



PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:

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DESCRIPTION: The ViBES project is a study to find out what types of businesses might be successful in rural Alaskan communities. This study will describe business activities in rural Alaska and identify community characteristics for successful businesses. The results will help people in rural Alaska start successful new businesses.

You are being asked to participate in an interview where you will be asked questions about your business. The interview will take approximately 35 minutes. During the interview, you will be asked questions about your business and what advice you have for others. The interview will be conducted by a student from the University of Alaska, who is a trained interviewer and has signed a pledge of confidentiality.

CONFIDENTIALITY: Your completed interview will be returned to the Institute of Social & Economic Research (ISER) at the University of Alaska Anchorage. Your business name, phone number, and any personal information will be separated from the questionnaire and kept in a locked file cabinet until the study is done. Then the personal information will be destroyed. The data from the questionnaire will be entered into the computer for analysis, and only researchers at ISER will have access to it. The final report will not identify anyone or the communities that participated.

BENEFITS: There is no direct benefit to you for participating in this study. However, your participation will help state and federal agencies understand the needs and hardships of rural businesses.

RISKS: There are no known risks to you from participating in this study.

VOLUNTARY NATURE OF PARTICIPATION: Your participation in this study is voluntary. You may stop at any time and are not required to answer any questions. You are free to make your own choice about being in this study or not and you may quit at any time without penalty.

CONTACT PEOPLE: If you have any questions about this research, please contact the principal investigator at the phone number above. If you have any questions or concerns about your rights as a research subject, please contact Doug Causey, Vice Provost for Research and Graduate Studies at the University of Alaska Anchorage, 907-786-1099.

In signing this form I acknowledge that I have read and understand the study and I voluntarily agree to participate in this study.

Signature of Participant

Date

A copy of this consent form is attached for you to keep.