

## ALASKA APPRENTICESHIP INITIATIVE ABSTRACT

**Lead Applicant Name:** Alaska Department of Labor & Workforce Development (ADOL)

**Lead Applicant City/State:** Juneau, Alaska

**Primary Partnership Entities:** (a) Private Sector: Southcentral Foundation (SFC); Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority; Health Care Cost Management Corporation of Alaska, Inc. (HCCMCA); (b) Public Sector: Alaska Vocational Technical Education Center (AVTEC).

**Additional Key Partners:** Alaska Laborers Local 341, Teamsters Local 959, IBEW Local 1547

**Area Served by Grant:** Alaska Statewide

**Total Funding Level Requested:** \$2,999,999

**Project Name:** Alaska Apprenticeship Initiative

**Summary of Program Activities:** The Healthcare Industry has the largest number of H-1B visa workers nationwide, and healthcare is Alaska's largest new job producer. The industry workforce is projected to grow 25% by 2022, adding 11,000 new jobs. Healthcare holds 47 of Alaska's top 50 growth occupations. Reform and expansion of Medicaid in Alaska is projected to add another 4,000 jobs. This Initiative addresses labor demand, supply, and retention through structured apprenticeship employment and training to rapidly scale up the entry level workforce. Building career and technical on-ramps to employment and higher education will widen pathways for all jobseekers. A model pre-apprenticeship program, the Alaska Health Care Academy, will train more than 1,200 WIOA participants. Ninety percent of those served will be underrepresented populations, including low-income, unemployed, underemployed, Alaska Natives, American Indians, other minorities, and people with barriers to employment. Pre-apprentices will flow in two directions. One is into Alaska Native apprenticeships sponsored by Southcentral Foundation, which employs 1,700 healthcare workers. The second is through new Labor and Management

Partnerships (LMP) involving three labor unions representing health care workers in Alaska's largest hospitals. An estimated 450 new apprentices will be registered and 30 new health care employers will utilize apprentices during the project. Regional Alaska Native Health providers will use SCF's Alaska Native apprentice model to sponsor and employ apprentices. Pre-apprentice training and apprentice programs will focus on entry-level priority occupations: Medical Assistant, Behavioral Health Aide, Certified Chemical Dependency Counselor, Health Informatics Technician, Personal Care Assistant, and Home Health Aide. Starting pay ranges from \$12-\$16 per hour. All apprentices will have health care insurance within 90 days of employment. Course Related Instruction (CRI) will be taught by Alaska Vocational Technical Education Center, University of Alaska, and Alaska Pacific University, members of the Registered Apprenticeship College Consortium. LMP registered apprentice sponsors are the Alaska Laborers Local 341, Alaska Teamsters Local 959, and IBEW Local 1547. Public and private contributions of \$6,000,000 will leverage USDOL funds.

**Number of Individuals to be Served:** 1,200 participants / 450 Registered Apprentices

**Populations to be Served:** WIOA eligible older youth & adults with barriers to employment.

**Targeted H-1B Industry(s)/ Occupations:** Medical Assistant, Behavioral Health Aide, Chemical Dependency Counselor, Health Informatics Technician, Personal Care Attendant.

**Contact Information for Partners:** Alaska Dep't of Labor & Workforce Development, Mike Andrews, Business Partnerships Division Director, 907-269-4675, [mike.andrews@alaska.gov](mailto:mike.andrews@alaska.gov); Southcentral Foundation, Fred Kopacz, Planning Director, 907-729-4992, [fkopacz@scf.cc](mailto:fkopacz@scf.cc); Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority, Jeff Jesse, CEO, 907-269-7960, [jjesse@amhta.org](mailto:jjesse@amhta.org); HCCMCA, Fred G. Brown, Executive Director, 907-474-4226, [fbrown@hccmca.org](mailto:fbrown@hccmca.org); AVTEC, Ben Eveland, Director, 907-224-3322, [ben.eveland@avtec.edu](mailto:ben.eveland@avtec.edu).