

DIVISION OF BUSINESS PARTNERSHIPS

Workforce Development Programs at a Glance

FY 2008

The Workforce Investment Act and other Federally Funded Programs

Adult Program – The federally funded Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Adult program provides employment and job training assistance to low income Alaskans with priority given to Veterans and those on public assistance. In state FY 2008, the Division of Business Partnerships provided \$2,647,982 to the Employment Security Division to deliver WIA Adult services to 820 Alaskans through the Alaska Job Center Network.

Dislocated Worker Program – The federally funded WIA Dislocated Worker program provides re-training and employment assistance to individuals who have lost their job through no fault of their own and need assistance to find re-employment or develop new or updated skills to re-enter the workforce. In State Fiscal Year 2008, the Division of Business Partnerships provided \$3,100,000 to the Employment Security Division to deliver WIA Dislocated Worker services to 641 Alaskans through the Alaska Job Center Network.

Youth Program – The federally funded WIA youth program provides assistance to low income youth age 14 through 21 with challenges to employment. For State Fiscal Year 2008, the Division of Business Partnerships provided \$ 2,203,845 to 15 grant recipients in addition to a service agreement with the Employment Security Division to deliver youth services to 930 youth.

Statewide Activities Funds – The federally funded WIA statewide activities funds provides funding for data collection, program evaluation, administration of the eligible training providers list, and operation of the local one stop job centers. The fund also provides for capacity building in the area of new computer resources in the job centers and innovative job training programs such as the Career Readiness Certificate; \$436,000 was granted in State Fiscal Year 2008.

Rapid Response Program – The federally funded WIA Rapid Response program provides support to businesses and workers experiencing a downturn in employment due to economic or natural disasters. In State Fiscal Year 2008, the Division of Business Partnerships provided \$734,136 to the Employment Security Division to assist with an innovative lay off mitigation strategy in southeast Alaska through the small business development center and the start up of the Agrium Worker assistance center on the Kenai Peninsula. To date in State Fiscal Year 2008 the department's Rapid Response Team has worked with over 50 Alaskan businesses.

The Alaska Pipeline Worker Training Project – In State Fiscal Year 2008, the Department was awarded a federally funded demonstration grant from the U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration, Office of National Response, for \$7.5 million over four years. The purpose of the project is to provide career awareness activities and occupational training over a four-year performance period for 2,500 of Alaska’s youth and adults that will develop the talent of a new generation of workers for good jobs and legacy careers, equipped with a wide array of skills required for building, operating, and maintaining oil and gas pipelines in Alaska, to include jobs and careers in the associated, sub-sector industries of transportation, construction, power and energy transmission, communications, and logistical support. The outcomes will be to increase the supply of new workers from urban and rural Alaska for jobs today and in the future that meet the challenge of rebuilding aging oil fields, developing new sources of energy (oil and gas), and preparing a workforce for constructing, operating, and maintaining the nation’s potential largest energy project, the Alaska Gas Pipeline. The strategies of this project will immediately address the need to replace retiring skilled workers, meet new job growth, strengthen the natural resource industries, and provide Alaskans from particularly depressed economic regions of the state with career opportunities in the energy industry. The project is currently awaiting final approval from USDOL after being re-scoped to align with the AWIB-endorsed Alaska Gasline Inducement Act (AGIA) Training Strategic Plan. Overall, the project expects to enroll 950 participants in entry level training, 950 in industry based training, and 600 in occupational training.

High Growth Job Training Initiative for Energy – In State Fiscal Year 2006, the Department was awarded a President’s High Growth Job Training Initiative grant for workforce development in the energy sector. Alaska’s High Growth grant for energy is a federally funded partnership between industry and the state to create increased awareness in energy careers and increase the supply of trained workers for oil, gas and mineral extraction industries including related construction and transportation activities. In State Fiscal Year 2008, the Division of Business Partnerships awarded five grants to non profits providing information and outreach services to youth; three grants to a school districts providing information and training to students; and five service agreements to other state divisions and the University for information, referral, outreach, employment and training services to youth and adults, for a total of \$1,041,607 to assist 472 Alaskans.

State General Fund and other State Funded Training Programs

State Training and Employment Program – The purpose of the state funded State Training and Employment Program (STEP) is to reduce current and future claims against unemployment benefits, foster new jobs due to the availability of a skilled labor force, increase training opportunities to the state's workers to protect against

fluctuations in the economy, and to prepare for technological changes in the workplace. In State Fiscal Year 2008, the Division of Business Partnerships provided \$5,314,152 in 22 grants, including four reimbursable service agreements with the Employment Security Division and the University of Alaska, to deliver employment and training assistance to 2,089 Alaskans.

Alaska's Youth First Initiative – The Alaska Youth First Initiative awarded \$1,983,041 in general funds for fiscal year 2008. Nine grants were awarded to not-for-profit agencies, five grants were awarded to school districts, and four reimbursable service agreements were awarded to the Department of Education, the Employment Security Division and the University of Alaska. The Youth First Initiative filled gaps in the workforce system by focusing on career awareness and work experience opportunities for Alaska's youth. Through its grants and reimbursable service agreements the Division of Business Partnerships assisted 16,071 individual youth receive all of the following services: career guidance, skills training and work experience. Other FY 08 outcomes include: 11,362 youth served through career guides; 3,293 youth completed at least one Youth Employability Skill activity; 810 youth participated in paid and un-paid work experience; 149 partnerships were formed by various Grantees; 457 students participated in Academic/Training; and 51 teachers will attend and complete teacher externships in three target industries to include healthcare, construction and resource development. Teachers will receive 3 credits through the University of Alaska, Anchorage.

The Technical Vocational Education Program (TVEP) – The state funded Technical Vocational Education Program provides supplemental funding to regional vocational education centers. The Alaska Technical Center in Kotzebue, Yuut Elitnaurviat in Bethel, and the Southwest Alaska Vocational Education Center in King Salmon received \$1,082,900 in State Fiscal Year 2008 to provide services aligned with the priorities of the Alaska Workforce Investment Board.

Regional Training Center Programs Funded by General Fund (GF) – This state funded program provided operational funding for the Alaska Technical Center in Kotzebue and the Northwest Alaska Career and Technical Center in Nome. This funding helps meet the operational and maintenance needs of the centers. In State Fiscal Year 2008, the state granted \$1,000,000 total (\$600,000 for ATC; \$400,000 for NACTC) in GF to the two regional learning centers.

Alaska Construction Academy Capital Improvement Project – The Associated General Contractors, in partnership with the State Home Builders Association, the Divisions of Business Partnerships and Employment Security, Alaska Works Partnerships, and the Anchorage and Fairbanks North Star Borough School Districts, will train 600 youth and 185 adults through local construction academies hosted at the King Career Center and the Hutchison Career Center. This state funded \$2,000,000 capital project for FY 2008

provides training, equipment, supplies and the contractual expenses associated with developing Alaska's construction workforce.

Denali Commission Training Programs (Administered/Managed by Division of Business Partnerships)

Denali Training Fund (DTF) Grants - The federally funded Denali Training Fund provides job training assistance to residents of communities where Denali Commission projects are planned or underway to ensure local residents have the opportunity to learn and earn an income from the local project. The Denali Training Fund focuses its training resources on developing skills in the construction and transportation industries for heavy equipment and healthcare occupations. In FY 2008, the DTF awarded nine grants to for-profit and not-for-profit entities totaling \$1,025,274 to train 367 rural Alaskans. The Division recently issued a Request for Grant Applications (RGA) with \$2,500,000 available for additional Denali Training Fund projects. The RGA has a May 16, 2008 deadline for submission.

Denali Youth Grants - The federally funded Denali Youth Grants provide career awareness, work experience and training for young Alaskans in careers related to projects funded by the Denali Commission. In State Fiscal Year 2008, the Division of Business Partnerships awarded \$893,055 to nine local schools, school districts, not-for profit agencies and the University to assist 1,424 youth ages 16 through 24 with employment and training information and referral.