

Vessel Acquisition Program



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The purpose of the program is to provide a menu of financial and technical assistance necessary to enable eligible residents of the **BBEDC CDQ & Bristol Bay Watershed communities** to obtain a competitive and efficient commercial salmon-fishing vessel. A vessel can also mean a licensable truck if the applicant can demonstrate that a vehicle is the primary vessel for their individual fishing operation at the point of harvest and delivery.

A resident that has participated in the Vessel Acquisition Program previously may be considered to be eligible for a second application if the following is demonstrated by the applicant:

1. Met all requirements of the VAP related to previous participation for at least three (3) consecutive years.
2. The vessel purchased through previous VAP participation will be transferred to a resident to be actively fished within one year (12 months) of the applicant's entry into the VAP (except in the case where the vessel can be demonstrated to be inoperable or not seaworthy).
3. It is necessary to purchase another vessel in order to advance the applicant's overall commercial fishing operation as defined in the BBEDC VAP policy.

New applications will be accepted and processed September 1 – April 1.

STEP 1: GENERAL ELIGIBILITY	STEP 2: PROGRAM SERVICES						
<p>Must Submit all required paperwork:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Application Form ○ BBEDC Affidavit of Residency Form ○ BBEDC Relationship Disclosure Form ○ Proof of Market (written statement) ○ Complete IRS Tax Return for 3 preceding years ○ Proof of 3 years of fishing experience (via Schedule C from taxes or evidence of emergency transferring permits) <p>The applicant must be at least 18 years of age and physically capable of actively participating in the fishery and have reasonable access to the necessary gear</p>	<p>Personal Financial Analysis will be prepared to determine whether the applicant would not be able to obtain or retain a vessel or otherwise participate in the VAP without the assistance of BBEDC program services or benefits. A participant may qualify for multiple VAP services or benefits in any combination as determined by the Loan Committee. They consist of the following:</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Training</td> <td>Technical Assistance</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Interest Assistance</td> <td>Equity Assistance</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Down Payment Grant</td> <td>RSW Incentive</td> </tr> </table>	Training	Technical Assistance	Interest Assistance	Equity Assistance	Down Payment Grant	RSW Incentive
Training	Technical Assistance						
Interest Assistance	Equity Assistance						
Down Payment Grant	RSW Incentive						
<p>Must participate in Financial Counseling</p> <p>Must own a Bristol Bay Limited Entry Permit</p> <p>More documentation may be required for land-based fishing operations seeking assistance with purchasing a truck. Please contact BBEDC for more information.</p>	<th data-bbox="808 1270 1524 1314">STEP 3: GENERAL ELIGIBILITY</th> <p data-bbox="808 1314 1524 1505">Loan application will be filed with Commercial Fishing and Agriculture Bank (CFAB) or the State of Alaska Division of Investments along with BBEDC's assistance packet unless the applicant names a different preferred bank for this loan.</p>	STEP 3: GENERAL ELIGIBILITY					

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What might prevent a resident from participation in the program?

- Liens or other serious credit issues.
- Lender declines to approve a loan.
- Participation in the Vessel Upgrade Program within the preceding four years. **Exception:** when a resident transfers the improved vessel to a watershed resident (to be actively used as a commercial fishing vessel) after two years. Applicant may submit an appeal when they can demonstrate extraordinary circumstances.
- Not a resident under BBEDC program policies.

What options are available to applicants not accepted for financial assistance?

- Participation in other BBEDC programs such as training opportunities.
- Services available via our partnership with Money Management International.
- Residents may be able to apply for the Interest Rate Assistance program available for fishing-related loans.

What are the requirements after acceptance to the program?

- Fish the vessel at least 3 weeks each year.
- Participate in mandatory training and technical assistance.
- Maintain residency in a BBEDC CDQ or Bristol Bay Watershed community.
- Not accumulate demerits that will impact ability to actively fish the vessel during the upcoming season.
- Not have liabilities that could impede or cause risk of loss of the vessel.
- Maintain eligibility to hold and fish a limited entry permit by the CFEC.
- Have a market for which the participant can actively fish during the upcoming season.
- Maintain loan in good standing.

What happens if you don't complete the program requirements and obligations as you agreed?

- Failure to complete requirements and obligations as agreed may result in termination of participation and a requirement to repay all financial benefits received.

For additional information, please contact: Community Liaison in any CDQ Community or BBEDC Economic Development and Brokerage Department