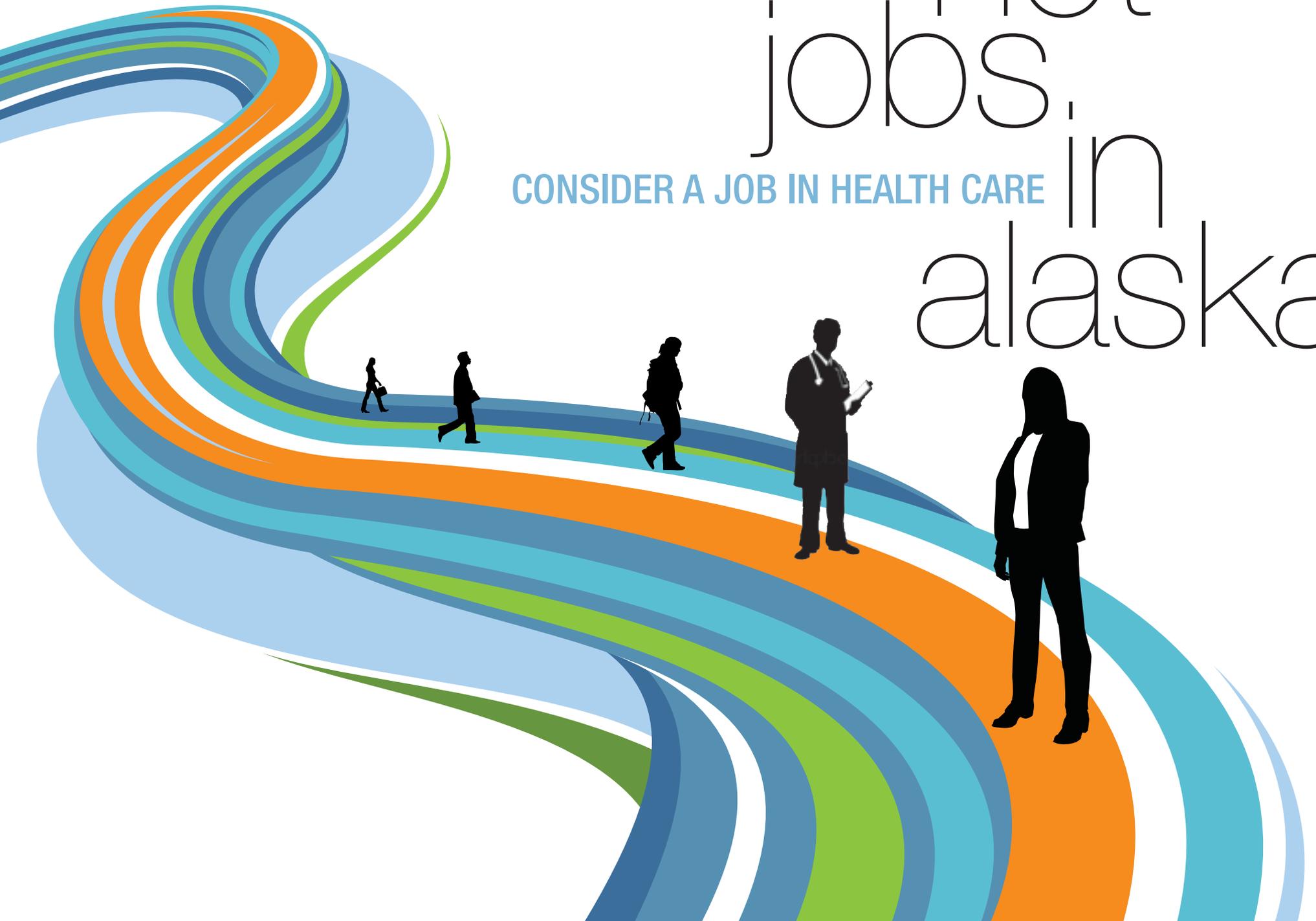


hot jobs. in alaska

CONSIDER A JOB IN HEALTH CARE





a message from click bishop

Although jobs in Alaska's health care industry do require education and training after high school – they don't always require a four-year degree. Training can range from several weeks to many years, depending on your interests and goals.

This booklet is arranged in health care "pathways" that show you how to get prepared for high-demand and, in some cases, high-pay jobs. From medical lab and pharmacy technicians, to behavioral health workers and billing clerks, to nurses and doctors, there are many different career paths within the health care system.

Health care technology is constantly innovating and improving. But the foundation of our health care system is people who genuinely care about others, and who are looking for a way to help and make a difference in other people's lives. If people tell you that you are helpful, then you may be the right person for these kinds of jobs.

As a heavy equipment operator for more than 30 years, I know the value of a good education and solid training. I found myself going back for more training as I advanced in my career. Eventually, I became the person doing the training. Now, as the Commissioner of Labor and Workforce Development, my job is to help you get prepared – for the career waiting for you.

You can accomplish what you set your mind to, so think about what you might like to do after high school graduation. And remember to dream big! This booklet will help you get a good start on a great career. It is also online at <http://jobs.alaska.gov/hotjobs/healthcare.pdf>.

I encourage you to talk to your teachers, parents, guardians and people working in health care. Don't forget the staff at your local Job Center is ready to help!

Good Luck and Best Wishes,

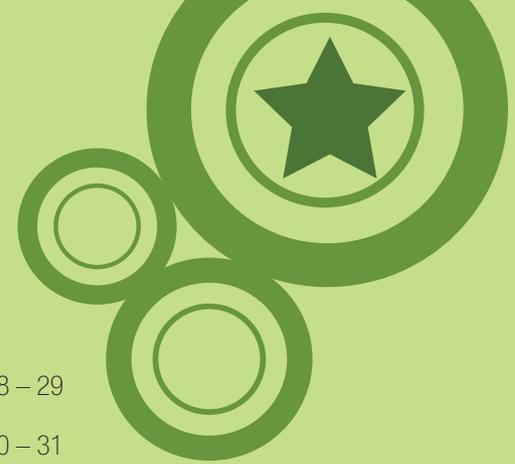
A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Click Bishop". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Commissioner Click Bishop
Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development



table of contents

A Message from Commissioner Click Bishop	2
What's a Health Care Hot Job?.....	4
Careers in Health Care: Doctors, Nurses and a Whole Lot More ..	5
Behavioral Health Pathway: Human Services Worker	6 – 7
Behavioral Health Pathway: Case Manager/Care Coordinator	8 – 9
Behavioral Health Pathway: Social Worker	10 – 11
Nursing Career Pathway: Certified Nurse Assistant.....	12 – 13
My Career Profile: Rae Cunningham	14 – 15
Nursing Career Pathway: Registered Nurse	16 – 17
My Career Profile: Andrea Moses	18 – 19
Nursing Career Pathway: Critical Care Nurse	20 – 21
Medical Provider Pathway: Community Health Aide	22 – 23
Medical Provider Pathway: Physician Assistant.....	24 – 25
Medical Provider Pathway: Family Physician	26 – 27
Diagnostic Services Pathway: Medical Laboratory Technician	28 – 29
My Career Profile: Alan DelaRosa	30 – 31
Diagnostic Services Pathway: Radiographic Technologist..	32 – 33
My Career Profile: Ethan Nelson	34 – 35
Dental Pathway: Dental Assistant	36 – 37
My Career Profile: Michelle Estrella	38 – 39
Clinical Services Pathway: Medical Assistant.....	40 – 41
Clinical Services Pathway: Pharmacy Technician	42 – 43
Clinical Services Pathway: Pharmacist	44 – 45
Administrative Services Pathway: Coding/Billing Specialist.....	46 – 47
Administrative Services Pathway: Health Information Technician	48 – 49
Rehab Therapy Pathway: Physical Therapist	50 – 51
Rehab Therapy Pathway: Occupational Therapist.....	52 – 53
Public Health Pathway: Health Educator.....	54 – 55
My Career Profile: Abbie Moon	56 – 57
Find Out More.....	58
Training and Education Providers.....	59 – 63





what's a health care hot job?

Health care is one of Alaska's largest and fastest growing industries, and there are a lot of opportunities for young people to enter this well-paying, fast-paced, fulfilling career field.

The Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development and the U.S. Department of Labor, with support from the University of Alaska, have identified 20 high-demand, high-growth jobs in the health care field – “health care hot jobs.” While there are many other “hot jobs” in health care, this publication will give you an idea of the many diverse opportunities available to you.

In the following pages, you'll read about common tasks and responsibilities for 20 different “hot jobs.” You can take quizzes to match your skills and interests with a particular job. You'll find out how much money you can make and where the jobs are. You'll discover what sort of training and education you need, where you can get it, and how long it will take. You'll also learn what you can be doing right now to get ready for your future career!

Don't know what you want to do yet? Don't worry – this publication is for you, too. Read through the descriptions and see what jobs interest you most. Talk with your friends, parents, teachers and counselors. Visit the Web sites listed on the “find out more” page. And just start dreaming about what your future might hold.

Navigating the Career Pathway

When it comes to a career, there are lots of ways to get where you want to go. You might pick a job and stick with it your entire life. You might try out one job and then decide to do something entirely different. Or you might get into a job, then choose to get some additional education to advance your career in that field. This is called a career pathway.

In this publication, we'll explore several “hot job” career pathways in the field of health care. For example, in the nursing career pathway, we'll show you three high-demand nursing jobs in Alaska, ranging from an entry-level job, like certified nursing assisting, to a specialty job, like critical care nursing!

Of course, you don't have to stick to one career pathway. You may start out as a medical lab technician, then decide to become a family physician. Or you could try out dental assisting, but go on to become a pharmacist. Or maybe you'll begin as a coding/billing specialist, then choose to become a case manager/care coordinator. These career pathway examples are just a way to get you started – your next step is up to you.



careers in health care

Doctors, Nurses and a Whole Lot More

When you think about a career in health care, what comes to mind? Doctors? Nurses? Maybe dentists? These are all definitely important health care jobs, but they're certainly not the only ones.

Within the health care field, there is a huge range of career options for all kinds of people, with all kinds of skills and interests. Interested in hands-on patient care? Consider a job as a community health aide or a physical therapist. Prefer behind-the-scenes, administrative work? Look into coding and billing or health information. Like to teach? Think about becoming a health educator. Enjoy running tests and handling high-tech equipment? Check out medical lab or radiographic technology. Want to help people find solutions to their problems? Maybe social work is the career for you.

These diverse jobs are found in many different settings. In addition to hospitals and doctors' offices, health care workers are found in schools, rural community clinics, government agencies, pharmacies, child protection agencies and nonprofit social service agencies. Others work in nursing homes, patients' homes, drug and alcohol treatment centers, prisons, insurance companies, long-term care facilities, behavioral health facilities and Alaska Native corporations.

Meanwhile, others travel around the state, country or even the world doing fieldwork or working temporary jobs.

And did you know you can get into a health care career without investing years and years in training and education? While there are plenty of jobs, such as physician or dentist, that require eight years or more of schooling, there are many other jobs that take considerably less time. For example, you can become a physician assistant in four to six years, a medical laboratory technician in two years, and a pharmacy technician in as little as one year!

So as you're planning your future, and maybe considering a job in health care, remember there are opportunities for doctors, nurses — and a whole lot more.

