

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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### **Business Impact NW Celebrates Opening of New Alaska Women's Business Center**

**Seattle, WA, October 13, 2022** – Business Impact NW held a ribbon-cutting ceremony Oct. 11 to celebrate the grand opening of its new Alaska Women's Business Center (AWBC), powered by the U.S. Small Business Administration.

Based in Anchorage, the center will help increase opportunities and recovery solutions for women entrepreneurs and include outreach efforts to diverse communities, such as rural-based and Native American and Indigenous-owned small businesses.

"We see the positive impact of supporting woman-owned small businesses in our communities, said Susan Perreault, Vice President of Programs for Business Impact NW. "Women own 43.2% of businesses in Alaska. The Alaska Women's Business Center seeks to level the playing field for women entrepreneurs. AWBC is looking forward to joining the strong Alaskan economic development ecosystem and resource partner network."

The AWBC will offer one-on-one counseling, training, networking, workshops, technical assistance, and mentoring to entrepreneurs on numerous business development topics, including business startup, financial management, marketing, and procurement.

"After living and working in Alaska for nearly 28 years, including owning and managing two businesses, I am thrilled about the services offered through the Alaska Women's Business Center, said Lisa Noland, Director of the Alaska Women's Business Center. "It is an honor to be the director for this project and to work for a host organization like Business Impact Northwest."

The Anchorage location is the SBA's 145th Women's Business Center and marks the expansion of the Women's Business Center network to every state in the nation. The SBA established the Women's Business Center Program in 1988 to better help women overcome continuing barriers to success. Each Women's Business Center tailors its services to the needs of its individual community.

"SBA is committed to ensuring that women in every state, including the beautiful State of Alaska, are able to access the resources needed to start, grow, and sustain their businesses," said Donald Smith, SBA Acting Assistant Administrator, Office of Women's Business Ownership." The Alaska Women's Business Center will provide critical assistance to women entrepreneurs across Alaska. SBA couldn't have asked for a better partner to implement the Alaska Women's Business Center than Business Impact Northwest. We look forward to supporting their work to help strengthen the small business ecosystem, creating opportunities for women in business."

"Thank you for the SBA and Business Impact NW for their partnership to help create this center," said U.S. Senator Lisa Murkowski (Alaska). "The Women's Business Center really could not come at a better

time. After a tough couple of years with the pandemic, I firmly believe that Alaska is poised for growth and economic opportunity.

“We can all understand and appreciate how important it is to help nurture and grow our small business sector in Alaska... I look forward to being a partner in the success of the Alaska Women’s Business Center,” Murkowski added.

Learn more about the Alaska Women’s Business Center [here](#).

*High-resolution photos of ribbon cutting are available on request.*

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**[Business Impact NW](#)** is a Nonprofit Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) dedicated to serving BIPOC, women, Veteran, immigrant, refugee, LGBTQ+, and low-income entrepreneurs in the Pacific Northwest through financial services, free business coaching, and trainings. To learn more about our services, visit [www.businessimpactnw.org](http://www.businessimpactnw.org) or follow us @businessimpactnw on Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn.