

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
EMPLOYMENT SECURITY DIVISION
DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

Sean Parnell, Governor

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May 12, 2011

Greg Cashen
Executive Director
Alaska Workforce Investment Board
1016 West 6th Avenue, Suite 105
Anchorage, AK 99501

Dear Executive Director Cashen,

I am pleased to submit to the Alaska Workforce Investment Board our triannual One-Stop Operator report. This report highlights the Employment Security Division's (ESD) accomplishments and includes data relating to job centers and programs administered by the Division during the period of April 1, 2010 through March 31, 2011.

I would like to take this opportunity to share our vision for ESD that was recently developed by our management team to guide the division in becoming a premier leader in employment services. Following is the vision statement developed by the management team:

"The Employment Security Division is Alaska's premier leader in connecting employers with a skilled workforce, keeping workers in Alaska and sustaining communities through the delivery of unemployment insurance."

ESD is committed to ensuring that the principles of the vision statement are met as staff work on priorities and initiatives developed by the Alaska Workforce Investment Board and provide support to the Board.

I look forward to the AWIB meeting in Seward later this month. ESD will be giving a presentation on information about the division that I believe will be beneficial to board members.

Sincerely,



Paul E. Dick
Director
Employment Security Division

Data for the period April 1, 2010 through March 31, 2011

Labor Exchange Program Participants

Job Seeker Visits to Job Center Resource Rooms	294,235
Active registered participants	148,995
Veterans and Transitional Service member participants	17,607
Youth Participants	3,684
Participants who Entered Employment	36,854
Participants who Retained Employment at Six Months.....	45,674
Job Openings Received from Employers.....	49,058

Workforce Investment Act (WIA)

Adult

Adult Program Participants	3,390
Percentage of Program Exiters who Entered Employment	68.8%
Percentage who received a Credential and Entered Employment	63.4%
Percentage who Retained Employment for Six Months.....	79.4%
Six-Month Average Earnings	\$17,496

Dislocated Worker

Total Number of Dislocated Workers Program Participants.....	506
Percentage of Program Exiters that Entered Employment.....	75.9%
Percentage that Received a Credential and Entered Employment.....	60.8%
Percentage that Retained Employment for Six Months.....	88.5%
Six-Month Average Earnings	\$23,540

Pipeline Training (PLT)

Participants.....	132
Exiters	79

State Training and Employment Program (STEP)

Participants.....	746
Exiters	353

Source: Alaska Job Center Performance Data, DOLWD

Veterans' Program

Veterans' program provides priority service to veterans, eligible persons and transitioning service members by providing resources and services to veterans so they can succeed in today's workforce.

Employment Security Division (ESD) conducts Transition Assistance Program (TAP) workshops for service men and women who are transitioning out of active duty military service. Workshop attendees learn about job searches, career decision-making, current occupational and labor market conditions, and resume and cover letter preparation, and interviewing techniques. Attendees receive an evaluation of their employability relative to the job market and receive information on current veterans' benefits.

ESD conducted 29 TAP workshops in FY11 to date. For the quarter ending March 31, 2011, there were 14 TAP workshops. Eight of the workshops were held in Anchorage at Ft. Richardson and Elmendorf AFB, six in Fairbanks at Ft. Wainwright and Eielson AFB.

On March 30, 2011, Department of Labor and Workforce Development (DOLWD) Commissioner Bishop, and department officials met with Domiciliary Homeless Veteran Program's new director to initiate future partnerships between the DOLWD and the Veteran Administration's Homeless Veteran program. Many ideas were presented at the meeting that would benefit the veterans in the program. Another meeting will be scheduled to map out a plan of action.

During the quarter ending March 31, 2011, ESD provided services to 2,184 veterans and eligible person, 95% received intensive service. Of that number 64% were referred to employment.

Foster Youth Pilot Project

The Foster Youth Pilot Project is designed to connect older foster youth with work experiences, on-the-job training and apprenticeship opportunities through a partnership with the Office of Children's Services (OCS) Independent Living Program and the ESD. The project promotes integration of services to assist foster youth transitioning from state care to self-sufficiency.

On June 8, 2011, an Interactive Career Fair will be held at Northern Industrial Training located in Palmer. Youth will experience hands on exercises using tools and equipment that are utilized for careers in construction, oil and gas, and transportation. There will be 20 foster youth over the age of 16 who will participate in the career fair, and a minimum of 10 youth will be placed in one or more work experiences to gain exposure to different occupations. The timeline for this pilot project is April 1 through June 30, 2011.

Youth First Program - Career Guides

Career guides continue to provide outreach and recruiting services to youth in communities around the state. Through participation in events such as career and job fairs, career guides have seen the positive impact of actively engaging youth in their future while providing them information about career awareness, education and training programs and opportunities that are available.

Career guides helped organize and coordinate the 2011 Kodiak Career and College Fair which was held on January 28, 2011, at the Kodiak High School. Over 50 presenters gave valuable career awareness information to more than 700 high school students. The main event featured over 20 training opportunities, colleges, and career clusters.

Our Anchorage healthcare career guide successfully recruited three students to participate in the 10-week paid internship program for Providence Hospital in June 2011.

In Sitka on February 23-24, the annual World of Work Fair was held. Approximately 800 students, staff, parents and community members attended and over 30 vendors participated in the fair. With the Sitka career guide's coordinated effort, eight students from Pelican High School were able to attend the fair.

From July 2010 thru March 2011, career guide activities and youth employability skills services (labor market information, career decision making, job application and interview skills) were provided to 8,770 youth. The goal of the career guide services are to promote career awareness in high demand industries; increase work opportunities for students to experience real world work opportunities through job shadows, internships, and externships; and acceptance into employment, apprenticeship programs or vocational training programs.

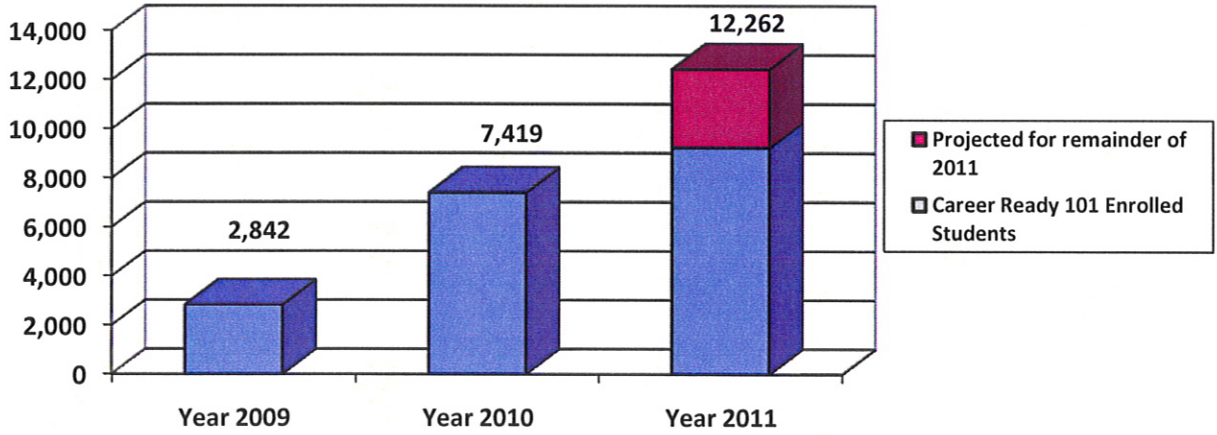
Alaska Career Ready Program is a statewide program that allows job seekers and students to evaluate their readiness for work, college, occupational training and to improve the fundamental skills valued by employers and educators. Businesses across the state are having difficulty finding job candidates who have basic employability skills and who are therefore trainable for specific jobs.

Career Ready 101 is used to assist job seekers and students build the skills necessary to prepare to take the WorkKeys® assessments. Career Ready 101 is available at all 23 job centers.

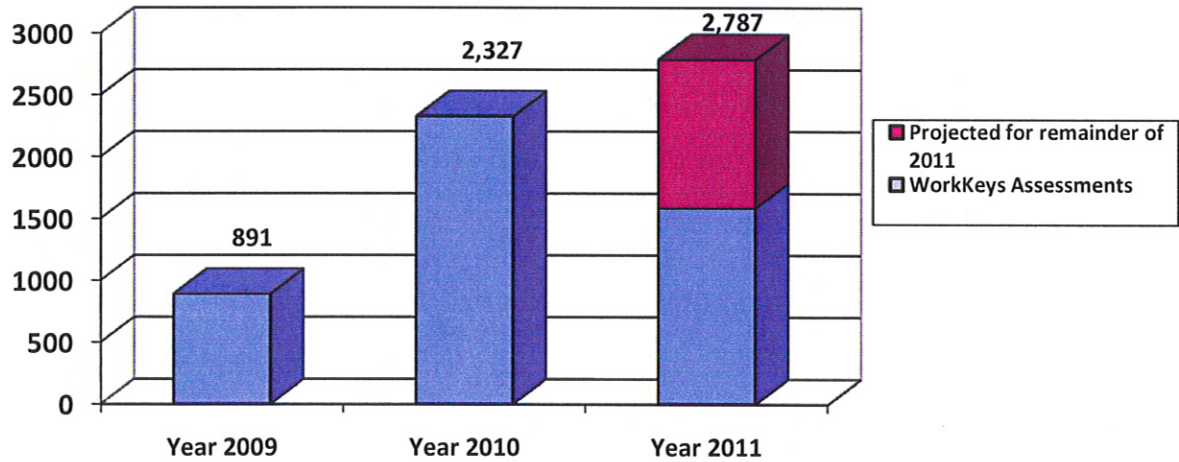
WorkKeys® assessments are a comprehensive employability skills assessment tool designed by the ACT Corporation to help provide reliable, relevant information about workplace skill levels. WorkKeys® assessments provide individuals the opportunity to earn a **National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC)**. The NCRC is a nationally-recognized credential documenting work-ready and college-ready skills. The NCRC program allows individuals to demonstrate employability skills and helps employers hire and promote skilled applicants. The WorkKeys® assessments are available at all job centers.

Refer to the attached graphs for data relating to Career Ready 101 enrollments and WorkKeys® assessment participants.

Career Ready 101 Enrollment



WorkKeys® Assessment Participants



Disability Employment Initiative (DEI)

Alaska Workforce Investment Board (AWIB) was awarded the DEI grant to improve education, training and employment opportunities and outcomes of youth and adults who are unemployed and/or receiving Social Security Disability benefits on September 29, 2010.

ESD continues to make great progress on the implementation of DEI. Under this grant a lead Disability Resource Coordinator (DRC) Rich Sanders, is training all ESD job center staff in the role of a local DRC. The DRC position works to increase employment and self-sufficiency for individuals with disabilities. Sustainability will be achieved through integration of DEI principals into ongoing staff core training and guidance as well as mentorship from the lead DRC.

DEI activities to date include

- In-depth training for local DRC's. Job center staff training was conducted in Juneau, Anchorage Midtown, Anchorage Muldoon, MatSu, Ketchikan, Sitka, Fairbanks, Kodiak, Homer, Kenai and Dillingham. This training consisted of a DEI grant overview, disability awareness, how to use assistive technology, integrated resource teams, community partnerships, Ticket to Work program, work incentives, asset building, customized employment/self employment and accessibility.
- Each of the job centers listed above received a site assessment to ensure they are in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. All of the assistive technology equipment was inventoried and reviewed for future needs.
- ESD is working with a USDOL contractor, Social Dynamics, to identify the data elements to be collected for the project and a data collection system developed.

An integral part of DEI is to launch Employment Networks (EN's) in three locations (Juneau, Anchorage and Fairbanks) over the course of three years. Under the Ticket to Work Program, the Social Security Administration (SSA) provides disability beneficiaries with a ticket individuals may use to obtain services and jobs. EN's receive payments from the SSA for their work assisting ticket holders in obtaining and maintaining employment.

EN Activities to date include

- An ESD/Department of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) memorandum of agreement is in place and the two divisions are working together in Juneau to establish procedures to provide services to ticket holders. DVR will assist the majority of ticket customers in the early stages then refer them to ESD to provide ongoing follow up services including conflict resolution, job accommodations, behavioral supports, etc.
- Bi-weekly EN planning meetings are held with ESD and DVR EN staff to streamline the referral process and identify any issues.
- A tracking and reporting system has been created in order to ensure proper reporting of EN activities related to ticket holders to the SSA.
- An ESD Employment Security Analyst is scheduled to attend intensive training to become a Certified Work Incentives Coordinator to be able to provide benefits planning to EN participants. This will ensure that the participant has a clear understanding of how work and earnings will affect their SSA benefits.
- A process to receive EN receipts is being developed through the ESD budget system.
- EN receipts will be utilized to sustain a permanent lead DRC and continue the EN's.

Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA)

The TAA program helps workers who have been laid off due to foreign competition or outsourcing return to employment.

As many as 8,000 Alaskans may be eligible for the federally funded TAA program.

Recently over 6,000 notifications were mailed to previously TAA eligible workers to inform them about this program. There has been a positive response to the outreach and we are estimating about 100 new enrollees in the TAA program.

Reemployment Services (RES) Project Phase III

This project will make it easier for Unemployment Insurance (UI) claimants to register in ALEXsys and post quality resumés online for employers to view. The project entails a redesign which will streamline the process, make it easier to understand the requirements and add more user-friendly features. Job seekers will have the ability to customize and tailor their resumés to specific jobs for which they are applying. The streamlined process will reduce the number of UI claimant appeals caused by confusion in the registration and resume process.