



2026 Aleutian Marketplace Micro Grant

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 16, 2026

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Aleutian Marketplace Micro Grant Supports 12 Small Businesses

Regional businesses grow through investments made possible by federally managed fisheries.

Anchorage, Alaska – The Aleutian Marketplace Micro Grant (AMMG) program has awarded \$36,000 this year to support 12 small businesses in the Aleutian and Pribilof region of Alaska. Since launching in 2022, the micro grant initiative has invested more than \$153,000 in support of entrepreneurs working to build and sustain locally owned businesses.

The Aleutian Marketplace provides early-stage funding for a range of business needs, including equipment, supplies, and operational support, through a partnership between APICDA, The Aleut Corporation, and the Wells Fargo Foundation.

“The earnings generated through federally managed fisheries allow APICDA to invest in local businesses, support jobs, and create more opportunities at the community level, with the Aleutian Marketplace Micro Grant as one example,” said Luke Fanning, CEO of APICDA. “While the micro grant itself is relatively modest compared to other programs we offer, it reflects a much larger approach and is intended to help seed the growth of small businesses and support economic development, a core tenet of the Community Development Quota (CDQ) program.”

Each 2026 recipient received a \$3,000 award. This year's awardees include:

- **R&C Ice Cream & Bakery – King Cove**
Gathering space that offers ice cream and bakery treats
- **F/V Rising Son – Sand Point**
Commercial fishing
- **Home Port Café – Akutan**
Coffee and light fare
- **Small Craft Café – Sand Point**
Harbor-side café
- **Aayaxtaadaa – St. Paul Island**
Handmade jewelry and Unangaʔ regalia
- **Kachim Writer – Unalaska**
Publication of Putchkii Burn, a book of poetry
- **Mack's Market – King Cove**
Grocery and convenience store
- **Aleutian Blades – Unalaska**

Lawn care services

- **F/V Islander – Sand Point**

Commercial fishing

- **Sea To Summit Alaska LLC – Unalaska**

Landing craft freight transportation

- **Unalga Charters, LLC – Akutan**

Sightseeing tours, sport fishing charters, and water taxi services

- **Gould Construction LLC – Cold Bay**

Construction services

The businesses supported through this year's program reflect the range of services that communities across the region rely on, from gathering spaces and grocery stores to transportation providers and commercial fishing operations.

"King Cove has faced its share of challenges in recent years, and we've seen firsthand the impact that economic uncertainty can have on local families and businesses," said Rita Uttecht, owner of R&C Ice Cream & Bakery. "That's why we're continuing to provide year-round jobs and a place where people can gather and connect. This grant will help us purchase a commercial refrigerator and build a service counter, reducing spoilage and helping us better serve our customers."

For Sea To Summit Alaska, the funding will help maintain transportation services that connect communities and support projects throughout the Aleutian region. "Based in Unalaska, Sea To Summit Alaska helps connect communities throughout the region," said Travis Swangel, owner of Sea To Summit Alaska LLC. "The L/C Nunya landing craft can move freight to places that are often difficult to reach, like Akun and Nikolski. We also provide transportation and equipment for projects ranging from environmental cleanup efforts to archaeological research. This grant will be used to purchase a spare set of propellers to have on hand, which is essential to maintaining reliable service."

"Each year, businesses at every stage, from new ventures to established operations, take part in this program," said Skoey Vergen, President & CEO of The Aleut Corporation. "Their participation drives local solutions and supports long-term economic growth across our region."

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APICDA is a non-profit dedicated to strengthening local fisheries-based economies through increasing direct fisheries participation in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands, building support infrastructure, and offering programs to assist the advancement of priority initiatives in its six member communities in the Aleutian-Pribilof region of Alaska. APICDA is one of six western Alaska Community Development Quota (CDQ) organizations whose purpose is to provide eligible western Alaska villages with the opportunity to participate and invest in fisheries in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands, alleviate poverty, and provide economic and social benefits for residents of western Alaska.

The Aleut Corporation (Aleut) is an Alaska Native regional corporation representing the Aleutian and Pribilof Islands, serving over 5,000 Unanga shareholders. Its diversified portfolio includes subsidiaries in real estate, government contracting, infrastructure, and more. For details, visit aleutcorp.com.