Alaska Workforce Investment Board
Southeast Conference Annual Meeting
September 17, 2008
Prince Rupert, B.C.
Alaska Workforce Investment Board

- AWIB is the lead state planning and coordinating entity for federal, state, and local efforts in human resource programs in Alaska related to employment training.
- AWIB is responsible for oversight of training, education, and employment programs administered by Department of Labor and reporting annually to the Legislature.
- AWIB is responsible for assessing and evaluating training programs for accountability and continuous quality improvement.
- AWIB is responsible for ensuring training programs are delivering education and training that is relevant to local market needs and career goals of state residents.
AWIB is responsible for building partnerships between employers and workforce programs and working to connect state public and private education systems with business, government, and labor.

AWIB is responsible for ensuring state residents are receiving workforce readiness skills through the education process.

Department of Labor has a budget of ~ $52 million for employment training in FY 09, of which $8 million is STEP.

Employment training programs include funding for WIA programs including the operation of 22 Job Centers, AVTEC, Construction Academies, Youth First, Denali Training Fund, STEP, TVEP, registered apprenticeship, and funding gas pipeline training.
In 2003, Alaska modified its workforce investment system transforming the state and two local workforce investment boards into one statewide board which streamlined the governing structure.

The AWIB would like to retain the most valuable elements of the local board system including a strong linkage to local employers, development projects, and regional workforce issues.

There are currently 8 Regional Advisory Councils (RACs) in Alaska.

Southeast Conference is the RAC for S.E. Alaska.
RACs provide input into the investments that are made in employment training in their regions.

The Department of Labor does not allocate funds directly to RACs.

The Department will engage with the RACs by taking the top three priority industries and occupations into consideration when making investment decisions in funding grant proposals through the State Training and Employment Program (STEP).

STEP grants are reviewed annually by an evaluation team consisting of 3 AWIB members and 1 public member.
RACs should define regional priorities for workforce development, and show how they are linked to employer demand, economic development, and education and training strategies.

Each region should gather, review, and assess local employment data, local skills, and identify skill gaps.

Set priorities to target the top three priorities and occupations in the region.

Provide oversight and advice on One-Stop Job Center operations to ensure they are meeting regional and local needs.
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- Develop and endorse regional economic development projects that are aligned with the identified regional occupational priorities.
- The RACs should establish plans for developing regional occupational priorities, and work with the AWIB on outcome reviews.
- RACs were invited to the May 2008 AWIB meeting to develop their regional occupational priorities.
- RACs agreed to have monthly meetings with assistance from AWIB staff to facilitate the development of occupational priorities and sharing best practices with all RACs.
In June 2008, the Southeast RAC prepared a phase 1 priority worksheet with the top three industries and occupational priorities which has been used by other RACs as a template.

All RACs have been invited to attend the AWIB meeting scheduled for October 27th and 28th in Fairbanks to discuss their priority industries and occupational priorities.
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