

CORPORATE POLICIES

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**RESIDENCY POLICY**

The Bristol Bay Economic Development Corporation is a non-profit Corporation that under federal and state law must operate for the benefit of the residents of its 17 member communities. As a result, the Board of Directors requires that BBEDC and its corporate subsidiaries limit the benefits of certain programs to persons who are “residents” under criteria established by the board to ensure that only long-term residents of the 17 communities are eligible. Residency must be established on an annual basis.

In that regard, the Board establishes the following criteria for community residency:

1. The individual claiming residency must demonstrate that he or she has been a full-time resident of one of BBEDC’s 17 member communities for a period of at least 24 consecutive months immediately prior to the date of the application and continues to live in that community. The residency of any person under the age of 18 years shall be the same as the residency of the adult(s) who claim that person as a dependent on their federal income tax return. If any person is away from their community for more than 60 consecutive days in any 24-month period, they are not considered a resident of that community unless they confirm that they intend to return and reside in the community, and that are absent solely for the following purposes:
  - a. Attending and receiving post-secondary education on a full-time basis at an accredited institution.
  - b. Attending and receiving vocational education on a full-time basis at an accredited institution or other BBEDC-approved training facility.
  - c. BBEDC supported employment that requires temporary relocation outside of the region.
  - d. Active duty military service.
  - e. Receiving necessary and continuous medical treatment recommended by a licensed physician.
  - f. Serving as a member of the Alaska Senate, Alaska House of Representatives or as a member of the staff of any such official.
  - g. Participating in a required academic internship that cannot be accomplished in-region.
  - h. Participating in a seasonal commercial fishery outside of the BBEDC CDQ community, including with a BBEDC fishing partner.

In addition, a BBEDC resident may continue to be eligible for BBEDC programs if they accompany a BBEDC resident absent for the foregoing reasons as the spouse, minor dependent, or other dependent of the eligible resident, but only if confirmed by the eligible absent resident's federal income tax return. Further, for all allowable absences, an individual must return to a BBEDC CDQ community following each period of allowable absence and otherwise acted consistently with an intention to remain a resident.

2. The individual claiming residency must provide appropriate supporting documentation to give adequate proof of residency and complete the current BBEDC Affidavit of Residency Form, which must also be signed by an authorized representative of the village, tribal council or city government. In the event the applicant or a benefit recipient has deliberately filed false or misleading residency documentation in a fraudulent manner, that applicant or recipient will be denied participation in all BBEDC programs for 12 months and required to pay back any funding received because of submitting such false documentation. Once that individual is reinstated, if there is a second offense, the applicant or recipient shall be denied participation in BBEDC programs for 3 years and required to pay back any funding received.

3. The Chief Operating Officer (COO) shall be the final decision-maker regarding whether the applicant meets the criteria for residency or has violated the policy by filing false documentation.

4. The decision of the COO may be appealed but only if the appeal is filed in writing within ten (10) working days after the delivery of the COO's decision to the individual claiming residency. The COO shall appoint an Appeals Officer to decide the matter, and that person will not know the parties or have prior involvement in the matter. In the appeal document, the claimant should present all the factual and legal information and assertions that he/she thinks explain the problems, errors or other difficulties with the COO's decision. If there are disagreements about the facts in the record, the Appeals Officer has the right in his/her discretion to interview the claimant and other parties who gave statements or information to the COO. The Appeals Officer shall make a decision promptly in order to avoid economic prejudice to the parties. Except in complex cases, or where the parties have agreed to take more time, the decision will be made within ten (10) working days. The Appeal Officer's decision shall be in writing and, when published, the decision shall be binding upon the parties.

5. Under extenuating or emergency circumstances where the appeals mechanism is not appropriate, the Executive Committee or President/CEO may waive the foregoing criteria with good cause. Any decision will be provided in writing.

6. These residency criteria shall extend to all persons who apply for any BBEDC benefits and programs.

The BBEDC Board of Directors may authorize participation in certain BBEDC programs that are available to residents of all communities in the Bristol Bay watershed who comply with the foregoing policy. In such cases, residents of the following communities are eligible to participate in such programs: New Stuyahok, Koliganek, Igiugig, Newhalen, Iliamna, Kokhanok, Pedro Bay, Port Alsworth, and Nondalton.