

Industry-Centered Convening on Workforce Development & Alaska's Comprehensive Integrated Workforce Development Plan



Background

Alaska currently has two job openings for every job seeker, but this trend isn't isolated to Alaska, nationwide the rate is 1.7 jobs per job seeker.

This presents challenges in every industry, but with numerous infrastructure projects on the horizon for the state, this issue will soon be even further compounded.

What are industry needs? Where are the gaps? And what is Alaska's plan to ensure the state is primed to take advantage of this historic moment in workforce investment?



An Industry-Led Convening

When: Late September / Early October

Where: Anchorage

Who: Industry leaders, AWIB, educators, training providers, policy leaders

What:

Two days of facilitated panels and discussion.

- Day 1: Industry speaks & everyone else listens.
- Day 2: Industry invited to listen as educators, training providers, and policy leaders take what was said on Day 1 and begin the work of drafting concrete steps forward towards addressing the projected needs of industry.



And then what?

- As part of the preparation for the convening, a meta-analysis will look at the numerous workforce development plans already in existence or in process.
- Action items and needs addressed at the convening will be used to identify action item owners.
- Information gathered through the convening, the analysis of plans, and action-item-owner meetings will be used to produce a **Comprehensive Integrated Workforce Development Plan for the State of Alaska**.
 - Delivery goal of Spring 2024.

What is the role of the AWIB?

As a board of experts, with responsibility for governance and oversight of Alaska's workforce development programs and funding, the AWIB will serve as a key force in bringing the right people to the table and ensuring that identified priorities are translated into real action.

The planned delivery of the comprehensive plan for Spring 2024 will coincide with the AWIB meeting to be held in Juneau, allowing AWIB members to speak directly to the plan with legislators, highlighting industry input into Alaska's workforce development priorities.



What is the role of the AWIB? (Continued)

AWIB Participation outline:

- Provide input and communication around convening.
- Attend convening, if possible.
- Discussion of convening results at October meeting.
- Establish an Ad Hoc Committee to provide input on comprehensive plan.
- Participate in lunch & learn or other presentations, where appropriate, on the results of the convening and to share the plan with policy makers, interested parties, and the public.

Discussion Questions

1. For our existing training capacity: is the issue empty chairs? Or not enough chairs? Are there industries or regions who have the right balance?
2. What could we be doing better to get the word out about training opportunities? Or is that not the problem? Who is doing this well?
3. What opportunities do we see for employers to do more in-house training? Who is doing this well? Have you heard of creative solutions that could be replicated elsewhere?

PREPARING ALASKANS FOR THE JOBS OF TODAY—AND TOMORROW

Who needs to be at the table for the convening this fall? Any additional questions or comments you'd like to share?

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Alaska OneStops & the AWIB's Role in Certification



One-Stop Definition

One Stop Career Centers are designed to provide a full range of assistance to job seekers under one roof. Established under the Workforce Investment Act, and reauthorized in the Workforce Innovation and Opportunities Act of 2014, the centers offer training referrals, career counseling, job listings, and similar employment-related services. Customers can visit a center in person or connect to services telephonically or online.



One-Stop Certification Requirements

One-Stop sites (Alaska Job Centers) must be certified by the AWIB **every three years**.

Criteria which must be evaluated:

- Effectiveness
- Customer Satisfaction
- Physical and programmatic accessibility
- Continuous improvement

There are “Comprehensive” and “Affiliate” One-Stops, the biggest difference is that Comprehensive One-Stops provide WIOA case management services on-site.



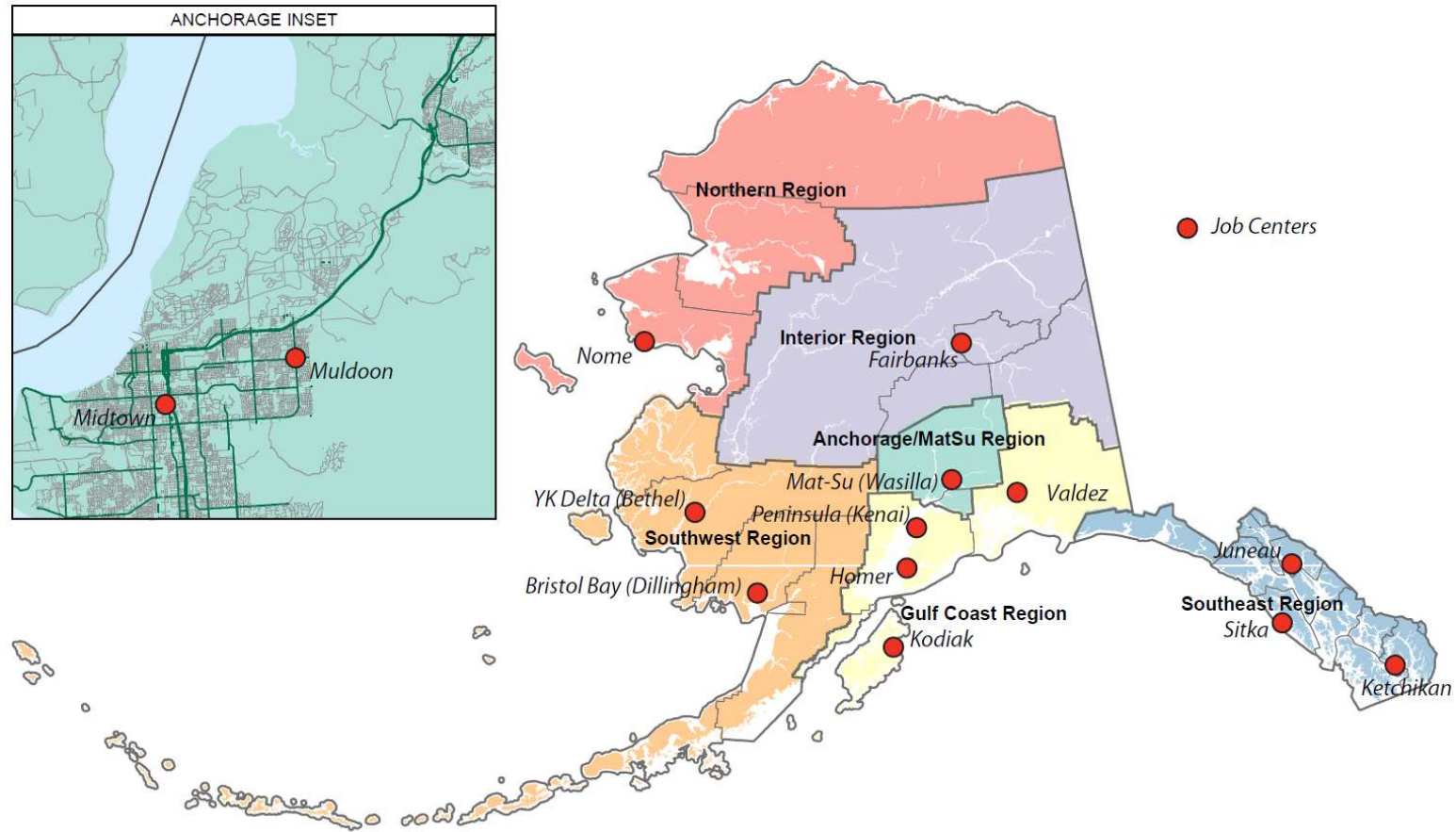
One-Stop Certification Requirements (Continued)

- Comprehensive site include a site visit by a certification team
- Certification teams should include at least one AWIB member
- AWIB will provide response to the site operator within 30 days of the review process completion
- One-Stop Operator will submit and annual update to the AWIB

Three (3) possible determinations:

1. Certification
2. Provisional Certification
3. Not Certified or decertified

Where are the One-Stops in Alaska?



Updated Adopted One-Stop Schedule

The last One Stop certification completed by the AWIB was for the Mat-Su Job Center on 9/7/2021.

SFY 2024	SFY 2025	SFY 2026
Fairbanks*	Juneau*	Anchorage Midtown*
Kenai (Peninsula)*	Ketchikan*	Mat-Su*
Dillingham (Bristol Bay)*	Bethel (YK Delta)*	Muldoon
Homer	Kodiak	Nome
Valdez	Sitka	

*Comprehensive Job Centers



PREPARING ALASKANS FOR THE JOBS OF TODAY—AND TOMORROW

Questions about the One-Stop Certification Process?

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June 19, 2023

To Chair Mari Selle;

The following is a summary of the activities of the Alaska Workforce Investment Board (AWIB) Executive Director Erin Heist, the AWIB Grants Unit staff, and the Department of Labor and Workforce Development (DOLWD):

Alaska Workforce Investment Board & Grants Unit **Erin Heist, Executive Director**

All grant applications are under review and final determinations by the Commissioner will be made this week:

- STEP – 43 applications totaling \$10,243,848 in requests, with \$5,641,813.80 available.
- WIOA Youth – 14 applications totaling \$5,862,008, with \$2,857,735.25 available.
- AWIG – 41 applications totaling \$13,448,286 in requests, with \$3,332,918.34 available.
 - The AWIB Grants unit ran a competitive grant application for the new one-time Alaska Workforce Infusion Grant (AWIG). The funds for these grants came from General Funds (GF) that were provided to AWIB as a multi-year operating appropriation beginning in FY23 and which were previously referred to as “multi-year STEP allocation” funds. A clarification from legislators on the intent of the funds allowed the AWIB to apply them more flexibly.

Staffing updates:

- Anne Velardi retired from state service on April 28th
- Jeff Steeprow was hired as the new Assistant Director of AWIB.
- Rut Ocasio-Lopez promoted to the Program Coordinator 2 supervisory position.
- Xavien Phillips promoted to the Grants Administrator 3 supervisory position.

Youth Systems Build Academy (YSBA):

- McKinley Group was hired to conduct focus groups with at-risk-youth on work experience, applying for work, challenges, and job training.
- ED Heist and Director LeCompte traveled to Washington, DC with YSBA partners from the Alaska Job Corps and Covey Academy for the 2nd in person convening.

- The YSBA partner group was expanded to include the Anchorage Youth Development Coalition and the AWIB At-Risk-Youth Coordinator.
- A fall youth convening has been scheduled for September 11 at CITC to bring together organizations that serve youth to assist in building out Alaska's Youth System.

Ongoing/Upcoming:

- The Technical Vocational Education Program (TVEP) is currently under audit by Alaska Legislative Audit at the request of the legislature. The audit team is currently contacting recipients and reviewing documentation received. The audit report will be issued prior to the start of the next legislative session.
- The AWIB Grant Unit will update STEP participant limit to \$10,000 to match policy of Job Centers and recognize increased costs. This change will be incorporated in the FY24 grants through the negotiation process.
- The AWIB Grant Unit applied for a new formula funded apprenticeship grant, beginning in FY24, which will fund a new Program Coordinator 1 position focused on promoting apprenticeship by connecting employers with secondary schools.
- A major focus for ED Heist in the coming months will be the Industry-Centered Workforce Development Convening and the associated Comprehensive Integrated Workforce Development Plan (please see provided presentation for more detail):
 - Manage numerous procurements related to convening and plan writing, including: a facilitator for fall convening, a vendor for event planning, and a contractor to assist with plan development.
 - Coordinate with AWIB members, industry, and facilitator on convening pre-work.
 - Work with DOLWD Research & Analysis group on data and analysis for both convening and plan.
- ED Heist will continue to meet one-on-one with all AWIB members to gather feedback on AWIB history, activities, and participation.
- The AWIB will update the federally required Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) unified state plan.

Division of Employment & Training Services (DETS)

James Harvey, Director



*Alaska Job Center Visits by Region and Location

For reporting period 7/1/22-5/31/23:

- DETS provided 18,766 Alaskans with employment services through our 14 Job Centers, itinerant, and distance delivery.
- 4,246 Alaskans have been served with funding for training and/or supportive services for employment and training activities and;
- 2,326 Alaskans are enrolled in the Alaska Adult Education program.

- Our employer services, across all industries, posted 23,769 job orders in the state's online labor exchange system - AlaskaJobs.
- Employer engagement has greatly increased this year with significant jumps in on-site recruitment sessions, job fairs, and off-site events aimed to increase job seeker applications.
- Targeted activities with the Department of Corrections are yielding results due to in-reach at correctional facilities statewide with DETS staff cleared for access into facilities to work with inmates on their individual pre-release planning.

Alaska Vocational and Technical Education Center (AVTEC)

Cathy LeCompte, Director

- AVTEC completed the school year in May and held the first ever all school graduation that celebrated completers in all nine programs in one ceremony. Friends and families packed the gym for the celebration and the Commissioner was the guest speaker.
- Immediately following the close of the regular school year, the six-week Facilities Maintenance training, Alaska Excel Summer Career Camps and Coastal Villages Youth Basic Training students filled the classrooms and dormitories until June 30.
- First day of the training year 2024 is August 14 and programs are at 80% capacity enrollment.
- AVTEC is planning on hosting a legislative open house during September, Workforce Development month.

DOLWD Administrative Services – Budget Update

Dan DeBartolo, Director

- The Governor is tentatively set to announce his vetoes for the FY24 budget today, June 19th. The department had a few inspection and investigation position additions within Labor Standards & Safety that were not in Governor's original budget, and there is potential for a change there, but we have received no advanced communication on vetoes. We are not anticipating any vetoes within the AWIB budget.
- For the closeout of FY23, the department appears to be on a good footing overall. AVTEC is getting some supplemental funding to help shore up their budget, with plans in place to stabilize their operational funding moving forward.
- Looking ahead to FY25 budget planning, Commissioner Munoz and Deputy Commissioner San Juan have some great plans regarding the Office of Citizenship assistance, and we may have a large capital ask on the horizon for DETS, but we will need to defer on details until the Governor has an opportunity to review some of the proposals we will put together.

DOLWD Administrative Services – Legislative Update

Lisa Flores – Acting Legislative Liaison

The legislative session ended without much movement on the legislation we were following as a department. Hearings were held, but both pieces are currently stalled in committee. As a reminder, the two pieces of legislation we were following closely were:

- HB46 (introduced by Rep Fields) which would include child care providers under the Public Employee Relations Act which would allow them the opportunity to organize and vote on unionization.

- The other is HB63 (Rep Raucher) which repeals the Worker's Compensation Appeals Commission. This legislation, if passes would dissolve the WCAC and move the appeals process back to the Alaska Superior Court.

In addition to those, Rep. Carrick had introduced HB 55 to extend the TVEP sunset date. This legislation received no hearings. However, this is a very popular program and we expect someone from the senate to introduce their own version of the bill during the next session.

SB123 which allows for someone to be eligible for their CDL if they meet the experience qualifications established by the department and removes the requirement of holding an Alaska driver's license for one year, has passed both the House and the Senate and has been transmitted to the Governor for signature.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Erin Heist". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Erin Heist
Executive Director, AWIB