

Alaska Works Initiative

2006-2010 Strategic Plan:
The Road To Work

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**ALASKA WORKS INITIATIVE
2006-2010 STRATEGIC PLAN**

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ENVIRONMENTAL SCAN – DEMOGRAPHICS

DATA SOURCE(S)	CURRENT STATUS	IMPLICATIONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 2000 Census ▪ 2004 AWI Survey of PCA Recipients ▪ 2003 Braddock Report ▪ 2004 DSDS Waitlist Report ▪ DBH Report ▪ Nursing Facility Report ▪ Special Education Report 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 58% of Alaskans with a disability (age 21-64) are employed compared to 80% of the general population; only 30% of Alaskans with severe disabilities are employed. ▪ 10.1% of all youth ages 16-20 and 15.6% of all youth age 21-24 have a disability. ▪ Only 6% of PCA recipients were employed. ▪ 48% of persons receiving DD services were employed; the remaining 52% received services in sheltered employment, day activity or day habilitation programs. ▪ 75% of the 278 people (age 21-64) on the DD waitlist requested supported employment services. ▪ Only 5% of the 5,000 adults with severe and persistent mental illness served through the public MH system were working; 30% receive day treatment; and the remaining 35% receive no employment or day treatment services. ▪ Approximately 1,000 youth with disabilities graduate from high school each year; although hard data is not available, anecdotally, the majority does not leave with careers or post-secondary education plans in place and those who have jobs tend to end up in low-paying positions. ▪ The graduation rate of special education students is 40% compared to 93% of the general population. ▪ Of all students age 14-22 exiting special education in 2001-2002, 49% dropped out; of the total number of dropouts; almost half (49%) drop out age 16-17. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Although there is a significant gap in the employment rate of Alaskans with disabilities compared to the general populations, the barriers impacting the employment of people with severe disabilities appear to be much more complex and may require more specialized approaches. ▪ The vast majority of PCA recipients and adults with severe and persistent mental illness are unemployed; particular emphasis will need to be paid to increasing their employment rate. ▪ The DD supported employment program provides a good foundation upon which to build and expand both in terms of 1) transitioning people from segregated or no employment and 2) moving people off the waitlist. ▪ Additional attention needs to be focused on youth with disabilities, particularly youth age 14-15 in order to encourage their continued participation in school.

