

# **Fairbanks: Building Opportunity for Future Generations**



Why did *you*  
come here...?

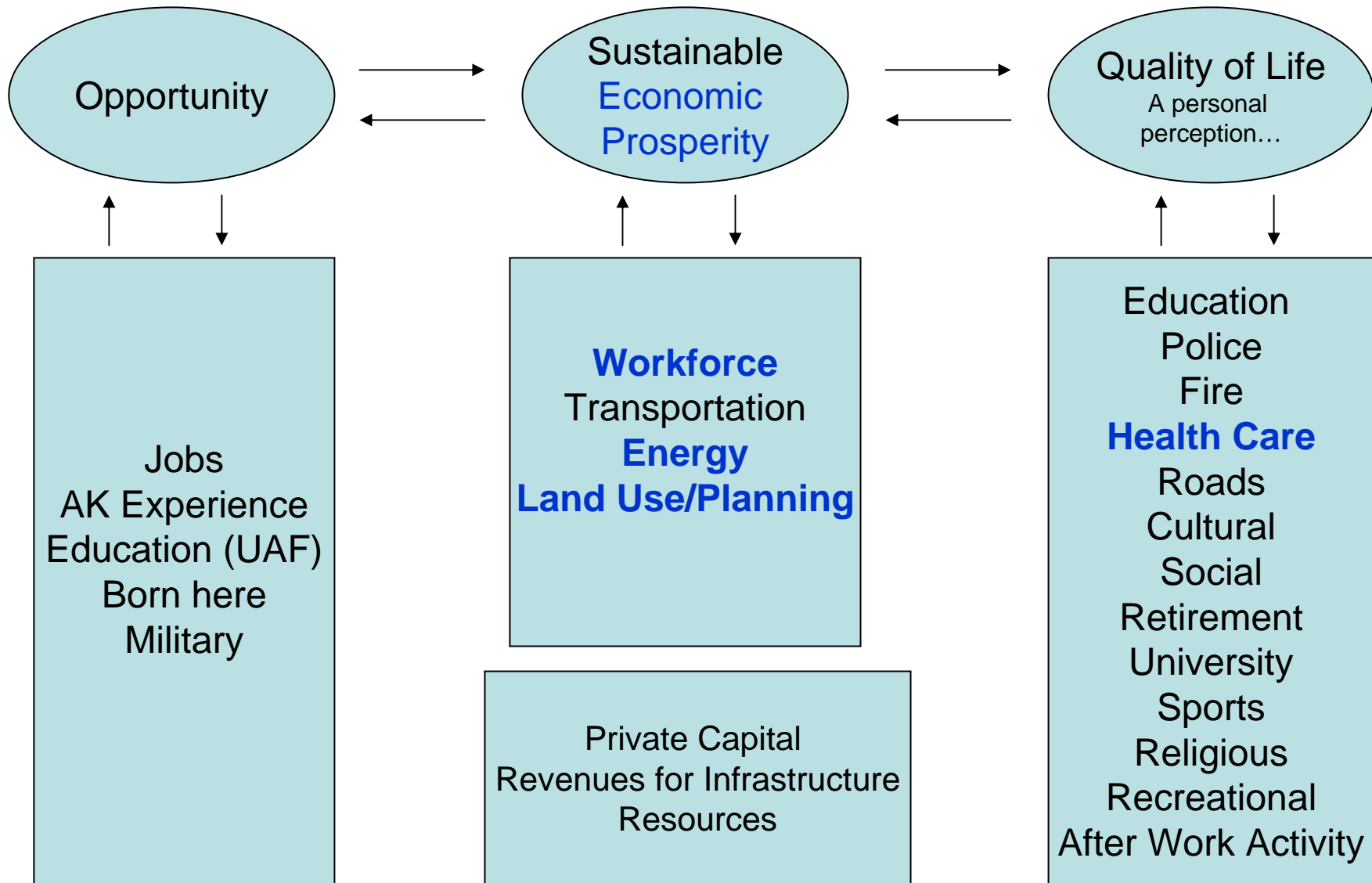


Considerations for  
growing *our* healthy  
economy...

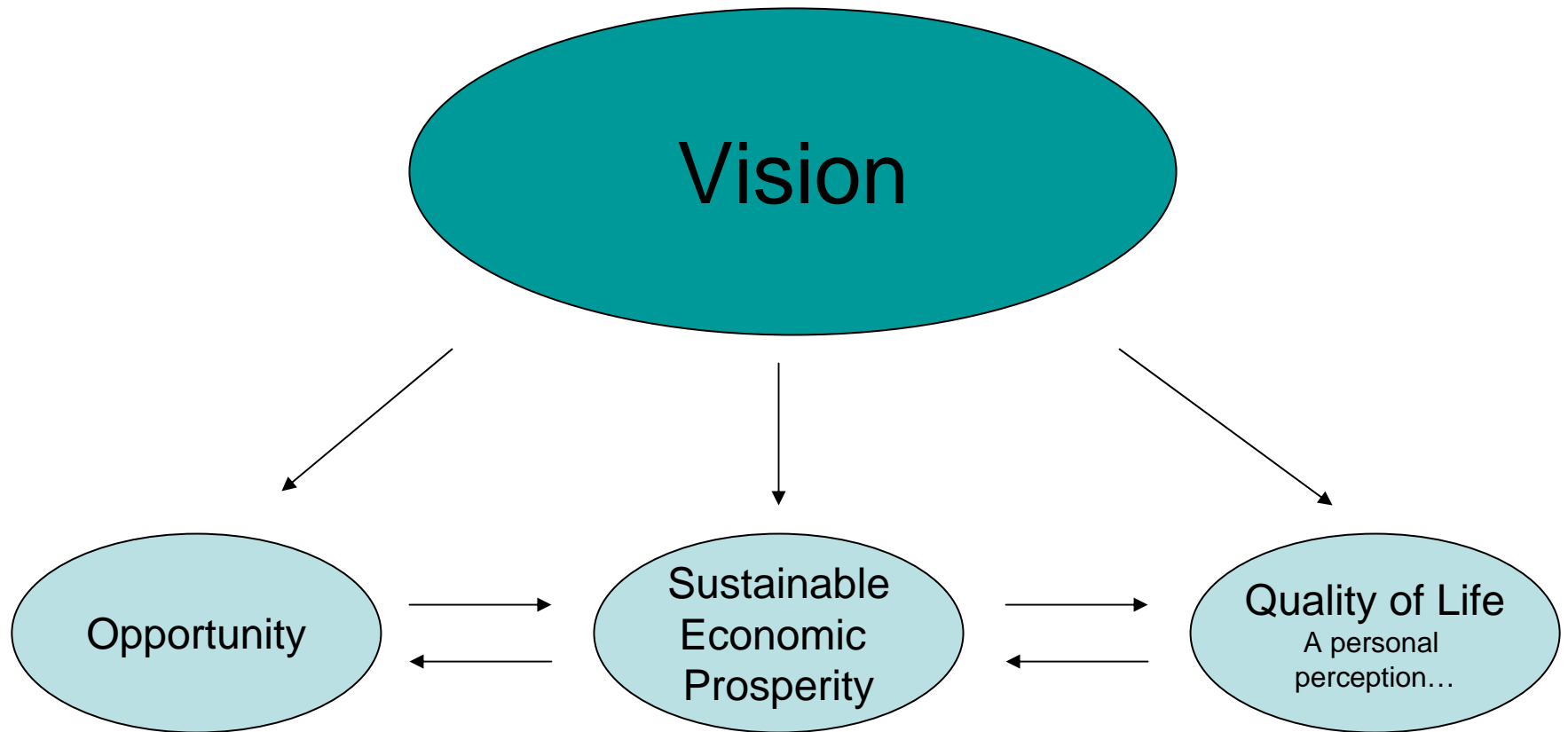


What do *you* need to stay in Fairbanks...?





# ***Let's Stand on Our Own Two Feet!***



# Cost of Energy in Fairbanks: A Vision For The Future

# IIC Energy Task Force

Chair: Steven Haagenon

Henry Cole

Sue Hull

Ryan Colgan

Mike Musick

John Davies

Cassie Pinkel

Jim Dodson

William Sackinger

Hugh Fate

Rick Solie

Jack Hebert

David Van Den Berg

# Vision Statement

In the year 2020:

- Alaskans will have access to economic natural gas from the North Slope that is vertically integrated, sustainable and long-term stable priced, for electric generation, space heating and transportation.
- Interior Alaska is using energy wisely through conservation and efficiency increases.
- Interior Alaska is fertile ground for economic development and growth that provides an increased tax base.
- The Interior energy supply is moving toward renewable energy sources in recognition that natural gas is not renewable.
- Reduced energy costs in the Interior will cause a dramatic increase in disposable income.

# Short Term Action Plan:

## Promote energy conservation.

Public Education on available programs and assistance to understand the economic payback of efficiency measures.

Partner with energy specialists to identify the priorities of alternate efficiency measures.

Develop a program for Heat Loss and energy use in homes (Possible program development by the UAF Computer Science Department).

Coordinate contractors and suppliers to perform work in the off-season.

# Mid-Term Action Plan:

## North Slope gas delivered by LNG truck

There are several entities currently looking at this opportunity. The most notable is Fairbanks Natural Gas.

## Wind Power

Golden Valley is monitoring wind resources in the Healy area and is a MOU partner in the Fire Island Wind Project.

# Long Term Action Plan:

## Bullet Line to Fairbanks & Anchorage

The Port Authority has partnered with ANGDA to look at a pipeline to supply natural gas to Fairbanks, Anchorage, and Valdez where LNG will be made for export.

## Support Opportunities for a Spur Line

The Governor has recently released her Alaska Gasline Inducement Act (AGIA) which could spark renewed interest in a gas-line construction.

# Questions?

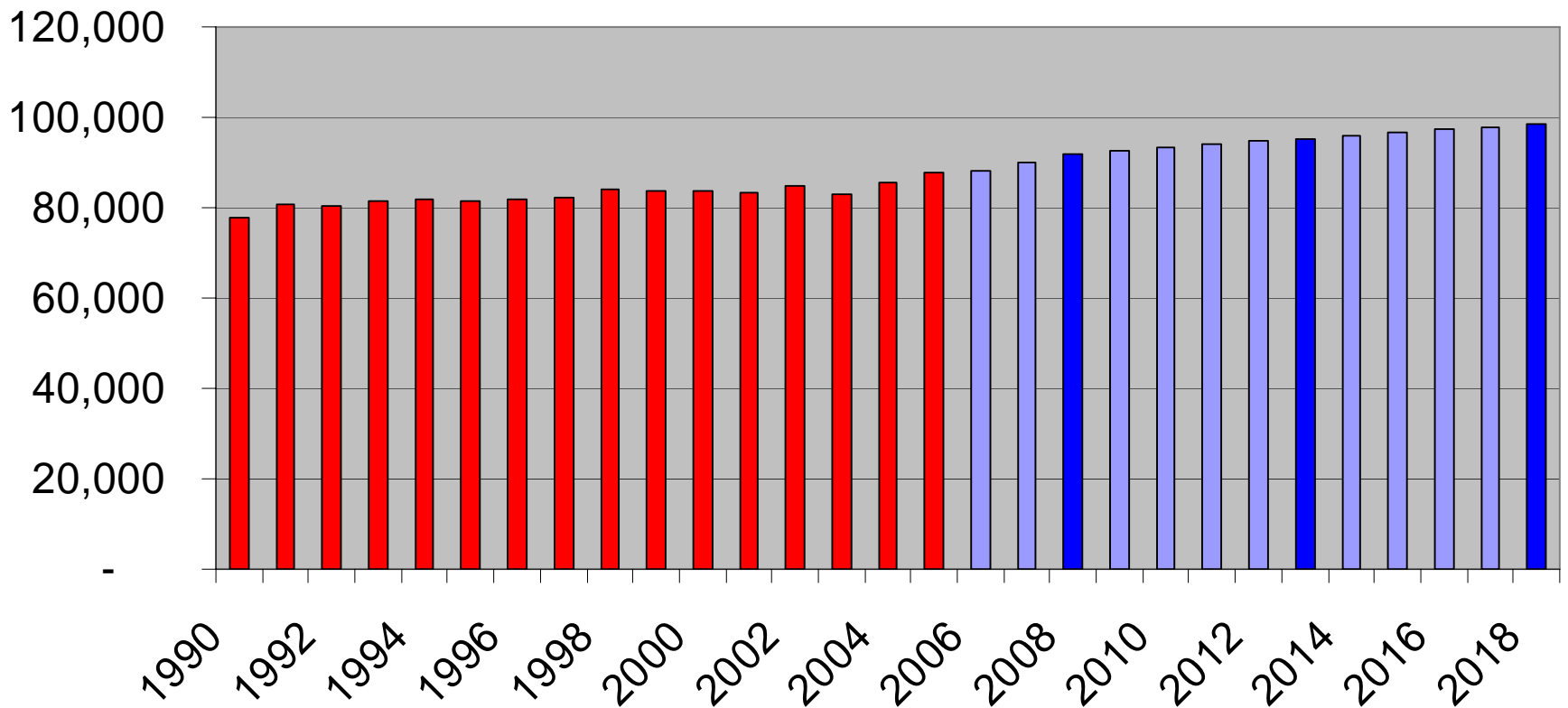
# Fairbanks Community Economic Review

for the  
Interior Issues Council

presented by the  
Community Economy Task Force

# Fairbanks Population

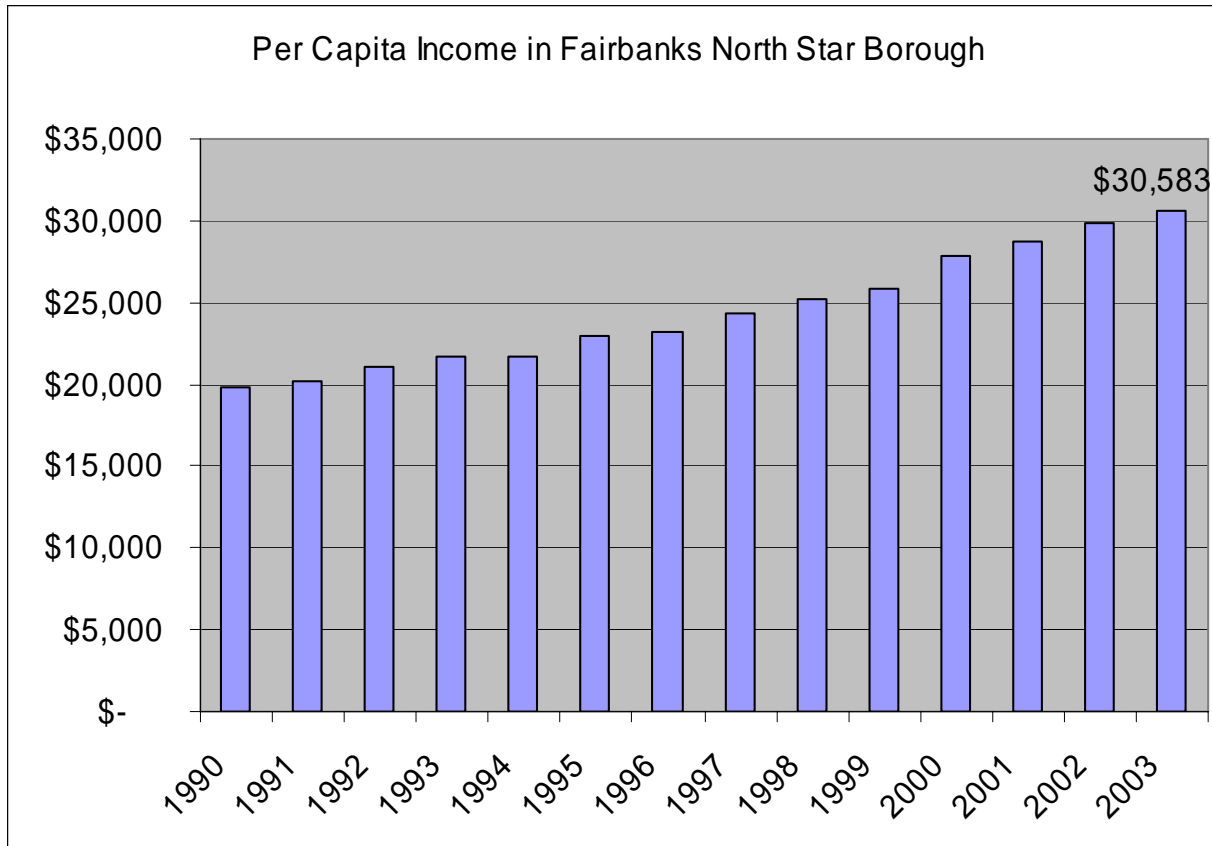
## Fairbanks North Star Borough Population



IIC General Meeting

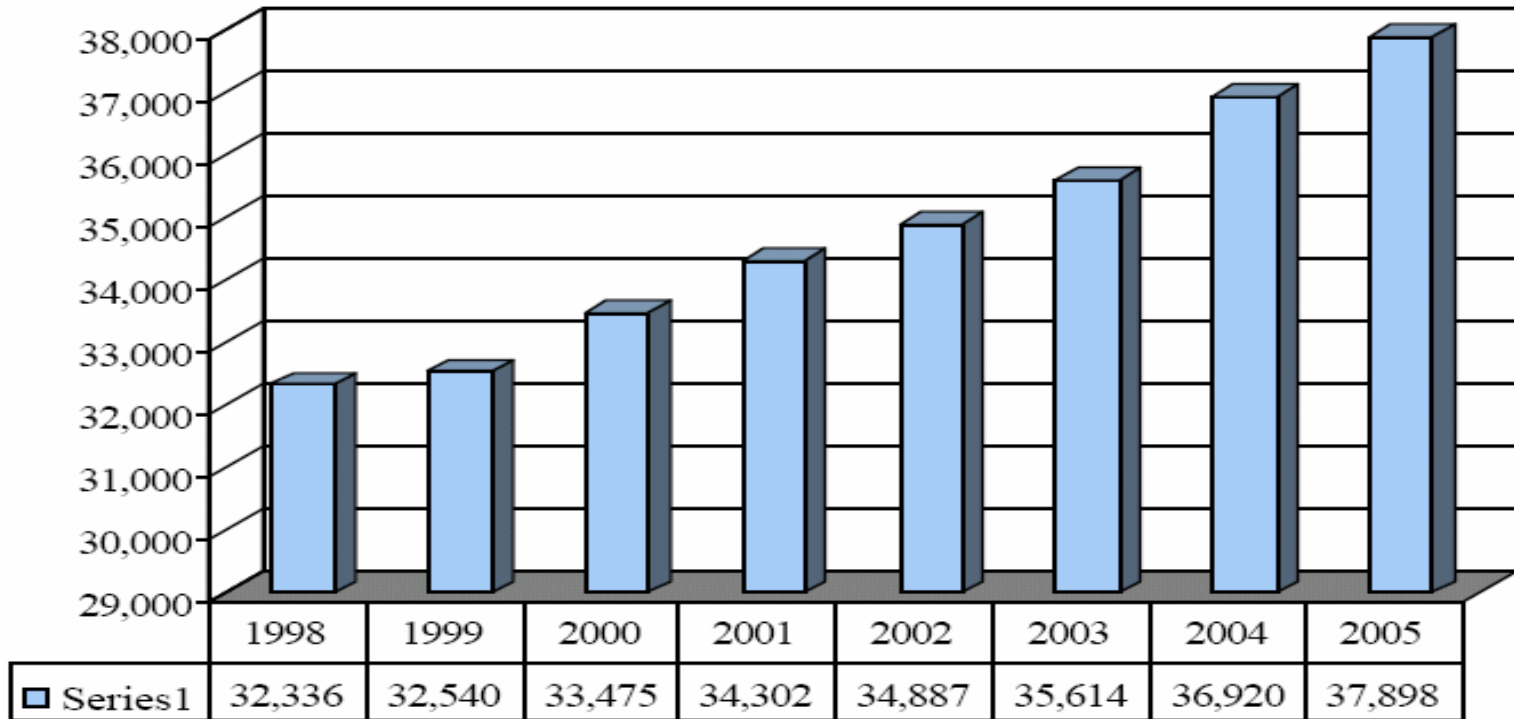
March 27, 2007

# Per capita income



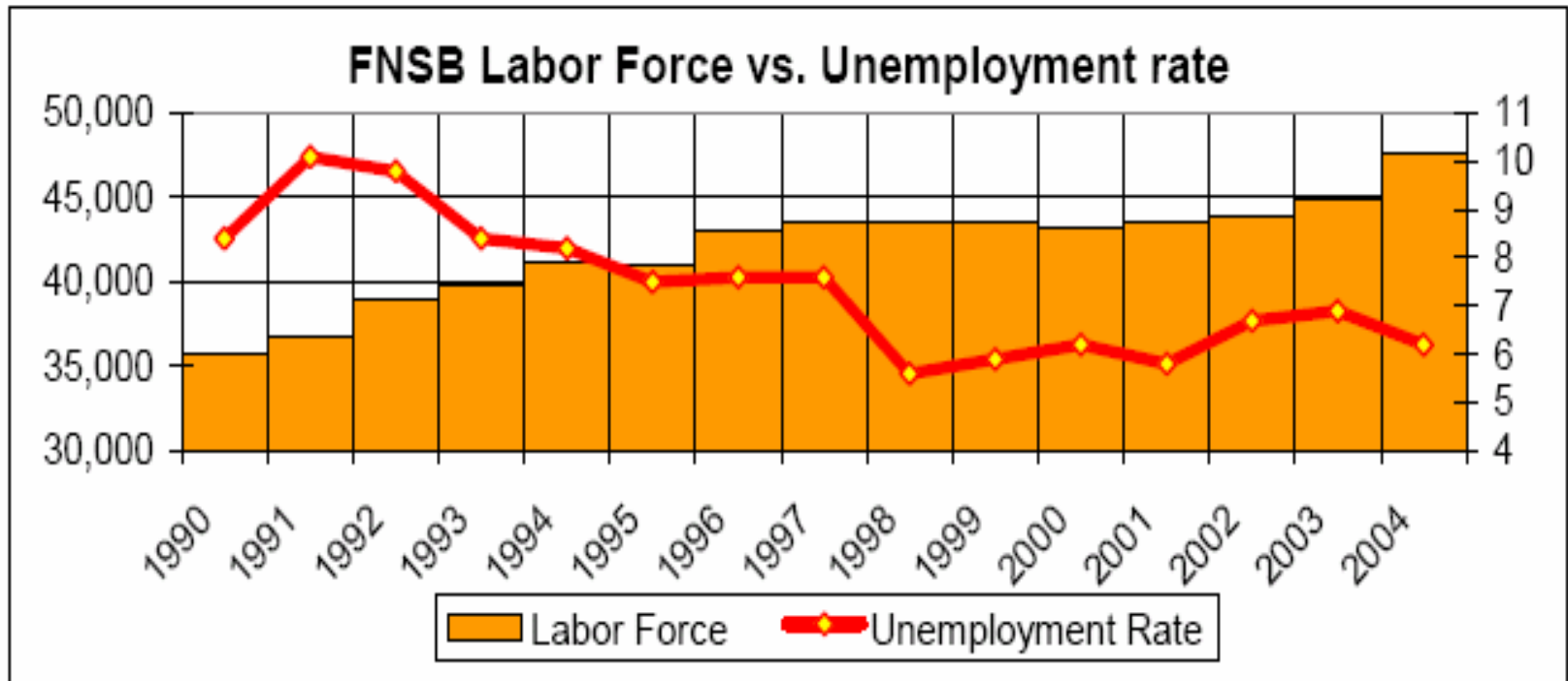
# Employment

**ANNUAL AVERAGE MONTHLY EMPLOYMENT**  
Fairbanks North Star Borough  
1998-2005



# Unemployment

Figure 6: Unemployment



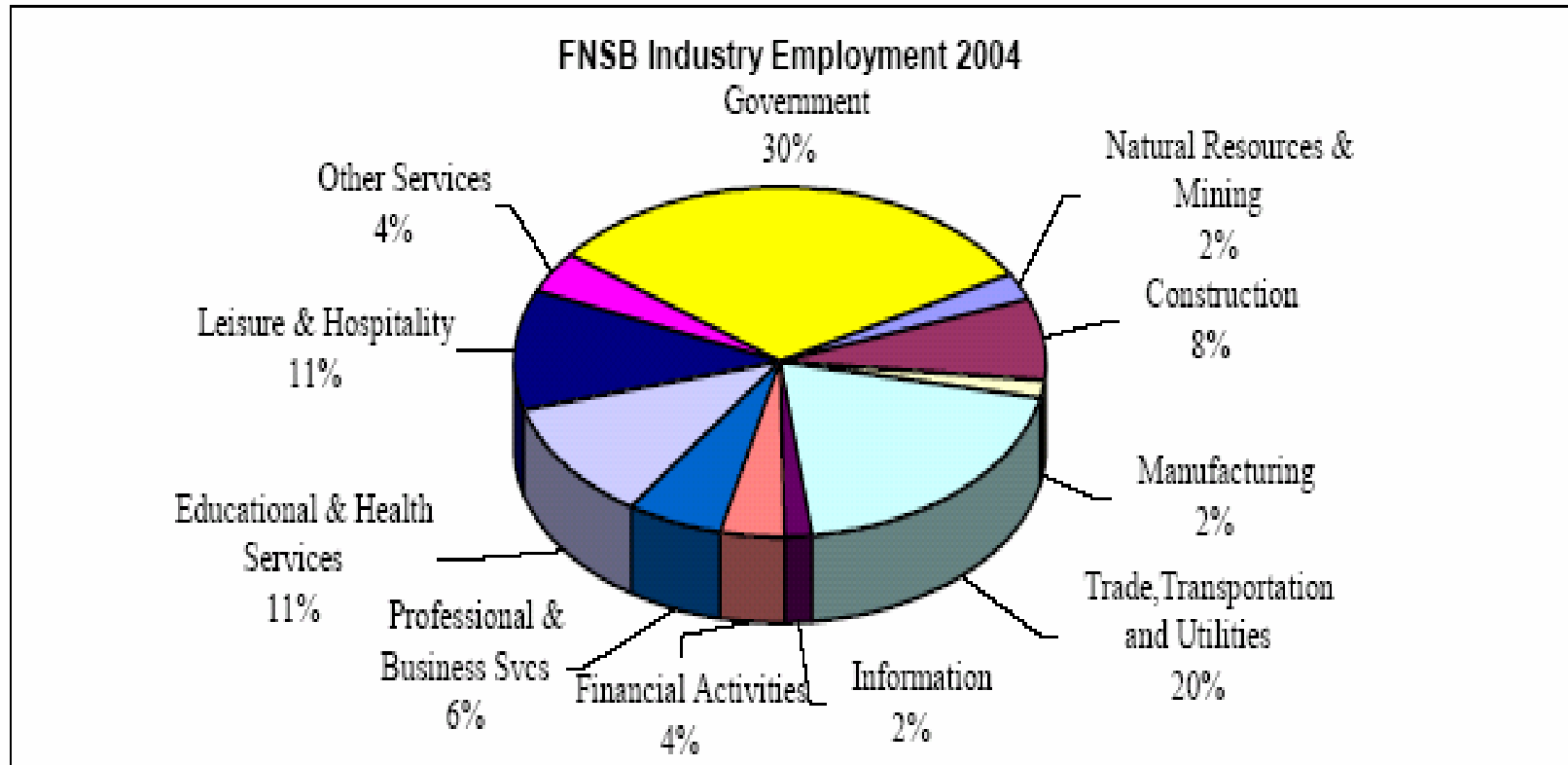
Source: AK Department of Labor

# Monthly earnings



# Employment by industry

Figure 7: Industry Employment



Source: AK Dept of Labor \*Does Not Include Military

# Timber

- ◆ Small but thriving industry currently exists
  - Northland Wood
  - Alaska Birch Works
- ◆ Expansion depends on development of
  - Accurate forest inventory information
  - Finding a use for slash and low quality logs
- ◆ Future holds promise
  - Comprehensive inventories underway
  - Biomass combustion, as alternate energy source, is a potential use for slash and low quality logs

# Mining

## ◆ Underdeveloped

- Ft Knox Gold Mine
- Pogo Mine

## ◆ Tremendous potential

- 800 mineral occurrences in the 200 km wide corridor along the proposed railroad extension from Fairbanks to Canadian border
- Worldwide demand for minerals and metals is pushing values of those products to unprecedented levels
- Range of impact on FNSB economy is \$300 million to \$3 billion dollars per year depending on level of development

## ◆ Stumbling blocks

- Cost of energy
- Transportation
- Public resistance

# Other Industries

## ◆ Construction

- Energy conservation
- Downtown revitalization
- Gas pipeline

## ◆ Transportation

- Fairbanks International Airport – increase freight traffic
- Railroad expansion

## ◆ Research

- UAF – Poker flat, global climate change, biological sciences
- Research spawned industry

## ◆ Healthcare

- Expand to serve rural communities
- Expand to serve growing senior population

Questions?

Comments?



# Workforce

- **Introductory Thoughts**
- **Review of Issues**
- **Key Observations**
- **Strategy Overview**
- **Key Actions**



# Which comes first?

- Does a strong labor pool attract economic opportunity?
  - Such as cheap labor attracting manufacturing in Asia
  - As in Silicon Valley drawing high-tech firms due to an abundance of skilled technologists and related infrastructure



# Which comes first?

- Or...Does economic opportunity and development create the demand that attracts the labor force?



# Both models work for Fairbanks

- The Interior can be (or is) a hub of knowledge and talent:
  - Northern Studies
  - Extraction Industries
  - Skilled Construction
  - Others...
- But we assume that in most cases the demands of industry will drive the workforce needs.



# Review of Issues

- Workforce Issues & Solutions–
  - Broad in scope
  - Inextricably linked to other societal challenges and economic development
  - Difficult to narrowly define
  - Lack of centralization of information and services



# Vision – Lacks Specificity

- We all know it's an important component of a strong economy.
- But what does it look like in the future?
- Where will the demand be?
- How do we prepare for success in a variety of possible scenarios?



# One Theory...

- It's about being prepared to take advantage of opportunity.
- It's about creating strong foundations of basic skills.
- It's about developing adaptable systems to train a labor force to meet the demands of industry.



# Review – Full Employment

- Despite a paper 5% - 7% unemployment rate:
  - FNSB is operating in a full employment economy
    - Skilled workers that want to work...are working
    - Many skilled vacancies take 6 - 12 months to fill. Extreme shortages up to 2 years.
- Military Dependents fill skilled and entry jobs (If they deploy or leave: vacancies increase.)



# Review – Foundational Skills

- Basic skills and work readiness in younger workers is not adequate
- Common Criticisms
  - Work ethic – low effort – not engaged
  - Work habits – timeliness, appearance
  - “Soft skills” are poor – customer service, courtesy, teamwork
    - Result – Industry has to teach them basics
      - In addition to technical




# Review – Aging Workforce

- Huge impact of Baby Boomer retirements – will they stay or go?
  - How can we extend their service?
  - Significant vacancies in skilled positions
    - Critical in many areas (Physicians)
  - Increased demand for health & social services
  - Increased demand for Senior Housing



# Review – Local Hire

- Community retention of workers is better when we train Alaskans to fill Alaska jobs.
- Training capacity can be a barrier
  - Developing Alaskan workforce takes years to ramp-up for many skill sets.
  - Training mechanisms that cannot flex to meet changing demand are a hurdle.

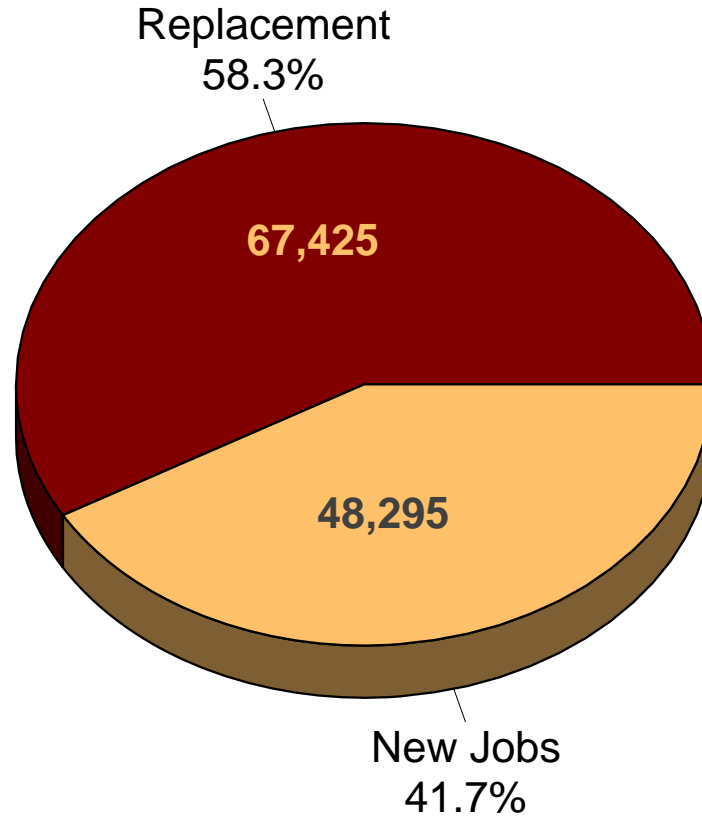


# Community Workforce Assets

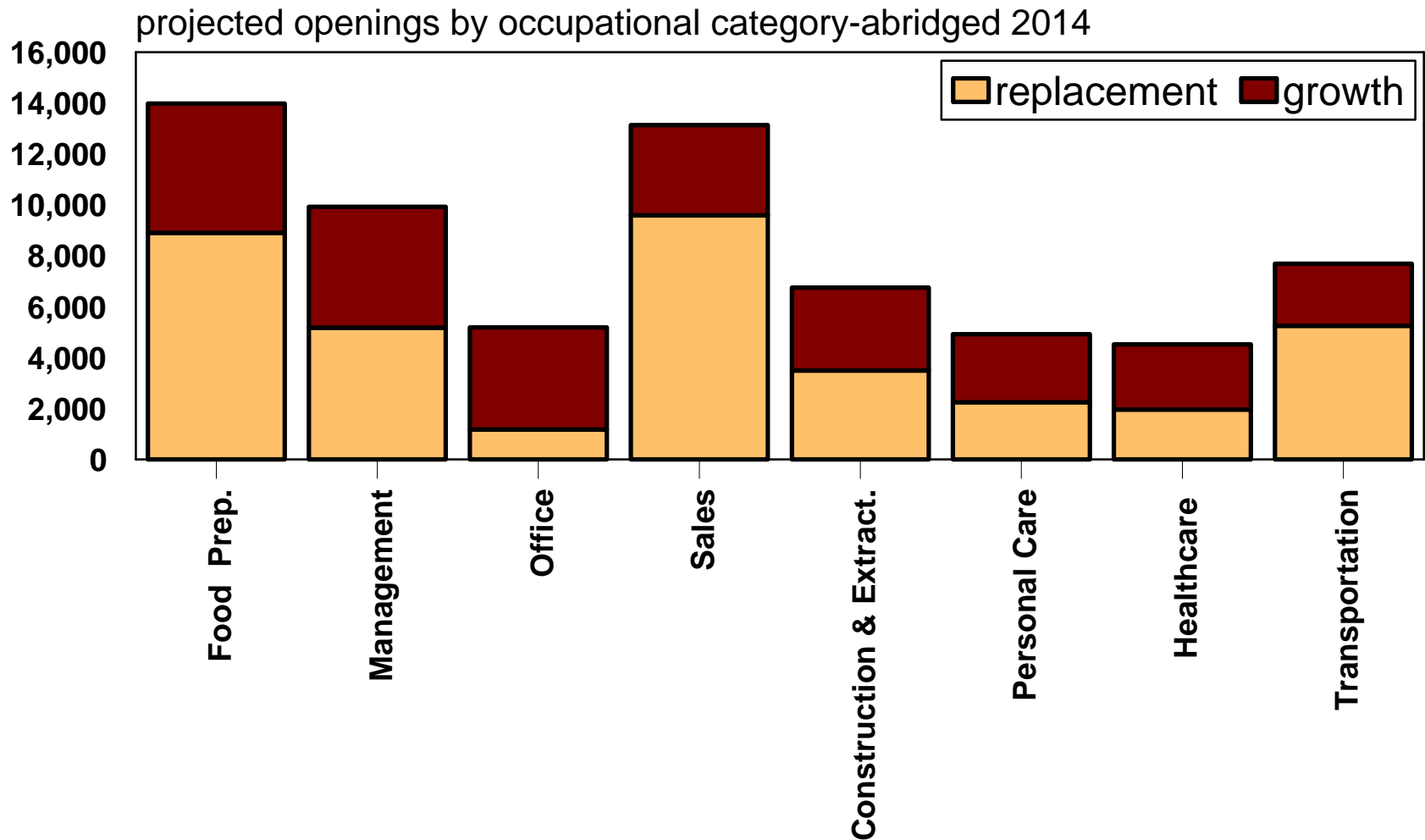
- One Stop Job Center
- UAF / TVC
- Hutchison Career Center – FNSBSD & TVC partnership
- Other school based Voc Ed programs
- Registered apprenticeships
- Working Partnerships – labor, industry, education

# Most Job Opportunity Arises From Replacing A Position

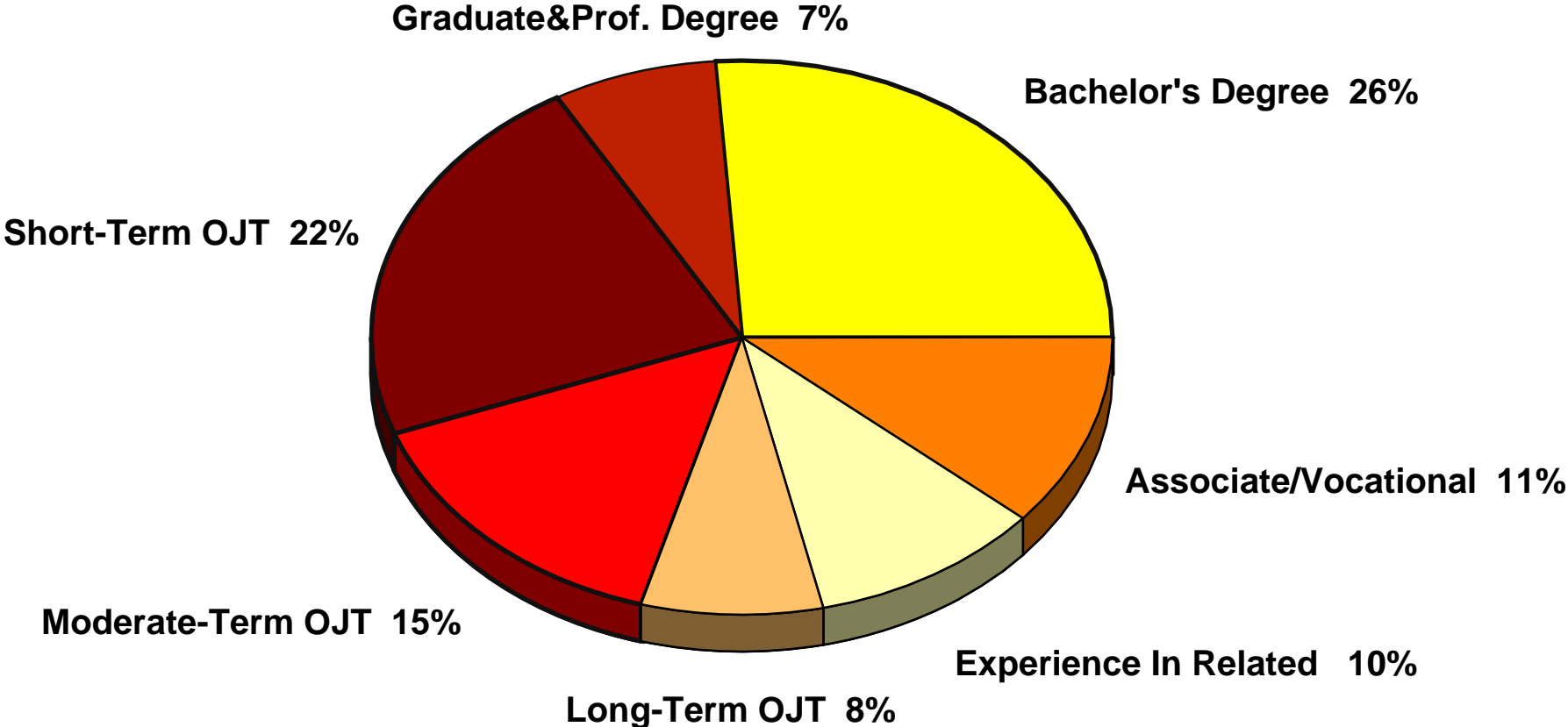
Alaska's job market will recruit for 115,700 positions!



# Replacement Creates All Kinds Of Openings--Not Just Growth



# Occupational Mix By Educational Level In 2014





# Summary of Education

- 33% of new jobs will require a Bachelor's degree or advanced degree.
- 44% of new jobs require some post secondary or technical education.
- 45% of new jobs require various levels of OJT (including apprenticeships)

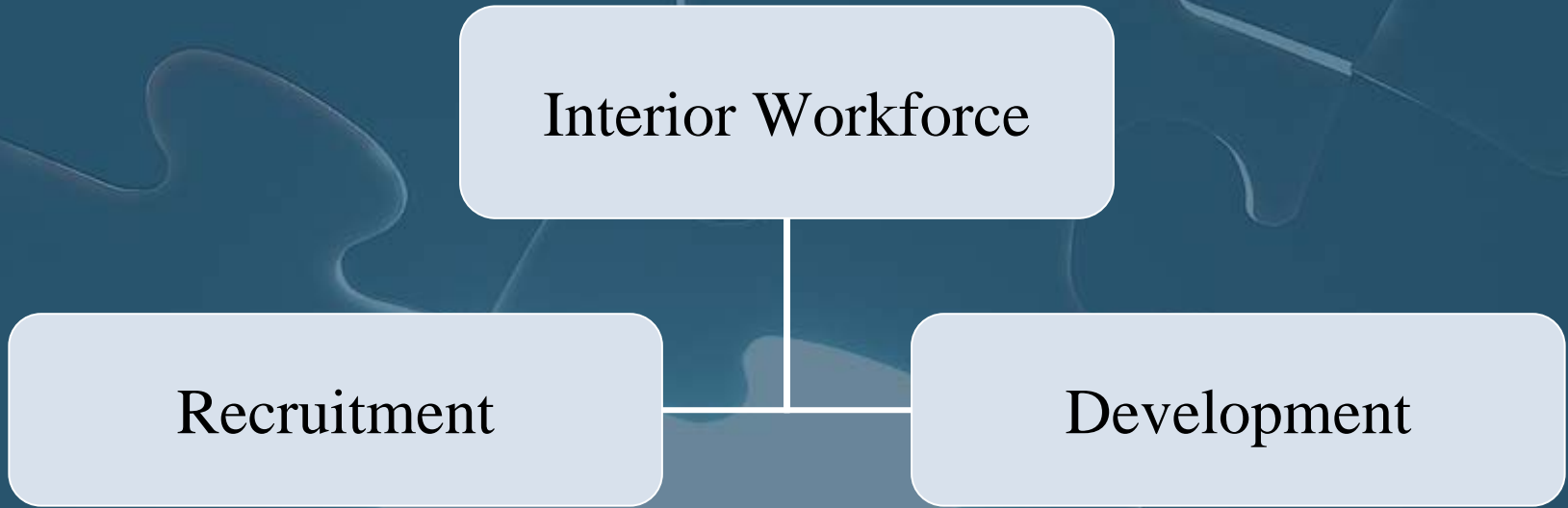


# Strategy

Interior Workforce

Recruitment

Development





# Strategy

- Interior Alaska must support a balanced attack -
  - Recruitment – attract and compete for skilled workers to relocate to the interior...and compete to retain them
  - Development – train Alaskans for Alaska jobs
    - Develop entry level skills
    - Develop entry & mid-levels to advance
    - Develop & recruit highly skilled



# Recruitment Strategies

- Fairbanks and the interior need to **compete nationally and state-wide** as a desirable place to work, to live, to invest, to raise a family.
  - Invest in the community / region
  - Position to compete with other communities for talent interested in AK
  - Coordinated marketing campaign



# Invest in community

- Expand Beautification & Revitalization
- Diversify tax / revenue base
- Strong health care systems
- Strong education systems
- Strong public safety
- Maintain “lifestyle” resources to attract and retain
- Help (and incent) employers to provide health insurance for workers.



# Recruitment Strategies

- Reinstatement targeted AK student loan forgiveness
  - Physicians and other critical vacancies
- Re-recruit local youth to return to Alaska after outside education or experience.
  - We know some will leave...let's get them back.



# Development Strategies

- Modify education models - career / tech
- Promote life-long learning
- Industry Leadership – Develop training partnerships, fund internal & external training programs
- Strengthen partnerships with rural AK
  - Establish Fairbanks as training hub



# Development - Career / Technical Ed. (CTE)

- Developing a strategic plan for engaging the broader community in CTE
  - Strategic planning: developing a common vision
  - Developing partnerships
  - Marketing effectively
  - Leveraging resources
  - Assessing our success—milestones



# Development – Life-long learning

- We need a mindset of seamless life-long learning
  - Help the public understand this concept
  - Maintain meaningful partnerships with parents on education
  - Market opportunities and resources
  - Capitalize on underutilized labor populations



# Key Actions

- Support implementation of community branding project sponsored by FCVB
  - Leverage the community brand in private recruiting activities
- Make your industry needs known
  - Communicate all hard-to-fill vacancies (and training opportunities) to Job Center
  - To enhance the central repository of data
  - To connect with resources / opportunities



# Key Action

- Support the School District in implementing changes recommended by CTEAC (Career Tech Education Advisory Council)
  - Career exposure to younger students
  - Convert resources to more career/tech
  - Develop career clusters & pathways
  - Market to parents & students



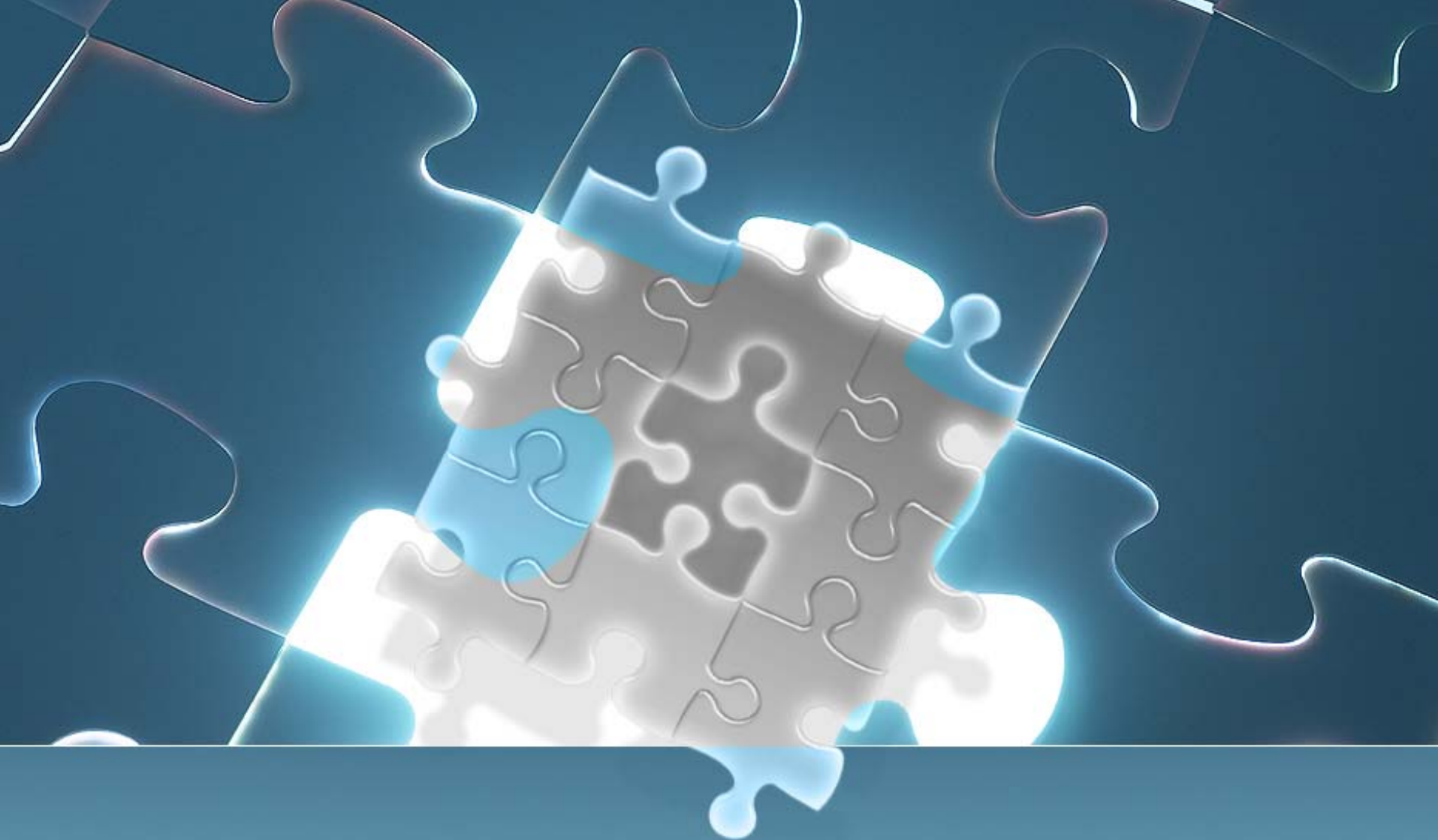
# Key Actions

- Support revisions to State workforce initiatives under Commissioner Click Bishop
  - Strengthening of the AWIB under the Governor's office
  - Aligning services to decrease duplication



# Key Actions

- Create training programs for your industry
  - Contact Job Center, TVC, UAF
- Stabilize revenue issues in local government
- Initiate legislative effort for targeted student loan forgiveness



Questions?

## Land Use Planning Participants

Bernardo Hernandez – Chair

DeLaina Storhok - FEDC

Emily Bratcher

Ryan Colgan

Torie Foote

Randy Frank

Bob Henszey

Luke Hopkins

Deborah Horner

Doug Issaacson

Mike Musick

Joni Scharfenberg

Emma Wilson

## Generally

- Certainty - Present and Future
  - People know what to expect.
  - Investors know what to expect.
- Planning is a vision that provides the community with a backdrop for decision making.

## Specific Examples

- Correctional facilities and liquor stores are not built next to schools.
- Resource development areas are identified.
- Residential and commercial areas are defined, compatible, and convenient.
- Uniform setbacks, lot size, etc. provides some commonality while still allowing individual expression.
- Transportation – safe, efficient, connectivity for vehicle and pedestrian traffic.

**Who Plans?**

**How do we Plan?**

## **Individuals**

- Choose to invest in land or property.
- Develop and improve land.
- Can initiate rezones.
- Sometimes follow applicable planning laws, sometimes not.

## **Cities of Fairbanks and North Pole**

- Create planning related ordinances.
- If development occurs within the City boundaries:
  - Building Permit.
  - Certain developments must abide by City landscape ordinance (Fairbanks only).

## **Fairbanks North Star Borough**

- New construction requires zoning permit.

### FNSB Assembly

- Create planning related ordinances.
- Give final approval of zoning.
- Initiate rezones.

### Planning Commission

- Adjudicates variance requests.
- Adjudicates appeals from the Platting Board.
- Advisory capacity to the FNSB Assembly on zoning changes.
- Advisory capacity to the FNSB Assembly on planning ordinances.
- Action on certain road projects.

### Platting Board

- Subdivision Approval.
- Public right of way vacations

## **Policy Makers**

- Develop vision.
- Establish policies and laws.
- Advocate and implement.

## **Community Groups, etc.**

- Develop a vision and work through planning process.

**Hypothesis:**

The existing planning process is largely occupied by response to individual actions.

**Question:**

Do we maximize opportunity when we plan our community by responding to a series of uncoordinated and unrelated requests for building permits, zoning permits, variances, and rezones?

- **Review hypothesis and explore the limits of our existing planning process.**
- **Assess existing community goals (Comprehensive Plan, Trails, Riverfront, etc).**
- **Identify methods to implement plans and achieve goals.**
- **Promote community partnerships among stakeholders.**
- **Discuss planning themes:**
  - Shared community vision is important.
  - Proactive (not the same as prescriptive).
  - Streamlined permitting/development process.
  - Smart growth should be encouraged.
  - Sustainability.
  - Etc. (please feel free to join our group discussion)
- **Keep thinking and talking.**

# FEDDC Health Care Task Force

March 27, 2007

Dan Winfree, Anna Huntington-Kriska, Murray Richmond, Brian Slocum, Torie Foote, Lisa Giannusa, Karen Parr, Karen Purdue, Lillian Ruedrich, Robert Gould



# Vision Statement

“A strong regional health system that promotes health, wellness, and access.”

To promote and support the Fairbanks health care system as a broadly based team of highly skilled health care providers, in sufficient number and type to enable all of the acute and chronic care needs of the population to be met in a timely, effective, efficient and affordable manner.

The Fairbanks health care team is composed of all individuals, organizations and government entities with a self-declared interest in promoting the physical, emotional and spiritual health and wellbeing of our population.



# Priority Issue: Substance Abuse

**Goal: To reduce substance abuse incidents in the Fairbanks North Star Borough**

**Solutions:**

- **To promote a local campaign for public awareness**
- To support efforts to increase law enforcement and to promote equity of treatment
- **To provide effective treatment programs that address chronic alcohol and drug users**
- To support efforts involving families to become more accountable
- **To promote educational programs to prevent substance abuse**
- To promote expansion of recreational activities
- **To support programs that fill in the gaps**
- **To support an increase in taxes to address substance abuse**



# Priority Issue: Infrastructure Planning

**Goal: To create an infrastructure plan to develop neighborhoods, preserve green space, encourage business development, provide affordable housing, improve public transportation, expand recreational activities and promote comprehensive effective recycling in the FNSB by 2007.**

## **Solutions:**

- To encourage neighborhood councils
- To support the FNSB by participating in the comprehensive planning efforts
- To promote property taxation based on infrastructure
- To support Gas Line efforts
- To encourage small business efforts in recycling



# Priority Issue: Family Violence

**Goal: To ensure families have the necessary resources in the FNSB to reduce family violence by 2007.**

## **Solutions:**

- To engage faith-based support and qualified counseling
- **To support and implement a local public awareness campaign**
- **To support effective prevention programs (youth programs and anger management)**
- **To support stricter law enforcement**
- To promote family related activities
- To encourage men to participate in prevention programs
- To promote intervention services by identifying potential abusers
- **To seek information and support affordable mental health programs**
- **To promote community awareness of family violence**



# Priority Issue: Job & Career Opportunities

**Goal: To retain residents of the FNSB through diverse job and career opportunities by 2007.**

## **Solutions:**

- **To provide education programs for core services such as nursing, MSW, imaging, lab, pharmacy, physician**
- **To create incentives for small business development**
- **To create a job banks for the FNSB community**
- **To enhance youth participation in the work place**
- **To identify barriers to creating a diverse job and career market**
- **To provide educational opportunities in diverse fields (career planning & placement)**
- **To promote competitive salaries and compensation for professionals needed in our community**
- **To investigate programs in other communities that have been effective at attracting medical professionals**



# Priority Issue: Affordable Health Care

**Goal: To provide residents of the FNSB an opportunity to receive affordable medical/dental care by 2007.**

## **Solutions:**

- To investigate pooled insurance plans
- To research opportunities to reduce medical costs
- **To promote healthy choices**
- **To provide access to medical professionals**
- **To provide educational opportunities in medical fields**
- **To preserve and expand medical/dental care options**



# Priority Issue: Mental Health

**Goal: To provide members of the FNSB affordable access to behavioral health.**

## **Solutions:**

- To address funding issues through insurance & government funding
- To create a step down program that fills the gap between treatment centers and going out on your own
- To explain the concept of housing for mental health & substance abuse
- To develop a residential treatment center in the FNSB
- To address chronic alcohol & drug users
  - FNSB support for the Chronic Inebriate program
- To promote career opportunities in Behavioral Health areas
  - University has started the Behavioral Health Aide program
  - Still need a management training component
- To ensure 24/7 emergency evaluation services are available in a setting other than the FMH Emergency Department



# Current Challenges

- Physician shortages
  - National and State challenges
  - Recruiting efforts by hospital and local clinics – Having some success, but need intense focus
  - Efforts to Expand WWAMI program moving forward
  - Need to look at options that will attract practitioners (loan repayment program, creative marketing, etc...)
  - Focused efforts to educate legislators of the critical nature of this subject
  - Encourage those interested to look at the Report of the Alaska Physician Supply Task Force 2006
    - <http://www.alaska.edu/health/downloads/PSTFweb.pdf>



# Current Challenges

- Access issues for Medicare/Medicaid patients
  - Challenges with Government Payers (Medicare, Medicaid, VA, etc...)
  - Anchorage looking at creative solutions to help address – potential subsidy to those providers willing to see Medicare/Medicaid patients
- Mental Health
  - Recruiting at all levels
  - Funding issues
  - Coordination challenges

# What's Happening Today?

- Adolescent Psych Beds – building to start this summer
- Retirement Community – moving forward
- Chronic Inebriate Program – challenges with funding
- Cardiology Services – Clinic opening April 2<sup>nd</sup>
- United Way - Efforts on Substance Abuse and Neighborhood Planning
- Dental Hygienist Program – new program
- Nursing Partnership – continues to make an impact
- Radiology Partnership – need to focus on specialty training
- AHEC Program – active in the community

# Questions and Answers

