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The Official Denali Commission Newsletter



A Message from Federal Co-Chair

George Cannelos

Dear Friends of the Denali Commission,

Welcome to our new website

You may have discovered our new website at www.denali.gov. The site offers fewer layers, easier navigation and greater flexibility to add new information. I hope you will use this site to track all Denali Commission activities. We have a new calendar function where you'll find Denali Commission deadlines and information on conferences and meetings pertinent to our mission. Under the program tab, you will find current information for each program area, partner links, bio's of advisory committee members, and links to the program staff. We've received great initial feedback. Let us know what you think by contacting [Ms. Sharon Lind](mailto:slind@denali.gov) (slind@denali.gov).



Announcing the Alaska Clearinghouse

I'm pleased to announce we've launched a major effort to assist the public in understanding opportunities (and challenges) within President Obama's American Recovery & Reinvestment Act, otherwise known as the stimulus package. The Denali Commission along with the Alaska State Legislature, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Rasmuson Foundation and the Alaska Federal Executive Association are working jointly to decipher the confusion and complexity that permeates this important legislation. If you have any questions or inquiries about funding opportunities within ARRA, please call us at 907 271-1414 or see

April 2009

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 20 – 24, 2009 – Indigenous Peoples' Global Summit on Climate Change will be held at the Dena'ina Center in Anchorage. Details can be found at www.indigenoussummit.com.

April 28, 2009 - Deadline for applications for [Operations Administrator](#) at the Denali Commission.

May 5 – 8, 2009 – The [National Rural Health Association](#) will hold their 32nd Annual Rural Health Conference in Miami, Florida.

May 11, 2009 – The Transportation Advisory Committee will meet. Watch our [website](#) for meeting times and location. Contact [Ms. Automme Circosta](#) for details on this meeting.

May 12, 2009 - The Energy Advisory Committee will meet. Watch our [website](#) for meeting times and location. Contact [Ms. Jodi Fondy](#) for details on this meeting.

May 14 – 16, 2009 – The [Institute of the North](#) will hold the 2009 Emerging Leader Dialogue at the Chena Hot Springs Resort. This year's theme will be: *Responsibility in an Owner State: Creating a Social Contract for Young Leaders in Alaska.*

May 16-19, 2009 – The 2009 Spring Primary Care Conference, a meeting of the [Northwest Regional Primary Care](#)

the Alaska Clearinghouse link on our website. You can sign up for Twitter updates and a biweekly Results Report. See more detail on the Clearinghouse in the feature article at the bottom of this newsletter.

FY 2009 funding and our draft Work Plan

The 2009 Omnibus funding bill signed into law in March reduced Denali Commission's funding from about \$108 million to \$76 million, which affects our ability to fund programs for energy, health facilities, training, teacher housing and elder housing. The proposed changes recommended by Denali Commissioners to our investment strategy are outlined in the Denali Commission's [Draft Work Plan](#). The public comment period is open until May 3, 2009, and we encourage your input.

RurAL CAP Energy Training

Denali Commission training funds are supporting 40 rural Alaskans who are being trained this week at RurAL CAP in energy conservation and weatherization techniques. Participants are from the VISTA Energy and RAVEN Programs as well as Headstart maintenance specialists. Graduates will return to their communities empowered to assess and use the skills they have gained from the training. This is another example of Denali Commission funding making an immediate difference in the lives of rural Alaskans.

Federal Grants Symposium

Last week, we participated in the Alaska Congressional Delegation's Grants Symposium at the Dena'ina Convention Center in Anchorage. The session was audiocast statewide to the 22 Legislative Information Offices. This gathering brought numerous federal funders into one room and provided an avenue for sharing information on all federal funding activities. I would like to thank Senator Lisa Murkowski, Senator Mark Begich, and Congressman Don Young for hosting and participating in this important symposium. We'll post minutes and all presentation materials on our website under the [Alaska Clearinghouse](#) tab.

Mt. Redoubt appears quiet today, airplanes are flying and spring is coming. Take care, everyone!

[Association](#), will be held at the Anchorage Marriott Downtown.

May 18, 2009 – The *MOU Partners Workgroup* will meet in Anchorage. Watch our website for details on this meeting.

May 18 – 19, 2009 – [Renewable Energy Alaska Project \(REAP\)](#) will hold the *Business of Clean Energy In Alaska Conference* at the Dena'ina Convention Center in Anchorage, Alaska. Watch for the Denali Commission's booth at this event.

May 25, 2009 – Denali Commission offices closed in observance of *Memorial Day*.

June 4, 2009 - Denali Commission Quarterly Meeting will be held in Fairbanks. Watch our [website](#) for details.

June 17, 2009 – The *Health Steering Committee* will meet at the Denali Commission offices. The agenda and other details will be posted to the Commission [website](#). For more information contact [Ms. Nancy Merriman](#).

PROGRAM UPDATES

View [Monthly Program Updates](#) to get the latest program activities.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We are pleased to announce the launch of our new website. Visit www.denali.gov for all the latest news at the Denali Commission.

[Alaska Clearinghouse](#) at the Denali Commission. Visit our website and learn more.

Best Wishes,



George J. Cannelos,
Federal Co-Chair

Procurement at Denali Commission

In our continuing efforts for efficiency at the Commission, we use the Procurement Team at the US Treasury Bureau of Public Debt (BPD) to conduct our major purchasing initiatives. This team of professional acquisition specialists assists us with contract solicitations, awards and administration. Open market requests for quotes or proposals valued over \$25,000 are advertised on the national federal website FedBizOpps at www.fedbizopps.gov

Upcoming solicitations include:

- None at this time.

To give all potential contractors the same information, all questions about these or other procurement opportunities for the Commission should be directed to: Lisa Gossett or Gina Hanna at psb3@bpd.treas.gov

In Focus: Alaska Clearinghouse

[Alaska Clearinghouse](#) is a joint partnership with the [Denali Commission](#), Alaska Federal Executive Association, [Alaska State Legislature](#), [U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development](#), and [Rasmuson Foundation](#). The Clearinghouse was created to bring clarity to Alaskans about the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

Each agency mentioned above has provided a staff person to the Alaska Clearinghouse to strengthen the spectrum of expertise and information gathered on the stimulus funding. We are pleased to welcome Patrick Hatch with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Jon Bittner with the Alaska State Legislature, and Christopher Perez with the Rasmuson Foundation along with Adison Smith of the Denali Commission.

Since the conception of Alaska Clearinghouse, we have received roughly 140 inquiries and 20 meeting requests. Approximately 30% of these requests are for general information on stimulus funds and events and the other 70% are small business owners and individuals seeking information on how to apply for the stimulus funding. Most contacts have never applied for federal funding and have little direction on how to fill out a grant application or what steps to take in this process.

Accomplishments

Created the following infrastructure to gather and disseminate information for the Alaska Clearinghouse:

- [Website](#)
- Twitter

- Access Database Call log, grant information
- Distribution list
- Templates for Alaska Clearinghouse overview, results reports
- Frequently asked questions
- Participated in the April 14, 2009 Grants Symposium
- Responded to numerous inquiries including meeting requests.
- We are responding to each inquiry with current grant information.
- We also are providing new information through our Twitter account and regular updates on the website.
- Watch our [website](#) for these important updates and information.

Planned Tasks

- Soon a Denali Commission Intern will join the team
- Energy Block Grant coordination will be facilitated
- Community outreach through Regional non-profit organizations
- Speaking at the Matsu Regional Forum, the Planning Workgroup, the MOU Partners Workgroup and the Architecture/Engineering Marketing Association of Alaska.

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Denali Commission

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