

NORTON SOUND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

NORTON SOUND RESIDENCY POLICY

I. Purpose

This Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation (NSEDC) Residency Policy describes the requirement that a participant in NSEDC programs and activities be a resident of the Norton Sound region. The Norton Sound region is comprised of the area in which NSEDC's fifteen member communities are located. NSEDC may also adopt exceptions or more stringent requirements for each of its programs.

II. Norton Sound Residency Requirements

A. Residency Statements

To qualify as a Norton Sound resident, an individual must be able to answer yes to **all** of the following "Residency Statements":

1. I have established residency by being physically present in the Norton Sound region for a one-year period, with an allowance of up to 60 cumulative days' absence during that year. I was physically present in the region at the start of this period.
2. I consider the Norton Sound region my home and intend to remain here indefinitely.
3. I have not claimed residency outside of the Norton Sound region, or obtained a benefit as a result of a claim of residency in a community outside of the Norton Sound region, at any time in the previous year.
4. After satisfying Residency Statement 1, if I was physically absent from the Norton Sound region in subsequent years for more than 60 days, I was absent for an Allowable Absence (see Section III. Allowable Absences).

B. Board Meeting Attendance

The residency requirements for attending NSEDC board meetings are more relaxed than those for participation in a program. Individuals, who satisfy Residency Statement 2 and have physically moved to the Norton Sound region, shall be considered to be Norton Sound residents for purposes of the NSEDC Board of Directors/Officers Rules, regulations and Policies Manual's meeting access policy. Government issued identification or voter registration card showing place of residence as being in-region may be requested to verify that this standard is met.

C. Member Representative Election Participation

Eligibility requirements to participate in activities related to NSEDC member representative elections are governed by the NSEDC corporate bylaws.

D. Norton Sound Seafood Product Deliveries

NSEDC requires that fishermen delivering crab, cod, halibut, herring or miscellaneous finfish to Norton Sound Seafood Products (NSSP) be Norton Sound residents.

Fishermen delivering salmon to NSSP must be a Norton Sound resident, or have previously qualified as a resident under NSEDC's policy and be able to demonstrate documented commercial salmon fishing history in the Norton Sound District. Documentation may include:

1. Copies of Norton Sound fish tickets reflecting the permit holder's name, or
2. Written affidavit from a person that previously employed the permit holder as a crewmember in a Norton Sound salmon fishery and State of Alaska documentation proving the fisherman held a crewmember's license at that time
3. Documented salmon fishing history is not required if the permit holder obtains the permit through a non-compensated transfer from a family member wishing to keep the permit "in the family." (Family is defined as current spouse, child, stepchild, parent, grandparent, grandchild, aunt, uncle or sibling of the permit holder).

III. Allowable Absences

Allowable absences may not be claimed until Residency Statement 1 is satisfied, whether it is for the initial establishment or re-establishment of residency. Under Residency Statement 4, NSEDC realizes that individuals must sometimes leave home for longer than the annual 60-day limit on absences. Thus, NSEDC recognizes absences from the region for following activities as "Allowable Absences":

1. Receiving postsecondary education on a full-time basis on campus at an accredited institution, or accompanying a Norton Sound resident absent for this reason, as the spouse, minor dependent, or disabled dependent of the eligible resident. Residents receiving secondary education at a residential boarding school may also qualify, provided their primary residence remains in the Norton Sound region.
2. Receiving vocational, professional, or other specific education on a full-time basis on campus at an accredited institution, or accompanying a Norton Sound resident absent for this reason, as the spouse, minor dependent, or disabled dependent of the eligible resident.
3. Receiving continuous medical treatment for a critical, life-threatening, or terminal illness recommended by a licensed physician, which is not available within the region, or accompanying a parent, spouse, or child who is receiving such treatment.
4. Serving on active duty as a member of the armed forces of the United States or as a merchant marine.
5. Serving as a member of the US Congress, US Representatives, Alaska Senate, or Alaska House of Representatives or as a member of the staff of such an official.

6. Serving as a volunteer in the federal peace corps program.
7. Employment by NSEDC which requires temporary relocation or service in a location outside of the region.
8. Employment in a position that requires the individual to spend a portion of each month working at remote jobsite outside the region (e.g. two weeks on, two weeks off).
9. Participating in a seasonal commercial fishery outside the region, including participation with an NSEDC fishing partner.

If an Allowable Absence is claimed, then that individual may not have been gone from the region for any other purpose for more than 45 days. Further, for all Allowable Absences, an individual must return to the Norton Sound region following each period of allowable absence and otherwise acted consistently with an intention to remain a resident of the region.

IV. Documentation

NSEDC may request documentation to verify an individual's responses to the Residency Statements and to verify that an absence qualifies as an Allowable Absence. NSEDC staff shall have discretion to determine whether the documentation is adequate. For purposes of verifying Residency Statements 1 – 3, the following types of documentation may be used:

1. Home ownership, rent receipts, or other proof that the individual maintains a principal home in a NSEDC member community
2. Employment and unemployment records
3. Voter registration and voting records
4. Court or other government agency records
5. School records
6. Alaska Permanent Fund Dividend (PFD) records

V. Appeals Process

It is understood that this policy may not consider every scenario in which a resident may be absent from the region yet still qualify under Residency Statements 1-3. If an application to participate is denied for lack of Norton Sound residency, the applicant may appeal the decision to the Appeals Committee of the NSEDC Board of Directors, by submitting a letter describing the basis of the appeal along with any supporting documentation. An appeal should not be made on the basis of a fundamental departure from the policy, as substantive exceptions may only be allowed through a change to the policy by the NSEDC Board of Directors. However, the Appeals Committee may consider special circumstances that are not otherwise addressed in this policy. The Appeals Committee shall meet in executive session to discuss the appeal's merits and shall make a final determination as to whether the applicant qualifies as a Norton Sound resident under this policy's requirements. The applicant shall be informed in writing of the Appeals Committee's final determination.