



Disability Employment Initiative (DEI) Grant
Alaska Workforce Investment Board
February 22, 2011

Summary:

On September 29, 2010 the AWIB was awarded a Disability Employment Initiative (DEI) grant from the U.S. Department of Labor, Employment Training Administration in the amount of \$2,727,000 to improve education, training and employment opportunities and outcomes of youth and adults who are unemployed and/or receiving Social Security disability benefits. Alaska was one of nine states to receive an award under the DEI, and partner agencies include the Employment Security Division, One Stop Job Centers, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, Division of Public Assistance and Governor's Council on Disabilities & Special Education. The grant will run from October 1, 2010 through September 30, 2013.

The DEI "Team":

The departments allocating staff to this project include the DOLWD Employment Security Division; Alaska Workforce Investment Board and the Governor's Council on Disabilities.

Shawna Harper from ESD is the One Stop Liaison; **Rich Sanders** from the Governor's Council on Disabilities is the Disability Resource Coordinator (DRC); and **Louise Dean** from the AWIB is the State Level DEI Project Lead.

The Plan:

DEI Grant / Disability Awareness training and onsite assessments of physical and programmatic accessibility will be done at each of the One Stop Job Centers across the state. In the first year, up to 12 staff located at various One Stops will be trained as lead DRC's in their specific locations with staff at remaining locations to be trained in the latter half of 2011. The goal is to bring all staff up to a "proficient" level of awareness of best practices in serving individuals with disabilities and to coordinate with the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, private Community Rehabilitation Providers and other local service providers for individuals with disabilities in each job center location. Once staff can demonstrate proficiency, the focus will move to another staff person in that center to receive the training and guidance to bring them to proficiency in serving people with disabilities.

The end goal is to have all staff within the One Stop Job Centers proficient and to have in place an Employment Network system that is sustainable and ensures that individuals with disabilities who contact any staff within the job centers will receive accurate, appropriate and current information and direction in developing a coordinated plan that is consistent with their individualized conditions of employment. By integrating the Employment Network aspect of the Social Security Ticket to Work program, the State and service provider partners can receive milestone payments for individuals served that obtain and maintain employment that can be reinvested into the system for sustainability.

Activities to date:

- ✓ Application and Employment Network status awarded to Juneau One Stop
- ✓ MOU signed with the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation on the Employment Networks system
- ✓ Training at the Juneau, Anchorage Midtown and Anchorage Muldoon centers (46 staff)
- ✓ Site accessibility assessments completed at Juneau and two Anchorage centers
- ✓ 12 local DRC's and Juneau One Stop Employment Network Coordinator have begun training