



PRESS RELEASE

Office of Communications and External Affairs

Josie Wilson
communications@aidea.org
(907) 771-3024
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AIDEA Adopts Resolution to Support Fairbanks Service Members For an Increased Basic Housing Allowance

ANCHORAGE, AK — The Board of Directors for the Alaska Industrial Development Export Authority (AIDEA) has adopted Resolution NO. G22-11 that declares support for an immediate increase in the basic allowance for housing provided by the Department of Defense for all enlisted service members stationed in Fairbanks in the Alaska Military Housing Area. The purpose of the Department of Defense Basic Allowance for Housing Program is to offset private sector housing cost for service members living off-base, as part of the local community, within a Military Housing Area.

AIDEA compiled and published a report entitled, *“Rental and Basic Allowance for Housing Data for Military Housing Area’s within Alaska”* in May 2022, which identified Fairbanks as having one of the highest median adjusted housing rental rates, while conversely, the lowest basic allowance for housing among all Alaska.

“The disparity between the Fairbanks basic housing allowance and other Alaskan communities is as high as 26%. That puts a strain on the military’s expanding mission throughout Alaska and restricts housing development in the Fairbanks community available to military personnel,” says AIDEA Chief Executive Officer, Alan Weitzner. “At AIDEA, we look at all possible options for jobs and economic growth. Here is an opportunity to welcome over 2,000 military personnel into our communities, which supports our local governments and jobs through increased sales taxes and expanded good and services. When we identify a disparity that impacts the potential for a growing economy, we want to be part of the solution,” says Weitzner.

AIDEA examined the relationship between the current market price for rental housing and the 2022 published housing rates for each Military Housing Area within Alaska and observed a material and unsubstantiated anomaly in the Fairbanks data.

“We strongly support enhancing Alaska’s contribution to the National Defense as the state now represents the highest concentration of fifth-generation fighters in the world,” said Julie Sande, Commissioner for the Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development and AIDEA Board Member. “The growth of the United States Military personnel and resource mobilization to Eielson Air Force Base has created off-base housing

needs. Supporting an increase in the allowance to address the off-base housing challenges in Fairbanks advances the general prosperity and economic welfare of the people of Alaska, relieves problems of unemployment, and creates additional employment opportunities,” says Sande.

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About the Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority

The Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority is a public corporation of the state. AIDEA's purpose is to promote, develop and advance the general prosperity and economic welfare of the people of Alaska. Since 1967, AIDEA has been responsible for directing more than \$3.5 billion in economic development in Alaska and has declared \$446 million in dividends to Alaska since 1997.