

# Building Trust Through Transparency and Good Governance



## What We Built in 2025 & What Comes Next

Alaskans are living during a time of both promise and uncertainty.

Over the last few years, significant public investments have been made in Alaska and they are delivering benefits like expanded broadband and safer public facilities. They created new jobs and new opportunities in communities across the state. But 2025 also made clear that progress is not guaranteed. Shifting federal priorities, funding delays, tariffs, and ongoing state budget pressures have made it harder for communities to plan with confidence.

Build Alaska's Future Education Fund is a charitable, nonprofit organization focused on strengthening public trust through transparency and good governance. Through BuildAlaska.org, we provide clear, reliable information to citizens and communities about public funding: what is the source, where it is going, and how does it benefit Alaska's economy and communities.

Because of the essential role federal receipts continue to play in Alaska, it is important to provide this information to the public. This work is powered by public-minded support: countless volunteer hours; funding and gifts from hundreds of individual Alaskans; grants from Alaska institutions including The Rasmuson Foundation and RurAL CAP; and strong collaboration with the Alaska Municipal League and the Alaska Association of Municipal Clerks. And to the Alaskans who chose to support this work through your Permanent Fund Dividend...thank you. Your confidence in us, expressed through Pick.Click.Give., helps provide valuable, trusted information to Alaskans statewide.

This annual report is a snapshot of what we accomplished in 2025 and describes the 2026 initiatives now underway that are already making a difference.

Thank you for supporting this important work and for helping build a more informed and better-prepared Alaska.

Sincerely,  
Fran Ulmer  
Founding Member of the Build Alaska's Future Education Fund Team



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## Build Alaska's Future Education Fund: Empowering Communities Through Transparency, Trust, and Accountability

Build Alaska's Future Education Fund (BuildAlaska.org) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to strengthening public trust, fostering civic engagement, activating a thriving workforce, and equipping communities for good governance through transparent, accessible, and credible information.

We believe informed communities are empowered communities. When people understand how decisions are made and how public dollars are spent, they are better equipped to participate, plan, and lead.

### What Made 2025 Possible

The initiatives described in this report were accomplished through disciplined volunteer leadership, professional expertise, strong partner collaboration, targeted philanthropic support from the Rasmuson Foundation and RurAL CAP, and less than \$50,000 in individual donations.

This work reflects careful stewardship, a track record of trust, neutrality, and credibility earned through results, and a shared belief that the mission matters.

### Advance Our Mission

Build Alaska's Future is powered by the generosity of private donors across the state. Your contribution helps ensure Alaskans have access to the data and resources they need to build stronger communities. Consider donating a portion of your PFD this year through Pick.Click.Give.



## 2025 Highlights: Transforming Opportunities into Action



### ClerkStart: Strengthening Alaska's Civic Workforce

Across Alaska's 230+ municipal and tribal communities, clerks are the trusted guardians of local government. They safeguard public records, keep meetings and decisions transparent, and run elections with integrity. Their work is often invisible, but it is essential to public trust.

In 2025, Build Alaska's Future Education Fund launched ClerkStart to elevate these unsung heroes and show that this isn't just a job—it's a profession and a calling. During the 60th Annual Alaska Association of Municipal Clerks Conference and the Alaska Municipal League's 75th Anniversary Conference, we filmed interviews with 18 municipal clerks from across the state, from Hydaburg to Cold Bay. A video series is now in post-production for release in early 2026, highlighting the skill, ethics, and steady leadership clerks bring to their communities, and inspiring the next generation to consider this vital public service path.

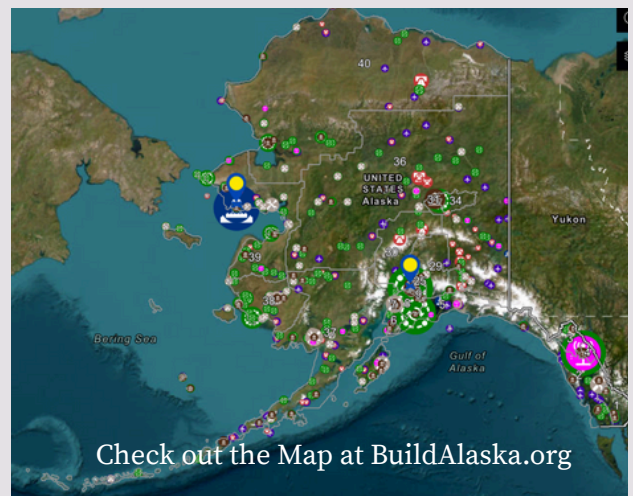
ClerkStart was launched with support from the Rasmuson Foundation and RurAL CAP, in partnership with the Alaska Association of Municipal Clerks and the Alaska Municipal League.

### Transparency That Communities Can Use

The [BuildAlaska.org](https://BuildAlaska.org) interactive GIS map remains a cornerstone of our work. The map provides **objective, fact-based information** on federal and state investments across Alaska and tracks nearly **\$10 billion in infrastructure funding across more than 3,000 projects**.

The platform is designed to help communities better understand funding allocations, identify local hiring and workforce opportunities, and track delays or interruptions that may affect project delivery. At a time when federal tracking tools became harder to access nationally, this platform helped fill critical information gaps.

By increasing transparency and access to reliable information, the map supports informed workforce planning and strengthens public understanding of how infrastructure investments translate into jobs and community benefits.



## Turning Data Into Stories



In 2025, we expanded the ‘Know Your Investment, Voice Your Future’ StoryMap series, which pairs mapping data with narrative context, photos, and community perspectives.

StoryMaps highlighted broadband expansion in Western Alaska, school facility and safety improvements, pedestrian and transportation projects, and community-scale public spaces. These tools help people understand not just what is being funded, but why it matters, for safety, access, education, and long-term resilience.

## Informed Economic Dialogue

In May 2025, Build Alaska’s Future Education Fund co-hosted the **Alaska Economic Forum with Commonwealth North and the University of Alaska Anchorage Institute of Social and Economic Research (ISER)**.

The forum brought together economists, workforce leaders, policymakers, and the public to examine how federal investments and employment affect Alaska’s economy, workforce demand in energy, mining, and infrastructure, and the risks posed by funding volatility and delays. By grounding the conversation in data and expert analysis, the forum supported informed, constructive discussion at a critical moment for the state.

## Alaska Fiscal Visioning: Learning From the Past to Plan for the Future

Recognizing that today’s challenges are not new, Build Alaska’s Future also compiled **Alaska Fiscal Visioning – Planning Efforts, Convenings, and Resources** in 2025.

This living record brings together more than **50 years of Alaska’s fiscal planning efforts**, including commissions, task forces, legislative work, and civic forums. It preserves institutional memory and shared lessons to help future economic planning build on what has already been tried, debated, and learned.

Consistent with our mission, this resource is educational and nonpartisan and does not promote specific policy solutions.

**HOW SHIFTING FEDERAL DOLLARS IMPACT ALASKA'S ECONOMY**  
A Virtual Economic Forum

Moderated By Former LT Gov.  
**MEAD TREADWELL**

Join us for a fast-paced and fascinating Economic Forum that dives into the outsized impact of shifting federal dollars on Alaska's economy.

Registration is now open at [commonwealthnorth.org](https://commonwealthnorth.org)

📅 May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025  
🕒 12 PM AKST  
📍 Virtual (Zoom)  
💰 Free

**SCOTT GOLDSMITH**  
Opening Remarks

**BROCK WILSON**  
ISER, Labor Markets

**MIKE JONES**  
ISER, Infrastructure

**BRETT WATSON**  
ISER, Resource Development



Lina Cruz, Deputy Clerk, Kodiak Island Borough

## Rural and Alaska Native Workforce Development

Throughout 2025, Build Alaska's Future Education Fund laid the groundwork for expanded rural and Alaska Native workforce development efforts that will launch in 2026.

Working with labor organizations, tribal governments, and training institutions, including the **Fairbanks Pipeline Training Center** and the **Alaska Laborers Training School**, we aligned workforce education with real job demand in construction, energy, mining, and resource development. This work helps ensure that rural residents are better positioned to access training pathways tied directly to infrastructure investment and local employment opportunities.

## Looking Ahead to 2026

As Alaska enters 2026, communities continue to navigate significant public investment alongside growing uncertainty about the timing, continuity, and local impacts of that funding. In this environment, clear, credible information and strong local capacity matter more than ever.

Build Alaska's Future Education Fund will focus on the following priorities:

- We will continue to strengthen our transparency tools by updating and expanding our interactive maps and StoryMaps to reflect funding changes, project delays, and emerging needs. These tools help communities, workforce partners, and the public understand where investments are occurring and how they affect local planning and opportunity.
- We will launch rural and Alaska Native workforce workshops and training pathways aligned with real job demand in construction, energy, mining, and infrastructure. Working with labor organizations, tribal governments, and training institutions, this work will help connect public investment to local employment and skills development.
- We will invest in local governance capacity by releasing the ClerkStart video statewide and advancing conversations about civic careers, mentorship, and succession in municipal and tribal government.

As ever, our role remains nonpartisan and educational. We translate complex public investment information into accessible tools and shared understanding, helping communities plan with confidence and participate more fully in shaping Alaska's future.



## Thank you

Build Alaska's Future Education Fund is powered by volunteers, partners, and donors who believe in transparency, accountability, and community-centered progress. The work reflected in this report represents the effective use of shared effort and careful stewardship in service of Alaska's future.

We are especially grateful to our Steering Committee, a dedicated group of Alaskans from across the state—including Carla Beam, C.B. Bettisworth, Jasmine Boyle, Debra Call, Art Clark, Gabe Farnsworth, Walter Featherly, Jack Ferguson, Brit Galanin, Art Hackney, Doris Hugo-Shavings, Sylvia Lange, Blythe Marston, Lesil McGuire, Mike Navarre, Dave Reaves, Marty Rutherford, Veronica Slajer, Natalie Treadwell, Michael Tubman, Fran Ulmer, and Greg Wakefield—whose time, insight, and steady leadership help guide this work and ensure it remains grounded, nonpartisan, and focused on the public good.

We also thank our partners, funders, and individual supporters—including the Rasmuson Foundation, RurAL CAP, Alaska Association of Municipal Clerks, and Alaska Municipal League—for their trust and collaboration.

Together, we are helping ensure that Alaskans have access to clear, credible information and the tools they need to plan, participate, and lead, today and into the future.

As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, all donations to Build Alaska's Future Education Fund are tax-deductible. If you share our commitment to fostering civic engagement and highlighting the workforce impacts of federal funding, we encourage you to consider donating directly at [BuildAlaska.org/donate](https://BuildAlaska.org/donate) or choosing us via Pick.Click.Give.

To become involved, visit [BuildAlaska.org](https://BuildAlaska.org) or contact us directly at [info@buildalaska.org](mailto:info@buildalaska.org). Together, we can close the trust gap, create opportunities, and build a stronger, more connected Alaska for generations to come.