

Alaska Construction Academy Training Opportunities

FY2009 Request: \$3,500,000

Reference No: 45410

AP/AL: Appropriation

Project Type: Construction

Category: Education

Recipient: Alaska School Districts

Location: Statewide

Contact: Corine Geldhof

House District: Statewide (HD 1-40)

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Estimated Project Dates: 07/01/2008 - 06/30/2009

Brief Summary and Statement of Need:

This project will provide an opportunity for Alaskans (1,000 high school students and 300 adults) to attend a construction academy focused on high demand, high wage occupations in the construction industry. Commitments have been made through the Homebuilders Association and apprenticeship programs to select successful completers of the construction academies for employment and further apprenticeship opportunities which promotes the department's mission to advance opportunities for employment.

Funding:	FY2009	FY2010	FY2011	FY2012	FY2013	FY2014	Total
Gen Fund	\$3,500,000						\$3,500,000
Total:	\$3,500,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$3,500,000

<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:	3,500,000	0
Ongoing Operating:	0	0
<u>One-Time Startup:</u>	<u>0</u>	
Totals:	3,500,000	0

Additional Information / Prior Funding History:

This program began at the King Career Center in Anchorage with a \$1.5 million designated grant in FY 07 allocated by a capital project through the Department of Commerce to the Anchorage School District for the first phase of this program. FY 08 CIP's totaling \$3.5 million (\$2 million Department of Labor and Workforce Development, \$1.5 million designated grant to Alaska Association of General Contractors) expanded the program to include academies in Anchorage, Fairbanks, Kenai, Mat-Su, and Southeast.

Project Description/Justification:

One thousand new construction workers are needed every year just to keep pace with the existing demand in construction projects. As with every industry, the construction industry is finding it more and more difficult to find qualified, job-ready Alaskans for work on Alaskan projects, even without considering the possibility of constructing a gas pipeline in the future. If we consider the ten-year forecast, 48,000 new jobs will be created in Alaska.

The Anchorage and Fairbanks Construction Academies will train as many as 700 high school students and 175 adults in FY 08. We estimate that 75 graduating high school students will become employed in construction-related jobs and 35 students will enter post-secondary training programs (i.e., apprenticeships, college, vocational training). We further estimate that 130 adult course

completers will be employed in construction-related jobs six months following their Alaska Construction Academy course and 30 adult course completers will be accepted into construction trades-related apprenticeship programs. Although we are still in the planning stages with the Construction Academies in Juneau, Kenai, Ketchikan and Mat-Su, we expect that these four Academies will train as many as 300 high school students and 125 adults before the end of June 2008. Of the high school students, we are estimating that 40 graduating high school students will become employed in construction-related jobs and 25 students will enter post-secondary training programs (i.e., apprenticeship, college, vocational training). We estimate that 75 adult course completers will be employed in construction-related jobs six months following their Alaska Construction Academy course and 16 adult course completers will be accepted into construction trades-related apprenticeship programs.

We are requesting this program be funded in FY 09 at \$3.5 million General Fund in the capital budget to continue participation for youth and adults. The funds are for use in training up the future Alaska workforce to take advantage of high-demand occupations in high-growth industries; to prepare Alaska's youth for careers and best-bet occupations; and to continue construction academies as a demonstrable, best-practice throughout Alaska. This request will replace funding dedicated to training youth and advancing vocational technical education in Alaska's schools from the federal High Growth Job Training Initiative award that ends in FY08, and will assist in continuing construction academies with increased partnership with school districts and industry led consortia represented by the Alaska Home Builders Association and the Associated General Contractors.

This funding request is also designed to meet the following four strategies set out by the Alaska Workforce Investment Board in support of the department's statutory mandate under the Alaska Gasline Inducement Act, which states: "the Commissioner of Labor and Workforce Development shall develop a job training program that will provide training for Alaskans in gas pipeline project management, construction, operations, maintenance and other gas pipeline related positions" (AS 43.90.470): (1) Develop a comprehensive, integrated Career and Technical Education system for Alaska that aligns training institutions and coordinates program delivery; (2) Increase awareness of and the ability to access career opportunities in natural resource development; (3) Increase opportunities for registered apprenticeship/structured on-the-job training for skilled occupations; (4) Increase opportunities for development of appropriate training programs for operations, technical and management workers.

To meet the goal of 1,300 trained and work ready Alaskans (youth and adult), the department will continue partnerships with industry and the Anchorage, Fairbanks, Kenai, Mat-Su and various Southeast School Districts to provide industry specific training at the respective regional Career Centers. The academies will provide basic skills and hands on experience to youth and adults to prepare them for future employment with members of entities such as the Homebuilders Association or entrance into apprenticeship programs.

By supporting this effort with the school districts we institutionalize the concept of work readiness in our education system. Since the training is supported by industry we are assured that workers will be trained according to industry standards. The long term potential for such training is that education will continue to invest in vocational training systems that result in work ready workers and industry will support an education system that is meeting its needs.