



# Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development

## The Top Ten General Facts You Need to Know about Alaska's National Emergency Grant (NEG)

1. This is a National Emergency Grant (NEG) awarded by the U.S. Department of Labor (USDOL) to address Alaska's salmon fishery price decline and its impact on industry workers who can no longer earn a viable living and who are looking for retraining or other employment opportunities. The official project name is "Alaska's Salmon Fisheries Response Project."
2. The project is a governor and commissioner directed priority, part of an overall strategy to address the widespread worker dislocation resulting from economic downturn in the fishing industry due to competition from farmed salmon.
3. The award is up to \$8 million over the next two years, with an initial award of \$2 million, for employment and training services for a specific target audience: those associated with the salmon industry who can no longer support themselves doing what they have been doing (commercial fishermen, crew, cannery workers, and in some instances, their family members).
4. The NEG is an alternative solution pursued because many Alaska fishermen and associated industry workers have been denied retraining and employment assistance through the Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) program that the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development also administers with a grant from USDOL (about 300 have been denied access to Labor TAA benefits in Alaska).
5. National Emergency Grants are supplemental funding for workforce development, employment services and other adjustment assistance for dislocated workers. They are awarded when State Workforce Investment Act (WIA) dislocated worker formula funds are insufficient to address the needs of a targeted group.

6. The goals outlined in the grant proposal are: to establish a way to meet Alaska's regional workforce demands in communities where dislocated workers from the salmon industry may choose to remain; to close the skills gaps of dislocated salmon workers in order to increase their employability so they can pursue other job opportunities, which are expected to increase as a result of economic development; and, to extend the state's regional workforce investment system to reach widespread dislocated workers who face obstacles accessing employment and training information, employment assistance, or job and retraining services.
7. Individuals eligible for this project are individuals eligible for Dislocated Worker Program assistance as defined in WIA and its implementing Federal Regulations, as reiterated under Alaska's Dislocated Worker Program Participant Eligibility Policy.
8. Alaska's NEG proposal targets a population of approximately 468 dislocated workers in: Bristol Bay/Dillingham/Lake and Peninsula region, Ketchikan and Prince of Wales region, Hoonah-Angoon region, Kodiak, Municipality of Anchorage, Haines, Juneau, Kenai Peninsula, Valdez/Cordova/Yakutat region, and the Aleutians East and Aleutians West. This target population was based on analyses of commercial fishing and crew permit activity; likelihood of showing progress for initial grant outcomes (e.g., full enrollment within 180 days), and access to WIA dislocated worker and employment services.
9. A project management team is leading the NEG program: Corine Geldof (project manager/liaison to commissioner's office, 465-5937) - Shawna Harper (assistant project manager, Employment Security Division, 465-1882) - Karen Backlund (assistant project monitor, Division of Business Partnerships- 269-3745). The Employment Security Division and Division of Business Partnerships directors serve as project advisors who have the authority and accountability to direct and align operations to ensure success of the project. A number of staff from various departmental divisions serve on task teams for the project.
10. Our goal for this project is to serve dislocated workers impacted by the salmon price decline who are eligible for services under this grant, or Alaska's dislocated worker program. ***The ultimate outcome is to get people jobs.***