Job Start
Cash to pay for that new Employee!

The costs of Labor can be the biggest single cost a business faces. Yet, if a company is going to grow and make more money, it will eventually have to hire new workers.

Now there is a program that can provide a steady, dependable cash flow that offsets the cost of hiring a new employee.

**Job Start** is a program designed by Alaska’s Division of Public Assistance (DPA) to help employers expand their workforce or to fill existing vacancies, and at the same time increase job opportunities for welfare clients. **Job Start** pays the employer the amount of a family’s monthly Temporary Assistance (TA) benefit, if the employer hires the TA client.

Businesses get a steady source of cash each month to expand their business, or help defer costs of training and clients get a paycheck instead of a welfare check.

Here are some of the benefits to businesses:

- Cash payments to employers can exceed $800 per month for the typical client.
- Job Start payments last 3 to 6 months; enough time for the new hire to become a productive employee.
- Businesses can have up to 20% of their workforce as Job Start Employees.
- Job Start will pay for tools, uniforms, or safety items the worker needs for the job.
- Employers select the new employee from among TA clients that have been pre-screened to the employer’s specifications.

Job Start does not pay all the costs of a new hire. Businesses must pay at least minimum wage and offer full time work, and pay all state and federal employment taxes, as well as provide Workers’ Comp. But at $800 a month, Job Start pays about 65% of the wages of a full-time, minimum wage job.

Paperwork has been kept to a minimum – three pages that collect the usual information - name, address, telephone number, job description, wage rate, dates of the contract. Employers submit a short invoice form and pay stubs at the end of the month. Payments usually take about 10 working days.

Tell us what the requirements and specifications are for your job, and our staff will prescreen TA clients to send you only qualified people. Screening can include drug testing and background checks if the employer requests them. If the person you hire has difficulties performing the job, we can help work out any problems. You have no contractual obligation to retain the worker after the contract, or if they do not prove to be an acceptable employee. If the new hire is just not a good match for your business, we will help that client find a different job and can help you find a new worker.
How Can Your Business Take Part in this Program?

Job Start can help you grow your business and help grow your community.

For more information on Job Start, please contact one of our Employment Security Specialists:

- Anchorage ................. 907-269-0072
- Kenai ...................... 907-283-2943
- Fairbanks .................... 907-451-3115
- Ketchikan ................... 907-228-3238
- Juneau ....................... 907-465-2987
- Mat-Su ....................... 907-352-2504
- Nome ......................... 907-443-9360

Other Programs that can help your business:
- Work Opportunity and Welfare-to-Work Tax Credits
- Fidelity Bonding Program

FEDERAL & STATE EMPLOYER REQUIREMENTS
- Unemployment Insurance Contribution Account
- Alaska Business License
- Workers Compensation Coverage
- Comprehensive General Liability Coverage
- Commercial Automobile Liability Insurance if the employee is required to drive a company vehicle.

The Employer agrees:
- To provide the employee the opportunity to earn a net wage at least equal to their Temporary Assistance benefit amount.
- That the wage is comparable to the wage for other workers for a similar position and is at least equal to the Alaska minimum wage. That leave and benefits provided conform to law and are equal to similar employees.
- To provide the employee with State Unemployment Insurance, FICA and any other fringe benefits required by law.
- To provide reasonable accommodation for any qualified disabled employee to assist in the essential job functions.
- That the position will not interrupt promotional lines for current employees, displace or fire current employees, including partial displacement such as a reduction in workforce hours of non-overtime work, wages, or employment benefits.

The Employer certifies:
- Employer has no outstanding wage and hour claims.
- Previous worksite contracts were successful and no federal or state violations occurred.
- Employer will not discriminate against any person because of race, color, national origin, religious creed, political belief, disability, or age in admission to or participation in this program.
- Position will not impair existing contracts for services or collective bargaining agreements.

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