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Press Release

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Youth Grant Applications Available Online

JUNEAU, Alaska—The Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development is accepting proposals to fund employment and training projects that prepare youth ages 14 to 24 for career paths that lead to employment in Alaska's high demand occupations.

"About 15 percent of Alaska's workforce is between ages 14 to 21, and collectively they earned more than \$408 million in 2007," Labor Commissioner Click Bishop said. "These programs will continue to help young Alaskans prepare for their futures."

The Request for Grant Applications is a coordinated solicitation for state general funds authorized by the Alaska Legislature and federal funds from the U.S. Department of Labor, for three programs: the Workforce Investment Act Youth, Alaska Youth First and Denali Training Fund Youth.

Proposals would address expanding the career guide model so that every Alaska school district is represented, encourage more relevant industry-related curricula in schools (through expanded teacher externships), create work readiness and youth employability skills, improve available and innovative career planning options, increase school-to-apprenticeship and continue to reach youth who are most in need or at risk.

"If we are to prepare our emerging workforce – our youth – for the estimated 44,000 new jobs projected for this decade, we need a new era of collaboration and innovation," said Corine Geldhof, director of the department's Division of Business Partnerships, which administers the programs. "Non-profit or for-profit organizations, school districts, educators, industry trainers, employers and community services agencies with the capacity to facilitate innovative training and to build career awareness should apply."

Grants are awarded through a competitive process. Applicants may apply for more than one program. Applicants that apply for more than one program should demonstrate a comprehensive approach to youth employment. Supplemental or additional funds may be appropriated to the state for these programs during the time this grant solicitation is in progress. In the event additional funds are authorized, the department may consider applicant proposals submitted in response to this RGA for the additional funds.

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 "[2010 Combined Workforce Investment Act Youth Program, Alaska Youth First Program, and Denali Training Fund Youth Program Request for Grant Application \(RGA\)](#)."

The deadline for applications is 5 p.m. Friday, May 1.

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