



ALASKA BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER, INC

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VTLP *Proudly Serving Rural Taxpayers Since 1995*



November 20, 2020

Bryant Hammond, City Clerk
City of Nome
P.O. Box 281
Nome, Alaska 99762

Mr. Hammond:

The Alaska Business Development Center (ABDC), a 501(C)(3) nonprofit corporation, is planning the 2021 Volunteer Tax & Loan Program (VTLP). ABDC has been providing outreach services to rural Alaska for twenty-five years, and although assistance may look different this year, Team VTLP is committed to working with our partner communities to ensure residents receive services.

ABDC values the City of Nome as a program partner and would like to extend an invitation to once again collaborate efforts to provide assistance to local residents in 2021. In lieu of travel, alternative plans have been made to provide assistance remotely.

Staff and volunteers will work directly with taxpayers to complete intake forms, collect tax documents, prepare tax returns and provide educations on taxpayer rights and responsibilities to low-income taxpayers, individuals with limited English proficiency and senior residents. Services will be provided year-round from the Anchorage office.

These services have helped to boost the local economy through the refunds captured and monies saved, and have empowered taxpayers to manage their own finances through the educations provided.

2020 Bering Strait Results

- Assisted 362 taxpayers and spouse
- Prepared 306 tax returns
- Assisted 79 elders aged 60 years +
- Presented 320 tax educations
- Generated \$562,000 in tax refunds
- Captured \$206,000 in Earned Income Tax Credit
- Saved taxpayers an estimated \$104,000 in tax preparation fees

Please find attached the *VTLP Proposal* and *Program Support* form. Funding is essential to enable ABDC to implement a remote plan that allows services to be uninterrupted this upcoming tax season.

Please return the enclosed form indicating interest in supporting program services and commitment of funding by November 30, 2020. For questions or further information please contact me directly.

Sincerely,
Michelle Kern
President