

**Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development****Grants to Named Recipients (AS 37.05.316)****Grant Recipient: Nine Star Education & Employment Services****Federal Tax ID: 92-0069154****Project Title:****Project Type: Other**

## **Nine Star Enterprises, Inc. - Dropout Recovery Program**

**State Funding Requested: \$50,000**  
One-Time Need**House District: Anchorage Areawide (17-32)****Brief Project Description:**

Services for out-of-school youth in the Mountain View and Russian Jack neighborhoods to help them obtain high school diplomas and employment skills
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**Funding Plan:****Total Cost of Project: \$50,000***There is no other funding needed***Detailed Project Description and Justification:****Background**

Nine Star Education and Employment Services proposes to recruit and serve out-of-school youth and young adults in the Russian Jack and Mountain View communities with specific reference to those who have not completed a high school diploma. Studies suggest that the dividing line between youth and young adults who are incarcerated and those who pursue and maintain gainful employment is represented by a high school diploma.

In recent years, Nine Star has had approximately 50 High School graduates each in Mountain View and Muldoon from the State of Alaska's GED High School Diploma Program and Nine Star's High School Completion Program operated through the Nenana School District's Cyberlynx High School Degree Program.

Nine Star also offers Trades Math for entry to apprenticeship and technical trades programs, UAA Preparatory Math for entry to the University, math skills tailored to high growth jobs in Alaska, and computer instruction to prepare Alaskans to enter the workforce.

**Population**

Mountain View and Russian Jack are diverse communities and Nine Star has a multi-lingual staff with representatives who work with community residents in a variety of ways to assist those individual and families to be self-sufficient. Nine Star's credo with clients is go to work, stay at work, and advance on the job. Nine Star works collaboratively with Covenant House Alaska, Cook Inlet Tribal Council, Alaska Literacy Program, ASD McLaughlin Youth Center, Catholic Social Services, and UAA to prepare residents for work and for further education.

**Dropout Recovery Services***For use by Co-chair Staff Only:***\$50,000  
Approved**

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Youth and young adults who have left school without a diploma need high school preparation in math and English leading to a degree and, more importantly, leading to fundamental skills needed on the job. Nine Star provides the Anchorage GED preparation and testing as well as the High School Completion Program. Services are provided currently in Mountain View, Muldoon, Downtown (3 locations), Fairview, Eagle River, and Midtown. Services include aptitude and skills assessments, a student plan to achieve a degree and prepare for work, job match/placement, and follow-up. Students who complete their academic and employment programs at Nine Star are eligible to return for additional services whenever they need professional counseling or instruction. Academic classes in math and English in preparation for both the GED test and work are delivered T, W, TH in Mountain View and MWF in Muldoon.

The GED preparation services include instruction in math, writing, grammar, social studies, and science. Entering students take a pre-test, and students must pass a post-test in order to be referred for GED testing.

The High School Completion Program has an enrollment window from July 1 to October 20. Student credit accumulation is evaluated and the students complete an intake review. They then take courses online which provide enough credits to graduate with a Nenana School District diploma. Nenana teachers and administrators assist with the delivery of the program.

The Dropout Recovery students participate in the Nine Star Youth Education and Employment Services program in which they complete a diploma program, acquire needed math and language skills, take a temporary OR permanent job during or after their course of study.

This scope of work will include an expanded schedule of classes in Mountain View, tutoring for students who need one to one assistance, Workplace English as a Second Language for clients who need it, job placement once a student completes a program of study, and job follow-up where assistance is given to overcome barriers to persons who face them.

Tutoring and instruction will be provided by Nine Star Instructors and AmeriCorps members who guided and taught 393 Anchorage residents through their high school degree programs.

The Dropout Recovery program will provide bus vouchers to clients who need them, references on child care assistance, strategies for solving housing crises, interviewing and resume skills, word processing, data base, and spread sheet software programs, nutrition and financial information and assistance on other practical matters.

The outcomes for clients will be 1) high school diplomas, 2) permanent jobs, and 3) further vocational training as appropriate.

### **Project Timeline:**

FY2011 - Funds will be expended during the lifetime of the grant

### **Entity Responsible for the Ongoing Operation and Maintenance of this Project:**

Nine Star Enterprises, Inc.

**Grant Recipient Contact Information:**

Name:	David Alexander
Address:	125 W. 5 th. Avenue. Anchorage, AK 99501
Phone Number:	(907)279-7827
Email:	david@ninestar.com

Has this project been through a public review process at the local level and is it a community priority?  Yes  No