

News Release



ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
& WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

July 5, 2005
No. 05-68

Labor Receives \$7 Million High Growth Energy Grant

U.S. Secretary of Labor Elaine L. Chao today presented United States Senator Ted Stevens and Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development Commissioner Greg O'Claray with a check for a \$7 million grant to increase the state's capacity to recruit and train workers for careers in the energy and construction industries.

During the acceptance speech, Commissioner O'Claray said: "These funds will forward Governor Murkowski's vision to develop Alaska's abundant energy resources, get them to world markets, and put Alaskans to work." The Commissioner added that the funding "will help increase the state's capacity to recruit and train Alaskans, especially younger Alaskans, for careers in the construction trades and the energy industry."

The Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development applied for the grant money in February as part of its strategy to recruit and train Alaskans for the estimated 43,000 new jobs that will be created during the next decade as the state pursues the revitalization of its resource industries.

"This project, endorsed by the Alaska Workforce Investment Board, will serve to train more than 500 youth and 500 job seekers and incumbent workers. The grant is a clear indication of the very exciting and lucrative future Alaska's workforce can look forward to and sends a loud message to Alaska's young people: There are great jobs in your future, right here at home, and we're going to ensure you have the job skills and education to fill them." O'Claray said.

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