



**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
& WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT**

**Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development
Alaska Workforce Investment Board**

**Executive Director's Report
May 17, 2011**

On March 29, 2011 an application was submitted to the U.S. Department of Labor (USDOL) by the AWIB in partnership with the Employment Security Division for a Green Jobs Innovation Fund training grant in the amount of \$5,852,000. This training grant application included 21 local job centers and their one-stop service partners, serving seven communities/regions including Anchorage, Fairbanks, Juneau, Ketchikan, Mat-Su, Kenai Peninsula, Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta, and other statewide communities. The proposal estimates 3,000 participants will be enrolled in training in five green job technologies including Energy Efficiency End User Technology (weatherization/building retrofits), hydroelectric, wind, biomass, and geothermal energy. The proposal was to build upon work begun under the Alaska State Energy Sector Partnership by partners, including the AWIB, DOLWD, Department of Education and Early Development, Alaska Energy Authority, Alaska Housing Finance Corporation, Denali Commission, University of Alaska, Alaska AFL-CIO, and Alaska Works Partnership. Two new partners were added to the partnership with this proposal, including the Alaska Apprenticeship Training Coordinators Association and the Construction Education Foundation. Unfortunately, the AWIB was informed by the USDOL in April 2011 that funding for the Green Jobs Innovation Fund was eliminated. However, the AWIB and department will continue to pursue grant funding related to training in Renewable Energy/Energy Efficiency (RE/EE) occupations.

Staff from the AWIB, ESD, and Research and Analysis continue to meet with the Alaska State Hospital and Nursing Home Association (ASHNA) and the Alaska Healthcare Coalition on deliverables related to the \$150,000 planning grant received from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) that is being utilized to complete further development of the Alaska Health Workforce Plan adopted by the AWIB in May 2010. The planning grant deliverables include, 1) Analyze State labor market information in order to create health care career pathways for students and adults, including dislocated workers; 2) Identify current and projected high demand State or regional health care sectors for purposes of planning career pathways; 3) Identify existing Federal, State, and private resources to recruit, educate or train, and retain a skilled health care workforce and strengthen partnerships; 4) Describe the academic and health care industry skill standards for high school graduation, for entry into postsecondary education, and for various credentials and licensure; 5) Describe State secondary and post secondary education and training policies, models or practices for the health care sector, including career information and guidance counseling; and 6) Identify Federal or State policies or rules to developing a coherent and comprehensive health care workforce development strategy and barriers and plan to resolve these barriers. A final programmatic report is due to HRSA on September 30, 2011. An update will be provided at the May AWIB meeting.

Staff from the AWIB, ESD, and the Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education continue to implement the Disability Employment Initiative (DEI) training grant received 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. To enhance coordination for the implementation of the DEI training grant, Rich Sanders from the Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education is working closely with Louise Dean in the AWIB Office, and the Employment Security Division to implement the training grant. Training and site accessibility assessments have been conducted at the Juneau, Anchorage Midtown & Muldoon, Ketchikan, Sitka, Kenai, Homer, Mat-Su, and Fairbanks Job Centers. The Kodiak, Seward, Dillingham, Barrow and Bethel Job Centers will have site accessibility assessments and training conducted before the end of FY 11. An update will be provided at the May AWIB meeting.

The ASESP continues to work on the RE/EE Workforce Development Plan and a copy of the most current ASESP Implementation Plan will be provided at the May AWIB meeting. Training funded by the ASESP grant continues in FY 11 with AVTEC, the Alaska Energy Authority, Alaska Apprenticeship Training Coordinators Association, and Alaska Works Partnership in RE/EE industries, including hydroelectric, wind turbine and weatherization industries. The first competitive grant application reviews were conducted for applications received by the January 18, 2011 deadline. Two training providers were recommended for funding, including AVTEC and the United Association of Plumbers and Pipefitters, Local 367. Seven competitive grants were received by the deadline of April 18, 2011 and are being reviewed in the next few weeks. Grant reviews will be conducted after the next application deadline of June 20, 2011. The request for grant application is open continuously until all funds available under the grant solicitation have been awarded. The next ASESP meeting is scheduled for June 16, 2011 to review project operator outcomes in FY 11, proposed training plans for FY 12, and the most current ASESP Implementation Plan.

The next AWIB meeting is scheduled for May 24th and 25th, 2011 at AVTEC in Seward. The agenda includes reports and updates related to the Gasline Training Plan, State CTE Plan and Implementation, Healthcare Workforce Development Plan, Disability Employment Initiative training grant, ASESP training grant, legislative and budget issues, and the Perkins CTE grants. Time has been allocated for review of the State WIA Plan Modification, One Stop System, board discussion, and Regional Advisory Councils. As part of the AWIB meeting, a tour of AVTEC-Alaska's Institute of Technology will be provided during the afternoon of May 25th.

The AWIB website continues to be updated at <http://www.labor.alaska.gov/awib/> and includes links related to the Alaska Gasline Training Plan, Registered Apprenticeship, Career and Technical Education, State Energy Sector Partnership, Employment, Training, and Grant Information, Regional Advisory Councils, Regional Training Centers, and the AWIB Newsletter.

Committees

- The next Executive Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 14th at 1:30 p.m. **All AWIB members are invited to call into the teleconference.**
- The next Workforce Readiness/Employment Placement Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 20, 2011 at 3:00 p.m.

- The next Assessment and Evaluation Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, July 21, 2011 at 3:00 p.m.
- The next Policy and Planning Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, July 28, 2011 at 10:00 a.m.
- The next Youth Council meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 3, 2011 at 10:00 a.m.

Important Dates

- The May AWIB meeting is scheduled for May 24th and 25th, 2011 at AVTEC in Seward.
- The WIA State Plan Modification is due to the USDOL by May 31, 2011.
- The WIA Annual Report is due to the USDOL by October 1, 2011.
- The October AWIB meeting is scheduled for October 25th and 26th, 2011.