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'Steps to Your Future'
with Mari Jo Parks, M.Ed., Career & College Coach



Alaska Job Centers – Free Job Training and Job Searching

Sometimes Opportunities come in the most appropriate places. Many parents and students ask, “Where can I get help if I don’t want to go to college?” In previous Steps I have given overviews of apprentice programs, trade schools, certificate programs and on-the-job training. (Contact me if you need copies of those newsletters.)

Today I am introducing you to the **State of Alaska Job Center(s)**. We all know that you can go to the Job Center to look for and apply for jobs. But there is so much more. The program I am going to talk about today is the **Post High School Training Program**. Call (907) 269-0088 for more information.

An overview of Job Service includes information about a wide variety of assistance including:

- individual employment plans, career development and coaching
- school and training information, occupational training
- on-the-job training
- apprenticeship training
- customized training

Job service assists individuals who are low-income adults and youth, have been unemployed for a long period of time, dislocated workers, older workers or individuals who experience a disability.

Steps to getting assistance from Job Service:

1. Call the Job Service near you and ask to meet with an Employment Counselor. All meetings are being done on Zoom at this time.
2. The Employment Counselor will have you attend (via Zoom) an orientation meeting.
3. Next you will meet with the Employment Counselor and get individual assistance on finding what you are interested in and what is available. They may have you take an assessment to learn about what your interests.
4. **Many people who apply to the Assessment and Career Planning program are given assistance with finding training. The training is paid for, including other expenses such as equipment, uniforms, mileage, and books. You are then assisted with finding a job in your chosen field.**
5. **IMPORTANT INFORMATION – YOU** must take the lead on your program. There are times it may feel frustrating because things are not happening fast enough or there are steps you feel are unnecessary. **BUT** it is worth following through. This is free assistance that can get you into a good paying job.

I know one young man who decided to get training as a CNA, Certified Nurses Assistant. His training was paid for as well as his uniforms, medical supplies, books and mileage. He completed the program in 8 weeks, got a great job at a local hospital. After a year he decided to travel the country as a CNA getting jobs in Seattle, Washington, DC and Chicago. He never had trouble finding a job and had great adventures along the way.

Job Center is also offering a **Summer Job Opportunities for Teens**. Call (907) 269-4759 for more information about this program as soon as possible.

There are many opportunities, make the call to your local Job Center. To find a center near you go to <https://jobs.alaska.gov>. I will admit I find the website a bit overwhelming so once you find the Job Center near you, call them for more information.

Feel free to contact me at future.incl@gmail.com if you have any questions.

Mari Jo Parks, Career & College Coach