Click Bishop Commissioner P.O. Box 111149 Juneau, AK 99811-1149 www.labor.alaska.gov



Beth Leschper Communications Director

907.465.2700 cell: 907.723.1321

beth.leschper@alaska.gov

# Press Release

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE June 18, 2009

No. 09-33

For more information: Rita Bowen, Program Coordinator

907-465-4872, Rita.Bowen@Alaska.Gov

# **Labor Grants Provide Training for Older Alaskans**

JUNEAU, Alaska—An additional \$563,685 is now available to help train unemployed low-income Alaskans who are 55 years or older. The training, available across the state, is funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. These funds will be added to the more than \$2.3 million already set aside for training funds for older Alaskans.

"Many older Alaskans find themselves in need of training to compete in today's job market," said Rita Bowen, Mature Alaskans Seeking Skills Training Program Coordinator for the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development's Employment Security Division. "These grants are particularly for those individuals who are unemployed and have poor employment prospects, whose goal is unsubsidized employment."

Training opportunities are in health care, child care, education, green jobs, energy efficiency environmental services and other available public service activities.

"While helping older Alaskans become self-sufficient, these grants will provide support to non-profit organizations through increased civic engagement," Bowen said.

To access these training opportunities, Alaskans should contact the agency listed below that is closest to their communities.

## **Anchorage**

Nine Star Enterprises Carol Northamer, MASST Coordinator 1251 Muldoon Road, Suite 111A Anchorage, Alaska 99504 (907) 339-0833 caroln@ninestar.com

# Southeast Alaska

Southeast Regional Resource Center Susan Bus, MASST Coordinator 210 Ferry Way Juneau, Alaska 99801 (907) 586-5718 susanb@serrc.org

### Mat-Su Valley

Palmer Senior Citizens Center Noel Matteson, Older Worker Specialist 831 South Chugach Street Palmer, Alaska 99645 (907) 745-5454 nmatteso@pobox.mtaonline.net

#### **Fairbanks**

Adult Learning Programs of Alaska Tom Howard, MASST Coordinator 122 First Avenue, Suite 201 Fairbanks, Alaska 99701 (907) 452-6434 thoward@adultlearning.org

#### Kenai Peninsula

Sherry Collinsworth Older Worker Specialist Mile 26.1 or P.O. Box 6973 Nikiski, Alaska 99635 (907) 776-7583 sherry@nikiskiseniorcenter.org

#### **Other Alaska Locations**

Employment Security Division Rita Bowen, MASST Program Coordinator 1111 West 8th Street, Room 210 Juneau, Alaska 99811-5509 (907) 465-4872 Rita.Bowen@Alaska.Gov