



**Disability Employment Initiative (DEI) Grant  
Alaska Workforce Investment Board  
October 25, 2011**

**Grant 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 adults who are unemployed and/or receiving Social Security disability benefits (SSI and SSDI). Partner agencies include the Employment Security Division (ESD), One Stop Job Centers, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR), Division of Public Assistance (DPA) and Governor's Council on Disabilities & Special Education.

Since the May 2011 AWIB meeting the following activities have taken place;

- ✓ ESD Employment Security analyst, Janneth Bronyraur was accepted into the Virginia Commonwealth University Community Work Incentives Coordinator (CWIC) training program to be training as a certified benefits planner. Janneth successfully completed all part One assessment activities (exams and practical exercise and is now a "Provisionally Certified CWIC". This provisional certification means she is qualified to begin providing direct Work Incentives Planning and Assistance services to SSA beneficiaries. She is now eligible to begin Part Two of the assessment and certification process which is the final step in achieving full CWIC certification.
- ✓ The Employment Security Division successfully obtained a unique DUNS number and it has been registered in the Central Contractor Registration (CCR) system. ESD is now able to accept tickets under the SSA, Ticket to Work program.
- ✓ As of 9/30/11, 18 job center staff in various job centers reached tier I disability resource coordinator (DRC) proficiency. Effective October 1, 2011 18 additional job center staff will begin DRC training. A higher level of DRC competency has been developed (tier II) and will be completed by 20 job center staff across the state over the course of the grant to ensure a continued high level of proficiency and sustainability of DRC's beyond the life of the grant. In addition to training all staff over the life of the grant, these select individuals will have the time and resources based on their positions to provide direct services to customers with disabilities, build community partnerships, integrate asset building activities and provide Ticket To Work services in some cases.
- ✓ An outline has been developed for a public portal on the Job Center network website to educate the public on aspects of the grant and grant progress, and provide resources to job seekers with disabilities.
- ✓ A Job Center Services Integration committee meeting was held in June and partners from the Governor's council on Disabilities and Special Education, Divisions of Public Assistance, Health and Social Services, Employment Security, Vocational Rehabilitation, and Business Partnerships provided agency updates. They also discussed the MOU the agencies have with the AWIB.
- ✓ The evaluation team from Social Dynamics conducted a site visit the week of June 6, 2011. The team met with staff and reviewed operations at the Juneau job center, Anchorage Midtown and Muldoon job centers, Eagle River job center and Matsu job center. Social Dynamics also attended the Job Center Services Integration Committee meeting in Juneau and a local provider forum in Anchorage. The team met with programmers and data processing staff to brainstorm ways to gather the additional data elements required by the grant.