Alpine Air Express

Billings MT

In 2019, when Alpine Air planned to grow its fleet of cargo aircraft, owner Chuck Dubell anticipated increasing staff too. The newly acquired aircraft would require improvements before joining the active fleet. In addition to mechanics, Alpine Air needed more pilots and flight followers to support the growing fleet.

Chuck contacted the SBDC and Big Sky Economic Development Authority to learn more about the Big Sky Trust Fund Job Creation Grant. When COVID 19 posed challenges to the process, Regional Director Lorene Hintz and other BSEDA staff helped by requesting extensions. Alpine Air received $125,000 in grant funding and matched it with $125,000. This $250,000 impact created 25 high paying jobs in Montana. Over the past three years, Chuck has continued expanding recruiting efforts and hiring staff at all Alpine Air locations.

"Working with Alpine Air was a great experience. They were very responsive to every request to complete the Big Sky Trust Fund application and fill out the quarterly reports," stated Lorene Hintz.

Alpine Air is a vital part of our region's economy. The services they provide support small businesses, offer good paying jobs, and add vital components to economic growth in Montana. They have chosen to invest in Montana and with our support they can grow and impact our economy.



"From the first phone call to Big Sky Economic Development Authority, Lorene was quick to explain the grant process, answer questions and make recommendations specific to our business."

Chuck Dubell, Owner

Lorene Hintz Regional Director