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Press Release

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STEP Grant Application Available Online

JUNEAU, Alaska—The application for the State Training and Employment Program for fiscal year 2010 is available online. The program helps thousands of Alaskans upgrade job skills and get them into higher paying jobs in critical demand occupations.

“Since 1989, STEP has provided a ‘leg up’ to workers by investing in job training to help reduce current and future claims against unemployment insurance benefits,” Labor Commissioner Click Bishop said. “This program has become more critical than ever to help Alaskans weather the current economic storm.”

STEP grants are funded by one-tenth of one percent of employee contributions to Alaska’s unemployment insurance trust fund. They are awarded in priority industries, such as health care, construction, information technology, education, natural resource development, transportation, hospitality and tourism, and seafood harvesting and processing.

“We encourage 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,” said Corine Geldhof, director of the department’s Division of Business, which administers STEP on behalf of the Alaska Workforce Investment Board.

In 2007, the latest year for which figures are available, the 1,445 participants who exited STEP increased their earnings by \$9.3 million, more than twice the \$4.4 million cost for the program that year.

Grants are awarded through a competitive process, with members of the Alaska Workforce Investment Board assisting the labor commissioner in determining the final projects. For a grant application, go to alaska.gov and click on “Notices” in the top menu bar, view by department “Labor” and under public notices select “[State Fiscal Year 2010 State Training and Employment Program Grant Application](#).”

The deadline for applications is 5 p.m. Tuesday, May 12.

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