
FAQ'S



What is a remote worker?

A remote worker is someone who can perform their job outside of a traditional office. Remote workers may use home offices, high-speed internet connections, video conferencing, teleconferencing, and other technology to collaborate with others and work on projects around the world, from any location. An amazing number of jobs can be performed remotely, especially in high-paying tech sectors. There are many people in Ketchikan who already work remotely, or incorporate remote working technology and long-distance collaboration into their daily routines and workflow.

Isn't Ketchikan Expensive?

It depends what your point of comparison is. Living in Ketchikan is not nearly as expensive as many cities on the west coast. For instance, housing costs in Ketchikan are approximately half or a third of the cost of housing in Seattle and other west coast cities. Housing is the biggest cost-differentiator. The BLS reported that Seattle area households paid an average of 11.1 cents per kWh; residential energy costs in Ketchikan are 10 cents per kWh. Unfortunately, one of the reasons Ketchikan might seem expensive to some members of our community is because we do not have enough high paying jobs.

Do we have the interest connectivity needed for remote working?

Yes. The majority of remote workers require bandwidth comparable to what an average home would require. Some may prefer higher capacity up/down, but local providers have verified they are able to meet these requirements. GCI has a fiber optic cable to Seattle, which can support significant capacity growth.

What about people who already live here? Shouldn't we be helping them?

Yes – absolutely. The more Ketchikan is able to grow its economy and tax base, the healthier our community will be overall, and the more support we will be able to provide for others who are in need of help. Attracting new businesses to our community will create new local job opportunities. Population growth will be helpful to the local construction industry. Through increased awareness of remote working, many Ketchikan residents may be able to find jobs or opportunities allowing them to work remotely from Ketchikan, for outside companies.

Are remote workers all "millennials?" Is this focused on people of a certain age?

No. People of all ages are working remotely to an increasing extent, as technology, job requirements, and industries have evolved.