

# Kenai Peninsula Borough

## Grants Administration

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### MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Peter A. Micciche, Mayor

**FROM:** Elizabeth Hardie, Grants Administrator & Community Liaison

**DATE:** January 15, 2025

**RE:** FY25 – 2nd Quarter Reports:  
Kenai Peninsula Small Business Development  
Kenai Peninsula Economic Development District

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The FY25-2nd Quarter financial and narrative grant reports have been submitted for the Kenai Peninsula Small Business Development Center and Kenai Peninsula Economic Development District.



**UNIVERSITY of ALASKA  
ANCHORAGE**

University of Alaska  
Officer of Sponsored Programs  
3211 Providence Drive  
Anchorage AK 99508-4614

9-Jan-25

Grants Administrator  
Kenai Peninsula Borough  
144 N. Binkley Street  
Soldotna, AK 99669

Project Title: FY25 KPB (SBDC)  
Analysis of costs rendered under Award AWD DTD 7/30/24 \$135K  
in the amount of \$135,000.00 from 01-OCT-2024 to 31-DEC-2024.

Voucher No: Q2 - Inv 2

	Previous Bill Amount	Current Amount Due	Cumulative Bill Amount
	-----	-----	-----
Salaries	\$19,736.57	\$49,885.46	\$69,622.03
Staff Benefits	\$9,118.29	\$23,047.06	\$32,165.35
Services	\$4,652.00	\$4,452.00	\$9,104.00
F & A Costs	\$2,905.49	\$7,293.27	\$10,198.76
<b>Grant Total</b>	<b>\$36,412.35</b>	<b>\$84,677.79</b>	<b>\$121,090.14</b>

By signing this report, I certify to the best of my knowledge and belief that the report is true, complete, and accurate, and the expenditures, disbursements and cash receipts are for the purposes and objectives set forth in the terms and conditions of the Federal award (or non-Federal award, if applicable). I am aware that any false, fictitious, or fraudulent information, or the omission of any material fact, may subject me to criminal, civil or administrative penalties for fraud, false statements, false claims or otherwise. (U.S. Code Title 18, Section 1001 and Title 31, Sections 3729-3730 and 3801-3812).

CERTIFIED CORRECT

DocuSigned by:  
*Kelsie Sullivan*  
5F6D55DBAEFF463...

CC: G00016172  
Federal Tax ID: 92-6000147

Kelsie Sullivan  
OSP Post Award Manager

***Please attach a copy of this invoice with your remittance.***

For questions about this invoice, please contact the Office of Sponsored Programs (uaa\_postaward@alaska.edu / 907-786-1569).

*If this is a negative bill, the credit will be applied to your next invoice.*



UNIVERSITY of ALASKA  
ANCHORAGE

9-Jan-25

Grants Administrator  
Kenai Peninsula Borough  
144 N. Binkley Street  
Soldotna, AK 99669

Voucher No: Q2 - Inv 2

Grant Code: G00016172

Fund Code and Title: 246267 FY25 KPB (SBDC)

Account Code	Title	Transaction Amt
-----	-----	-----
1251	APT	\$40,623.30
1811	Annual Leave Charge	\$4,407.65
1831	Sick Leave Charge	\$2,222.11
1841	Holiday/ Other Leave-Charge	\$2,632.40
1970	Staff Benefits Expense	\$23,047.06
3118	Facilities Rental S/T	\$4,452.00
7811	Indirect Costs	\$7,293.27
Total		\$84,677.79
Retainage		\$0.00
Fund Total		\$84,677.79
Grant Total		\$84,677.79

***Please attach a copy of this invoice with your remittance.***

For questions about this invoice, please contact the Office of Sponsored Programs (uaa\_postaward@alaska.edu / 907-786-1569).

*If this is a negative bill, the credit will be applied to your next invoice.*



Alaska Small Business  
Development Center

UAA BUSINESS ENTERPRISE INSTITUTE

## Kenai Peninsula

Alaska Small Business Development Center  
1901 Bragaw St., Ste. 199  
Anchorage, AK 99508  
(907) 786-7201

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FY 2025

Second Quarter Report

October 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024

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Award 246267 FY25 KPB (SBDC)  
UAA G-16172

## Note from the Center Director: Cliff Cochran, Kenai Peninsula Center

The Kenai Peninsula Center for the Alaska SBDC completed the second quarter of FY 2025. During the quarter, the Alaska SBDC Kenai Peninsula Center continued its impactful work, providing critical resources to entrepreneurs and small businesses. The center advised 123 clients, including 52 pre-venture, 36 startup, and 34 in-business clients, reflecting its emphasis on supporting emerging entrepreneurs. The advisory team delivered an impressive 482 hours of guidance, primarily focusing on startup assistance, financing, and buying or selling businesses. Industries such as accommodation and food services, retail, and transportation dominated client representation, showcasing the center's alignment with the borough's economic drivers.

The center's contributions led to the establishing of 11 new businesses across Soldotna, Kenai, Sterling, and Homer, fostering growth in these key communities. A total of 443 jobs were supported during the quarter, underscoring the center's pivotal role in economic development. These figures are calculated through rigorous metrics, ensuring businesses meet operational milestones such as licensing, payroll setup, and financial management before being included in these outcomes.

Financial support was another area of significant impact, with \$1.9 million in capital infused into the local economy during the quarter. This includes \$1.65 million in small business loans and \$250,000 in non-debt financing. These investments are instrumental in enabling small businesses to expand, invest in new opportunities, and sustain long-term growth. The center also provided essential guidance on legal matters, ensuring entrepreneurs navigate complex requirements effectively and setting a foundation for success.

Education and training efforts were robust during the quarter. In collaboration with the Seward Chamber of Commerce, the center hosted two in-person workshops during Alaska Entrepreneurship Week, drawing 14 attendees. Additionally, 23 residents participated in various workshops offered throughout the quarter, including webinars and 49 on-demand sessions covering topics such as AI integration and USDA grant navigation. These educational initiatives are tailored to meet the evolving needs of entrepreneurs and bolster their capacity to innovate and compete in today's market.

Finally, we completed the annual Small Business Survey in the quarter, which ended up being the state's largest survey completed by business owners, with 958 responses. 17% of the responses came from Kenai Peninsula clients, reflecting their engagement and reliance on the center and its services. The results from the survey will be released in the coming months, providing data for leaders across Alaska to make informed policy decisions. This further highlights the vital role the Alaska SBDC plays in supporting small businesses and driving economic resilience in our communities.

**At a Glance: Kenai Peninsula FY25 Q2 (Oct 1, 2024 - Dec 31, 2024)**

**Number of Clients Advised**

Current Quarter: 123

FY 2025: 192

**Jobs Supported**

Current Quarter: 443

FY 2025: 485

**Business Starts**

Current Quarter: 11

FY 2025: 23

**Capital Infusion**

Current Quarter: \$1,900,000

    Small Business Loans: \$1,650,000

    Non-Debt Financing: \$250,000

FY 2025: \$1,900,000

**Alaska SBDC Kenai Peninsula Center Activity – Historical Comparison**

	<b>FY 2024 Q1 7/1/23 - 9/30/23</b>	<b>FY2024 Q2 10/1/23 - 12/31/23</b>	<b>FY2024 Q3 1/1/24 - 3/31/24</b>	<b>FY2024 Q4 4/1/24 - 6/30/24</b>	<b>FY2025 Q1 7/1/24 - 9/30/24</b>	<b>FY2025 Q2 10/1/24 - 12/31/24</b>
New business created	10	10	4	14	12	11
Jobs supported	313	234	452	371	290	443
Loans	\$830,000	\$8,791,024	\$6,962,500	\$1,593,000	\$0	\$1,650,000
Total capital	\$940,000	\$9,874,782	\$8,911,040	\$3,261,561	\$0	\$1,900,000
New clients	26	30	55	29	25	40
Total clients	108	118	129	105	114	123
Total advising hours	365.50	374.24	461.66	287.50	316.49	481.95

**123 Clients by Current Lifecycle**

Pre-venture: 52 clients  
Startups: 36 clients  
In-business: 34 clients

**Clients by Industry**

Accommodation and Food Services: 32 clients  
Retail: 13 clients  
Transportation and Warehousing: 12 clients  
Services: 10 clients  
Manufacturer/Producer: 8 clients  
Arts and Entertainment: 7 clients  
Construction: 7 clients  
Professional, Scientific and Technical: 6 clients  
Administrative and Support: 5 clients  
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, and Hunting: 5 clients  
Real Estate, Rental and Leasing: 5 clients  
Educational: 3 clients  
Healthcare and Social Assistance: 3 clients  
Waste Management and Remediation: 3 clients  
Wholesale Trade: 2 clients  
Information: 1 client  
Tourism: 1 client

**Top Areas of Advising**

Startup Assistance: 211 hours  
Financing: 74 hours  
Buy/Sell a Business: 53 hours  
Business Plan: 38 hours  
Managing a Business: 35 hours  
Marketing/Sales: 23 hours  
Legal Issues: 21 hours

**Summary:**

During the second quarter of FY 2025, the Alaska SBDC on the Kenai Peninsula again provided more advising to pre-ventures and startups than established businesses. Regarding industries supported, accommodation and food services remained in the top spot by a wide margin, followed again by retail. There was a broad demographic of industries supported, with a record 16 of the 20 sectors supported by the SBDC in the quarter. Aside from startup assistance, the Alaska SBDC provided a significant amount of advising on financing and business buy/sells for the third straight quarter. SBDC advisors logged 38 hours of business plan guidance, but much of the startup assistance was related to business planning, so that number is low. The Alaska SBDC also provided support for several legal issues. While our staff are not qualified to provide legal advice, we frequently identify when legal aid is needed to ensure business owners and entrepreneurs do things right and are set up for success.

## New Clients at a Glance: Kenai Peninsula FY25 Q2 (Oct 1, 2024 - Dec 31, 2024)

### 40 New Clients by Initial Stage

Pre-ventures: 32 clients  
Startups: 4 clients  
In-business: 4 clients

### New Clients by Industry

Accommodation and Food Services: 11 clients  
Retail: 4 clients  
Transportation and Warehousing: 4 clients  
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing & Hunting: 3 clients  
Manufacturer: 3 clients  
Administrative and Support: 2 clients  
Arts, Entertainment and Recreation: 2 clients  
Construction: 2 clients  
Healthcare: 2 clients  
Professional, Scientific & Technical: 2 clients  
Education: 1 client  
Real Estate, Rental and Leasing: 1 client  
Service: 1 client  
Tourism: 1 client  
Waste Management and Remediation: 1 client

### New Clients by Community

Homer: 11 clients  
Kenai: 9 clients  
Seward: 8 clients  
Soldotna: 6 clients  
Anchor Point: 3 clients  
Hope: 1 client  
Seldovia: 1 client  
Sterling: 1 client

### Summary:

The Alaska SBDC Kenai Peninsula Center on-boarded 40 new clients during the second quarter of FY 2025, which was the most in a quarter in nearly two years. There was a significant majority of pre-ventures in the quarter versus established businesses as entrepreneurs gear up for the 2025 tourist season to begin. New clients were spread across 15 of the 20 industry sectors in the quarter. The accommodation and food services industry sector was the most represented with new clients in the quarter, followed by retail and transportation. Homer was again atop the list for the fourth consecutive quarter for new clients, with a lot of interest in SBDC support from the community. Kenai was next on the list, followed by Seward and then Soldotna.



## **New Businesses & Jobs at a Glance: Kenai Peninsula FY25 Q2 (Oct 1, 2024 - Dec 31, 2024)**

**Qualifying New-Business Starts: 11**

**Jobs Supported: 443**

### **Summary:**

An enterprise is considered “in-business” when all required licensing/permitting is acquired, has payroll, acquired debt or equity capital, incurred business expenses, and/or created sales. Jobs supported are calculated using a formula that includes the total number of full and part-time employees of a unique client receiving Alaska SBDC services. In addition, the Alaska SBDC must receive written confirmation from the client that these milestones occurred.

During the second quarter of FY 2025, clients reported establishing 11 new businesses on the Kenai Peninsula. The new businesses were started in Soldotna (4), Kenai (3), Sterling (2), and Homer (2). Alaska SBDC work during the quarter directly supported 443 jobs scattered across the Kenai Peninsula Borough from Fox River to Lowell Point.

## **Workshops at a Glance: Kenai Peninsula FY25**

So far, in FY25, 23 Kenai Peninsula residents have attended [Alaska SBDC workshops](#). These classes are offered online via live webinars and on-demand videos and live in the classroom. Topics cover a wide array of subjects and harness both in-house expertise and professional adjuncts.

During the second quarter, in support of Alaska Entrepreneurship Week and coordination with the Seward Chamber of Commerce, the Kenai Peninsula Center conducted two in-person workshops in Seward in November. The two classes were Choosing the Right Business Entity on November 8, which had five attendees, and Buying or Selling a Small Business: Planning for a Successful Sale on November 11 which had nine attendees.

Between October and December 2024, the Alaska SBDC offered one live webinar class and 49 prerecorded options on demand. Topics available on demand include various Getting Started with AI, Creating Custom AI Assistants with ChatGPT, Navigating the USDA REAP Grant for Energy Improvements, Financing Your Business, and more.

## Supaluck's Bakery Turning a Passion for Baking into a Thriving Business

Supaluck and Mark Fraad, the founders of Supaluck's Bakery, started their business journey with a deep passion for baking and a desire to share that joy with their community. What began as a small stand at the Seward Farmer's Market in 2021 became a new local brick-and-mortar bakery. In June 2024, Supaluck's Bakery officially opened its doors, bringing hand-crafted, premium baked goods to Seward, Alaska.

Like many small business owners, Supaluck and Mark faced the daunting task of turning their vision into a reality: forming an LLC, identifying commercial space, and financing a kitchen renovation. While they had the talent and drive, navigating the financial and legal aspects of opening a bakery was a new challenge. Recognizing the need for support, Supaluck and Mark turned to the Alaska Small Business Development Center (SBDC). With the guidance of their advisor, Kelly Ann, they received invaluable assistance securing funding and structuring their business for long-term success.



Kelly Ann helped them refine their business plan, and her advice proved instrumental in securing the funding they needed. The loan process, which could have been lengthy and stressful, was handled swiftly, allowing Supaluck's Bakery to come to life in record time. "Kelly Ann's advice was invaluable. Remarkably, our loan was granted in record time, and everything fell into place perfectly," shared Supaluck.

Thanks to their hard work and the support of the Alaska SBDC, Supaluck's Bakery has become a new locally-loved part of the Seward community. "Our experience with the Alaska SBDC was incredibly positive. Kelly Ann's guidance was key to making our dream a reality. We couldn't have done it without her.," says Supaluck.

All made from scratch with carefully selected ingredients, customers flocked to the bakery for its high-quality baked goods all summer long.

Supaluck's Bakery is preparing for an exciting holiday with seasonal specials and monthly discounts for its loyal customers. Their baked goods will also be available for purchase at the Seward Holiday Craft Fair on December 6-7th. Next time you are in Seward, be sure to check out Supaluck's Bakery at 1313 4th Avenue, Unit A, located in the heart of the harbor.

## Northwind Nut Boutique A Fresh Take on Heart-Healthy Snacks

Maeve Johnson's love for healthy, delicious snacks led her to create Northwind Nut Boutique, a thriving business that uses wholesome ingredients to produce snacks that are as nourishing as they are tasty. Located in the heart of Alaska, Northwind Nut Boutique specializes in tree nuts infused with heart-healthy oils like avocado and olive oil, along with house-made seasonings that make every bite irresistible. Maeve's passion for quality and her attention to health-conscious ingredients has garnered a loyal following across southcentral Alaska.

But Northwind Nut Boutique's path to success didn't happen overnight. Maeve knew she needed to approach the business strategically to ensure it would thrive in a competitive market. That's when she turned to the Alaska Small Business Development Center (SBDC) for guidance. Working closely with Kenai Peninsula Center Director Cliff Cochran, Maeve focused on building a strong foundation for her business. Cliff helped her create a realistic budget and fine-tune her business plan, laying the groundwork for Northwind Nut Boutique to grow sustainably.

"Cliff is seriously the best," Maeve shared. "He has helped and guided me with the most useful tools to help me find success in Northwind Nut Boutique. Very factual and groomed the path with positive yet constructive advice!" With Cliff's expertise, Maeve navigated the often complex process of starting and running a business. Together, they worked through everything from financial forecasting to market strategies, ensuring Northwind Nut Boutique was built on a solid foundation.



For Cliff Cochran, working with Maeve and Northwind Nut Boutique has been a rewarding experience. "It's been exciting to work with such a brilliant creator in the food and beverage manufacturing industry," he said. "I'm very impressed with Maeve's creativity, taking a traditional snack and adding a modern flare to it. It's been great to support her in making her vision a reality."



With a solid plan in place and Maeve's unwavering dedication to quality, Northwind Nut Boutique quickly gained popularity. The delicious, health-conscious snacks are now sold at 12 locations across southcentral Alaska, from local markets to specialty stores. Maeve's commitment to producing snacks with integrity—using the best ingredients, free from artificial additives—has resonated with customers looking for healthier alternatives to traditional snacks.



Today, Northwind Nut Boutique is thriving, and Maeve couldn't be more proud of what her business has accomplished. Her journey from a passionate home cook to a successful entrepreneur is a testament to the power of hard work, creativity, and expert support. Thanks to her collaboration with the Alaska SBDC and Cliff Cochran, Maeve turned her dream into a reality, providing Alaskans with a delicious and nutritious snack option they can feel good about.

If you are interested in learning more about Northwind Nut Boutique, visit their website at [www.northwindnutboutique.com](http://www.northwindnutboutique.com) or check them out on [Facebook](#) or [Instagram](#). If you can't make it to Alaska Mill and Feed, Lucy's Market, Maggie's General Store, or Naptowne Brewing to purchase some gourmet nut confections, place an order on [Faire](#) today.

## KB Laser Wash The Perfect Blend of Tradition and Innovation

Newly established on K-Beach Road, between Kenai and Soldotna, KB Laser Wash is redefining the local car wash experience by combining old-school values with cutting-edge laser technology. Owned and operated by Scott and Lela Rosin, longtime proprietors of the beloved Duck Inn, KB Laser Wash has quickly become a local favorite, offering customers a premium car wash experience, featuring top notch customer service, with a versatile range of options to fit wash needs on any budget.

Recognizing a gap in the market for high-quality, reliable car washes in the neighborhood, the Rosins set out to create a business that would provide locals with top-notch services and convenience. Their vision included a combination of self-service stations, tandem soft touch with closed foam cell technology, and the innovative laser wash that gives the business its name. Beyond car washes, KB Laser Wash also provides self-serve vacuums and a private dog wash station, ensuring that both vehicles and pets can leave sparkling clean. Open 24 hours a day, the facility offers around-the-clock service, allowing customers to take care of their wash needs at any time. This highly convenient model has quickly earned the business a reputation as a dependable and high-quality car wash. The Rosins have been humbled by local auto body shops and detailers, making KB Laser Wash their top referral, and look forward to working collaboratively with other local businesses to give Alaskans the quality they deserve.



Launching this innovative business was no small feat, but Scott and Lela had a strong support system from the start. They began their journey by working closely with Alaska Small Business Development Center (SBDC) Kenai Peninsula Center Director Cliff Cochran to determine the economic feasibility of the car wash and to craft a solid business plan. Cliff's expertise helped them assess the local market and create a budget to set the business up for long-term success.

"Cliff was our first professional stop after making the decision to jump in with both feet, and he helped give us confidence from the beginning that our information was solid," said Lela Rosin. "He was able to provide us with extensive, local business knowledge and information. Cliff's services are free of charge to local entrepreneurs like us, and in hindsight, was, without a doubt, the most impactful! The wide range of resources Cliff has at his fingertips was pretty incredible, and he helped us determine the local market needs and what we could expect from the business performance standpoint, projections, and business plan."

With their business plan, the Rosins turned to KeyBank's Garet Plantz and Carrie Callaway Cardy for small business financing. Garet and Carrie worked through financing options to ensure the loan application process went smoothly, helping Scott and Lela secure the necessary funding to bring their vision to life. "Carrie and Garet were instrumental in helping us navigate financial needs by answering all our questions," Lela added. "They streamlined the process, which allowed us to focus on launching the business and make sure we hit the

ground running.” Reflecting on their efforts, Carrie highlighted the importance of teamwork and strong support in making the Rosins’ vision a reality. She shared, “Working alongside the Rosins and Alaska SBDC to finance the KB Laser Wash project was a privilege! KeyBank is proud to support small business in our community.”



The Rosins’ hard work paid off, and KB Laser Wash has not only filled a gap in the local market, but they’ve also set the new standard for car care in the area. Whether it’s a quick rinse after a long drive, a thorough cleaning to prepare for an event, or underbody maintenance cleaning to prevent corrosion, customers know they can rely on KB Laser Wash for a premium service every time. “As car enthusiasts, providing quality car wash technology that’s also safe for your car is imperative to us,” Scott remarked. “The roads are hard on our vehicles in Alaska, and we wanted to create a business that helps with that.”

Cliff Cochran, who worked closely with the Rosins throughout the development of the business, is proud of their success. “It was great to work with really experienced entrepreneurs on a totally new idea, separate from their original business model,” Cliff said. “Going from hospitality to automotive services could be a challenge, but Scott and Lela made the transition look easy. They’ve become my example of how to conduct marketing in our area, and I couldn’t be more impressed with how they’ve built this business.”

The success of KB Laser Wash is a testament to the Rosins’ entrepreneurial spirit and their dedication to providing the best possible service to their community. By combining traditional customer values—like dependability, commitment to quality, and a dedicated and friendly team—along with the latest in car wash technology, they’ve created a business that stands out on the Kenai Peninsula. Their journey, supported by the Alaska SBDC and KeyBank, serves as an inspiration for other entrepreneurs looking to take on new challenges and bring fresh ideas to their communities.

If you’d like to experience the latest technology in the car wash industry, you can stop by KB Laser Wash at 760 Kalifornsky Beach Road, Soldotna, Alaska, or visit their website at [kblaserwash.com](http://kblaserwash.com). You can also check them out on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).





## Homer Inn and Spa Where Relaxation Meets Adventure

Jeremy and Heidi Greening, combining their expertise in marketing, real estate, food service, and hospitality, acquired the Homer Inn and Spa with a vision to elevate it into a premier year-round destination for both tourists and locals in Homer, Alaska. Their goal was to create a sophisticated yet relaxing environment that capitalizes on the breathtaking views of Kachemak Bay.



From the outset, the Greenings focused on integrating the inn seamlessly into the community. They introduced farm-to-table dinners, rented out event space, and expanded into catering, partnering with local vendors to offer high-value, seasonal packages. This approach not only diversified their offerings but also strengthened community ties.

"Our aim was to craft an unforgettable experience that makes the most of Homer's natural beauty and our local culture," Jeremy Greening explained. "We wanted to provide a restorative space that could

serve as both a peaceful retreat and a vibrant community hub."

With assistance from the Alaska Small Business Development Center (SBDC), the Greenings developed a robust business expansion plan. Their advisor, Robert Green, guided them through the process of securing an SBA loan to acquire a second commercial property. This strategic move allowed the Homer Inn and Spa to host larger events and start producing agricultural inputs for their farm-to-table initiatives.

"The SBDC's guidance was instrumental in helping us expand our vision and capabilities," Jeremy noted. "The consultations around our commercial kitchen and catering objectives opened up new revenue streams that have significantly enhanced our business model."

Today, the Homer Inn and Spa not only offers a unique blend of guest accommodations and spa services, but also acts as a conduit for a variety of year-round activities, including





sport fishing, bear viewing, and snowmobile adventures. The inn's ability to blend relaxation with adventure makes it a standout facility in Homer.



Jeremy and Heidi are excited about the future, planning to further integrate green technologies and sustainable practices into their operations. "We are continually looking for ways to improve our services and ensure that our guests have the most memorable and rejuvenating experience possible," Heidi added.

For more information about Homer Inn and Spa and to book a stay, please visit their website at [www.homerinnandspa.com](http://www.homerinnandspa.com) or on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).



## Community & Fiscal Projects

144 N. Binkley Street, Soldotna, Alaska 99669 = (907) 714-2150 = (907) 714-2377 Fax

Mayor Peter A. Micciche

**From:** KPEDD **Award Amount:** \$175,000  
**Account:** 100.94900.00000.43009 **2023/2024** **Non-areawide KPB Economic Development**

**Quarterly reports due on the 15th of each month following the quarter period end.**

**Submit Report To:** Grants Administrator [grants@kpb.us](mailto:grants@kpb.us)  
 Kenai Peninsula Borough  
 144 N. Binkley St., Soldotna, AK 99669

**Period of Performance covered by this report:**  
**Start Date:** 10/1/2024  
**End Date:** 12/31/2024

**FINAL REPORT IS DUE BEFORE 07/10/25**

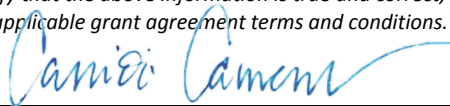
Cost Category	Authorized budget	Total expenditures from ALL prior reports	Expenditures to reimburse this period	Total expenditures to date	Balance of Funds
Personnel/Fringe	\$ 175,000.00	\$ 43,750.00	\$ 43,750.00	\$ 87,500.00	\$ 87,500.00
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$ 175,000.00</b>	<b>43,750.00</b>	<b>\$ 43,750.00</b>	<b>\$ 87,500.00</b>	<b>\$ 87,500.00</b>

Expenditures this period to be reimbursed >>> \$ 43,750.00

**Progress Report:** Describe activities that have occurred during this reporting period. Describe any challenges you may have experienced, any foreseen problems, and/or any special requests. Attach additional pages.

Please see the attached narrative.

**Grantee Certification:** I certify that the above information is true and correct, and that expenditures are made for the purpose of, and in accordance with, applicable grant agreement terms and conditions.

Signature:  Date: 12/17/24

Printed Name and Title Cassidi Cameron, Executive Director

## **Kenai Peninsula Economic Development District**

Kenai Peninsula Borough FY25 Qtr. 2 Report

Account 100.94900.00000.43009

During the second quarter of the fiscal year 2025, KPEDD staff (1) led energy development discussions for the region as an AML Arctic Energy Ambassador (2) hosted the CEDS Committee meeting to update strategies for goal implementation and prepare for the 2026 major plan rewrite, (3) prepared a working group to implement workforce development initiatives in remote communities, (4) supported the bolstering of tourism initiatives by identifying industry trends and supporting the Chambers through data-specific license agreements, (5) consulted local businesses seeking investments and growth strategies, (6) supported the emerging mariculture industry through program governance, resource connection, and educating the general public on investment opportunities, (7) participated in State ARDOR discussions, (8) provided technical assistance and outreach for communities applying for energy efficiency upgrades through the EPA Community Change Grant, and (9) completed the 2024 financial audit.

1. As an Arctic Energy Ambassador for the Alaska Municipal League's Alaska Energy Hub, KPEDD continued efforts to identify, support, and assist with pursuing technical funds for coordination to develop energy plans for rural communities. Critical partners included the U.S. Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, ORPC for tidal industry developments, USDA, the U.S. Department of Forestry, and Kenai Peninsula Borough. This quarter's events included the Alaska Rural Energy Conference, community benefits planning meetings (including the Nikiski Community meeting), the BOEM Cook Inlet Work Group, and the ORPC Adaptive Management Meeting. Comprehensive energy plans will address community-specific issues by identifying sustainable and cost-effective solutions. However, developing such plans requires technical expertise and financial resources that may be scarce in rural areas. The strategy to reach this goal includes developing a shareable database/spreadsheet of potential funding sources, eligibility criteria, application deadlines, contact info, and support resources for communities/tribes/organizations to consider pursuing. Creating alternative energy sources for Kenai Peninsula Utility Co-operatives, residents, and businesses to improve grid resilience and decrease reliance on sole-source electricity is a priority. Alaska's climate, geography, and remote nature exasperate energy producers and increase utility costs. Research and development of emerging technologies may steady consumer costs, increasing regional development opportunities. KPEDD will continue to advocate for the Peninsula and work to identify emerging opportunities for infrastructure development.
2. On October 22nd, KPEDD met with members of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Committee, which includes chairs from incorporated communities, industry, chambers, the hospital, and tribal entities. This small group aims to adjust strategies and identify partnerships to meet the goals and objectives outlined in the CEDS report. The group will also help to increase stakeholder engagement for the next major plan rewrite scheduled for 2026. The KPEDD CEDS is the only federally approved plan of its kind and is required for federal investment spending in the region.

3. KPEDD Continued to develop the Kenai Peninsula Student to Career Launchpad Cohort to connect middle and high school students in rural Alaska with industry leaders, educators, and supporters. Industries will collaborate on in-person events, workshops, and consultations during the event, offering insights into sectors like healthcare, renewable energy, and maritime trades. This initiative bridges the gap between education and employment, guiding students toward rewarding careers and educational opportunities. Through partnerships with REAP, Kenai Peninsula College, AVTEC, ASA, Department of Labor, Kenai Peninsula School District, Alaska Resource Education, and industry partners, the event is planned for February 10-12th.
4. KPEDD provided an economic and industry update to the Borough's tourism working group. This group aims to create a regional advertising plan to support growth in the travel sector and extend the number of trips and individual lengths of visitors' stays. KPEDD also continued to provide access to critical data licenses to the Chambers to ensure accurate reporting and industry projections. This license uses third-party applications to track tourism levels, spending, and returns on community investment. Specific data include visitor days, visitor sources, repeat travelers, transportation, spending, and trends over time, and help measure specific campaigns' success. KPEDD also continued sharing findings and suggestions during city council and assembly meetings.
5. Businesses continued to contact KPEDD during the project period for technical assistance regarding product development, planning, capital funding sources, and points of contact. Staff met with business owners in person and over the phone to support business development and expansion.
6. KPEDD continued serving as a member of the working group within the Alaska Mariculture Cluster to discuss funding appropriations within the grant components and identify the project's goals for the mariculture industry. An RFP for Agricultural Product Development: request for proposal development of Kachemak Bay sourced seaweed, integration into compost, and soil production for testing on nutrient profiles to develop a local market was submitted to Southeast Conference. Staff also continued to serve on the Governance Body, collaborate with producers and developers, and identify regional assets related to mariculture, ensuring sustainability of components, continuation of leadership, and advocacy for the Kenai Peninsula Mariculture Industry and its further development.
7. KPEDD continued participating in state-wide ARDOR discussions and reporting to advocate for Peninsula-specific needs with the Alaska Department of Commerce. The recently completed ARDOR report highlights current projects, regional development needs, future initiatives, and anticipated challenges to Peninsula growth.
8. During the reporting period, KPEDD worked with the Alaska Municipal League to support local governments, tribes, and non-profits in their pursuit of EPA Community Change Grant funding. The grant program's goal was to support energy efficiency upgrades and reduce reliance on transportation and fossil fuels. The program was highly competitive, and KPEDD is currently awaiting EPA decisions.
9. Lastly, KPEDD completed the FY2024 audit with no significant findings.