

Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development Gasline Funding History

The Alaska Gasline Inducement Act required the Commissioner of Labor and Workforce Development (DOLWD) to develop a job training program for Alaskans in gas pipeline project management, construction, operations, maintenance and other gas pipeline related positions (AS 43.90.470).

In FY 08, the department was appropriated \$850.0 GF for the development of the program and the commissioner convened a steering committee to develop what became the Alaska Gasline Training Strategic Plan. The plan, first published in January 2008 identified four broad strategies to address system-wide improvements to Alaska's job training system and infrastructure focusing on preparing Alaskans for today's jobs that would give Alaskans an advantage in competing for gasline construction, maintenance and operation jobs as they became available. The steering committee emphasized that with or without the gasline Alaska has a skills gap that needs to be addressed through comprehensive system improvement. The lapse date for these funds was extended to year end FY09.

In FY 09, the department received a \$600.0 GF capital appropriation to make improvements to the on-line labor exchange system, and the Alaska Works Partnership was granted \$3 million GF toward construction of the Fairbanks Pipeline Training Center. In addition \$860.0 GF was transferred to the department from an appropriation to Governor's Office to be used for Oil and Gas Development. These funds were provided to the department to continue the strategic planning effort, to implement targeted job training activities, to develop an on-line training provider data base and improve presentation of labor market data at the regional and local levels. Each of these items was called for in the Gasline Training Strategic Plan.

In FY 10, the department was authorized \$410.0 GF carry-forward funding from the FY08 and FY09 appropriations and \$550.0 GF in new authorization by the legislature to continue the strategic planning effort, to implement targeted job training activities, and to continue development of the on-line training provider data base and improve presentation of labor market data at the regional and local levels. The department also realigned other existing internal funding (\$250.0 GF) to support Alaska Workforce Investment Board gasline activities.

In FY 11, due to a recognition that this planning, workforce development and training is necessary even without a gasline, the department instead of requesting continued gasline funding has reallocated funds within the existing budget to continue the strategic planning effort, to implement targeted job training activities, and improve the on-line training provider data base and presentation of labor market data at the regional and local levels. The realignment is included in the budget request which is currently before the House Finance Subcommittee for Labor and Workforce Development.

To date (FY 09 and FY 10 to date) the department has sponsored training for over 250 Alaskans in gasline related occupations with the funding identified above.