

Alaska State Chamber of Commerce 2008 Position

Support for SBA 8(a) Business Development Program

The Small Business Administration (SBA) 8(a) program is an extremely successful program that has helped many tribally owned and Alaska Native Corporations (ANC) in the State of Alaska develop robust and competitive businesses. The Alaska State Chamber of Commerce supports the following recommendations to SBA:

1. Allow protégé companies to have more than one mentor in the SBA Mentor-Protégé program to allow 8(a) companies to gain additional experience and build greater capability working with multiple mentors;
2. Allow Protégé companies to change Mentors during the transitional years in the 8(a) program if the SBA concurs that the mentor is not fulfilling their obligations under the Mentor-Protégé program.
3. Refrain from proposing any new rules regarding impact statements on ANC 8(a) contract awards; and
4. Establish a funding level for SBA field offices based upon a ratio of small businesses to SBA business opportunity specialists (BOS) that allows for greater contact time between the BOS and the 8(a) companies.