



THE STATE  
of **ALASKA**

GOVERNOR MICHAEL J. DUNLEAVY

**Department of Labor and  
Workforce Development**

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Dear Prospective Contractor:

If you are considering bidding on an Alaska public works project, please remember the positive benefits of hiring locally. Construction, maintenance, and operation of public works projects are vital to the local economy. Alaska Hire helps contractors too— your neighbors are more invested in our community than non-residents, they are more likely to show up to work on time and finish the job.

If you want to hire more Alaskans, we're here to help. Hiring local workers is cost-effective and can benefit your business in many ways. The Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development's Job Center staff can connect you with qualified, skilled Alaskan workers through the Alaska Labor Exchange (ALEXsys) employee/employer database. Call (907) 465-2712 to get connected with a Job Center and potential employees in your community.

Work Opportunity Tax Credits (WOTC) are available to employers who hire qualified new employees who are unemployed disabled veterans, recipients of Temporary Assistance or food stamps, ex-offenders, and residents of Empowerment Zones or Renewal Communities. The WOTC program saved employers operating in Alaska over \$3.2 million last year. For information on the tax credit program call (907) 465-5952 or visit the WOTC website, [www.jobs.alaska.gov/wotc.htm](http://www.jobs.alaska.gov/wotc.htm).

The Department of Transportation and Public Facilities, the Department of Labor and Workforce Development, the Alaska Native Coalition on Employment and Training (ANCET), and other industry training providers work closely together to recruit women, Alaska Natives, minorities and veterans for training and job referral. We can assist your business in finding qualified employees right now, as well as help you institute training programs to ensure a stable and skilled workforce over the long term. There are many high school and adult training programs across the state that prepare Alaska residents for construction jobs and to learn a trade as registered apprentice. Alaska has over 1,500 registered apprentices and our Job Centers can assist employers that want to hire apprentices. Alaska's prevailing wage is adjusted to allow employers to pay apprentices a reduced rate while they are learning their trade, offsetting your costs of training the apprentice. Additionally, there are on-the-job training wage incentives available for employers that hire apprentices.

If you are awarded a contract, we will send you additional information on the business benefit of hiring locally and how to use the free Alaska Labor Exchange System to find qualified Alaska residents. Your effort to hire locally is appreciated very much. We wish you well in the upcoming construction season and thank you for putting Alaskans to work.

Sincerely,

A blue ink signature of Dr. Tamika L. Ledbetter.

Dr. Tamika L. Ledbetter, Commissioner  
Department of Labor  
and Workforce Development

A blue ink signature of John MacKinnon.

John MacKinnon, Commissioner  
Department of Transportation  
and Public Facilities