



airmail



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2021 AACOA Convention

Save The Date!

February 15-17 BP Energy
Center
Anchorage, Alaska

We're so excited to announce the dates for the 2021 Alaska Air Carriers Association Convention. Due to the uncertainty surrounding COVID-19, we will be making the convention available online. Our in-person convention will take place at the BP Energy Center in Anchorage February 15-17. This year we will have traditional and new sponsorship opportunities to fit both online and in-person attendance. AACOA will host initial and recurrent Haz-Mat, drug and alcohol, and an IA Renewal along with other informative safety and management related sessions. We're looking forward to elevating the convention this year to meet the new "normal". Watch this space for more details on the 2021 Alaska Air Carriers Association Convention!

News Regarding Bypass Mail

Postmaster General Louis DeJoy spoke with members of Alaska's congressional delegation in an hour long phone call and stated that he will not cut the federal program that reduces costs for cargo shipments in rural Alaska. Last week, DeJoy told the U.S. Senate's Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, "Take the Alaska bypass plan that's under discussion. That's an item that's on the table. That's an unfunded mandate." On Wednesday, DeJoy said in a written statement that "it was not my intention to single out Bypass Mail while testifying at the August 21st Senate hearing, or to suggest that we were eliminating the program. Rather, I was referring to a much broader effort to inventory all postal programs, as a part of our larger work to understand the Postal Service's finances given the legal requirement that the Postal Service be financially self-sufficient."

Sullivan said his impression is that DeJoy is new to his role and didn't understand the importance of

the program to Alaska. He said the delegation is also speaking to the Postal Service's board of governors, who have the power to appoint and fire the postmaster general.

Al Gross, the independent challenging Sullivan in this fall's election, said by text message "Any cut to USPS hurts Alaska substantially more than any other state. I'll believe DeJoy when I see it. Mail is mail, bypass or not, and we depend on it."

Alyse Galvin, the independent facing Rep. Don Young, R-Alaska, said by text message, "The U.S. Postal Service, and especially Alaska's bypass mail, should never have been made into a political football. Politicians need to stop playing games with our basic services!"

[Click here to see the official statement from the Postmaster General](#)

Update on CARES Act Funding

Yesterday, Governor Mike Dunleavy notified the Legislative Budget & Audit Committee that he is submitting modifications to the AK CARES Grant Program to expand the eligibility for applicants. The expanded program details, delivered by the established Revised Programs Legislative (RPL) Review Process, was sent alongside other routine business for the committees consideration in response to mitigating the effects of the COVID-19 public health crisis. Currently, applicants for AK CARES Grant funding are restricted from applying if they received more than \$5,000 in other federal assistance or if the business is a source of secondary income. Based on the total of applications received to date, the State has determined that there will be capacity remaining in the grant program after the original pool of applicants have been funded.

NOW OPEN: Under the newly expanded eligibility guidelines, the State's AK CARES grant program is accepting applications!

You are now eligible to apply regardless of the amount of federal relief funding that you may have received, or if your business is considered your secondary income. If you were formerly ineligible, we encourage you to apply again.

Link related to State Cares Act Funding:

<https://www.akbizmag.com/covid-19/dunleavy-expands-ak-cares-eligibility-for-small-businesses/>

<https://aksbdc.org/2020/08/ak-cares-open-with-new-eligibility-guidelines/>

Visit <https://aksbdc.org/covid19/> and <https://aksbdc.org/business-counseling/>

Apply for AK CARES: <https://bit.ly/3gGMKMD>

FAQs & Information: <https://bit.ly/2YMcNva>

Health Plan Benefits Renewal

A message from Shar at Craford Benefit Consultants:

We have gone to a virtual open enrollment for your employees. We are very excited, as this means, no more paper and it relieves the burden from you all in communicating the information to your employees and allows them to manage this process on their own. Even more exciting is that it will not cost you, the employer anything for this service to be provided.

I have included a short video for you to watch to see what the process will look like. Please contact me with any questions you have that did not get answered in the video.

<https://airbo.wistia.com/medias/h2vm3ad0v0>

We will be holding open enrollment from 9/17 to 9/24 this year.

Please contact me with questions, if you have them.

Shar Banerjee | Senior Account Manager

Benefits

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USDOT Meeting on ByPass Mail Rates will take place on Sept. 2, 2020

Kevin Schlemmer from the US Department of Transportation will be discussing bypass mail rates and how they're calculated. If you would like to attend the meeting and have not received the link, please contact AACA.

Alaska Air Carriers Association
907-277-0071