MEDIA RELEASE

Jobs are Alaska's Future

jobs

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
& WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
Greg O'Claray, Commissioner

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$3 Million Available for State Training and Employment Program Grants

(Juneau) – The Division of Business Partnerships in the Alaska Department of Labor & Workforce Development is accepting grant applications for worker training and employment projects totaling $3 million under the State Training and Employment Program (STEP).

The department encourages non-profit and for profit public, private, training and community service organizations to apply by July 31, 2006, for grants of typically up to $200,000 each for work force training projects that result in direct employment for Alaska's high-wage, high-demand occupations.

"STEP is one of our high-performing training programs, and every year we see thousands of Alaskans trained and employed through it," said Commissioner Greg O'Claray. "And increased industry contributions and participation are making it a sought-after, best return on investment."

STEP funds target individuals for training who contributed 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 reductions or conditions requiring they learn substantially different job skills.

"With STEP, Alaska workers who contribute a small portion of their wages to the trust fund can access high-quality training or support services for a better job," said O'Claray.

Grant application proposals are due no later than 5 p.m. (Alaska Standard Time), July 31, 2006. Complete details are available at www.state.ak.us. Click on Notices in the top menu bar, view by publish date of June 30, 2006, and select "2007 State Training and Employment Program Grant Application."

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