



**CEDS 101:** What You Need to Know Right Now  
about the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy

March 9, 2021  
CEDS, Recovery, and Resilience Webinar Series



Many thanks!



# Thanks for Joining the Webinar!

- Questions or comments can be submitted via the questions box on the right side of your screen in drop down menu
- A recording of the webinar will be made available soon at [www.nado.org](http://www.nado.org) & [www.CEDSCentral.com](http://www.CEDSCentral.com)
- Next webinar in the series:
  - **March 23** – Rural Resilience and Economic Development
- Please contact Brett Schwartz at [bschwartz@nado.org](mailto:bschwartz@nado.org) if you have any general questions about NADO RF or the *Stronger CEDS, Stronger Regions* program

# Today's Presenters

**David Ives**, Planning Coordinator  
U.S. Economic Development Administration (DC)



**Brett Schwartz**, Associate Director  
NADO Research Foundation (DC)



**Meilani Schijvens**, Owner & Director  
Rain Coast Data (AK)





In a nutshell...

The **Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)** is a locally-based, regionally-driven economic development planning process and document that creates the space for your region to identify its strengths and weaknesses and brings together a diverse set of partners to create good jobs, diversify the economy, and spur economic growth.

**The technical stuff:**

- Required for EDA designation as an Economic Development District
- Updated every five years with annual reports
- Submitted to EDA regional office for approval
- A CEDS Committee should be organized that “must represent the main economic interests of the Region”
- Requirement for various EDA funding including EDA’s Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance programs & CARES Act funding



The CEDS is a Conduit for Resources to Your Region...

We are in a Golden Age for the CEDS

# CEDS Content Guidelines: Make it Your Best Friend!

US Economic Development Administration - 030916

## **Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Content Guidelines:** *Recommendations for Creating an Impactful CEDS*

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- Provides guidance on the required sections of the CEDS
  - Summary Background
  - SWOT
  - Strategic Direction/Action Plan
  - Evaluation Framework
  - Economic Resilience
- Best practices, case studies, and links

[www.eda.gov/CEDS](http://www.eda.gov/CEDS)



# What's in Each Section? A Quick Overview

- **Summary Background:** A background summary of the region should answer the question, “What have we done?”, and present a clear understanding of the local economic situation, supported by current, relevant data.
- **SWOT:** A SWOT analysis of the regional economy should answer the question, “Where are we now?” by using the relevant data and background information to help identify the critical internal and external factors that speak to the region’s unique assets and competitive positioning.
- **Strategic Direction/Action Plan:** The strategic direction and corresponding action plan contained within the CEDS are the heart and soul of the document. They should answer the questions “Where do we want to go?” and “How are we going to get there?” by leveraging the analysis undertaken in the SWOT.
- **Evaluation Framework:** The evaluation framework serves as a mechanism to gauge progress on the successful implementation of the overall CEDS while providing information for the CEDS Annual Performance Report.
- **Economic Resilience:** In building economic resilience, it is critical that economic development organizations consider their role in the pre- and post-incident environment to include steady-state and responsive initiatives.

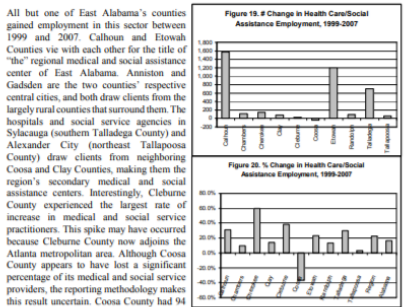
# A New Era for the CEDS

From this... ..to this... ..and this!

## Health Care and Social Assistance

Taking care of people's medical needs and providing them with services to help them with their daily lives have become increasingly important professions. The demand for health care and social assistance will continue to climb as the Baby Boomers move through the different stages of older age. Demand may rise more rapidly in Alabama than in other areas, as the state has become an increasingly attractive place for people to retire.

Health care and social assistance already has gained prominence in East Alabama, rising from being the third largest employment sector in 1999 to the second in 2007.<sup>23</sup> It may be quite some time before it overtakes manufacturing, which has at least an 11,000 job lead, however, unlike manufacturing, this sector registered gains in the number of employers and employees. East Alabama attracted 12% of the state's new practitioners in these fields—good progress for a largely rural area. Small practices with fewer than 20 employees predominate this sector. Jobs in these professions are not quite as lucrative in East Alabama as they are in other parts of the state, and pay increases in the region have not kept pace with the statewide average. In 1999, medical and social service workers earned 11% less than their counterparts throughout the state. That gap increased to 15% by 2007.



more than 50 inches of precipitation a year, while those in the south receive slightly more, around 55 inches per year. Extreme heat is rare during the Summer, but temperatures in the nineties are quite common, reaching those about 64 days per year. The temperature only exceeds one hundred degrees on one or two days per year. During the winter months the temperature drops below freezing an average of 70 days. It drops to twenty or below only 7 to 9 days per year.

## Geographic Features

Geographic features are major determinants of the physical potential of the area. These features determine opportunities and constraints that shape land use patterns. They may also facilitate or impose restrictions on the economic development of an area. The East Alabama Region is an area of distinct topographic contrast and is physically diverse and rich with natural resources. The northern two-thirds of the region is characterized by the mountainous terrain of the southern Appalachians, interspersed with broad, low-lying river valleys. The Coosa and Tallapoosa Rivers flow southwest through this portion of the region, draining a large headwaters area in northwestern Georgia. The two rivers eventually converge in the Montgomery area to form the Alabama River. The main mountain ridges separating these two rivers possess the highest elevations in Alabama. The summits of Mount Cheaha, the State's highest point, Digger Mountain, and Choccolocco Mountain are over 2,000 feet above mean sea level. The main mountainous ridges extending through Talladega, Calhoun, Cleburne, and Cherokee Counties constitute the heart of the Ridge and Valley geographic province. Small portions of Etowah and Cherokee Counties north and west of Lookout Mountain are located in the Cumberland Plateau geologic province. The remaining southeastern half of the region is characterized by the rolling plains of the Piedmont geologic province, which extends east into Georgia and south to the Fall Line, extending roughly from Columbus, Georgia, to Montgomery.

There are two major resource areas within the region. These are the Southern Appalachian Ridges and Valleys area and the Southern Piedmont area. Each of these areas is characterized by similar topography, soils and land use. These characteristics have produced a distinct, recognizable land form, which has advantages and disadvantages for land utilization.

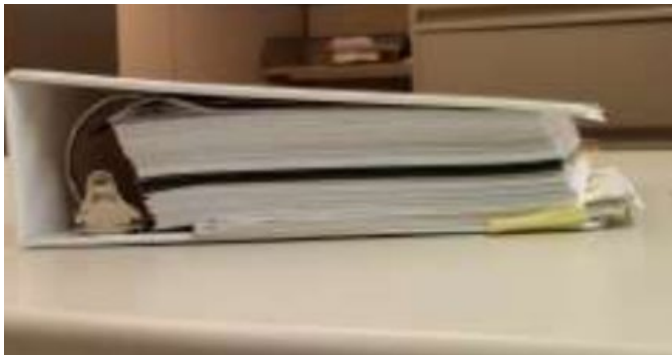
The Southern Appalachian Ridges and Valleys land resource area, which is found in northern portions of the region, is also referred to as the Coosa Valley area. It is an area of small and medium sized farms and is covered by mixed hardwood forests. The landscape consists of wide, gently rolling valleys and steep, rough ridges, all extending in a northeast-southwesterly direction.

Elevation in the Ridges and Valleys area ranges from 507 feet to over 2,400 feet above mean sea level. Long, straight valleys and ridges influence transportation, agriculture, streams and roads. Extensive cropping and high erosion potential make the area subject to severe erosion.

The Southern Piedmont Land Resource area comprises over 50 percent of the region's land area. The area is characterized by gently rolling topography interspersed with steep hilly areas. Toward the north, the topography becomes rougher with some mountainous portions of the area having local relief of about 1,000 feet. The Piedmont area was once general farmland used primarily for cotton



<sup>23</sup> See Table 23 in Appendix D.



**COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY 2018-2023**

Home Background S.W.O.T Action Plan Disaster Resilience Economic Distress Criteria Evaluation Framework Contact

Summary Background: Background of the economic conditions in the region. **More Info**

S.W.O.T. Analysis: Analysis of regional strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (commonly known as "SWOT" analysis). **More Info**

Action Plan: Identifies stakeholders responsible for implementation, timetables, and opportunities for local, state, and federal funds. **More Info**

Evaluation Framework: Evaluation of the organization's use of the CEDS and impact on the regional economy. **More Info**

U.S. FDA Guidelines KIPDA CEDS: Annual Report FY 2020 Resolution

# A New Era for the CEDS

From this...

...to this!



Credit: Everyday Health

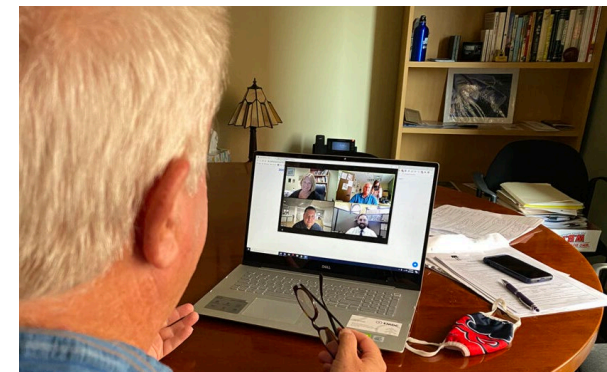


**PVPC**  
@PioneerValley  
Our mission is to preserve and enhance the quality of life for our individual member communities and for the region as a whole. \*Retweet's Are Not Endorsements\*  
Springfield, MA  
pvpc.org  
Joined March 2010

Tweets	Following	Followers	Likes
2,157	278	702	128

**Tweets** **Tweets & replies** **Media**

**PVPC** @PVPlanning · Jul 31  
@ValleyBike, passenger rail, Community Dev more. Welcome to July's Pioneer Valley Prog #westernma #napoli



# A New Era for the CEDS

From this...

...to this!



Credit: countingjobs.com.au

The eight capitals	
The capital	The definition
 <b>Individual</b>	The existing stock of skills, understanding, physical health and mental wellness in a region's people.
 <b>Intellectual</b>	The existing stock of knowledge, resourcefulness, creativity and innovation in a region's people, institutions, organizations and sectors.
 <b>Social</b>	The existing stock of trust, relationships and networks in a region's population.
 <b>Cultural</b>	The existing stock of traditions, customs, ways of doing, and world views in a region's population.
 <b>Natural</b>	The existing stock of natural resources—for example, water, land, air, plants and animals—in a region's places.
 <b>Built</b>	The existing stock of constructed infrastructure—for example, buildings, sewer systems, broadband, roads—in a region's places.
 <b>Political</b>	The existing stock of goodwill, influence and power that people, organizations and institutions in the region can exercise in decision-making.
 <b>Financial</b>	The existing stock of monetary resources available in the region for investment in the region.

Credit: Wealthworks.org

# A New Era for the CEDS


From this...



Credit: Industry Week

...to this!



A dramatic sunset over a body of water. The sky is filled with dark, heavy clouds, with a bright orange and yellow glow from the setting sun breaking through near the horizon. The water in the foreground is dark with some ripples. In the distance, a city skyline is visible against the horizon line.

**Resilience:** The ability of a region or community to anticipate, withstand, and bounce back from shocks, disruptions, and stresses including:

- Weather-related disasters or hazards / Impacts of climate change
- The closure of a large employer or military base
- The decline of an important industry
- Changes in workforce / effects of automation
- COVID-19 response & recovery
- Much more...

# Economic Resilience: What Do the CEDS Content Guidelines Say?

Economic resilience becomes inclusive of three primary attributes: **the ability to recover quickly from a shock, the ability to withstand a shock, and the ability to avoid the shock altogether.**

**Steady-state initiatives** tend to be long-term efforts that seek to bolster the community or region's ability to withstand or avoid a shock.

**Responsive initiatives** can include establishing capabilities for the economic development organization to be responsive to the region's recovery needs following an incident.

Visit: [www.eda.gov/CEDS](http://www.eda.gov/CEDS)

# Why **Regional** Resilience?

- Nearby communities often share similar risks/hazards
- Disaster impacts cross jurisdictional boundaries
- Communities are interdependent
  - Vulnerabilities in one community could impact another.
  - Mitigation investments in one community could impact another (positively or negatively).
- Economies are regional in nature
- Communities can accomplish more when they work together





# Regionalism Works

**Regionalism** is a committed effort to improve communities through increased coordination and collaboration, maximizing efficiency through **united approaches** while preserving **individual aspirations**.

Steve Etcher, Former Executive Director, Boonslick Regional Planning Commission (MO)

U.S. Department of Commerce  
Economic Development Administration (EDA)

# Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act

<https://eda.gov/coronavirus/>

# Greater Portland ECONOMIC RECOVERY PLAN



- 1  
HELP SMALL  
BUSINESSES  
RECOVER &  
GROW
- 2  
ADVANCE  
ECONOMIC  
MOBILITY FOR  
INDIVIDUALS
- 3  
SUPPORT  
FAMILIES &  
CHILDREN

AN ACTION-FOCUSED ADAPTABLE FRAMEWORK  
TO ADDRESS SMALL BUSINESS RECOVERY AND  
UNEMPLOYMENT IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19

## ACTION MATRIX

This matrix is intended to guide staff and stakeholders toward immediate action. It is a “living document” that can respond to new opportunities that may emerge over the next 24 months. The Lead Organizations noted below are recommended champions or key points of contact for the actions. However, they are not solely responsible for implementation and will need further support.

### HELP SMALL BUSINESSES RECOVER & GROW

#### PRIORITY 1

Tailor interventions for local consumer-oriented industries that have been hardest hit by COVID-19 and economic downturn

Outcome/metric: Number of BIPOC and total consumer-oriented businesses supported

Action	Recommended Lead Organization	Recommended Partners to Engage
Provide technical services to renegotiate lease terms with landlord. Fund a grant match program specifically to finance renegotiated lease terms.	SBLC	Law Firms, Commercial Brokers
Develop regional policy to waive or reduce fees for consumer-based businesses (e.g. farmers markets, restaurants, child care)	GPI	Regional EDP
Develop regional standards to expedite TI permits related to COVID and potential grants to fund improvements. Potentially include cost of heaters and awnings to allow for outdoor seating in winter, which may be more acceptable to customers.	GPI	Regional EDP
Develop a regional policy for cities/counties to hire special inspectors or 3rd party inspectors to aid construction review in the field, per state building code regulation. Prioritize hiring BIPOC 3rd party inspector.	GPI	Regional EDP
Provide regional training for cities/counties regarding cultural competency when delivering technical services for BIPOC businesses accessing financial institutions, business development services	GPI	Regional EDP
Explore advocating for regulations that protect public health, while also promoting economic recovery to help businesses in crisis. For example, some local economic development practitioners continue to hear that having the Oregon Liquor Control Commission allow restaurants to sell take-out spirits or stay open until 11:00pm could be the difference-maker in survival.	GPI	

The noted Lead Organization is the recommended champion and key point of contact for implementation. However, the Lead Organization is not solely responsible for implementation; it will need other funding and partners to implement the work which Metro and GPEED staff will help secure.

#### PRIORITY 2

Priority 2: Identify forward looking interventions for 13 industries that are at highest risk of disruption from COVID-19 and recessionary forces, focusing on traded sector to drive growth

Outcome/metric: Number of BIPOC and total businesses that are at highest risk of disruption supported

Action	Recommended Lead Organization	Recommended Partners to Engage
Enhance grant funding through Oregon Made Creative Foundation for Film and Recording industry tied to DEI efforts. Prior grant award example: “Pedal Through”, a film about three young black women taking on a week-long bike packing adventure full of joy, healing, and mentorship with mother nature in Oregon’s backcountry.	Oregon Film	
Technical and advisory services for business financials and understanding, marketing and sales pipeline strategy, and growth services.	OMEP	Impact WA
Connect manufacturers with business expansion opportunities through exporting and supplying to the DOD. Conduct custom supplier matching and supplier scouting to shorten supply chains and reduce risk.	OMEP	Impact WA, Business Oregon, PNDC, MEP National Network
For the manufacturing sector, provide or distribute grants for COVID education, operational excellence and workforce training / retention, food processing safety advice. (Also tied to Priority 3.1)	OMEP	Impact WA, Prosper Portland, Business Oregon, PNDC
Help businesses adopt and finance new technology to enhance jobs and skills, including gaining the tools to move from paper to cloud based services	OMEP	OMIC -Factory of Tomorrow, Impact WA

#### PRIORITY 3

Priority 3: All small businesses are important, but focus interventions on what is needed to stabilize and reopen businesses with 11-50 employees

Outcome/metric: Number of BIPOC and total businesses with 11-50 employees supported

Action	Recommended Lead Organization	Recommended Partners to Engage
Technical assistance and grants focused on acquisition of software and technical training to scale construction and manufacturing businesses (improve office operations). Consulting services for succession planning. Provide consistent funding for staff.	OMEP, PDBG	SBDC, Oregon State (Austin Family BC)
Mobilize Construction Career Pathways on publicly funded construction projects across the region to create career pathways for women and people of color and advance unified procurement processes that support the growth and participation of women and minority owned firms.	Metro	Construction Career Pathways (C2P2)
Implement regional program to enforce jobsite culture training on publicly funded construction projects to address hostility and bullying so firms can retain and advance BIPOC employees.	CWWC	Oregon Tradeswomen

The noted Lead Organization is the recommended champion and key point of contact for implementation. However, the Lead Organization is not solely responsible for implementation; it will need other funding and partners to implement the work which Metro and GPEED staff will help secure.



## Getting to 2022 Short-Term Southeast Alaska Resilience Plan

Southeast Conference is working in various ways to support the regional economy. In addition to the development of a five-year economic plan for growth and resilience in the region, Southeast Conference is concurrently crafting a short-term resilience plan to immediately shore up the regional economy, protect it from additional decline, and provide a caretaking role for our institutions to ensure the fundamentals of our economy will be in place by 2022, once the COVID-19 healthcare crisis has passed.

## Top 10 Actions to Reinvigorate the Southeast Economy

1. Economic Disaster Declaration Request
2. Support Expedited Vaccine Distribution Planning
3. Work to Ensure Short-term Viability of the Seafood Sector
4. Plan for a post COVID-19 Southeast Alaska Economy and Health Care System
5. Plan to Regrow the Visitor Industry Post-Pandemic
6. Keep Southeast Alaskans in their Homes
7. Revitalization of Air, Ferry, Cruise, and Freight Transportation Services
8. Advocate for Childcare Prioritization in an Effort to Restart the Economy
9. Support Expedited Resolution to Solid Waste Shipping
10. Request Tariff Relief



# The Most Effective CEDS Are:

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**C**reative

**E**ngaging

**D**riven by data

**S**torytellers

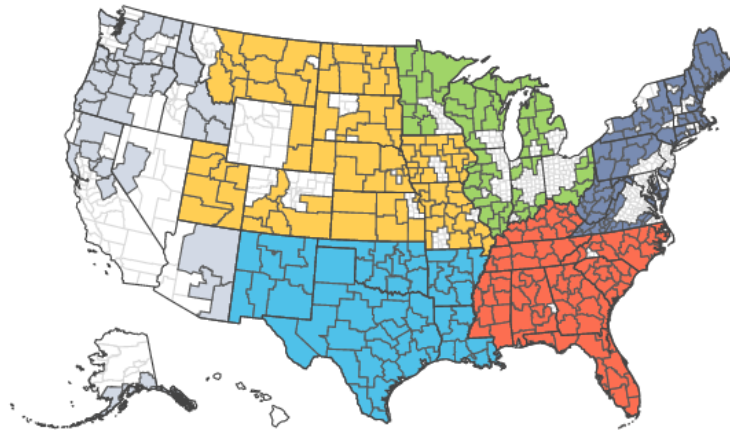


# CEDS Resource Library

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies (CEDS) contribute significantly to effective economic development across the United States. This great volume of information has previously been difficult to locate. It tended to be dispersed across countless websites, too often in formats that didn't let users search conveniently for the kinds of information they needed. Now, all CEDS are in a database with sufficient metadata to allow searching based on up to 50 different variables.

## Quick Search

Or click on an economic development district in the map:



<http://www.statsamerica.org/ceds/>

## Guided Approach to Examining CEDS



### Report analysis, content and design

We've created 7 key categories and have identified what we are calling "exemplars" of the CEDS within each EDA region. Explore each of the categories and the CEDS exemplars for each—then click on the CEDS to see for yourself!

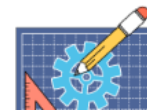
[Explore by category »](#)



### Strategy development

Look up analysis conducted by regions similar to your own based on PCPI, demographics or other key characteristics. Note their strategies since peer regions likely share similar challenges and opportunities.

[Find peers »](#)



### Strategic blueprint

What are the best practices to help turn the goals outlined in the CEDS into reality?



# Stronger CEDS, Stronger Regions

CEDS Resource & Training Archive

[www.CEDSCentral.com](http://www.CEDSCentral.com)

Celebrate your victories!







7 Tips

# For a Better (Easier) CEDS

CEDS and Southeast Alaska

A close-up photograph of a hand placing a dark puzzle piece into a larger puzzle. The puzzle pieces are illuminated with a warm, golden light, creating a glowing effect. The background is a soft, out-of-focus blue and white.

# What I think a CEDS is...

**Tip #1 - the CEDS is just a big jigsaw puzzle**

# Timeline: Where are we in process?

[www.seconference.org/strategy](http://www.seconference.org/strategy)

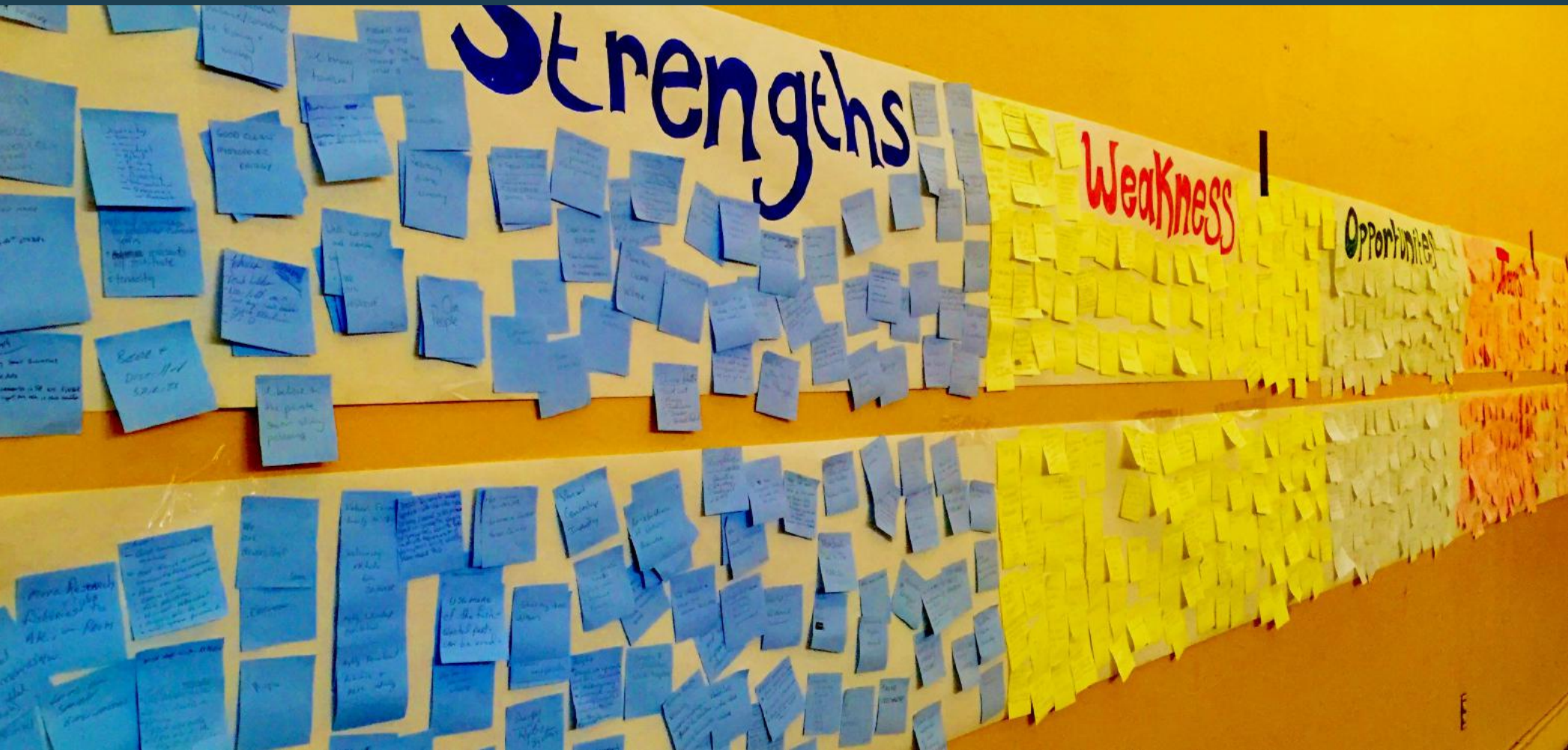


**Tip #2 - The longer the process, the better**





# CEDS SWOT Analyses



**Tip #4 - Sticky notes and survey tools**

# SWOT Survey

## Southeast Alaska Energy SWOT Analysis

### Southeast Alaska Energy Strengths

What does the energy sector in Southeast Alaska do well? What unique resources does it draw on? What are the benefits energy provides to the Southeast Alaska region? What is the Southeast Alaska energy sector "known for"? Brief responses are fine.

#### 2. Strengths

Strength 1

Strength 2

Strength 3

Prev

Next

Powered by



See how easy it is to [create a survey](#).

### Southeast Alaska Seafood SWOT Analysis April 27

#### Southeast Alaska Seafood Strengths

PICK 2 OR 3 TOP ANSWERS. What does the Seafood sector in Southeast Alaska do well? What unique resources does it draw on? What are the benefits seafood provides to the Southeast Alaska region? What is the Southeast Alaska seafood sector "known for"?

##### 1. Strengths

- Sustainable
- High quality product
- Infrastructure
- Economic driver for region
- Well-managed resource
- Hatcheries
- Mariculture
- Clean vast shoreline, SE ocean
- Growing global markets
- Resilient/adaptive
- Technical innovation
- Abundance of seafood
- Great reputation/Alaska brand/Origin story
- Sophisticated workforce
- Health and nutrition awareness growing
- Year round operations
- Diverse array of fisheries
- Seafood is important aspect of the cultural identity of SE Alaska

Device View [Icons]

Survey Format [Icons]

SURVEYMONKEY GENIUS

Perfect

ESTIMATED COMPLETION RATE	ESTIMATED TIME TO COMPLETE
82% Completed	1 Minute

Our work here is done! Now let's choose a way to send your survey.

**COLLECT RESPONSES**

or Continue editing



# Economic initiative prioritization

## Tourism Prioritization for 2025 Southeast Alaska Economic Plan

Greetings Southeast Conference Tourism Committee. In May and January you participated in strategic planning sessions to develop tourism initiatives for the region. Please use the tool below to prioritize this work effort.

### 1. Prioritize the Tourism Initiatives for the 2025 Southeast Alaska Economic Plan

-   Market Southeast Alaska to Attract More Visitor Spending and Opportunities
-   Grow Cultural and Arts Tourism Opportunities
-   Increase Yacht and Small Cruise Ship Visitation
-   Increase Access to Public Lands and Expand Southeast Alaska Trail Network

## SWOT



At Southeast Conference's February 2020 Mid Session Summit, nearly 300 people representing small businesses, tribes, native corporations, municipalities and community organizations participated in two types of SWOT analyses: one for the region overall, and sector specific SWOTs within the Southeast Conference committee areas. Follow up work occurred between March through October in Zoom meetings and through surveys to improve and prioritize the sector-specific SWOTs. **This document is a summary of each of these Southeast Alaska SWOT analyses.**

A SWOT analysis is an in-depth analysis of strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats. These regional SWOT analyses identify the region's competitive advantages along with internal or external factors that keep us from realizing our potential. It helps answer the question, "Where are we now?" by identifying critical internal and external factors that speak to the region's unique assets that we can leverage to maximize the economic potential of Southeast Alaska.

The sectors that received their own SWOTs include seafood, mining, energy, transportation, health care, tourism, and timber.

Conducting a SWOT analysis was the first step in a year long planning effort to develop the Southeast 2025

**Economic Plan:** A five-year economic development strategy that will act as a blueprint for regional collaboration and growth. In order to develop the elements of this plan—a clearly defined vision with prioritized goals & measurable objectives and a strategy-driven Southeast Alaska action plan—it was critical that an analysis of the region's competitive strengths and weaknesses were assessed so that the foundation of the plan could be built upon a common understanding and set of goals.

The first step for each SWOT was asking participants to write down their thoughts, and in doing so generated more than **2,500 individual written comments** that became part of this analysis. Once categories were solidified, Southeast Conference members participated in a series of prioritization exercises to determine the most significant components of the SWOT.

A full analysis of all 2,500 comments was conducted, and is presented on the following pages. A radical decline in ferry service drove three of the four top responses for each overall regional category:

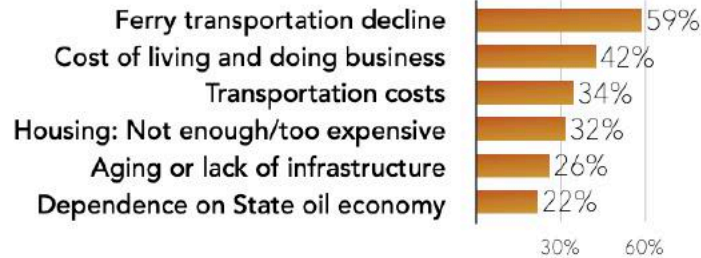
- Top Strength: **Beauty and Recreation Opportunities**
- Top Weakness: **Decline of the Ferry Transportation**
- Top Opportunity: **Strengthening Ferry Connectivity**
- Top Threat: **Loss of Ferry Service**



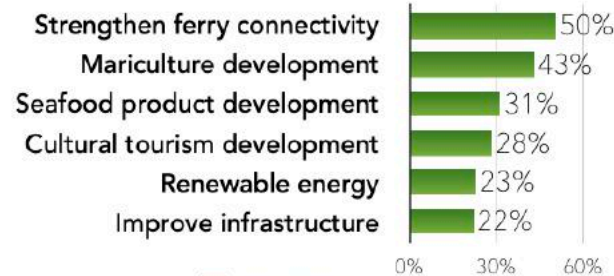
### STRENGTHS



### WEAKNESSES



### OPPORTUNITIES



### THREATS



### REGIONAL SWOT SUMMARY

This page provides a summary of the full SWOT process, both for the overall SWOT of the Southeast Alaska economy, as well as for the sector specific SWOTs for seven regional industries.

#### Seafood

- Top Strength: **High quality product**
- Top Weakness: **Changing ocean conditions**
- Top Opportunity: **Increase value added processing**
- Top Threat: **Ocean acidification & changing conditions**

#### Health Care

- Top Strength: **Personalized care delivery**
- Top Weakness: **State budget cuts reduce workforce development options**
- Top Opportunity: **Development of health care courses at the university**
- Top Threat: **Growing health care costs**

#### Visitor Industry

- Top Strength: **Natural beauty of region**
- Top Weakness: **Community communications**
- Top Opportunity: **Collaborate with Alaska Native entities on cultural tourism**
- Top Threat: **COVID 19**

#### Mining

- Top Strength: **Provides high paying jobs**
- Top Weakness: **Extreme opposition by environmental groups**
- Top Opportunity: **Explore and develop new mineral deposits and expand existing mines**
- Top Threat: **Environmental groups/lawsuits**

#### Timber

- Top Strength: **High quality wood**
- Top Weakness: **Frequency of litigation**
- Top Opportunity: **Increased state and private lands**
- Top Threat: **Environmental litigation**

#### Transportation

- Top Strength: **Strong reliable airline services**
- Top Weakness: **AMHS service reductions**
- Top Opportunity: **Improve ferry service**
- Top Threat: **The demise of ferries**

#### Energy

- Top Strength: **Abundant hydropower**
- Top Weakness: **High costs of infrastructure**
- Top Opportunity: **Expand regional intertie**
- Top Threat: **An economic downturn**

# Summary Background

Tip #5 - The summary background can be a really useful short annual economic publication.

**SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE**

## SOUTHEAST ALASKA By the Numbers 2020

**Tlingit & Haida**

VISITORS PAGE 6   SEAFOOD PAGE 7   TIMBER, MINING PAGE 8   CONSTRUCTION, HEALTH PAGE 9   GOVERNMENT PAGE 10   DEMOGRAPHICS PAGE 12   BUSINESS SURVEY PAGE 14   SWOT ANALYSIS PAGE 15

### CHANGES 2018 TO 2019   SOUTHEAST ALASKA'S ECONOMY

**REGIONAL POPULATION** DECREASED BY **284 PEOPLE** TO **72,373**

**LABOR FORCE** INCREASED BY **455 JOBS** TO **46,097 JOBS**.  
**TOTAL WAGES** GREW BY **\$63 MILLION** OR **3%**

**CRUISE PASSENGERS** INCREASED BY **14%** TO **1.33 MILLION**

**TOTAL GOVERNMENT PAYROLL** INCREASED BY **\$4 MILLION** OR **0.5%**

**K-12 ENROLLMENT** INCREASED FOR THE 3RD TIME IN 23 YEARS, BY 10 STUDENTS

**TIMBER JOBS** IN THE REGION INCREASED BY **10%**, A GAIN OF 35 JOBS

**2019** The Southeast Alaska summer of 2019 was filled with record-high temperatures and a historic number of visitors coming to Southeast Alaska. In many ways 2019 should have marked the region's return to a more prosperous and growing economy. Total jobs were up, along with overall wages. Tourism, seafood, mining, and health care jobs were all up, and timber jobs were up by 10%. Nearly every community in the region posted job gains. The number of school children in the region increased for just the 3rd time in 23 years. The number of cruise ship passengers that visited the region in 2019 increased by 14% over the year before as 1.33 million passengers sailed up the inside passage to spend their summer dollars across the region's larger port communities. State government continued to shed jobs in 2019, but the region had become more diversified. While the State remains the largest wage provider in the region, the continued loss of government jobs was being offset by increases in other sectors, allowing the overall regional economy to return to a positive trajectory. By March of 2020, the region was still on track to harness the gains of 2019 and continue to grow. The region had added 200 jobs in the first three months of the year and was gearing up for 1.5 million cruise visitors in 2021.

**2020** On March 13th, schools across Alaska were closed until further notice, a clear signal that the COVID-19 epidemic had arrived in Southeast. The virus would soon take the regional economy down with it. While many hoped that the tourism season could continue in a modified format, Canada's prohibition of cruise ships effectively ended the regional tourism season before it began. From April through July the region lost nearly 7,000 jobs across every sector, but tourism was particularly devastated. The region has lost 17% of its jobs due to the pandemic so far, and is the most economically impacted area in Alaska. Regional unemployment skyrocketed to 11.3% in July, and in tourism-dependent Skagway it was 19.1%. On top of COVID-19, Southeast Alaska is currently experiencing one of its worst fishing seasons on record. Dismal harvest levels are compounded by reduced prices, as the pandemic has limited global seafood demand. There is tremendous uncertainty moving forward. But there is an eventual light at the end of the tunnel. The resources of Southeast Alaska remain strong. It still has beautiful vistas and recreational opportunities, healthy timber stands, a productive ocean, valuable minerals, and its most important resource—the resiliency of Southeast Alaskans themselves.

SEPTEMBER 2020   A SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE PUBLICATION BY RAIN COAST DATA



**Tip #6 - Find a better name**

**Tip #7 - Keep the document short**

# **Southeast Alaska Economic Plan 2020**



## Strategic Direction/Action Plan 2020

### Transportation



Minimize Impacts of Budget Cuts to AMHS and Develop Sustainable Operational Model.  
Road Development.  
Move Freight to and from Markets More Efficiently.  
Ensure the Stability of Regional Transportation Services Outside of AMHS.

### Energy



Work with Federal and State Government to Promote Regional Energy Projects.  
Diesel Displacement.  
Support Community Efforts to Create Sustainable Power Systems That Provide Affordable/Renewable Energy.  
Complete Regional Hydrosite Evaluation for Southeast Alaska.

### Maritime Maritime Industrial Support



Maritime Industrial Support Sector Talent Pipeline: Maritime Workforce Development Plan.  
Increase Access to Capital for the Regional Maritime Industrial Support Sector.  
Harbor Improvements.  
Examine Arctic Exploration Opportunities That the Region as a Whole Can Provide.

### Seafood Industry



Mariculture Development.  
Full Utilization and Ocean Product Development.  
Increase Energy Efficiency and Reduce Energy Costs.  
Regional Seafood Processing.  
Seafood Markets.  
Sea Otter Utilization and Sustainable Shellfish.  
Maintain Stable Regulatory Regime.

### Visitor Industry




Market Southeast Alaska to Attract More Visitors.  
Improve Access to Public Lands.  
Increase Flexibility in Terms of Permit Use.  
Increase Yacht and Small Cruise Ship Visitations.  
Improve Communications Infrastructure.  
Advocate for Adequate Funding to Maintain Existing Recreational Infrastructure.

### Timber Industry

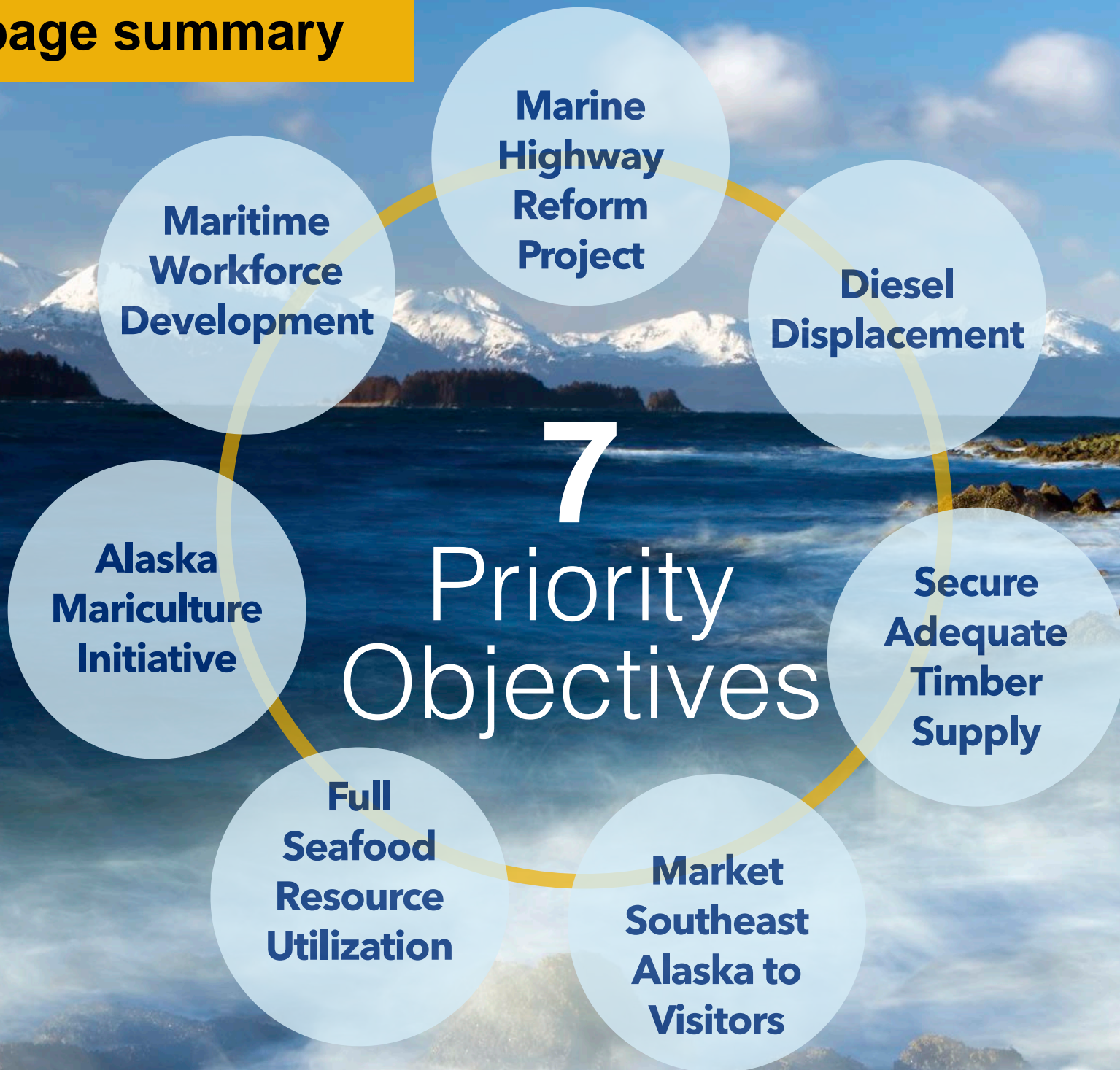


Provide an Adequate, Economic and Dependable Supply of Timber from the Tongass National Forest to Regional Timber Operators.  
Stabilize the Regional Timber Industry.  
Work With USFS to Direct Federal Contracts Toward Locally-Owned Businesses.  
Support Small Scale Manufacturing of Wood Products in Southeast Alaska.  
Continue Old Growth Harvests Until Young Growth Supply is Adequate.  
Community-Based Workforce Development.  
Update Young Growth Inventory.

### Other Objectives



**Housing:** Support Housing Development.  
**Food Security:** Increase Production, Accessibility, and Demand of Local Foods.  
**Communications:** Improved Access to Telemedicine in Southeast Alaska.  
**Marketing:** Market Southeast Alaska as a Region.  
**Solid Waste:** Regional Solid Waste Disposal.  
**Arts:** Increase Recognition of Southeast Alaska's Thriving Arts Economy.  
**Mining:** Minerals & Mining Workforce Development.  
Attract Research Jobs.  
**Research:** Attract Science and Research Jobs to Southeast Alaska.  
**Cultural Wellness:** Support Development of Activities and Infrastructure That Promote Cultural Wellness.





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