

2026 BBEDC PROGRAM DIRECTORY

Complete information, program deadlines and applications for BBEDC programs can be found online at www.bbcdc.com, through community liaisons, or by contacting BBEDC at 1-800-478-4370.

Economic Development and Brokerage

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Interest Rate Assistance – BBEDC resident fishers are provided an opportunity to reinvest in their commercial fishing operations through relief from a portion of the interest on fishery-related loan payments. Applications are accepted year-round. Applicants must demonstrate BBEDC CDQ residency and participation is limited to one loan per year, per individual. Applicants must apply prior to making their current loan payment and the loan must be in good standing. Upon approval, payments are made directly to the lender.

Tax Preparation Program – BBEDC assists residents of its 17 communities with filing timely IRS tax returns by offering up to \$150 for professional preparation of a personal tax return by a BBEDC approved tax preparer. Only tax returns for the 2025 calendar year are eligible. Applicants must submit a 2026 Tax Preparation application, BBEDC Affidavit of Residency, and a Relationship Disclosure Form. The application period is from January 1 through April 30 (BBEDC may extend the period if the IRS filing deadline is extended). The tax preparer must be on BBEDC's approved tax preparer list and will require a BBEDC approval card before preparing taxes.

Bristol Bay Permit Brokerage – BBPB strives to retain ownership of permits by residents of the region by providing services at no charge other than required agency fees. Services include but are not limited to:

- Serves as a liaison for residents to assist with vessel license renewals, permit renewals, permit transfers and other related communications with the Alaska Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC) and U.S. Coast Guard.
- Listings for the sale/purchase of permits and boats. Crew and permit holder listings.
- Assistance with documents for sale and transfer of permits and boats.
- Provide templates for agreements, sample crew contract, leases and other transactions for use by fishers for leases and emergency transfers.

Arctic Tern Program – Grants of up to \$6,000 are available to the Tribal or City government in each BBEDC community to be used to support and foster jobs, employment activities, or learning opportunities for resident youth up to 17 years of age. Applications are accepted year-round.

Technical Assistance Program – BBEDC provides resident entrepreneurs and communities with a source of assistance in developing business plans, feasibility analysis (small projects), grant mentoring, completing loan applications, financial counseling and other technical aspects for developing and growing small businesses. The program provides assistance to successful applicants from an established and experienced consulting firm. Applications are accepted year-round. The applicants must actively work with the consultant towards a finished product.

Community Liaison Program – A grant is made available to a governing organization in each BBEDC community for the purpose of employing an individual to serve as a liaison to promote BBEDC programs and serve as a point of contact for staff and residents for program delivery at the community level.

Grant Writing Assistance – Through an application process, BBEDC provides the services of experienced and successful grant writers to BBEDC city and/or tribal governments. The choice of the firm assigned is reserved to BBEDC. Services include targeted project funding searches and/or varying levels of proposal development as well as grant proposal mentoring. Applications are accepted year-round.

Community Block Grant Program – The Community Block Grant Program provides grants to BBEDC community Tribal or City governments to fund projects that promote sustainable community and regional economic development. The BBEDC Board determines the annual funding available to communities. A portion of the funds may be used for home heating fuel/electric assistance for eligible residents, and maintenance & operations for community-owned ice machines and/or other community facilities on an annual basis. The amount budgeted for 2026 is \$600,000 per community. The application period is January 1 through November 30, 2026.

Personal Finance/Education – BBEDC contracts with a non-profit group that specializes in personal financial education and counseling. The firm assists individual residents by phone, email, and in-person with one-on-one counseling, obtaining and reviewing credit reports, credit counseling, debt management plans, credit recovery and identity theft. A counselor travels to the region on a regularly established basis. Applications are accepted year-round.

Permit Loan Program – A menu of financial and/or technical services is provided to eligible residents of the 25 Bristol Bay watershed communities interested in purchasing a Bristol Bay limited entry drift or set permit. Services may include loan guarantee, down payment grant, interest assistance, principal reduction assistance, technical assistance and/or training. Participation is contingent upon the applicant's ability to obtain and maintain a loan from approved lenders. Participants are required to meet all eligibility requirements annually throughout the term of their participation. Applications are accepted from September 1 through April 1 annually.

Emergency Transfer Grant – With the goal of helping residents to gradually become permit owners, grants of up to 50% of the emergency transfer (lease) fee (not to exceed an established maximum) for Bristol Bay limited entry drift and set permits are available to eligible residents of the 25 Bristol Bay watershed communities. Among program requirements are the following: demonstrate residency in a watershed community, a secured fish market, confirm use of permit will be on a boat or site owned and/or operated by a watershed resident, and agree to participate in financial counseling. Participants may receive no more than a maximum of 3 grants except where progress can be demonstrated on a plan for ownership of a permit. Applications will be accepted beginning March 16, 2026.

Shore Fishery Lease Grant – The Shore Fishery Lease Grant Program provides eligible BBEDC residents with a grant of up to \$800 (or no more than 75% of the total cost) for obtaining a State of Alaska Shore Fishery Lease. Program requirements include: applicant must demonstrate residency in a BBEDC CDQ community, ownership of a Bristol Bay set net permit, has secured a market, can show recent participation in set net fishing, provide confirmation of use of the site they wish to lease, and applicants cannot already have a DNR Shore Fishery Lease. Applications are accepted year-round.

Vessel Acquisition Program – The program offers residents of the 25 Bristol Bay watershed communities the opportunity to obtain a competitive and efficient vessel (including truck provided the applicant can demonstrate it is the primary vessel for harvest and delivery of fish in their individual fishing operation). Participants may receive technical assistance, principal reduction assistance, interest subsidy, training, and/or down payment assistance. The program also allows an opportunity for an incentive for the purchase of vessels equipped with RSW systems. Previous participants may be considered for a second application provided that they meet program requirements. Participation is contingent upon the applicant's ability to obtain and maintain a loan from approved lenders. Participants are required to meet all eligibility requirements annually throughout the term of their participation. Applications are accepted from September 1 through April 1.

Bristol Bay Economic Development Corporation P.O. Box 1464 •
411 First Avenue East • Dillingham, AK 99576

Phone: 907-842-4370 • Toll-free: 1-800-478-4370 • Fax: 907-842-4336 • www.bbcdc.com

Education, Employment, and Training

Rachel Tilden, rachel@bbedc.com

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Harvey Samuelsen Scholarship Trust – Scholarships are awarded to residents pursuing degrees at accredited colleges or universities as full-time students. Eligibility requirements are:

- Resident of a Bristol Bay CDQ community.
- HS diploma or GED.
- Accepted in a degree program.
- Registered as a full-time student.
- Undergraduates must have a minimum 2.0 cumulative GPA.
- Graduate students must have a minimum 3.0 cumulative GPA.

Award amounts vary year to year. The full-year application deadline is June 5, 2026 at 5:00PM, with a mid-year application opportunity in January 2027 for the spring term.

Student Loan Forgiveness Program – BBEDC provides student loan repayment assistance to incentivize graduates to return to the Bristol Bay workforce with student loans. To qualify, applicants must have lived in a Bristol Bay CDQ community before taking out student loans while earning either their degree, license or certification, and then worked in a Bristol Bay CDQ community for at least 12 months before applying. The program offers up to \$20,000 in loan forgiveness over five years: 10% in year one, 20% in year two, 30% in year three, 50% in year four, and full forgiveness in year five. Participants must keep loan payments current and maintain full-time employment in the region to remain eligible.

College Development Fund – Financial aid is offered to Bristol Bay CDQ residents pursuing college degrees part-time from within their home community. The program prioritizes the use of the University of Alaska Fairbanks Bristol Bay Campus or distance delivery from the University of Alaska or Alaska Pacific University systems. Other U.S. institutions may be considered with written justification from the applicant. Eligibility requirements are:

- Resident of a Bristol Bay CDQ community.
Enrolled in a degree program.
- Registered as a part-time student.
- Undergraduates must have a minimum 2.0 cumulative GPA.
- Graduate students must have a minimum 3.0 cumulative GPA.

Awards will pay for tuition, books and fees for up to \$1,500 per term. High school students enrolled in college courses are also eligible to apply for the College Development Fund. Applications are accepted year-round but must be complete and submitted at least three full business days before classes begin. Students are required to reapply each term they seek assistance.

Internships – BBEDC offers a variety of internship opportunities in Bristol Bay for both youth and adults. Youth internships are available to CDQ community residents ages of 14 to 17 and provide educational and training components within the employment position. Adult internships allow residents to work with partnering businesses and agencies to gain practical work experience aligned with their future interests and career goals. If you would like to apply, suggest ideas for new internship opportunities, or partner as a host organization, please contact BBEDC Education, Employment and Training staff.

Vocational Program – Funding is available for Bristol Bay CDQ community residents who want to advance their vocational education or gain new and enhanced skills related to their primary employment. To be considered for funding, complete applications must be submitted to BBEDC at least seven full business days before classes begin. BBEDC prioritizes training at facilities in-region (SAVEC is the preferred provider), in-state and last, within the 50 United States. Funding eligibility criteria include:

- Fisheries-related training directly related to the fisher's operation including industry-related skills training or training that could lead to entry into a Bristol Bay commercial fishery as a crew member.
- Job-readiness training that would provide new or enhance current employment skills for those unemployed, with the goal of increasing employability.
- Employer mandated training required for continued employment (Limited to \$2,500 per year).
- Training or certifications that could lead to a direct employment advancement or a pay increase with current primary employer.
- Continuing education training to maintain certifications that are required for current occupation.
- Full-time vocational technical education leading to a nationally recognized certification, license or degree that could lead to direct employment in the vocation.

Community/Group Training Fund – Funding is available to BBEDC village, city, and borough governments and accredited or known training providers to provide training opportunities that are fisheries-related or focused on capacity building that would benefit the region or community. The goal is to help BBEDC CDQ residents gain new skill or improve existing one related to their fishing operations or employment.

Seasonal Employment Opportunities – BBEDC works cooperatively with organizations and businesses to create entry-level seasonal positions for residents. Qualified residents of BBEDC CDQ communities looking to learn new work skills and gain experience through on-the-job training in entry-level seasonal employment can apply for positions created by this program. Entities interested in providing an employment opportunity through this program are encouraged to contact BBEDC Education, Employment & Training staff.

Seasonal Employment positions are available throughout the year based on available funds. Residents who would like to apply for a seasonal employment position can call BBEDC or visit www.bbedc.com for available positions.

Bering Sea Employment – BBEDC partners recruit individuals for seafood processing jobs on the Bering Sea. Employment opportunities are available on pollock vessels, long-liners, multi-species bottom fish vessels, floating processors and land plants. Positions are available year-round to resident applicants of the Bristol Bay watershed communities. For information on how to apply, visit the Bering Sea Employment page at www.bbedc.com.

REMINDER

The BBEDC Affidavit of Residency and the Relationship Disclosure Form are required for ALL BBEDC programs. Residency must be renewed annually with supporting documents and a Relationship Disclosure Form must accompany every application.

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Regional Fisheries

Anthony "Tony" Zoch, anthony@bbedc.com

Walter Reynolds, walter@bbedc.com

Vessel Upgrade Grant Program – Grants of up to \$17,500 for setnetters and up to \$35,000 for drift boats are available to help with the cost of vessel repairs upgrades, electronic upgrades, re-powering, and other improvements that enhance fish quality and harvesting efficiency. Resident fishers who have not received a Vessel Upgrade Grant in the previous three years may be eligible for an additional Vessel Upgrade Grant with full program benefits. An In-Season Emergency Provision is available for fishers who experience a catastrophic engine or drive train failure mid-season.

Applicants must be a CDQ or Bristol Bay watershed community resident, have a history of and commitment to participating in the region's commercial salmon fishery, own the vessel or vehicle, and own a Bristol Bay Limited Entry Salmon Permit or provide a copy of a contract with a watershed resident permit holder to fish with the applicant for the coming season.

Post grant, the applicant must remain a resident in a CDQ or Bristol Bay watershed community and continue participation in the region's salmon fishery for the three consecutive years following receipt of the grant.

RSW Purchase Program – The RSW Purchase Program provides grants of up to \$30,000 to assist with the purchase of Refrigerated Sea Water (RSW) systems for qualifying commercial salmon operations. RSW systems enable fishers to enhance their quality of catch by chilling at the point of harvest, an effective alternative to icing.

Applicants must be a CDQ or Bristol Bay watershed community resident, have a history of and commitment to participating in the region's commercial salmon fishery, own the vessel, own a Bristol Bay Salmon Permit or provide a copy of a contract with a watershed resident permit owner to fish with the applicant for the upcoming season.

Post grant, the applicant must remain a resident in a BBEDC CDQ or Bristol Bay watershed community and continue participating in the region's salmon fishery for the three consecutive years following receipt of the grant.

RSW Support Program – Annual assistance of up to \$1000 is available to BBEDC CDQ or Bristol Bay watershed community resident fishers who have installed or are preparing to install an RSW system in their fishing vessel. These benefits help fishers earn more from the fisheries' resources by improving the quality of their harvest. Funds can be used for start-up, repairs, and winterization of RSW systems or for consultation prior to and during installation of a unit.

Applicants must own the vessel, and either own a Bristol Bay Salmon Permit or provide a copy of a contract with a watershed resident permit holder declaring an intention to fish with the applicant for the coming season.

Pre-Season Advance Program – The Pre-Season Advance Program provides advances of up to \$5000 to help BBEDC CDQ or Bristol Bay watershed resident fishers cover pre-season expenses such as license renewals, insurance, fuel, nets, groceries, and other fishing purchases that are crucial for a successful season. Repayment must be guaranteed by a promissory note signed by the borrower and a purchase order from the applicant's fish processor. The advance and a \$25 administrative fee must be repaid by July 15, 2026.

4E Halibut Program – Applications to fish the Area 4E CDQ halibut fishery are available after January 1 and will be mailed to fishermen who registered to harvest BBEDC 4E CDQ Halibut in 2025. Completed applications are due by April 1, and evidence of state licenses and other required documents need to be provided prior to the opening of the 4E CDQ Halibut season on May 1. Fishers will receive a hobo temperature device that you will be required to use while fishing throughout the 2026 halibut season as part of an ongoing effort to monitor the water temperature and its correlation with halibut harvests.

Fisheries Habitat Grant- BBEDC offers a limited number of grants of up to \$5,000 to support individual endeavors to protect Bristol Bay fisheries' habitat. Larger awards are available for Bristol Bay based organizations. Grant distribution is project specific and requires the applicant to provide a project narrative, budget, timetable for completion and reportable, deliverable outcomes. All proposals are due by April 1, 2026.

Bristol Bay Ice – BBEDC owns the Bristol Maid, an ice barge typically stationed in the Nushagak district and partners with fish processors and third-party companies to distribute ice to commercial fishers across Bristol Bay. Please contact Regional Fisheries staff for more information on our icing plans for 2026. Taking advantage of the icing bonuses paid by salmon processors often requires that fishermen have insulated fish holds, totes or slush bags for storing ice and chilling fish on board. Please confirm with your processor before the season to ensure your operation is ready to ice and is equipped to meet quality standards.

Quality Improvements Program – Chilled fish bring higher value, and BBEDC CDQ or Bristol Bay watershed community resident fishers qualify for a one-time benefit of slush ice bags, insulated totes, padded deck mats and flexible sheet foam hold insulation from BBEDC to help maximize the value of their harvest. Replacements are not provided but patch material for slush bags is available.

Applicants for slush bags, padded deck mats and flexible foam insulation must own a boat or setnet fishing equipment such as a skiff or vehicle, and either own a Bristol Bay Limited Entry Salmon Permit or provide a copy of a contract to fish with a watershed resident permit holder for the coming season. Insulated totes require that the applicant own a Bristol Bay Limited Entry Salmon Permit.

Help for Resident Fishermen – BBEDC's Regional Fisheries Program is here to help make your business more profitable and our coastal communities sustainable. If there is fisheries information you need, or you have an idea for a workshop, specific training or other suggestions to improve our coastal fishing economy, stop by or drop us a line (regionalfish@bbedc.com). Good luck and good fishing!

Some programs have specific reporting requirements for the three consecutive years following grant distribution. Following each season, fishers must submit the required documents in a timely manner. For more information about reporting requirements, contact Regional Fisheries staff or visit www.bbedc.com



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BBEDC CDQ and Bristol Bay Watershed Community Members,

Enclosed are brief descriptions of the programs offered by BBEDC in 2026, as well as a contact list for local Community Liaisons. We strongly encourage you to contact your liaison or program staff for any additional information that you might need. BBEDC’s residency policy requires residing in a CDQ Community for 24 months prior to participating in programs and allows no longer than a 60 consecutive day absence, unless requirements for an excused absence are met. Some programs (as noted) are also open to Bristol Bay watershed residents. If you need assistance determining residency qualifications, please do not hesitate to contact us before any absence or application submittal. All local BBEDC staff can be reached at 1-800-478-4370 or 907-842-4370.

Community Liaisons

Aleknagik - Shellie Aloysius.....907-842-2856	Naknek - Kathlynn Schneider..... 907-246-4210
Clarks Point - Jeweline Kapotak.....907-236-1479	Manokotak - Leah John..... 907-289-1429
Dillingham - Savanna Cavanaugh.....907-842-2384	Pilot Point - Victor Seybert..... 907-797-4162
Egegik - Chris Heleper..... 907-233-4036	Port Heiden - John Christensen, Jr.....907-837-2296
Ekuk - Vacant.....907-842-3842	South Naknek - Carvel Zimin, Jr.....907-469-0713
Ekwok - Sophie Kaleak.....907-464-3349	Togiak - Joe Alexie907-493-5003
King Salmon - Joni O’Domin.....907-469-0588	Twin Hills - Debbie Snyder907-493-2520
Levelock - Chadalin Washington.....907-287-3167	Ugashik - Mike Enright.....907-797-4114