

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE



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ARDOR Questions & Answers **SB 62 - AK REGIONAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

What is an ARDOR?

An ARDOR is a non-profit organization of local volunteers, representing numerous public and private interests, working together to achieve economic development in their region. An ARDOR is organized in accordance with Alaska Statute 44.33.895 and the Alaska Administrative Code (3 AAC 54).

Why have a regional organization do economic development?

The Legislature established the ARDOR program in 1988, and again in 1997 and 2000, in support of the widely held belief that a locally driven initiative, in partnership with the State and other entities, can most effectively stimulate economic development and produce healthy, sustainable local economies.

What are the ARDOR Program goals?

Encourage a healthier economic climate to increase the number of jobs; strengthen existing businesses; attract new businesses; and encourage economic diversification.

How does an ARDOR get established?

DCBD approves an ARDOR designation. To be approved, the ARDOR must

- 1) be large enough and contain adequate resources to support a regional economic development program, and
- 2) be an economically viable unit with shared interests, resources, traditions, and goals.

What does an ARDOR actually do?

Each ARDOR is different with regard to existing economic development; infrastructure; a marketable natural resource; an educated work force; and a cohesive leadership organization-factors in achieving economic development. Thus, what each ARDOR does, is unique to that ARDOR. Generally, however, ARDOR's:

- conduct economic development related research and planning, including develop and implement a regional economic development strategy;
- respond to information requests;
- coordinate ARDOR's activities with other development activities in the region;
- provide services designed to encourage economic development in the region;
- collect and distribute economic information;
- develop and maintain community and village economic profiles;
- coordinate State economic or business development efforts in the region; and
- serve as a liaison between State government and the region.

How is an ARDOR funded?

DCBD awards annually, a State grant to each ARDOR that satisfies the statutory and regulatory requirements of the ARDOR Program, including the requirement that each ARDOR provide a local, non-State match. The State grant and required match are usually not the ARDOR's only source of funding. ARDOR's can and do receive funding from a variety of sources.

How does an ARDOR work?

Each ARDOR is guided by a Board comprised of the economic development interests in the region. Board members are usually appointed by organizations in the region; however, some are elected. The Board hires an Executive Director to work with the Board to ensure an annual work plan is implemented. The Board oversees and directs the activities of the ARDOR.