

Gasline Workforce Scholarship Program**FY2009 Request: \$4,500,000****Reference No: 46871****AP/AL:** Appropriation**Project Type:** Construction**Category:** Education**Location:** Statewide**Contact:** Guy Bell**House District:** Statewide (HD 1-40)**Contact Phone:** (907)465-2700**Estimated Project Dates:** 07/01/2008 - 06/30/2013**Brief Summary and Statement of Need:**

This request would establish a Gasline Workforce Scholarship Program for recent high school or GED graduates preparing for careers in AGIA-related occupations requiring Associates or Certificate level training and enrolling in programs of a minimum of eight weeks in length and up to two years in length.

Funding:	<u>FY2009</u>	<u>FY2010</u>	<u>FY2011</u>	<u>FY2012</u>	<u>FY2013</u>	<u>FY2014</u>	<u>Total</u>
Gen Fund	\$4,500,000						\$4,500,000
Total:	\$4,500,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$4,500,000

<input type="checkbox"/> State Match Required	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> One-Time Project	<input type="checkbox"/> Phased - new	<input type="checkbox"/> Phased - underway	<input type="checkbox"/> On-Going
0% = Minimum State Match % Required		<input type="checkbox"/> Amendment	<input type="checkbox"/> Mental Health Bill	

Operating & Maintenance Costs:

	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Staff</u>
Project Development:	0	0
Ongoing Operating:	0	0
One-Time Startup:	0	0
Totals:	0	0

Additional Information / Prior Funding History:

No previous funding has been provided for this project.

Project Description/Justification:

Gasline Workforce Scholarship Program \$4,500,000
(AGIA Training Strategic Plan Strategy 4.2f)

This request would establish a scholarship program for recent high school or GED graduates preparing for careers in AGIA-related occupations requiring Associates or Certificate level training and enrolling in programs of a minimum of eight weeks in length and up to two years in length.

Scholarships would be capped at the lesser of student costs to attend (after other non-loan aid) or \$6,000 per year per student for tuition or other education-related expenses such as tools, testing fees tied to industry certification, concurrent (dual) enrollment credits, approved living expenses, etc. Fifty percent of the award will be disbursed on program entry and 50 percent at program midpoint, consistent with federal grants, so long as the student is making satisfactory academic progress.

Eligibility will be limited to the 113 AGIA-related occupations as established by the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development's Research and Analysis section, grouped as follows: Crafts, Equipment Operators, Material Handling, Logistics, Operations, Administration, Camps/catering, Office & Field Engineering, Environmental, and Safety.

Specific credentials will be identified for each scholarship-eligible occupation.

The program will be administered by the Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education (ACPE). We are proposing to provide approximately 150 scholarships per year and are requesting \$4,500.0 GF over the five-year period. ACPE can manage this program as part of ongoing grants oversight, and forego charging administrative overhead. There may be a minimal cost related to modification of ACPE's grant management system to efficiently accommodate program administration.

The Commissioner of Labor and Workforce Development will develop the rules and procedures for eligibility with review and approval by the Alaska Workforce Investment Board. Rules will include the following:

- Return of funds if student drops out of a program; to keep management simple we will require that the school return any refund due the student to the grant program, and not require return of funds if the student drops after the school refund deadline.
- Distance education program eligibility.
- Requirement that students attend full-time.
- Requiring schools to collect completion and placement rates to document program success.
- Rules to determine whether a program qualifies as AGIA-related.
- Priority for scholarships will be for Alaskans enrolling at publicly funded and accredited postsecondary programs.

Eligible Schools: Any Alaska postsecondary training institution authorized or determined to be exempt from authorization to operate in Alaska by ACPE, and which offers a qualifying program of study. Schools will need to sign a Program Participation Agreement (PPA) indicating their willingness and ability to ensure funds are only disbursed to eligible students and are promptly returned if not used.

Funds disbursement: funds would be disbursed in care of the school upon school certification that the student is enrolled and otherwise eligible.

Preparation: Eligibility is limited to Alaska residents and includes high school diploma or GED and Work Keys scores, or enrollment in a Tech Prep program that is AGIA-related.