



MEDIA RELEASE

Jobs are Alaska's Future



ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
& WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
Commissioner Click Bishop

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\$4 Million Available for State Training and Employment Program Grants

JUNEAU – The Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development is accepting grant applications until June 15, 2007 for worker training and employment projects totaling up to \$4 million under the State Training and Employment Program (STEP).

The Department encourages non-profit or for profit organizations, educators, industry trainers, employers, or agencies with the capacity to meet both the legal and policy requirements of the STEP to apply for grants by June 15, 2007. Unless otherwise determined appropriate by the Department grant awards will be limited to a maximum of \$300,000 per application for work force training projects. The outcomes should result in direct employment for Alaska's critical demand occupations in the following priority industries: healthcare, construction, information technology, education, natural resource development, transportation, hospitality and tourism, and seafood harvesting and processing.

"STEP has been a real success story for Alaska by assisting thousands of Alaskans with their job skills and getting them into higher paying jobs," said Labor Commissioner Click Bishop. "We are looking to fund quality training programs for quality jobs."

STEP funds target individuals for training who are covered by contributions to the Unemployment Trust Fund and are drawing or have exhausted their unemployment insurance benefits, or are employed but likely to lose their job within six months due to work force reduction or conditions requiring they learn substantially different job skills.

Grant applications are due not later than 5:00 p.m. (Alaska Standard Time), June 15, 2007. Complete details are available at www.state.ak.us. Click on "Notices" in the top menu bar, view by published date of May 8, 2007, and select "State Fiscal Year 2008 State Training and Employment Program Grant Application."

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