

Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development

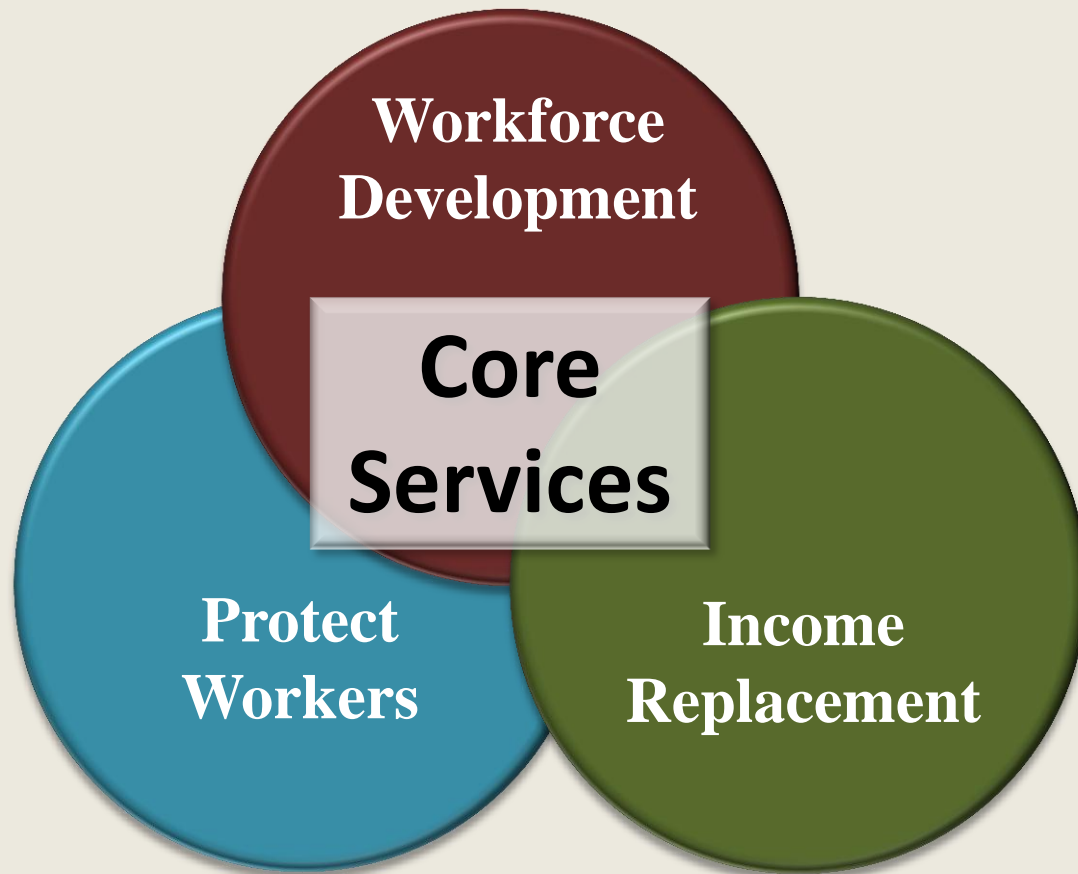
House Labor and Commerce Department Overview

**Commissioner Dianne Blumer
February 6, 2013**

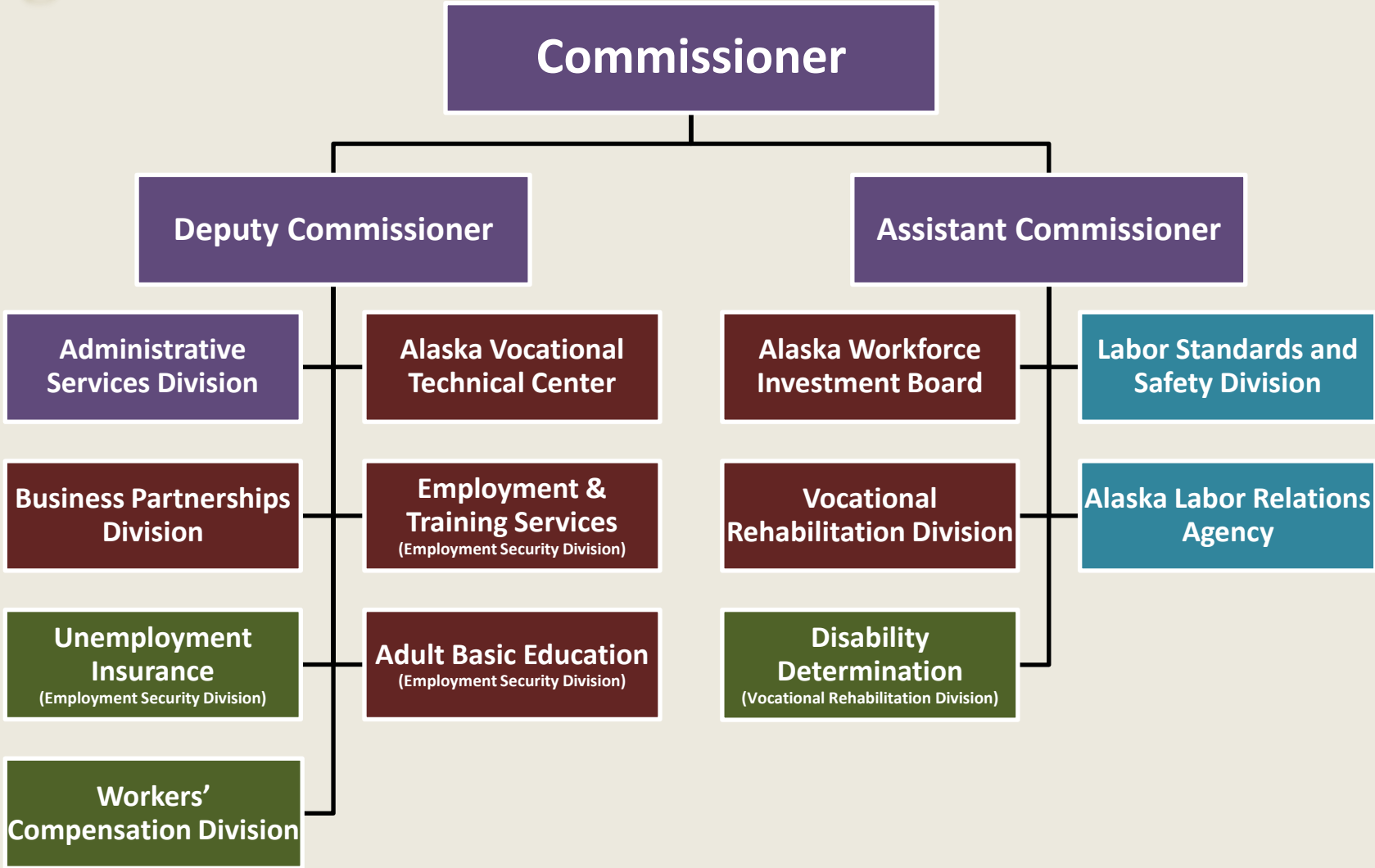


Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development Mission

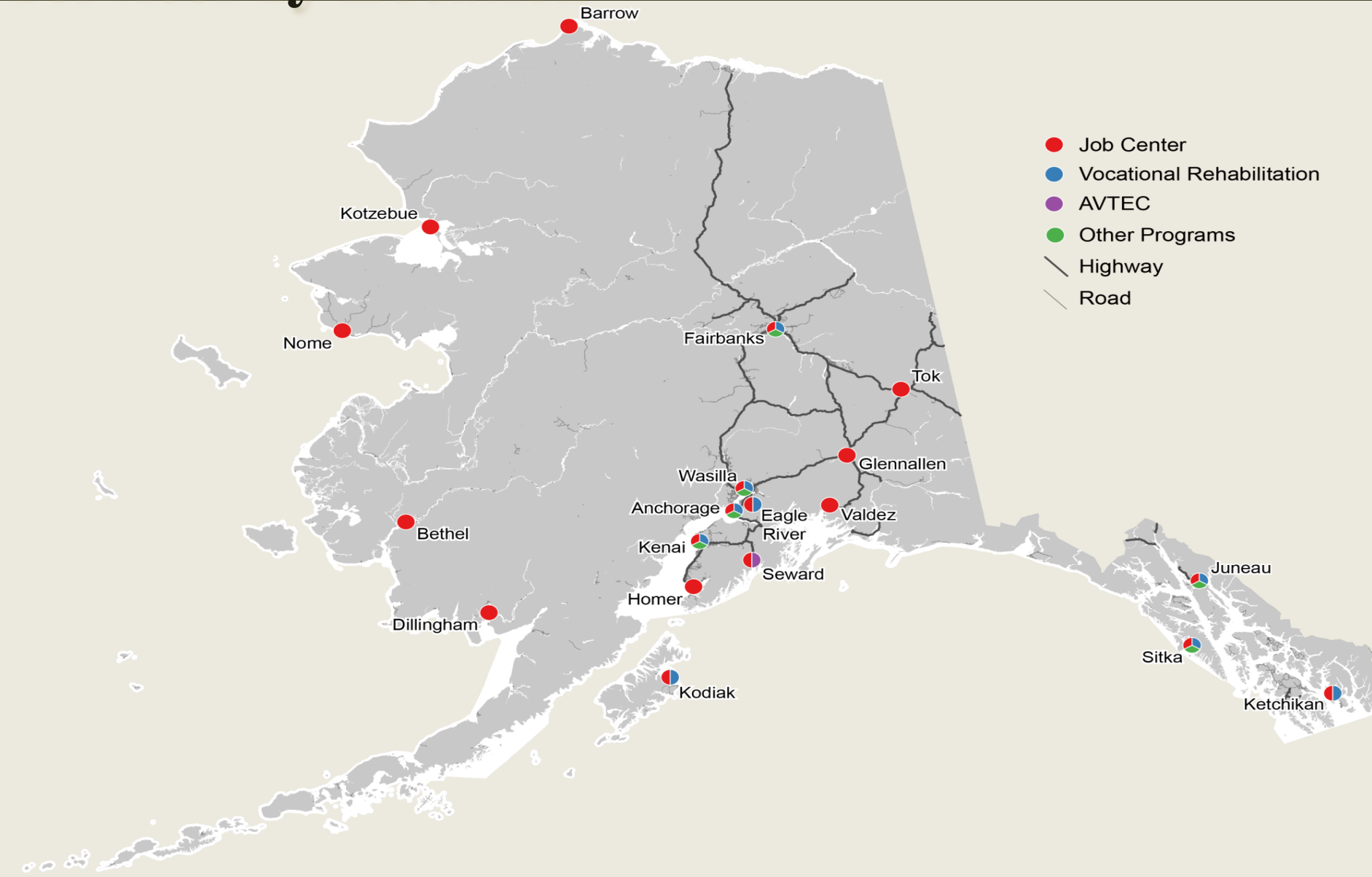
**Provide safe and legal working conditions
and advance opportunities for employment.**



Organization Chart



Services by Location



State and Private Partnerships

State Partners

- **Veteran Services**
 - Department of Military and Veterans Affairs
- **Economic and Demographic Data Production**
 - Department of Health and Social Services
 - Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development
 - Department of Education and Early Development
- **Prisoner Reentry**
 - Department of Corrections
- **Training and Education Program Outcomes**
 - Department of Education and Early Development
 - University of Alaska
 - Commission on Postsecondary Education

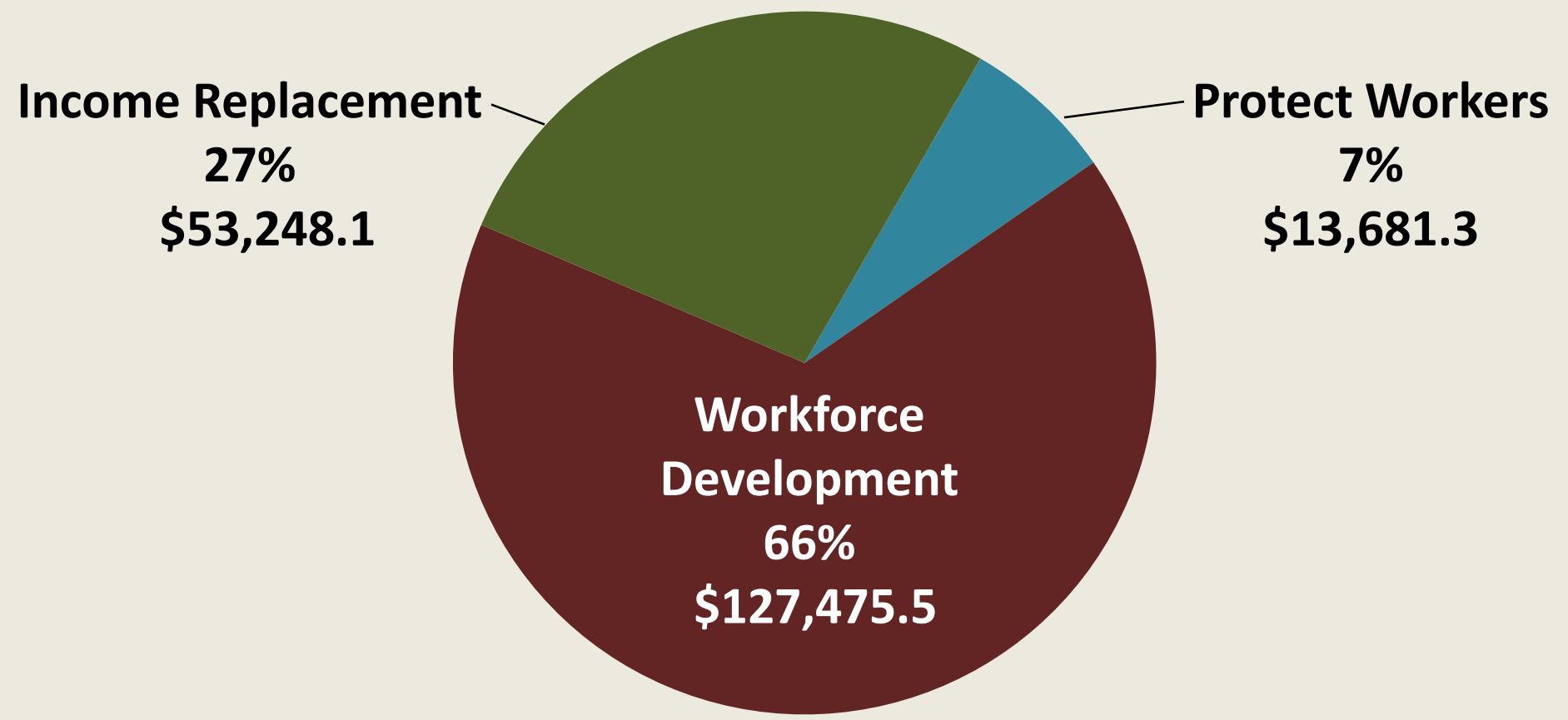
Private Partners

- **Training and Education**
 - Construction Education Foundation
 - Alaska Works Partnership
 - School Districts
 - Association of General Contractors
 - Home Builders Associations
 - Regional Training Centers
 - Employers
- **Private Sector Membership on Boards and Commissions**
 - Alaska Labor Relations Agency Board
 - Alaska Safety Advisory Council
 - Alaska Workers' Compensation Board
 - Alaska Workforce Investment Board
 - Fishermen's Fund Advisory and Appeals Council
 - Occupational Safety and Health Review Board
 - State Vocational Rehabilitation Committee
 - Statewide Independent Living Council
 - Workers' Compensation Appeals Commission
 - Workers' Compensation Medical Services Review Committee

FY2014 Budget Request - \$194,404.9

(\$98,778.8 Federal; \$69,059.4 GF; \$26,566.7 Other)

Budget by Priority Program



- 869 Full-Time Positions
- 77 Part-Time Positions
- 14 Temporary Positions

Workforce Development



- Employment services
- Adult basic education
- Business partnerships
- Alaska Workforce Investment Board
- Career and technical education and training
- Vocational rehabilitation services

Alaska's Dynamic Economy

The churning labor market



During the average year –

- Approximately 80,000 individuals move in/out of Alaska
- Alaska employers hire over 200,000 workers, the majority of them filling existing positions
- The state's job count is about 45,000 higher in July than in January – a huge seasonal swing

Alaska's Skills Mismatch

The case for training



During 2011, Alaska had a –

- Labor Surplus: 7.6 percent average annual unemployment
- Labor Shortage: Just over 20% of Alaska's workers – 83,488 individuals – were nonresidents

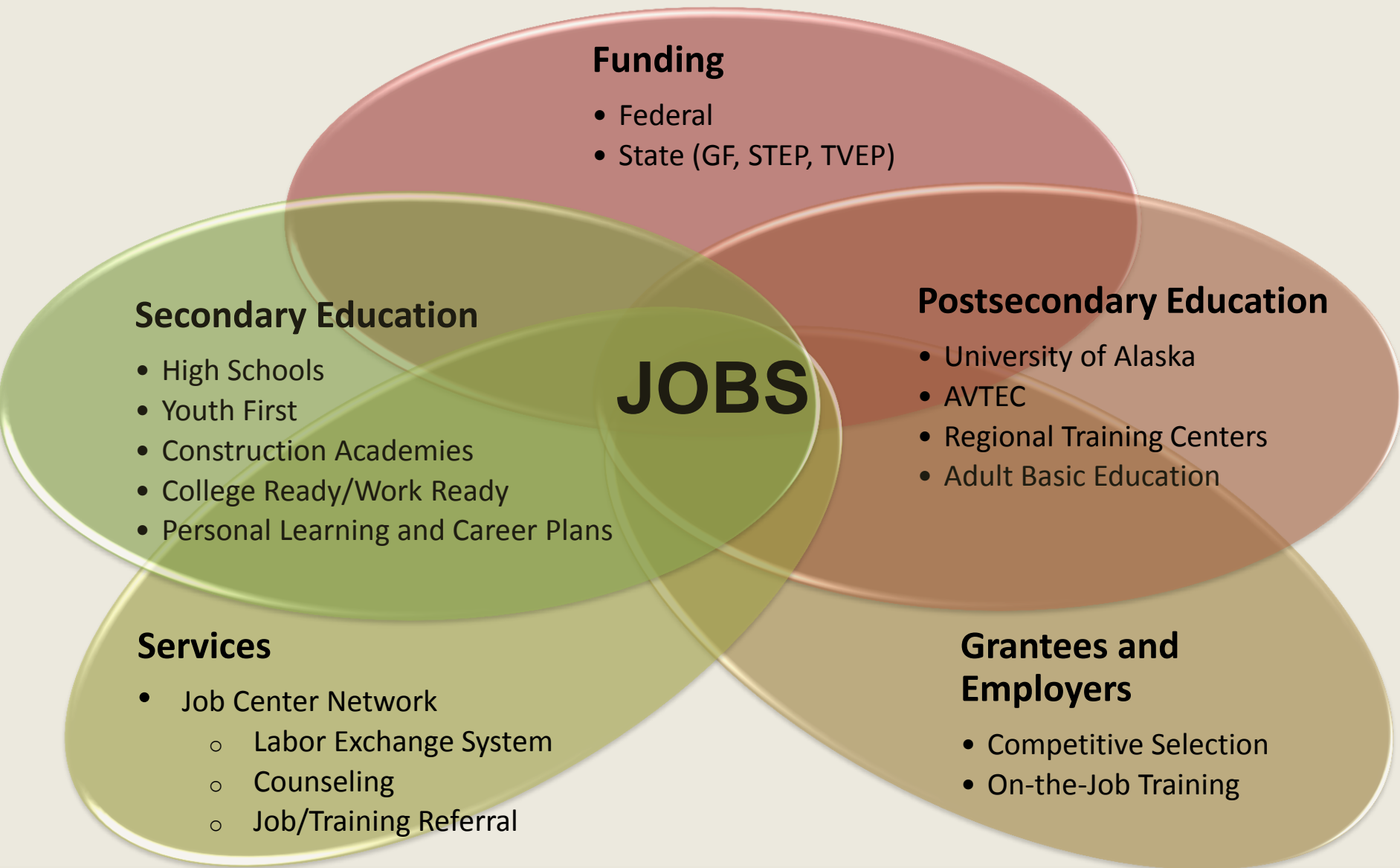
Alaska's Dynamic Labor Market



A prepared workforce requires –

- Career awareness
- Effective training opportunities
- Employer-worker connections

Training System at a Glance



Alaska's Safety Concerns

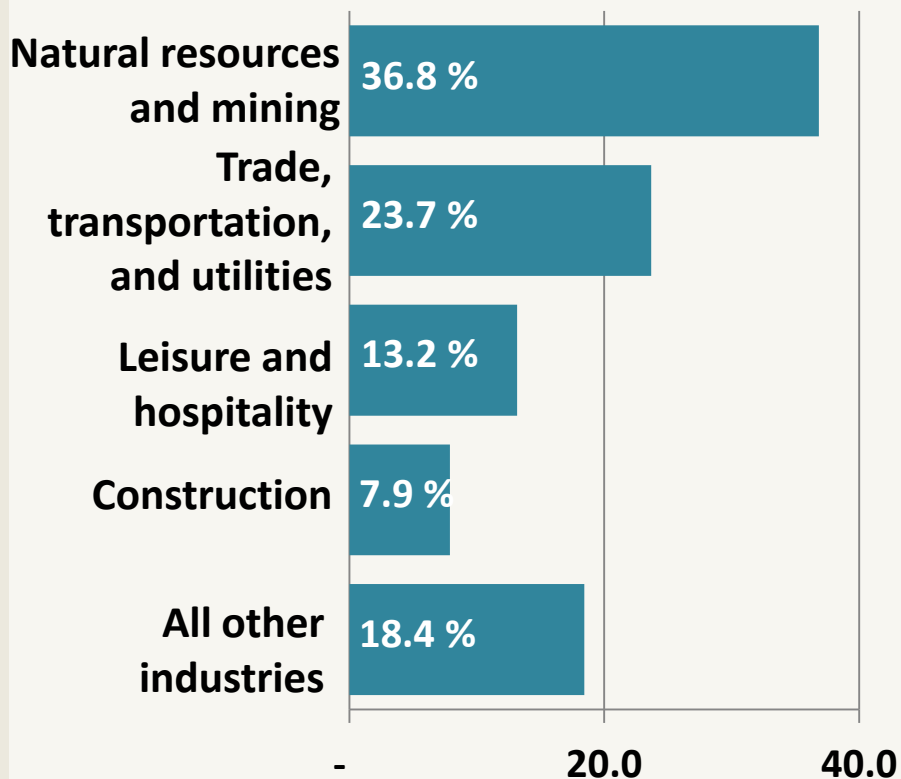
Workplace Injuries, Illnesses, and Fatalities for Selected Industries - 2011

Protect
Workers

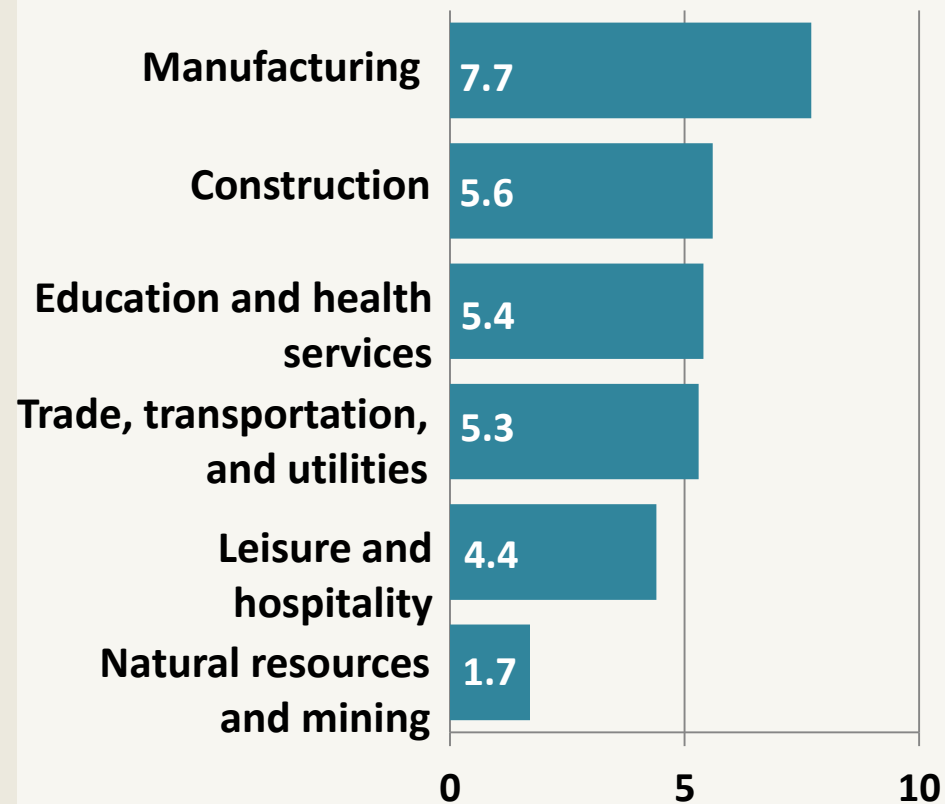
Income
Replacement

Workforce
Development

Percent of Total Fatalities
(38 total fatalities)



Workplace Injuries and Illnesses
(Number of incidences per 100 workers)



Natural resources
and mining

Protecting Workers

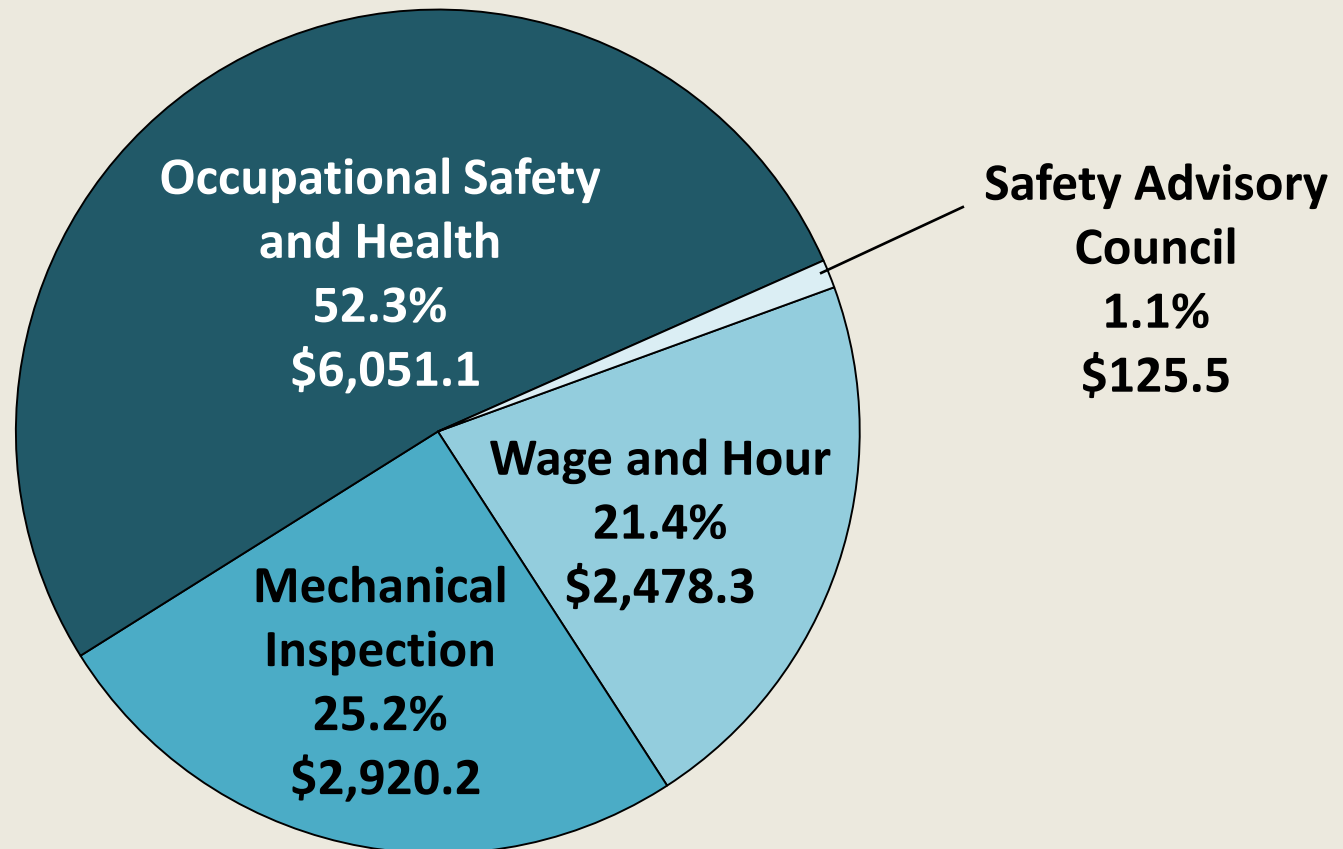


- Wage and child labor law enforcement
- Workplace safety consultation and enforcement
- Mechanical device inspection

Labor Standards and Safety Division



Mission: Ensure safe and legal working conditions.



86 Full-Time Positions

- Wage and Hour: 23
- Occupational Safety and Health: 41
- Mechanical Inspection: 22
- Safety Advisory Council: no paid staff

Wage and Hour Administration



Mission: Advance opportunities for employment by providing legal employment conditions, enforcing Alaska's Employment Preference Act, and providing safe work environments for children.

FY2012:

- 14,870 employer briefings
- 359 wage claims resolved – \$600K in wages for Alaska workers
- Evaluated 7,857 youth work permits
- Conducted 584 Alaska resident hire and prevailing wage worksite inspections

Mechanical Inspection



Mission: Reduce hazards to life and property posed by unsafe boilers, pressure vessels, elevators, escalators, trams, lifts, and electrical and plumbing work.

FY2012:

- Increased boiler inspections by 16%
- Boiler inspection backlog increased by 25% (3,168 units)
- Increased elevator inspections by 5%
- Elevator inspection backlog is up 10% (61 units)
- Maintained electrical and plumbing code inspections
- Issued \$80K in contractor licensing civil fines

Alaska Occupational Safety and Health



Mission: Eliminate workplace injuries, illnesses and deaths through a combination of consultation and enforcement functions.

FY2012:

- Youth Safety Outreach program
- Seafood processing industry partnerships
- Conducted 706 worksite inspections (+7%)
- Reduced accidents - loss time rate reduced by 5.5%
- Fatalities constant, but lower in AKOSH jurisdiction

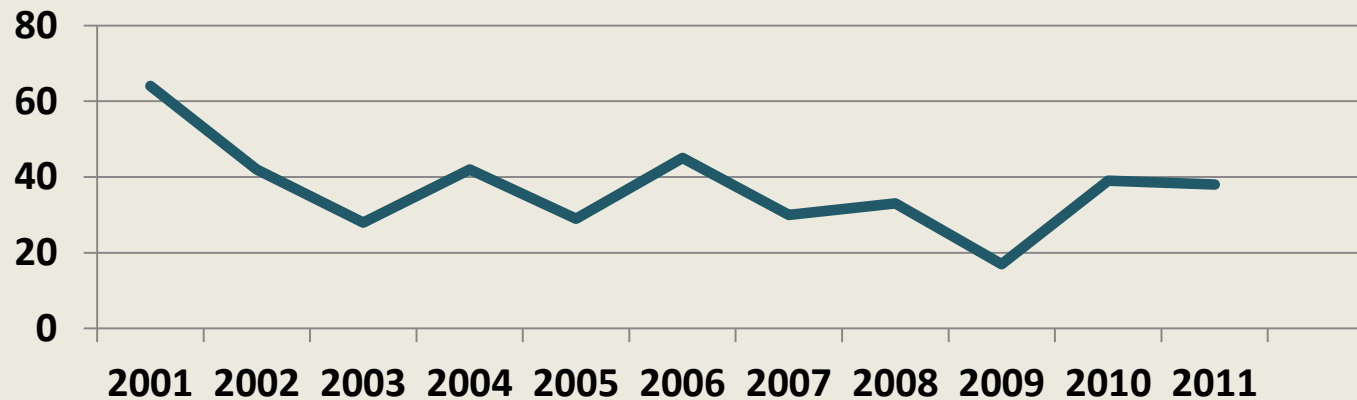
Alaska Occupational Safety and Health

Protect
Workers

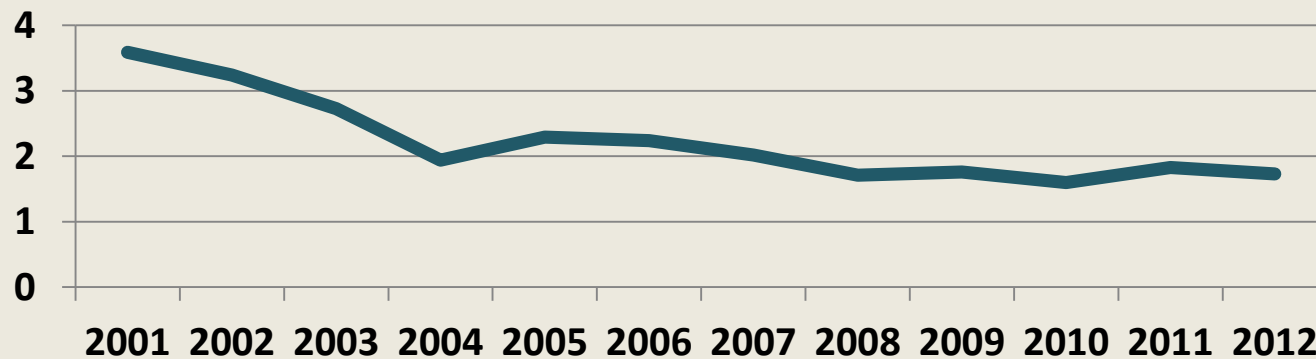
Income
Replacement

Workforce
Development

Fatalities



Loss Time Rate



Alaska Safety Advisory Council



Mission: Organize the annual Governor's Safety and Health Conference.

FY2012 Conference:

- Three days of focused safety training
- Maintained 350 participants and 50 vendors
- Registration fees and sponsorships from top flight companies and organizations provide funding (statutory designated program receipts)

2013 Conference – March 18-20 at Anchorage's Egan Center

Income Replacement



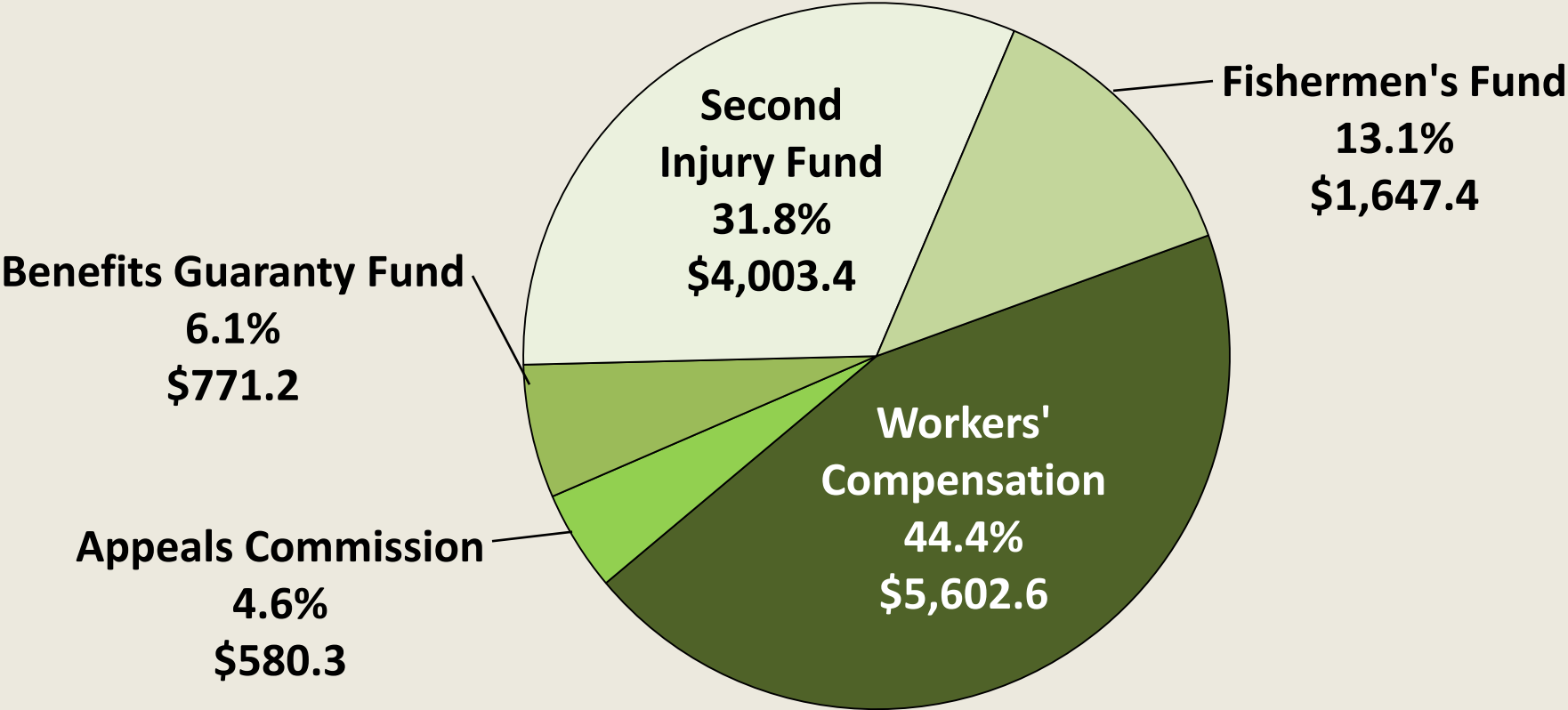
Income replacement for injured, unemployed and permanently disabled workers

- Workers' Compensation Division
- Unemployment Insurance Program
- Disability Determination Program

Workers' Compensation Division



Mission: Ensure the efficient, fair and predictable delivery of indemnity, medical and vocational rehabilitation benefits intended to enable workers to return to work at a reasonable cost to employers.



58 Full-Time Positions

- Workers' Compensation: 50
- Second Injury Fund: 2
- Benefits Guaranty Fund: 1
- Appeals Commission: 3 Positions and 4 Board Members
- Fisherman's Fund: 2

Workers' Compensation



Mission: Advance injured workers' employment opportunities.

FY2012:

- 387 employers were investigated for illegally operating without workers' compensation insurance
- 120 employers were penalized for illegally operating without workers' compensation insurance

Workers' Compensation Appeals Commission



Mission: Ensure timely, thoughtful, well-reasoned and sound decisions on appeals from the final decisions and orders of the Workers' Compensation Board.

FY2012:

- Reduced the time lag from record closure to written decision issuance to 62 days, compared to 75 days in FY2011
- In cooperation with the Alaska Labor Relations Agency, attracted two volunteer summer law interns who received six weeks of intensive training

Benefits Guaranty Fund and Second Injury Fund



Benefits Guaranty Fund

Mission: Pay benefits to workers who have been injured while working for an employer that was not in compliance with the Workers' Compensation Act and fails to pay benefits owed to the injured worker.

FY2012:

- \$329.1 in benefits were paid to 22 claimants

Second Injury Fund

Mission: Facilitate reemployment of injured workers.

FY2012:

- \$3,256.9 in benefits were paid to 95 claimants

Fishermen's Fund



Mission: Provide assistance with the medical and health care costs of occupational injuries or illnesses due to commercial fishing activities on shore or in state waters, allowing commercial fishermen to get back to work promptly.

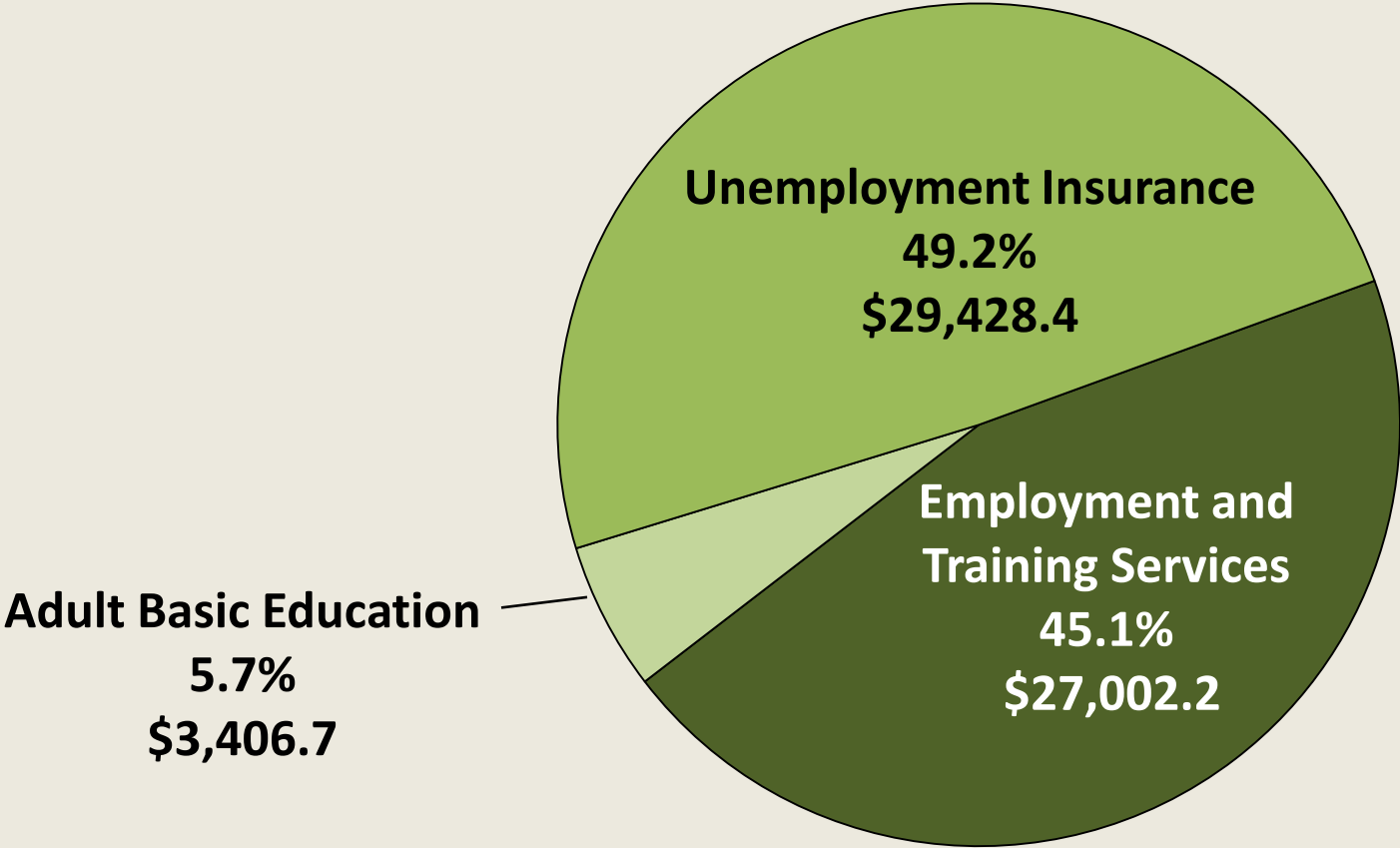
FY2012:

- \$866.2 in benefits were paid to 373 claimants

Employment Security Division



Mission: Provide labor exchange, employment and training services, and unemployment insurance to Alaskans and Alaska businesses.



341 Full-Time Positions

- Employment and Training Services : 171

55 Part-Time Positions

- Adult Basic Education : 3

4 Temporary Positions

- Unemployment Insurance : 226

Unemployment Insurance



Mission: Provide economic stability for communities in Alaska through payment of unemployment insurance benefits that keep skilled workers in Alaska.

FY2012:

- Benefits Paid in FY2012 – \$305,338.7
 - State – \$146,231.9
 - Federal – \$128,193.4
 - Interstate – \$17,954.4
 - Reimbursable Employers – \$12,959.0

Maximum number of benefit weeks payable is 86
(26 weeks of state benefits and 60 weeks of federal benefits).

Unemployment Insurance



- Staff investigate fraud tips, assess penalties and collect wrongfully obtained benefits
 - Fraud penalties assessed in FY2012: \$2,878.4
 - Fraud overpayments collected in FY2012: \$1,539.1



**For More Information
Please Contact**

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