



Tiny Homes Project in False Pass Wins the Aleutian Marketplace Fellowship Competition

We are delighted to announce the winners for the 2020 Aleutian Marketplace Fellowship Competition, a small business development contest to stimulate commerce in the region sponsored by APICDA, the Aleut Corporation (TAC), GCI, Wells Fargo and TelAlaska.

The grand prize winner is Jana Kennedy of False Pass with the family-owned Happy Caves Buildings company. Jana identified the lack of available housing, business space, and dwellings for recreational activities in her successful proposal to create small buildings out of shipping containers. Jana won \$7,000 in seed money startup funds as the first-place winner.

Second place was awarded to Nicholai Tutiakoff of Unalaska. His \$5,000 in winnings will help launch his "Fish On" Charters business. Nicholai's business will offer fishing charters, bird watching, wildlife viewing, and business cargo transport.

Third place went to Stephen Kennedy, also of False Pass, who was awarded \$3,000. He plans to run a local internet provider service, Happy Caves Internet, where demand is great during the fishing season with the influx of processing workers.

The Aleutian Marketplace Fellowship Competition was developed to support small business development in the Aleutian-Pribilof region through established training and mentorship opportunities at statewide events that cater to innovators and entrepreneurs. The program has adapted due to COVID-19 by expanding our webinar series and virtual mentorship opportunities. The traditional fellowship model relied heavily upon travel, event attendance, and networking, which isn't feasible this year.

Photo: Jana Kennedy with her children in front of their small "Happy Caves" house in False Pass. Her home was made from a shipping container.