

Appendix E: FNSB’s Status as an Alaska Regional Development Organization (ARDOR)

The State of Alaska Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development, Division of Community and Regional Affairs (DCRA) has an Alaska Regional Development Organization (ARDOR) program that encourages the formation of regional development organizations to prepare and implement regional development strategies.¹ As stated on DCRA’s website, “Although ARDORs have much in common and implement similar scopes of work, the form and function of each ARDOR is customized to the region. Decisions are made by elected or appointed boards of directors that reflect the economic diversity and character of the region.” In many cases, an independent nonprofit serves as the regional ARDOR. The Fairbanks North Star Borough is the designated ARDOR for the Fairbanks North Star Borough (FNSB). FNSB’s Economic Development Commission serves as the CEDS Committee to develop, maintain, and implement the FNSB CEDS.

The following table summarizes the general structure of other Alaska ARDORS, most of which are nonprofit organizations or nonprofit corporations. The Northwest Arctic Borough region takes a similar approach to FNSB, with the Northwest Arctic Borough CEDS overseen by the Northwest Arctic Borough Community and Economic Development Department and the Economic Development Council playing an advisory role.

Table 7: Structure of Alaska Regional Development Organizations

Governance Structure	Alaska ARDORs
Nonprofit organization or nonprofit corporation	Anchorage Economic Development Corporation Copper Valley Development Association Kenai Peninsula Economic Development District Prince William Sound Economic Development District Southeast Conference Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference
Supported by regional non-profit corporation	Kawerak, Inc.
Facilitated by borough government	Fairbanks North Star Borough Northwest Arctic Borough

¹ In June 2021, the Alaska Legislature reauthorized the ARDOR statute through 2031.

The following map depicts designated ARDORs. Areas in grey do not currently have an ARDOR. Note, other portions of Interior Alaska surrounding FNSB are not currently part of a state-designated ARDOR; however, Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) maintains a CEDS for the TCC region, which includes communities surrounding the FNSB.

Map of Alaska Regional Development Organizations



- Anchorage Economic Development Corporation
- Bering Strait Development Council
- Copper Valley Development Association
- Fairbanks North Star Borough Economic Development Commission
- Kenai Peninsula Economic Development District
- Northwest Arctic Borough Economic Development Council
- Prince William Sound Economic Development District
- Southeast Conference
- Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference