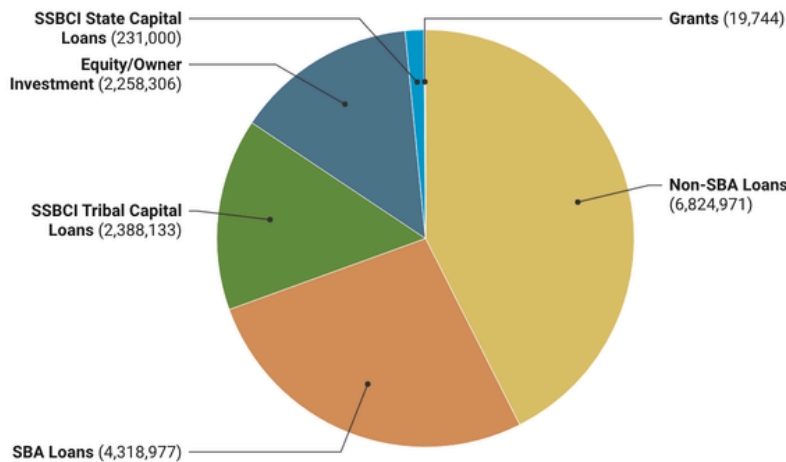
The Mat-Su SBDC surged in 2025 under **Center Director Misty O'Connor's** leadership, serving 337 clients through 1,341 hours of advising. The center welcomed 221 new clients, helped launch 42 new businesses, more than doubling the prior year, and supported 740 jobs across the Mat-Su Valley. The Mat-Su capital infusion is \$13,421,998 reported by SBDC clients and \$2,619,133 issued for SSBCI loan programs, reflecting the center's impact in connecting businesses with financing.

**\$16M**      **337**      **740**      **1,341**      **42**      **221**

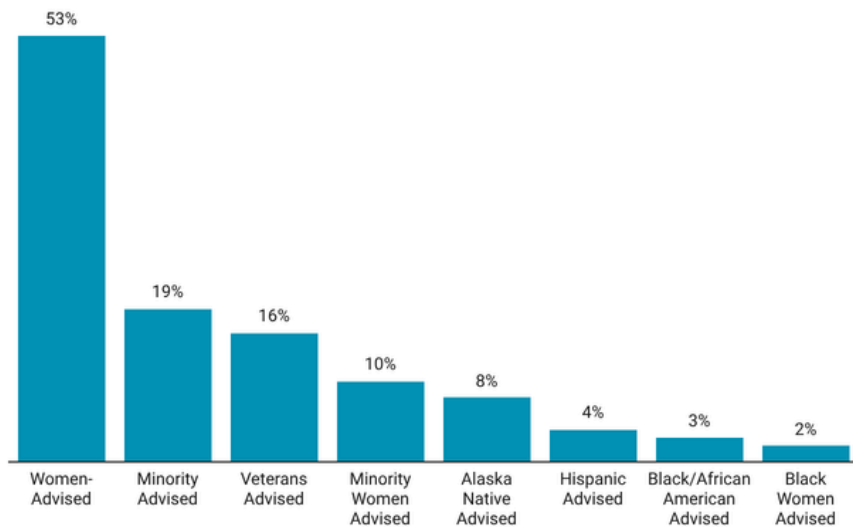
Capital Reported    Clients Served    Jobs Supported    Advising Hours    Businesses Created    New Clients

## 2025 Mat-Su Center Capital Reported (\$)

\$16,041,131 total funding secured, including \$13,421,998 in non-SSBCI capital and \$2,619,133 in SSBCI loans.



## Mat-Su Center Clients Advised in 2025



### OUTBOUND HELI ADVENTURES, LLC

*The support and information has been incredible! The communication has been great and my advisor, Misty has been so hands on and informative.*

## EXPERTISE & CERTIFICATIONS

- Master's in English
- Workforce Development Program Management & Training Program Design
- Technology-Enabled Businesses, Online Platforms & Digital Learning Systems
- Agriculture, Farm & Rural-Based Business Development

**224** BUSINESSES LISTED  
**BUYALASKA**

## TOP 3 INDUSTRIES ADVISED

- Accommodation & Food
- Construction
- Services

## TOP 3 ADVISING NEEDS

- Start-up Assistance
- Financing/Capital
- Marketing/Sales

## SUCCESS STORIES



Alaska SBDC **published 6 success stories** of Mat-Su based businesses.



# RURAL



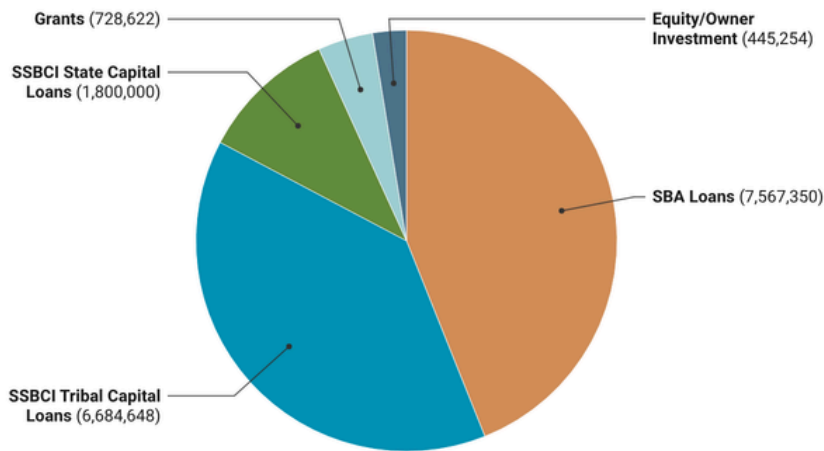
In 2025, the Alaska SBDC Rural Center served 213 clients through 1,227 hours of advising under the leadership of **Center Director Ruth Wolfe**. The center welcomed 117 new clients, supported the creation of 16 new businesses, and helped sustain 292 jobs across rural communities statewide. Rural capital infusion is \$8,741,226 reported by SBDC clients and \$8,484,648 issued for SSBCI loan programs, highlighting the center's effectiveness in connecting Alaska's most remote entrepreneurs with essential financing.

**\$17.2M**      **213**      **292**      **1,227**      **16**      **117**

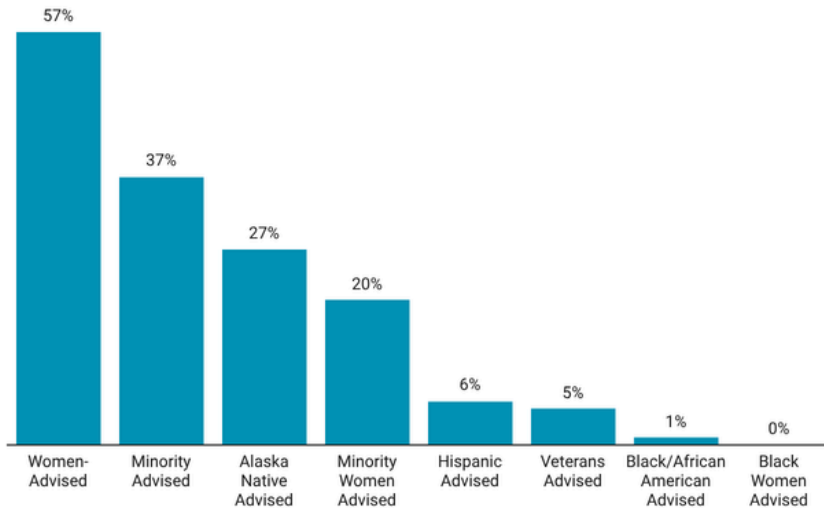
Capital Reported      Clients Served      Jobs Supported      Advising Hours      Businesses Created      New Clients

## 2025 Rural Center Capital Reported (\$)

\$17,225,874 total funding secured, including \$8,741,226 in non-SSBCI capital and \$8,484,648 in SSBCI loans.



## Rural Center Clients Advised in 2025



“ — NORDIC RENTALS AK, LLC  
*Ruth Wolfe has been thorough, easy to speak with, and understanding with our assistance in pursuing our own business. I am very pleased and satisfied with the help ASBDC has provided so far and I look forward to future help.*

## EXPERTISE & CERTIFICATIONS

- Master of Business Administration (MBA)
- North Star Cybersecurity Certification
- Google AI Essentials Certification

**218** BUSINESSES LISTED  
**BUYALASKA**

## TOP 3 INDUSTRIES ADVISED

- Accommodation & Food
- Manufacturing
- Retail Trade

## TOP 3 ADVISING NEEDS

- Start-Up Assistance
- Financing/Capital
- Managing a Business

## SUCCESS STORIES



Alaska SBDC **published 6 success stories** of Rural based businesses.

# SPECIAL PROGRAMS

For nearly 40 years, the Alaska SBDC has evolved to meet the changing needs of Alaska's entrepreneurs. Today, our specialized programs complement traditional advising to address unique business challenges.

The AI Resource Program helps businesses harness artificial intelligence tools. BuyAlaska champions locally-owned enterprises. TREND advances technology innovation through grants and mentorship. The SSBCI State and Tribal Programs expand capital access to underserved communities.

These initiatives equip Alaska businesses with the resources they need to thrive in a dynamic economy.



**Mission:** The Alaska SBDC's AI Resource Program empowers small businesses and organizations to harness AI technology through education, practical guidance, and community collaboration to enhance operations and drive innovation.

Since its launch in 2024, the AI Resource Program at UAA's Alaska SBDC has emerged as a national leader in helping small businesses, nonprofits, and organizations adopt artificial intelligence in practical, affordable, and high-impact ways. Since then, the program has built a fully connected AI network across the SBDC system.

By the end of 2025, AI Resource Program's tools were used over 2,500 times by business advisors and small businesses, directly supporting improved decision-making, operational efficiency, and innovation.

The AI Resource Program has provided consulting and technical assistance to over:

- **70** SBDCs nationwide
- **100** small businesses and entrepreneurs
- **20** business networks
- **15** government entities, and
- **30** nonprofit organizations

Our work is grounded in the program's mission to reduce barriers to AI adoption and translate into practical solutions that strengthen small businesses and the organizations that support them. We are grateful for strategic partnerships with the University of Alaska System, UAA's AI Lab, America's SBDC and its national network of centers, commercial lenders, Amazon Web Services, Google, and CDFIs, which help make this work possible.

## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS



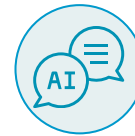
**40**

AI Tools  
Deployed



**45**

White Papers  
Published



**100+**

AI  
Consultations



**100+**

Presentations  
Delivered

## NATIONAL LEADER IN AI-DRIVEN BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT EXPERTISE & CERTIFICATIONS

- Bachelor's in Finance
- MBA with an Emphasis in Entrepreneurship
- America's SBDC AI U Professional Certification
- President of Anchorage Midtown Rotary
- Bilingual (Spanish)



ALASKA DATA SCIENCE & AI LAB



EMERGE 2025



2025 SBDC SUMMIT



NATIONAL ASBDC CONFERENCE

# SPECIAL PROGRAMS

## BUYALASKA

LOCAL FIRST • DISCOVER LOCAL AT BUYALASKA.COM

**MISSION:** The Alaska SBDC's BuyAlaska program amplifies Alaska businesses by strengthening connections, increasing awareness, and expanding access to resources through a statewide directory, education, and partnerships.

59

1,331

138K

10.9K

218.8K

Communities Represented

Businesses in Directory

Website Pageviews

Social Media Followers

Social Media Impressions

In 2025, BuyAlaska continued to strengthen its role as a statewide driver of local-first purchasing and small business visibility. Led by the Alaska SBDC, the program represented **59 Alaska communities** and featured **1,331 businesses in the BuyAlaska Directory**, connecting consumers and visitors to Alaska-owned products and services.

Through digital communications, BuyAlaska generated **138,000 website pageviews** and grew its **social media following to 10,900, an 18% increase from 2024**. Annual **social impressions increased by 51% to 218,800**, significantly expanding the reach of shop local messaging across Alaska.

Program efforts focused on sustained visibility for Alaska businesses. BuyAlaska members could order a free "Come In, We're Local!" window cling as well as download a free member graphic to strengthen their local presence.

BuyAlaska supported statewide initiatives including Shop Small Saturday and BuyAlaska Bingo, along with coordinated media outreach and official proclamations, reinforcing the importance of Alaska's small businesses, which represent more than 99 percent of businesses statewide.



## TREND ALASKA

TECHNOLOGY, RESEARCH, EDUCATION & DEVELOPMENT  
ALASKA SBDC UAA BUSINESS ENTERPRISE INSTITUTE

**MISSION:** The Alaska SBDC's TREND program empowers Alaskan innovators to access government research funding, especially through SBIR/STTR, by providing the technical assistance and expertise needed to compete successfully.

### SBDC SUMMIT

The 2025 Alaska SBDC Summit convened healthcare, technology, and small business leaders to address limited healthcare access and workforce shortages across the state. The event fostered cross-sector collaboration and practical dialogue focused on scalable solutions for Alaska's unique communities.

With support from Wells Fargo, Providence Health & Services Alaska, and Akiak Technology, the Summit delivered targeted resources and innovation strategies designed to strengthen workforce development and expand service capacity statewide.



### VIRTUAL AI PITCH COMPETITION

During Alaska Entrepreneurship Week, Alaska SBDC partnered with AWS and PREDICTif Solutions to host a statewide virtual pitch showcase.

Selected finalists received expert feedback and up to \$50,000 in AWS professional services to transform early concepts into working pilots.



# SPECIAL PROGRAMS



**MISSION:** The Alaska SBDC's State SSBCI and Tribal Consortium programs attract lenders and investors in helping fund small businesses that cannot obtain conventional business loans.

## ALASKA SSBCI PROGRAMS LEAD THE NATION

Alaska made history in 2025, with the Alaska State SSBCI program ranking **number one in the nation for capital deployment**. Through both the State SSBCI program and Tribal Consortium, Alaska businesses gained expanded access to funding that supported growth, job creation, and economic opportunity across the state.

In 2025, the State SSBCI program supported 14 loans totaling more than \$12.1 million across six Alaska communities, while the Tribal Consortium supported 55 loans totaling more than \$31.1 million across 18 communities. Together, these investments helped businesses expand operations, strengthen local economies, and support socially and economically disadvantaged individuals and very small businesses across Alaska.



**Alaska State SSBCI is #1 in the Nation for capital deployment**

### STATE PROGRAM IMPACT

**\$12,109,450**  
in value across 14 loans

**14**  
businesses  
funded

**6**  
communities  
supported

**8**  
SEDI-owned  
businesses

**9**  
very small  
businesses

### TRIBAL CONSORTIUM IMPACT

**\$31,184,012**  
in value across 55 loans

**51**  
businesses  
funded

**18**  
communities  
supported

**53**  
SEDI-owned  
businesses

**30**  
very small  
businesses

## SSBCI SUCCESS STORIES



# WORKSHOPS

The Alaska SBDC delivers accessible business education statewide through on-demand videos, live webinars, and in-person classes offered at no or low cost. In 2025, our team traveled to communities across Alaska to deliver workshops in Anchorage, Craig, Fairbanks, Juneau, Kodiak, Seward, Soldotna, and Wasilla, while also providing online programming that reached entrepreneurs statewide at every stage of the business journey.

84

1,514

53

40

44

Workshops Offered

Workshop Attendees

Guest Presenters

In-Person

On-Demand

## ENTREPRENEURSHIP FOR ALL

For nearly 40 years, the Alaska SBDC has been Alaska's trusted resource for entrepreneurial support, providing one-on-one advising, capital access, and education to businesses across every corner of the state.

Education remains fundamental to this mission.

Through accessible workshops, webinars, and training programs, we equip entrepreneurs with the knowledge and skills they need to launch, grow, and sustain successful businesses. Whether someone is exploring their first business idea or scaling an established operation, our educational programming provides the foundation for informed decision-making and long-term success.

This commitment to learning, paired with personalized advising and financial resources, creates a comprehensive support system that has helped thousands of Alaska businesses thrive across four decades.

## 10 MOST POPULAR SBDC WORKSHOPS (BASED ON ATTENDANCE)

Workshop	Delivered Format
Starting a Business	On-Demand
How to Get a Business License	On-Demand
Grow Your Business with AI-Powered Tools by Google	Live Webinar
Cottage Food Permit Process	On-Demand
Kodiak Business Series Workshops	In Person
Understanding Alaska's Ballot Measure 1	On-Demand
Preparing Mat-Su Small Businesses for a Possible Mt. Spurr Volcanic Eruption	In Person
LLCs in Alaska	On-Demand
Bookkeeping Basics	On-Demand
From Dream to Doorstep: Finding the Right Space for Your Business	In Person



## THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE

The Alaska SBDC proudly supports America's military and veterans by providing complimentary workshop access to active-duty personnel, veterans, and their spouses.

In 2025, 58 members of Alaska's military community participated in educational workshops, receiving discounted access, resulting in \$2,100 in total savings.

*We're grateful to our partners who helped expand our educational reach in 2025, including local Chambers of Commerce, thread Alaska, Cook Inlet Lending Center, and KeyBank. Through these collaborations, we delivered statewide webinars and developed specialized series, connecting with more entrepreneurs and strengthening support for businesses across Alaska.*

# ADVISORY BOARDS

The Alaska SBDC Advisory Board brings together business leaders, community partners, and subject-matter experts from across the state to provide strategic insight and guidance that helps shape SBDC services for Alaska's small business community. In addition, the State and Tribal Advisory Board for the State Small Business Credit Initiative (SSBCI) provides oversight and expertise to ensure capital programs effectively expand access to funding and support equitable economic growth statewide.

## THE 2025 ALASKA SBDC ADVISORY BOARD:

**Aaron Dotson**

Vice Chancellor for Research  
University of Alaska Anchorage

**Shin Suzuki**

VP, Commercial Lending Manager  
First National Bank Alaska

**Helen Mickel**

President and CEO  
Tongass Federal Credit Union

**Renee Schofield**

Owner and CEO  
TSS Safety

**Monica James**

Chief Executive Officer  
Natives of Kodiak

**Paul Robinson**

CPA and Co-Owner  
Robinson & Ward, PC

**Phillip Reid**

Vice President  
Northrim Bank

**Erica Rivera**

Deputy Director, AK District Office  
Small Business Administration

**Thomas Stark**

Senior VP & Commercial  
Banking Leader  
Wells Fargo

**Uriah Nalikak**

Director of HR & Payroll  
Three Bears Alaska

## THE 2025 SSBCI STATE ADVISORY BOARD:

**Katherine Jernstrom**

Co-Founder & CEO, The Boardroom,  
Managing Partner, Alyeska Venture  
Management

**Adam Kane**

Communications Manager  
Alaska Municipal League

**Nathan Rivas**

Financial Advisor  
Edward Jones Investments

**Carrie Callaway Cardy**

VP, Senior SBA Relationship Manager  
KeyBank

## THE 2025 SSBCI TRIBAL ADVISORY BOARD:

**Benjamin Mallott**

President  
Alaska Federation of Natives

**Evelyn Beeter**

Ahtna/Copper River Region  
President/CEO, Mt. Sanford Tribal  
Consortium

**Arlene A. Gunderson**

Aleutians/Pribilof Region  
Tribal Administrator

**Eunice Brower**

Arctic Slope Region

**Barbara Nickels**

Bering Straits Region  
Economic Development Specialist  
& Grant Writer, Kawerak, Inc

**Cheri Mulcahey**

Cook Inlet Region  
CIRI Board Member; Porch Group  
Head of Internal Audit

**Taniesha Moses**

Interior Region  
Tribal Administrator,  
Northway Village Council

**Maya Carle**

Southeast Region  
AFN Community Navigator for  
Southeast

**Deborah Vo**

Yukon-Kuskokwim Region

**Jake Garner**

Kodiak Region  
President, Ouzinkie Native  
Corporation

**Keith Jensen**

Bristol Bay Region



*We're grateful to Wells Fargo, Northrim Bank, and First National Bank Alaska for their continued support and partnership. Their investment in the Alaska SBDC helps expand access to business advising, educational programs, and critical resources for entrepreneurs and small businesses across the state, strengthening Alaska's economy and supporting long-term business success.*

# SMALL BUSINESS, BIG IMPACT: ALASKA SBDC SERVES THE STATE

ANCHORAGE | FAIRBANKS | SOLDOTNA | HOMER | SEWARD | JUNEAU | MAT-SU | RURAL

## SMALL BUSINESS VOICES IN 107 ALASKA COMMUNITIES



### UAA'S ALASKA SBDC IS PROUDLY HOME TO:

**ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE  
RESOURCE PROGRAM**  
UAA BUSINESS ENTERPRISE INSTITUTE

**BUYALASKA**

**STATE SSBCI**  
STATE SMALL BUSINESS CREDIT INITIATIVE  
UAA BUSINESS ENTERPRISE INSTITUTE

**TRIBAL SSBCI**  
STATE SMALL BUSINESS CREDIT INITIATIVE TRIBAL CONSORTIUM  
UAA BUSINESS ENTERPRISE INSTITUTE

**TREND ALASKA**  
TECHNOLOGY, RESEARCH, EDUCATION & DEVELOPMENT  
UAA BUSINESS ENTERPRISE INSTITUTE

**JOIN US ON  
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Scan with  
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**ALASKA SMALL BUSINESS  
DEVELOPMENT CENTER**  
ALASKA SBDC UAA BUSINESS ENTERPRISE INSTITUTE

The Alaska SBDC network and its programs, housed within the University of Alaska Anchorage, are funded by a \$777,777 grant from the US Small Business Administration which is matched by \$777,777 of non-federal funds.

