



Counseling for Career Choice Act

Professional School Counselors play a critical role in informing and guiding our middle and high school students into career fields that meet their individual needs and interests. Senator Begich has introduced the *Counseling for Career Choice Act* to make sure school counselors have the resources and materials needed to make sure students are aware of in-demand careers in their local areas. This bill would authorize much needed funding for our school counseling programs that help guide our students onto career paths or postsecondary educational opportunities

Funding will support bringing together local stakeholders to create and implement a comprehensive counseling plan for grades six through post-secondary.

Dollars can also be used for:

- ❖ Assessing current counseling programs in the State;
- ❖ Creating a State-wide counseling framework;
- ❖ Making available quality professional development opportunities for counselors;
- ❖ Training counselors to provide students with current workforce information;
- ❖ Establishing, improving, or coordinating postsecondary opportunities;
- ❖ Providing recommendations to improve an LEAs curriculum to better align with workforce trends and available post-secondary opportunities; and
- ❖ Promoting post-secondary educational opportunities including but not limited to certificated programs, internships, apprenticeships, two year and four year degrees.

Applicants

- ❖ Interested State Educational Agencies will apply for grants administered by the Secretary of Education to design and implement a comprehensive counseling program, or framework, that includes input from Local Education Agencies, post-secondary schools and programs, and local business and industry.
- ❖ Sub-granting opportunities to Local Education Agencies, Educational Service Agencies, non-profit organizations, tribal organizations, or consortiums will be made available from State awardees.

Application Requirements

Highlights of the application include:

- ❖ A proposed statewide counseling framework, a plan to establish a statewide counseling framework, or evidence of an existing framework.
- ❖ Evidence the counseling frameworks were developed in consultation with or supported by key stakeholders, including local business or industry, and schools.
- ❖ A description of how the State Educational Agency would award subgrants.