

PROGRESS REPORT TO THE DENALI COMMISSION

Submitted by
FIRST ALASKANS INSTITUTE
Rural Development Performance Measures

Project No: 195-05

Grant Period: September 1, 2005 to August 30, 2007

Grant Award Date: September 1, 2005

Reporting Period: April 1, 2007-June 30, 2007

I. SCOPE OF WORK

The Purpose of the project is to provide a tool for communities and the Denali Commission to use in the development of outcome measures for economic development programs.

II. PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS: Briefly describe the grant activities undertaken during the period and any accomplishments achieved.

The RDPM project utilizes an approach that combines literature reviews, research, community discussions, forums, independent analysis, and input from an expert advisory team in the development of the system of measures and project recommendations. During this time period, the **Community Based Performance Measures in the Community Planning Process: a Working Paper** was completed by Dr. Sheila Selkregg and distributed to the RDPM Advisory Team. This paper outlines how community-based performance measures and indicators can be integrated into community planning, and further, how this concept can be worked into the *Community Strategic Plan Guide and Form*. ISER began and continues work on a technical memorandum addressing indicators that have been identified, availability of community level data, and approaches for gathering "new" indicators.

The Policy Center continued the RDPM Discussion Series in Bethel and Nome with regional Non-Profit administrators and program staff. The discussions allowed for the opportunity to share what the project is finding and to solicit input from the administrators on experiences with economic development. The Policy Center also met with representatives of RuralCap to share the RDPM preliminary findings and discuss how these correlate to their experiences in working with poverty programs.

The Policy Center convened a meeting of the Advisory Team to review the initial findings and recommendations and to also review the Community planning document and ISER's technical memorandum. The Policy Center submitted an amendment of the contract to the Denali Commission; which was subsequently approved and provides for a no-cost extension of the contract to August 30, 2007.

III. PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR NEXT REPORTING PERIOD: Describe the grant activities you expect to complete during the next month.

In the next reporting period, the Policy Center will complete its project report and the associated working papers. It is anticipated that the Advisory Team will meet a final time to review the findings and recommendations.

IV. PROBLEMS, DELAYS OR CONCERNS EXPERIENCED: Are the grant activities progressing as planned? If not, what is the cause? Identify if there are any areas the Alaska Workforce Investment Office can provide assistance.

Contractor deadlines have slipped due to circumstances beyond their control and may delay preparation of the final report.

V. POSSIBLE PROBLEM RESOLUTIONS AND TIMEFRAMES: For any problems identified, describe how you will resolve them and how long it will take.

In order to solve this unanticipated delay, a no cost extension was requested to complete work in August with the final project report to be submitted by October.