



MEDIA RELEASE

Jobs are Alaska's Future



Sept. 29, 2006

No. 07-11

For Immediate Release

For More Information: Margaret Webb, Special Assistant for Communications
907-465-5673 or 907-321-6071 (Cell)

\$1.1 Million Available for Youth Employment and Training Programs

Grants to be awarded through Denali Training Fund Youth and Alaska's Youth First Initiatives.

(Juneau) – The Alaska Department of Labor & Workforce Development's Division of Business Partnerships is soliciting proposals to provide training programs that prepare youth ages 16 to 24 for employment under the Denali Training Fund Youth and Alaska's Youth First Initiatives.

“Our goal is to prepare youth for employment in high growth jobs in the energy industry and related construction and transportation industries,” said Commissioner Greg O'Claray.

Nonprofit and for-profit organizations, businesses or government agencies are encouraged to apply by Oct. 13 for the approximately \$1.1 million available statewide. Grants will fund about 10 projects for a one-year period. The solicitation represents a unique leveraging and investment of resources in Alaska's youth between the Denali Commission Training Funds and the department's Youth First Initiative, supported by state general funds.

A priority of the state's workforce development system is to put Alaskans to work through development of the state's abundant energy resources. This solicitation for youth grants will develop projects that prepare young people for employment, post-secondary education or apprenticeship. Specific goals include:

- Develop access to oil, gas and mineral resources to produce jobs and put Alaskans to work by providing opportunities for high school students to increase their awareness and appreciation of pathways to careers in Alaska's high growth job sectors.

-More-

- Develop a demand-driven workforce system that supports healthy and productive communities.
- Help increase mathematics and literacy competencies in youth who are pursuing careers in high-growth, priority industries such as health care, construction, information technology, education, natural resource development (i.e. mining and petroleum), transportation, hospitality and tourism, and seafood harvesting and processing.

Proposals are due no later than 5 p.m. Alaska Time Oct. 13. Complete application details can be found at www.state.ak.us. Click on “Notices” in the top menu to go to the Online Public Notices page.

-End-

-More-