



Building Alaska's Workforce: The Importance of Immigrants

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Agenda

Overview of Newcomers in Alaska - Mara Kimmel

A snapshot of immigrants and the Alaska Economy – Issa Spatrisano

Investing in our future – Adult Basic Education – Deepika Ramesh Perumal

\$2.3B

Immigrant household income

\$1.8B

Total spending power

State & Local Taxes Paid

\$82.5M

Federal Taxes Paid

\$420.6M

Total Taxes Paid

\$503.1M

\$245.3M

Immigrants' contributions to Social Security

\$62.5M

Immigrants' contributions to Medicare

New Americans in Alaska



Alaska has a small but vital community of immigrants, many of whom came from the Philippines. About 7.5 percent of the state's residents are foreign-born, and 4.6 percent of its U.S.-born residents live with at least one immigrant parent. Immigrants make up 10.8 percent of Alaska's labor force and support the state's economy in many ways. They account for 45.1 percent of the manufacturing workforce in the state. As neighbors, business owners, taxpayers, and workers, immigrants are an integral part of Alaska's diverse and thriving communities and make extensive contributions that benefit all.

OVERVIEW¹

Immigrant residents ²	54,800
Immigrant share of population	7.5%
Immigrant taxes paid	\$503.1M
Immigrant spending power	\$1.8B

DEMOGRAPHICS

In the United States, immigrants are more likely to be working-age than their U.S.-born counterparts. This means they are more likely to be active in the labor force, allowing them to contribute to the economy not only as consumers but also as taxpayers, helping fund social services and programs like Medicare and Social Security.

Share of immigrant women	53.1%
Share of immigrant men	46.9%
Number of immigrant children	-
Share of U.S.-born residents living with at least one immigrant parent	4.6%
Number of U.S.-born residents living with at least one immigrant parent	31,000
Share of foreign-born that are proficient in English	86.8%

Our Communities

SOURCE: [HTTPS://MAP.AMERICANIMMIGRATIONCOUNCIL.ORG/LOCATIONS/ALASKA/#](https://map.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/locations/alaska/#)

Immigration Status

U.S. born citizen

Naturalized citizen

Lawful Permanent Resident

Employment Based Visa

Student Visas

Refugee

Asylee

Temporary Protected Status

Humanitarian Parole

Deferred Action on Childhood Arrival

Immigration in Alaska by the Numbers

J-1 and J-2 visas used in tourism/hospitality/retail, seafood, healthcare, education

H-1A visas (approx. 50 persons per year) – for labor in farms and greenhouses

1,100 Alaskans received their permanent residence status in 2023

47,000 visitor visas

32,000 foreign born Alaskans are U.S Citizens

30,600 foreign born Alaskans eligible to vote

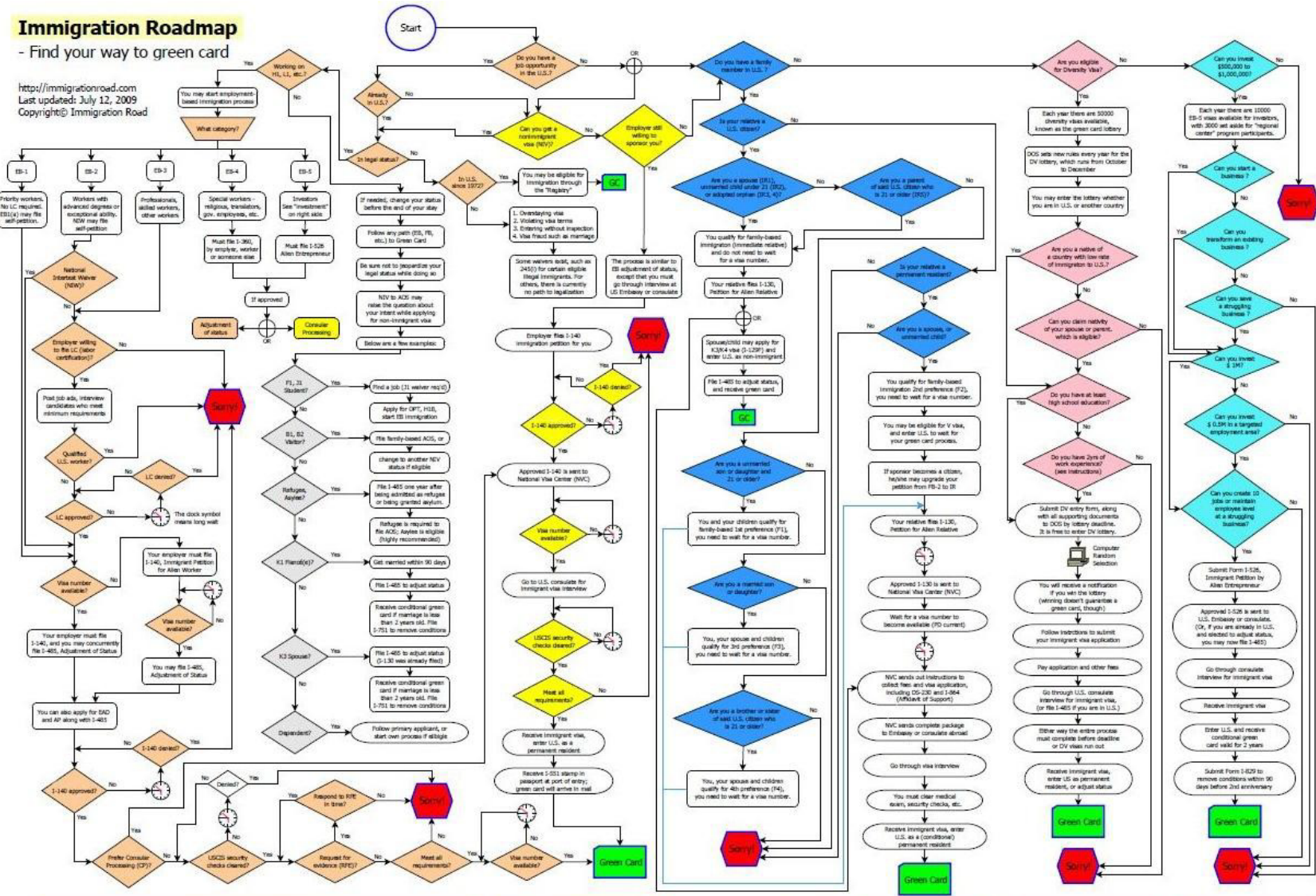
10,300 foreign born Alaskans eligible for naturalization

70 Alaskans here on Deferred Action Childhood Arrival status

Immigration Roadmap

- Find your way to green card

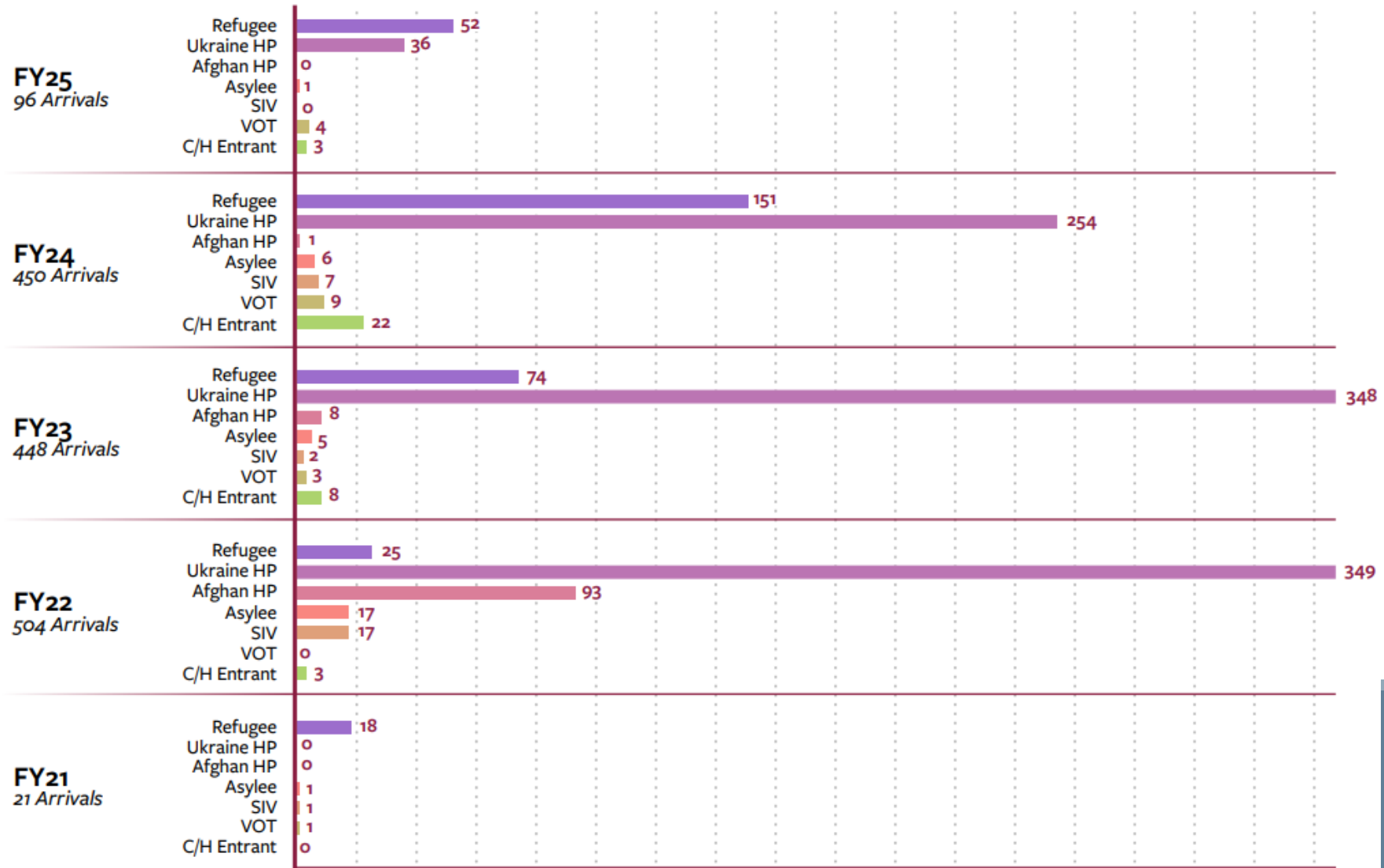
<http://immigrationroad.com>
Last updated: July 12, 2009
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How do I get my green card?

Disclaimer: This immigration roadmap is for general guidance only and shall NOT be construed as legal advice; U.S. Immigration laws and regulations are ever changing, so always confirm with USCIS and/or consult a qualified professional with regard to your case. No warranty is made regarding the accuracy of any information; list all possible ways to GC are covered by this flowchart, and appeal/injection to reopen are not included; You may start multiple processes if you are eligible.

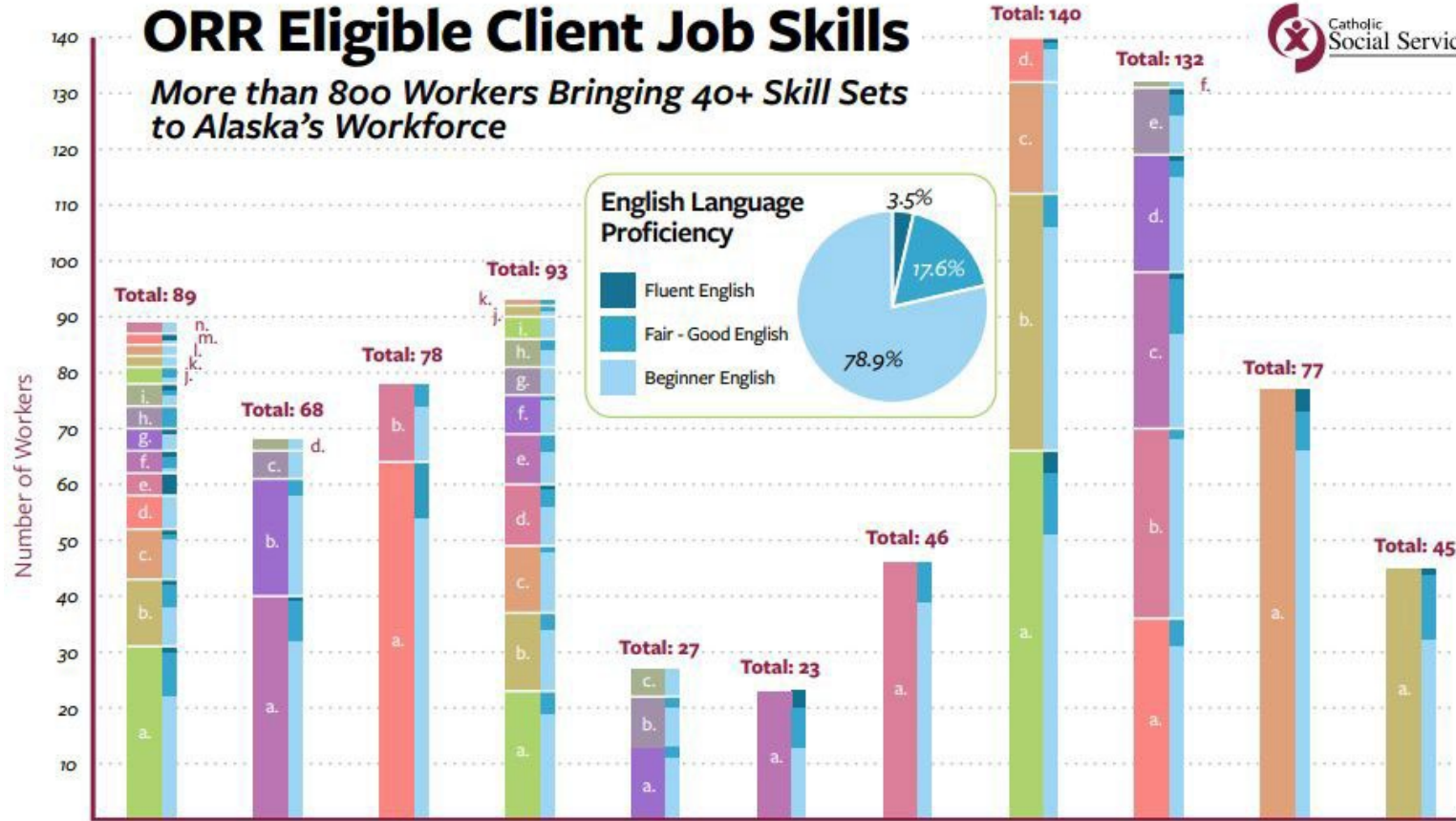
Resettlement by Population Over the Last 5 Years



*Data current as of Feb. 10, 2025, describing population of clients who have arrived in the last 5 years.

ORR Eligible Client Job Skills

More than 800 Workers Bringing 40+ Skill Sets to Alaska's Workforce



- | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|---|---------------|---------------|
| Professional: | Transport: | Builder: | Skilled Trade: | Protective: | Business: | Healthcare: | Entry Level: | Trade: | Sales: | Other: |
| a. Teacher | a. Taxi/Driver | a. Construction | a. Mechanic | a. Security Guard | a. Business Owner/Manager | a. Healthcare | a. Food Services | a. Agricultural | a. Sales | a. Other |
| b. Accounting | b. Truck/CDL | b. General Laborer | b. Electrician | b. Law Enforcement | | | b. Cleaning | b. Beauty | | |
| c. Engineer | c. Bus Driver | | c. Machinery Operator | c. Military | | | c. Childcare | c. Office/Clerical | | |
| d. Economist | d. Electric Locomotive Driver | | d. Welder | | | | d. Customer Service | d. Seamstress/Tailor | | |
| e. Interpreter | | | e. Painter | | | | | e. Fish Processing/Commercial Fishermen | | |
| f. Designer | | | f. Carpenter | | | | | f. Cobbler | | |
| g. HR | | | g. Jeweler | | | | | | | |
| h. Software Developer | | | h. Boiler Operator | | | | | | | |
| i. Data Analyst | | | i. Installer | | | | | | | |
| j. IT | | | j. Plumber | | | | | | | |
| k. Journalist | | | k. Wood Work | | | | | | | |
| l. Lawyer | | | k. Seaman | | | | | | | |
| m. Pilot | | | | | | | | | | |
| n. Social Worker | | | | | | | | | | |

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Federal FY 24 Employment Outcomes



Part Time Jobs

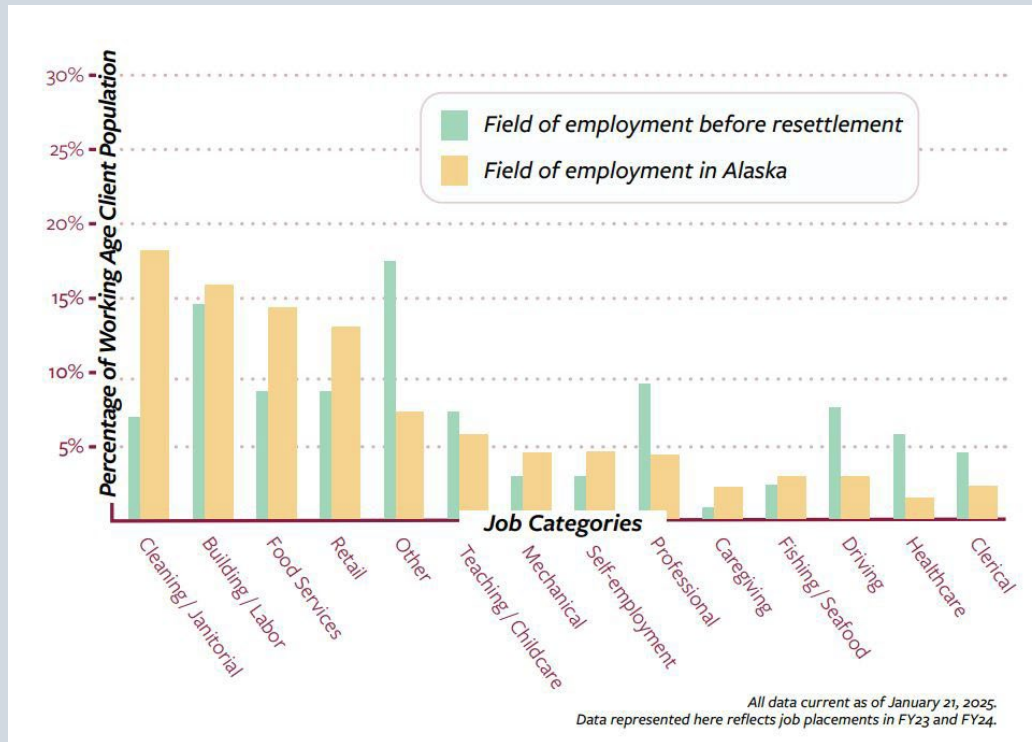
29% of job placements
Average wage:
\$16.33/hour



Full Time Jobs

71% of job placements
Average wage:
\$18.64/hour

Brain Waste

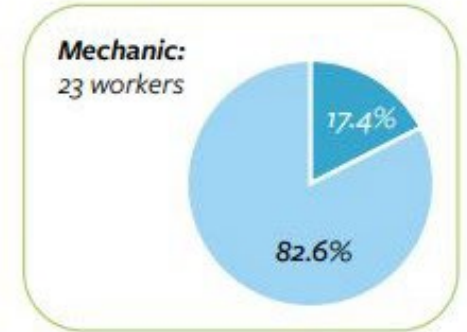
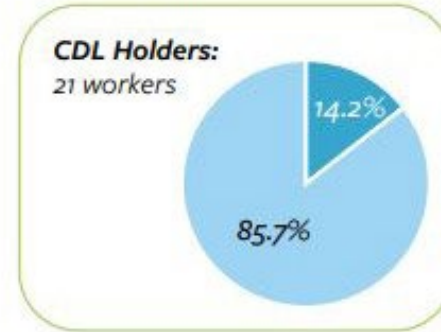
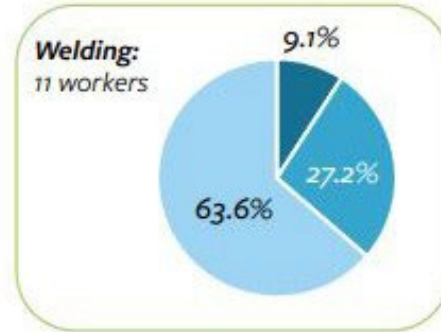
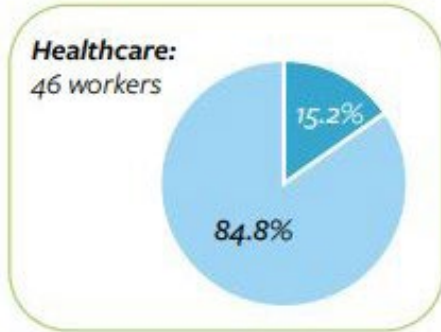
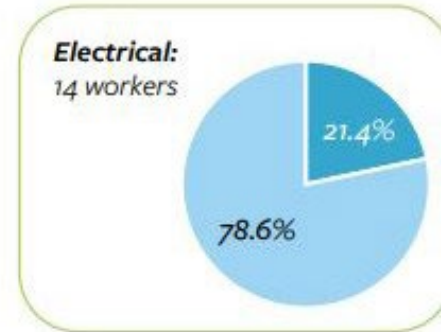
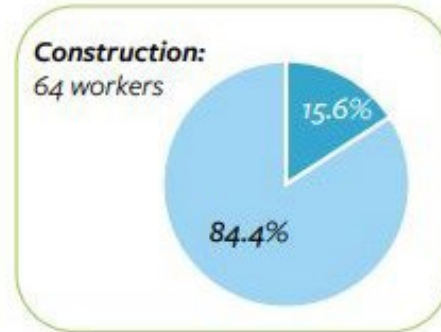
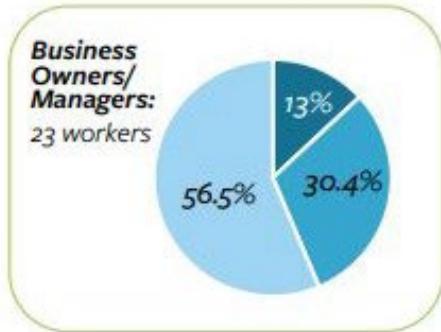
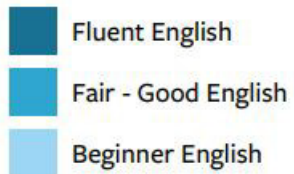


While the majority of workforce-eligible clients are employed, many are working jobs that don't match their work experience and skill capacity.

Regardless of work experience, the majority of resettled clients in Alaska (over 60%) are working in entry level fields which are generally lower-paying: janitorial, general labor, food services, and retail.

More than one third of workforce-eligible clients have work experience in medium to high-skill fields such as healthcare, professional, or mechanical, but only about 20% hold roles within those fields in Alaska.

Opportunity for training



*Data current as of Feb. 10, 2025, describing population of clients who have arrived in the last 5 years.

Alaska Literacy Program

Changing Lives Through Literacy

Since 1974

LITERACY (*noun*)

competence or knowledge in a specific area


- English
- Workplace
- Digital
- Health
- Financial
- Family
- Test Prep



ALP Students and the Workforce

- Average student age: **41**
- **88%** are working or available for work

ALP FY25 Student Demographic Report



Fiscal Year 2025

Total students this FY: 949 Average students served each quarter: **655**

Female	622	66%	Low Income	146	15%	Refugee	82	9%
Male	325	34%	Low Literacy	96	10%	US Citizen	33	3%

Diversity

ALP students speak **55** unique first languages. [\[full language list\]](#)

ALP students are from **82** unique home countries. [\[full country list\]](#)

World regions and ethnicity

Africa	108	11%	Asian	125	13%
Asia	141	15%	Black	139	15%
Europe	64	7%	Hispanic	291	31%
Oceania	5	1%	Native	9	1%
North America	110	12%	Pacific Islander	11	1%
Caribbean	72	8%	Two or more races	7	1%
Central America	51	5%	White	176	19%
South America	130	14%			

Age

Youngest Student	16	16-25 years old	153	16%
Average age	41	26-40 years old	365	38%
Oldest Student	91	41-64 years old	374	39%
		65+ years old	55	6%

Education

Total 5 years or less	95	10%	No Schooling	53	6%
			1-5 years of school	42	4%
with at least a GED	563	59%	6-12 years (no diploma)	214	23%
			GED	5	1%
at least some college	353	37%	High School Diploma	205	22%
			Some Postsecondary	86	9%
			College or Prof. Degree	267	28%

Work

Total Working	489	52%	Unemployed	349	37%	FY total	2.5%
			Employed-Full	392	41%		2.8%
			Employed-Part	97	10%		7%
Total Not in Labor Force	111	12%	Unavailable for Work	39	4%		3%
			Not Looking for Work	57	6%		4%
			Retired	15	2%		1%

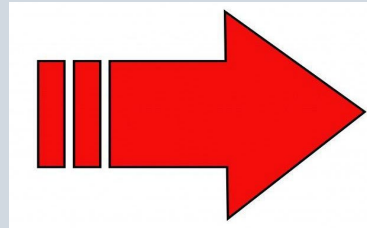
One Student's Journey

- **2016**: came to Alaska and joined ALP classes
- **2017**: become a Peer Leader Navigator and is still active with the program
graduated a healthcare training program via an ALP and CITC partnership
- **2018**: began working at Municipal support agency, remained over 6 years
- **2024**: wrote an award application for PLNs and won the award
- **2025**: began working at a state support agency



Growth at ALP

Until 2021, ALP averaged
350 students a YEAR



We now average more than
600 students a QUARTER

Over 1,000 individuals
served each year.



Thank you!

Questions?