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## \$7.5 million of workforce development grants to be awarded

Labor department seeks grant applications

JUNEAU, Alaska— The Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development is seeking grant proposals for two workforce training and development programs. There are \$5.5 million in grant funds available for the State Training and Employment Program (STEP) and \$2 million for Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Youth Program grants. The grants will support projects providing employment and training services to eligible youth and adults.

"One of our top priorities is to help Alaskans get the education and training they need for rewarding careers," said Labor Commissioner Heidi Drygas. "These grant programs lead to successful outcomes for Alaskans and we encourage qualified organizations to apply."

STEP grants are funded by a percentage of the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund. The grant program meets the needs of Alaska employers by enhancing the quality and accessibility of in-state training and employment services for Alaska residents. STEP also seeks to increase resident employment in industries where a high number of nonresidents are working.

The WIOA Youth Program is funded by the U.S. Department of Labor and supports projects designed to help disadvantaged and disconnected youth between 14 and 24 years of age access employment, education, training, and support services. WIOA Youth projects include intensive case management services and activities leading to a variety of education, training, and employment outcomes.

The Request for Grant Applications (RGA) for these two solicitations, as well as dates for informational teleconferences and additional program information, is available through the State of Alaska online public notice system.

STEP proposals will be accepted until 5:00 p.m. April 13, 2018. For more information about STEP, contact Julie Frizzell at 269-4590 or at Julie.Frizzell@Alaska.Gov.

Proposals will be accepted for the WIOA Youth Program until 5:00 p.m. April 27, 2018. For more information about the WIOA Youth Program, contact Shane Bannarbie at 269-4551 or at Shane.Bannarbie@Alaska.Gov