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# Valdez Economic Development Department 2026 Work Plan

To strengthen Valdez's economy by advancing outdoor recreation, tourism, maritime industries, and licensed childcare. We foster innovation, support local businesses, and develop infrastructure that enhances the well-being of the community, aligns with City Council's priorities, and ensures a vibrant, resilient future for residents and visitors.

City Manager  
Nathan Duval



## **2026 City Council Priorities**

### Housing

- Increase housing stock by Fall 2027, utilizing the Housing Needs Assessment (2025)

### Childcare

- Complete an operating, active, licensed childcare facility by 2026

### Maintenance

- Annually appropriate funds toward deferred maintenance and critical infrastructure

### Modernize & Expand

- Annually modernize aging infrastructure, while leveraging natural and transportation assets, to expand: Outdoor recreation, Tourism, Maritime and Community

## **2026 City Council Priorities Supported**

- Help create and find operator of a childcare facility by Fall 2026
- Expand Wayfinding and tourism infrastructure
- Expand tourism & cruise ship industry engagement
- Support the local economy through small business growth
- Support VFDA, VCVB, ABEC contract & CSO events
- Research & expand transportation options
- Foster community partnerships and workforce development



# **Economic Development Priorities for Local Businesses**

- Support existing local businesses and industries
- Promote and assist new local businesses
- Find and support outside businesses looking to establish a presence in Valdez

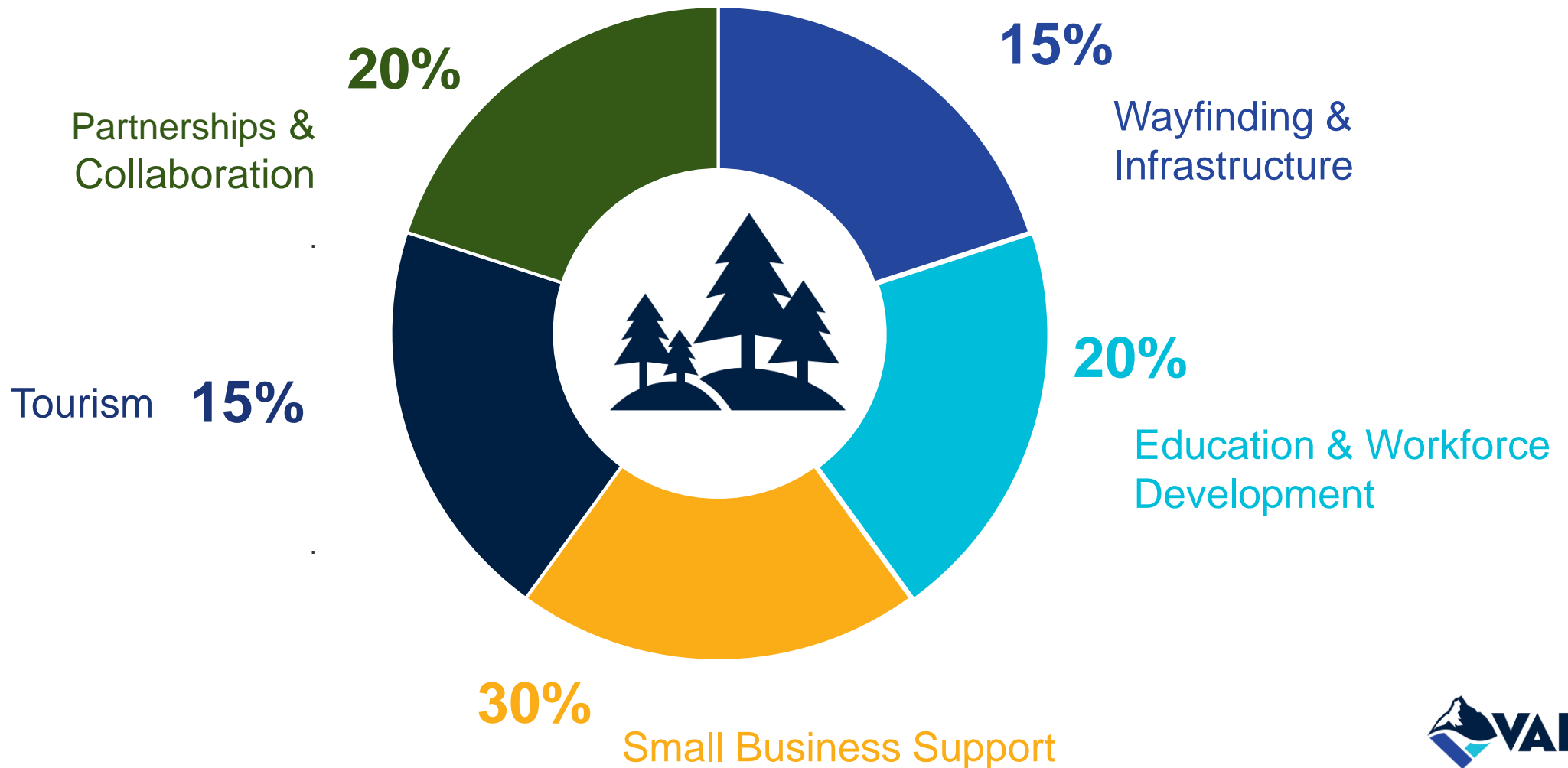
# Small Business Support & Incentives

- Assist small businesses with tailored incentives to meet industry-specific needs and offset startup costs
- Spring Small Business Week with planning and networking opportunities
- Fall Business Builder Workshops targeting specific business needs
- Exploring economic incentive districts and site selection assistance
- Partnerships with PWSEDD, ASBWC, and others for training, mentorship, and guidance

# Tourism, Marketing & Events

- **Tourism:**
  - Continue to collaborate with VCVB on tourism issues
  - Keep working towards a completion of the Tourism Best Management Practices
  - Carry on with existing cruise ship marketing efforts
- **Wayfinding:**
  - Install new signage and visitor navigation enhancements
- **Industry Support:**
  - Work with Civic Center on package creation for events
  - Work with Ports & Harbors on marketing a world class waterfront experience
  - Maintain engagement with VFDA, VCVB, and ABEC to strengthen local economy
- **Create improved processes for CSO events after meeting with CSO committee**

# Economic Development 2026 Work Plan Focus





# Workforce Development & Education

- T3 Alliance educational programs
- AWBC coaching and education
- Marine centered programming including mariculture/aquaculture
- Healthcare training programs
- CDL licensing and reimbursement programs
- Partnerships to bring training, programs, and mentorship to Valdez