

# Alaska Strategic Two-Year State Plan for Title 1 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 and the Wagner-Peyser Act (July 1, 2007 – June 30, 2009)

## Overview of Key AWIB Areas

### State Governance Structures

- **How agencies interrelate** – AWIB is responsible for the development, implementation, oversight and evaluation of an efficient, effective and integrated workforce development system. AWIB provides oversight and guidance to the One-Stop Operator and articulates the coordination among state agencies. A memorandum of understanding is in effect between the board and One-Stop partner agencies.
- **Achieving vision** – The constituencies represented on the board are all stakeholders in the governor’s vision for the Alaska workforce development system. The structure enables the board’s private sector leadership to work hand-in-hand with government decision makers.
- **Functions**– AWIB has the responsibility to recommend policy to implement the WIA. In carrying out its duties, the board adheres to the principles of local flexibility and of maximum stakeholder and of maximum stakeholder participation. AWIB role includes moving the Governor’s vision forward as well as the responsibilities under WIA.
- **Access to information**– All meetings open to public, all stakeholders as well as the general public will be notified of significant matters. Public is invited to comment, AWIB is conscious of accessibility issues with respect to the disabled community and selects its venues accordingly.
- **Conflict of interest**– Alaska conflict of interest law applies to all members of state appointed boards and commissions. In the even a board member is involved in a matter that may result in a conflict of interest or violation of the Ethics Act, AS 39.52.220 will provide direction for declaration of the potential violation and remedy by the board.
- **Resources to function** – AWIB budget is funded from programs for which the board is the lead state oversight entity for planning, evaluation, and coordinating under state statute.

### Structure/Process to Collaborate and Communicate

- **On July 1, 2004 Alaska consolidates its two previous local workforce areas into a single planning area** in accordance with a waiver granted by the USDOL/ETA

to restructure and streamline delivery of services. Now perform the roles and functions of local workforce investment boards in addition to its role as the state workforce investment board. **Focus is improvement of partner collaboration and public accessibility.**

- **Effective sharing of information** – State agencies and departments attend and provide information at AWIB committee meetings. AWIB staff serves as a liaison between board members and the state agencies responsible for delivery of AWIB programs funded under the public workforce development system.
- **Integrated vision for youth** – The Youth Council is an advisory and policy committee that works on youth workforce issues on behalf of AWIB. The Youth Council serves as a regional policy council and is responsible for developing strategy recommendations and oversight for youth workforce systems while addressing the needs and interests of the state.

### **Workforce Development Issues**

- AWIB will require a workforce development system that is responsive to the needs of both Alaska's employers and workers. **Challenges include; aging workforce, aging population that will require the provision of additional services, a skills gap and a highly competitive market for skilled workers.**
- **Critical workforce development issues– Narrowing the skills gap**, the gap between the skills needed by employers and those possessed by Alaska's workforce, is most critical to Alaska's economic health and growth.....**strategies include; identifying the gap, providing relevant training, promoting basic skill attainment, aligning education with labor market needs, promoting career development and awareness through the use of career clusters and the dissemination of career information.**
- **Strategies for target industries** - AWIB identifies priority industries for which it recommends investments of public training funds. The industries are; **health care, construction, information technology, education, natural resource development, transportation, hospitality and tourism; and seafood harvesting and processing.** Expect to create as many as 48,000 new jobs over the next decade; many will be legacy jobs that will promote economic vitality by growing the population base.

### **Waivers and Workflex**

- **Alaska intends to continue operating with the five waivers approved previously.** The waivers provide the state the ability to train youth through individual training accounts, improve employment retention in communities

with a seasonal industry, allow greater flexibility to move funds between funding streams, and allow the governor and the workforce development system in the state to provide better support and services through a single regional planning area. **The state does not intend to introduce new waivers.**

- **Use of resources** – AWIB initiatives and resolutions strengthen and support elimination of duplication and reinforce the need for efficient and effective use of resources at all levels of the system.
- **Universal access**– AWIB resolutions and initiatives, and the administration’s strategic workforce goals form the basis of the Alaska Job Center service delivery methodology and practices.

### **Demand Driven Approach**

- In concert with the governors’ office, the AWIB has set forth in regulations and policy statements **the priority industries** with defined goals related to the number of participants trained in the occupations related to the following industries; **health care, construction, information technology, transportation, education, natural resource development, hospitality and tourism, seafood harvesting and processing.**

### **Integration of One-Stop Delivery Service**

- Alaska has improved and will continue to improve the quality and integration of service delivery. The AWIB will reaffirm these principles.
- **Maximum integration**– The AWIB certification process in one tool the state uses to review and assess the integration of services in the One-Stops.

### **Administration and Oversight**

- AWIB is assigned oversight and local workforce investment board responsibilities.
- **Capacity building** – The AWIB uses board members, who are leaders in their respective areas, to ensure high performance. The board uses data collected from the workforce investment system to evaluate the effectiveness and make recommendations to the governor if changes in the system are necessary.
- **Local planning process** – AWIB engages in bi-annual strategic planning. Recent planning efforts have focused on creating more opportunity for youth and developing a career path to meet the workforce needs of the Alaska gas line.
- **Regional planning** – Performance is aligned with Alaska’s negotiated performance measures and tracked accordingly. In an effort to include local

participation and points of view, other local elected officials from Alaska's borough and cities are consulted in planning efforts and invited to participate in the Regional Advisory Councils.

- **Improvement and technical assistance** - The board conducts evaluations of the workforce system and the service providers, and makes recommendations.

### **Workforce Information**

- **Integrate information into planning** - The Alaska Workforce Investment Board consistently uses Alaska workforce information provided by the DLWD R&A to provide guidance to partners of the workforce investment system.
- **Accessibility to workforce information** - The primary vehicle for disseminating workforce information to internal and external customers is the internet.
- **Intensive services** - AWIB has adopted policies to ensure WIA adult and dislocated worker program participants have access to intensive services at local One-Stops.