



MEDIA RELEASE

Jobs are Alaska's Future



ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
& WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
Commissioner Click Bishop

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Application Deadline Extended for \$2 Million State Training and Employment Program Grants

JUNEAU – The Commissioner of the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development has extended the grant application deadline for worker training and employment projects under the State Training and Employment Program, or STEP. The deadline is extended to 5 p.m. Sept. 7, 2007, Alaska Standard Time.

The Department of Labor encourages nonprofit and for-profit organizations, educators, industry trainers, employers and agencies with the capacity to meet both the legal and policy STEP requirements to apply. The grant awards are limited to \$300,000 maximum per application for work force training projects, unless the department determines a higher amount is appropriate.

The outcomes of the work force training projects should result in direct employment for Alaska's critical demand occupations in the following priority industries: health care, construction, information technology, education, natural resource development, transportation, hospitality and tourism, and seafood harvesting and processing.

“STEP has been a real success story for Alaska by helping thousands of Alaskans upgrade their job skills and getting them into higher paying jobs,” said Labor Commissioner Click Bishop. “We’re looking to fund quality training programs for quality jobs.”

STEP funds target training for individuals 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 a work force reduction or conditions requiring they learn substantially different job skills.

For grant application details, go to the State of Alaska's Web site at www.state.ak.us. Click on “Notices” in the top menu bar, view by published date of Aug. 6, 2007, and select “State Fiscal Year 2008 State Training and Employment Program Grant Application.”

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