

Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development
Division of Business Partnerships
Summary of FY11 Program Activity, Outcomes
Compiled February 2012

STATE TRAINING EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM (STEP)

- STEP served 34,845 Alaskans since its inception. In FY11, 2,615 participants (9 percent increase from previous year) were trained through 28 grant agreements, totaling \$5.9 million. Total STEP funds expended for Unions in FY11 was \$1,635,446.00, and \$1,326,633.00 for Non-Union.
- As of August January 27, 2012, STEP awarded \$4.8 million to 36 grantees and is on track to train at least 2,411 participants by June 30, 2012. Total STEP grants for Unions in FY12 is \$1,980, 260.00 and \$2,809.416.00 for Non-Union.
- According to the latest, available preliminary performance data , 92 percent of the persons exiting the STEP were employed within the 12 months following exit from the program.
- STEP participants exiting the program typically have the highest average annual wage and salary earnings following exit of all the training programs measured by Research and Analysis in the Annual Training Program Performance Report.

WORKFORCE INVESTMENT ACT (WIA) YOUTH PROGRAM

- Alaska's WIA Youth program experienced a 10 percent decrease in WIA Youth funding for FY11. Despite funding reductions, 917 low income youth were served through partnerships with 15 grantees statewide.
- FY11 was the final funding year for American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funding; which dramatically increased youth work experience opportunities through subsidized employment. A total of 1,187 youth were served between 2009 and 2011 (665 were Alaska Native/American Indian); 93 percent of ARRA youth completed their work experience.
- In FY11, 76 percent of high school drop outs that completed a WIA Youth program received a diploma or GED, while 63 percent of youth with disabilities received a Diploma or GED.

- In FY11, the WIA Youth program provided \$98,568 in training funds for 27 youth participants to receive training in high demand occupations, and obtaining industry recognized training and credentials.
- In FY11, 70 percent of the total youth served were younger youth (14-18), while 50 percent were Out-of-School youth(19-21). These figures clearly corroborate the dropout issue facing the state, while highlighting the provision of services to this group through established partnerships.

WIA ADULT, DISLOCATED WORKER AND STATEWIDE ACTIVITIES PROGRAMS

- FY11 WIA Formula and WIA ARRA Adult and Dislocated Worker (DW) programs provided \$5,267,198 in training funds to the Employment Security Division (ESD), which delivered workforce development services to 1,592 adult participants. This represents a 29.6 percent decrease in the total number of participants served, which is attributable to the 30.5 percent decline in overall funding from FY10 levels, and the increase in average cost per participant served. More than 50 percent of this decrease was attributable to the decrease in available ARRA funding (of the total combined allocation of \$5,267,198 to ESD, \$1,272,541 was ARRA).
- Alaska successfully met all federal Adult and Dislocated Worker program performance goals during FY11, with year over year comparisons reflecting an increase in two of the three Adult program performance measures and a slight decrease in the three Dislocated Worker performance measures.
- The Adult and Dislocated Workers trained in Alaska Workforce Investment Board (AWIB) priority industries continue to exceed the 60 percent target with FY11 performance at 78.6 percent.
- In FY11, the WIA Statewide Activities program provided \$1,077,715 in training funds through 27 grants, providing workforce development services to 1,384 participants.

WIA NATIONAL EMERGENCY GRANT (NEG) FOR ON-THE-JOB TRAINING

- The state received \$715,684 in NEG funding to encourage re-employment of at least 50 Alaskan dislocated workers affected by long term unemployment to foster overall national economic recovery. During FY11, four dislocated workers were successfully placed into employment utilizing this funding. Alaska is committed to meeting the performance agreed to under the NEG award; to accomplish this goal, the Division proposed changes in the project description, participant eligibility and project performance. With five months remaining in the project, 34 participants have received services.

ALASKA PIPELINE WORKER TRAINING PROJECT (APWTP)

- In FY11, 575 Alaskans were trained in occupations related to the construction, operation and maintenance of an Alaska gas pipeline through three grantees. Another 261 students were provided learning opportunities that connect youth to future energy industry employment and training opportunities through two grantees.
- Under the APWTP, registered apprenticeship was encouraged as a preferred service delivery strategy through local job centers. As a result, registered apprenticeship is the second most common training service provided through the job centers, exceeded only by traditional post secondary classroom training programs.
- Utilizing APWTP funding, 83 Alaskans were enrolled in registered apprenticeship programs such as geophysical core driller, surveyor technicians, electrical, and other priority occupations.
- In FY11, the Division awarded nearly \$2 million to five grantees to support training of 836 participants through local job centers, the Fairbanks pipeline worker training center, the University of Alaska, and regional training centers (including AVTEC) throughout the state.
- Project activities for this temporary grant end March 31, 2012. In FY12, the remaining funds will serve 412 participants through grants to three project operators: the Employment Security Division, Alaska Works Partnership, and AVTEC - Alaska's Institute of Technology.

RAPID RESPONSE

- In FY11, the Rapid Response program worked with 45 different Alaskan companies that laid-off 725 workers. Rapid Response team members responded to these layoffs in a timely, efficient, and sensitive manner providing much needed information, guidance and resources to workers who were going through difficult transitional periods, and employers trying to navigate layoff system processes.

- Layoff events of note included the state of Alaska, a project management company, the University of Alaska, and the Alaska National Guard.
- The Rural Outreach Program for Entrepreneurs (ROPE) program, funded by a \$250,000 grant to the University of Alaska, Alaska Small Business Development Center, provided consultation and strategic planning through the provision of workshops to businesses and entrepreneurs in Western Alaska. During ROPE's second year in Western Alaska, 427 individuals attended 48 workshops, 12 new jobs were created, two new businesses started up, and the area drew \$4.5 million in new capital infusions for entrepreneurs. At the end of FY11, this program was discontinued due to federal funding declines.

ALASKA STATE ENERGY SECTOR PARTNERSHIP (ASESP)

- Alaska was one of 34 states to receive a competitive federal award of \$3.6 million to train 700 new and incumbent workers in the emerging industries of renewable energy and energy efficiency by January 2013.
- At the end of FY2011, the Alaska State Energy Sector Partnership was ranked second in the nation for program implementation and outcomes.
- In the first two quarters of FY 12, training and employment outcomes have nearly surpassed the FY11 outcomes for the entire year. As of January 31, 2012, 484 participants have been trained with 224 employed, including 247 participants trained with 145 employed in renewable energy and energy efficiency related occupations from FY11. Occupations include apprentices and journeymen in the construction trades, Advanced and Hydro Power Plant Operators, Industrial Electricians, and Weatherization Technicians. The number of participants to be trained in FY12 is currently projected to be 711.
- The ASESP is a partnership focused on the renewable energy and energy efficiency workforce. The partnership consists of ten agencies and organizations, including Alaska Housing Finance, Alaska Energy Authority, and the University of Alaska.

DENALI TRAINING FUND AND YOUTH TRAINING FUND

- In FY11, the Division awarded \$309,986 in grant funds to five grantees resulting in 44 participants trained for Denali Commission infrastructure projects. In FY11, the Division awarded \$336,611 in grant funds to ten grantees that provided career exploration and training services to 380 in- and out-of-school rural youth.
- The Denali Training Fund program awarded \$582,480 through the second quarter of FY12 for training 233 rural participants for jobs related to the construction and maintenance of rural infrastructure projects.

ALASKA OIL AND GAS TRAINING PROGRAM

- In FY11, the \$585,000 GF program for training in gas line construction, operations and maintenance related occupations provided 42 participants with training and employment assistance.
- Sixty-two percent of the Rural Aircraft Dispatchers receiving FAA certification were women.
- In FY11, the program contributed four new training programs including WIFI, Fiber Optic and Military Specifications and Ruggedized Connections, and Environmental Technician registered apprenticeship.
- Nearly 62 percent of the funding was expended in support of rural residents.
- A decrement of \$150,000 for the gas line training program was redirected in FY12 to make up for a prisoner re-entry training fund administered by the Department of Corrections. It is expected that the gas line training program will serve 15 fewer participants in FY12 as a result of this reduction.

ALASKA YOUTH FIRST PROGRAM

- In FY11, the Alaska Youth First Program awarded 14 grants for more than \$1.9 million, which provided services to 40,667 youth.
- The Alaska Youth First Program provided 76,264 services to participants in FY11. More than 886 participated in paid work experience while 36 teachers successfully completed industry externships in health care, construction, mining, and energy industries.
- The Alaska Youth First Program provided guidance and assistance to youth in 129 schools across the state, representing 27 school districts, impacting 88 communities.
- In FY11, 14,261 youth participated in work experience, youth employability skills training, and applied academic training as part of preparation for employment and vocational technical education.
- Among Youth First grantees, over 400 organizational and industry partnerships were developed to prepare Alaska's youth for the workforce. Examples of partnerships include Job Corp, Alaska Military Academy, school districts, job centers, and various vendors who hire youth for work experience. Partnerships in the TIE program include industry hosts, Cornerstone Construction, National Electrical Contractors Association of Alaska, Usibelli Coal Mine, Pebble Mine, Arctic Slope Regional Corporation, British Petroleum, Conoco Phillips, Providence Hospital, Alaska Children's Services, Banner Health, Bristol Bay Health Corporation, the VA Hospital, and Palmer Senior Citizen's Center.

- In FY11, 19 career guides worked across the state in Anchorage, Bethel, Dillingham, Fairbanks, Juneau, Kenai, Ketchikan, Kodiak, Mat-Su, Nome, and Sitka providing outreach to youth in over 73 rural communities including Alakanuk, Scammon Bay, Wales, and Ouzinki on Kodiak Island . The career guide model is recognized as a national best practice; several states are emulating the model.
- In FY11, the Youth First Initiative leveraged one-time federal funds to support three career guides, two of them in rural locations, and one new position at the Anchorage School District’s King Career Center dedicated to the health care industry in response to the industry’s demand for new workers.
- In FY11, the Alaska Youth First Program provided services to 88 communities, 27 school districts and 129 schools. In FY12, the Alaska Youth First Program anticipates providing services in 28 school districts, in more than 130 schools across the state, impacting 90 communities. Of these, 85 communities, 23 school districts, and 101 schools are rural.
- Each year the Alaska Youth First Program has increased outcomes across the state:
 - In FY10, the overall number of participants was 30,116; in FY11 it was 40,667, an increase of 10,551 participants or 35 percent higher from FY10.
 - In FY10, there were 16 career guides across the state; in FY11, 19; and in FY12, there are 21 career guides (seven in the Southcentral region, four in the Southeast region, four in the Southwest region, three in the Interior region, and three in the Far North region).

ALASKA CONSTRUCTION ACADEMY

- In FY11, nine construction academies located in Anchorage, Fairbanks, Juneau, Kenai Peninsula, Ketchikan, Mat-Su, Bethel, Kodiak, and Nome provided construction related training to 43 Alaskan communities. The academies served 5,691 participants and successful participants received nationally recognized industry certifications.
- In FY11, the youth component of the construction academy provided construction related training to nine school districts and served 5,130 students.
- From a survey of high school students who participated in the Alaska Construction Academies in FY2011, 79 percent reported the construction classes increased their desire to remain in high school and attend classes. Of those students who attended construction academies and graduated, 97 percent reported that the construction classes prepared them for a career and 74 percent planned to work or were working in Alaska.

- Research and Analysis indicates that the FY11 participants showed a wage and salary increase of 20.5 percent.
- In FY11, Alaska Construction Academy participant enrollments increased by nearly 18 percent compared to FY10 due to expansion into the rural areas as well as improvement of recruitment and outreach strategies.
- Of the FY11 adult participants surveyed, 76 percent obtained employment.
- In FY11, approximately 12 percent of the participants trained in the Alaska Construction Academy were women. By the second quarter of FY12, the number of women trained increased to 16 percent.

TECHNICAL AND VOCATIONAL EDUCATION PROGRAM/GENERAL FUND

- In FY 11, the Division administered six grants totaling \$3,017,000 in Technical and Vocational Education Funds (TVEP). These grants were provided to the Northwest Alaska Career and Technical Education Center (NACTEC) in Nome, the Alaska Technical Center in Kotzebue, the Southwest Alaska Vocational Education Center (SAVEC) in King Salmon, Yuut Elitnaurviat in Bethel, New Frontier Vocational Education Center in Soldotna, and Delta Career Advancement Center, which is operated by the Partners for Progress in Delta (PPD), in Delta Junction.
- The Division administered \$1,195,000 in supplemental General Fund support to three of the Regional Training Centers, which included grants to Alaska Technical Center, Northwest Alaska Career and Technical Education Center (NACTEC), and Southwest Alaska Vocational Center (SAVEC).
- For FY 11, the Regional Training Centers reported serving 2,814 participants through the TVEP and GF grants. For the first quarter of FY12, of those TVEP grantees that have submitted reports, 1,091 participants have been served.
- For FY12, TVEP grantees, administered through the Division of Business Partnerships, received a total of \$2,924,900.