

Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development**Grants to Named Recipients (AS 37.05.316)****Grant Recipient: Alaska Family Services, Inc.****Federal Tax ID: 92-0078235****Project Title:****Project Type: Other**

Alaska Family Services, Inc. - Sexual Assault Response Team Startup and Equipment

State Funding Requested: \$124,785**House District: Mat-Su Areawide (7-11)**

One-Time Need

Brief Project Description:

This request is to fund the one time, start-up training and equipment needs for the development of a Sexual Assault Response Team for the Mat-Su Borough and associated communities.

Funding Plan:

Total Project Cost:	\$124,785
Funding Already Secured:	(\$0)
FY2014 State Funding Request:	(\$124,785)
Project Deficit:	\$0

Funding Details:

None

Detailed Project Description and Justification:

The Mat-Su Borough has been without a local Sexual Assault Response Team for approximately seven years. This project is necessary, due to the expanding population in the Valley and the fact that it has one of the highest domestic violence sexual assault rates in the nation. Currently, victims of sexual assault must be sent out of the region to receive appropriate services. This process has discouraged reporting and inhibited the prosecution of rape and other associated crimes.

This project would provide a formal, coordinated and multidisciplinary response, including forensic evidence collection, victim advocacy, law enforcement, and community education that prioritizes victims' needs, holds offenders accountable, and promotes public safety.

Participants will be, at a minimum, the local domestic violence and sexual assault program, local law enforcement, and the local regional hospital. Other organizations will be represented as appropriate.

Project Timeline:

Training of SART Team members (nurses, advocates, law enforcement, etc.) is underway and will be completed in March 2013. Equipment will be needed by July, 2013. SART Team "call outs" will commence as soon as training and funding is secured.

Entity Responsible for the Ongoing Operation and Maintenance of this Project:

Alaska Family Services, Inc.

Grant Recipient Contact Information:

Name:	Dr. Donn Bennice
Title:	President/CEO
Address:	1825 S. Chugach St. Palmer, Alaska 99645
Phone Number:	(907)746-6231
Email:	donn@akafs.org

Has this project been through a public review process at the local level and is it a community priority? Yes No

<i>For use by Co-chair Staff Only:</i>
2:02 PM 5/9/2013



CITY OF WASILLA

MAYOR VERNE E. RUPRIGHT

290 E. HERNING AVENUE
WASILLA, AK 99654-7091

OFFICE: 907-373-9055

FAX: 907-373-9096

November 30, 2012

Katie TePas
Special Assistant to the Governor
State of Alaska
550 West 7th Avenue, Suite 1700
Anchorage, AK 99501

Dear Ms. TePas:

A group of medical, human service, tribal and government agency representatives located in the Matanuska-Susitna Borough service area have convened to address the lack of a Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) within the borough jurisdiction. These providers serve the Mat-Su Borough, home to Alaska's fastest growing regional population, which grew from 59,322 in 2000 to 88,995 in 2010 and is projected to reach 152,456 in 2034 according to projections by the AK Department of Labor. The lack of a SART Team in the state's fastest growing population base has contributed to an underreporting of sexual assaults within the borough, with sexual assault numbers remaining relatively flat while population growth has nearly doubled in the last decade.

Borough law enforcement agencies, including the Alaska State Troopers and cities, currently utilize the Forensic Nursing Services of Providence in Anchorage for investigation of sexual assaults. Sexual assault victims from the Mat-Su Borough are transported to Anchorage by law enforcement officers or are asked to drive themselves to Anchorage for forensic services. Besides the obvious stress on the victim, the current method can take an officer out of our community additional hours due to the distance traveled and the time consumed by this transport. This compromises public safety and has its own considerable costs. To add to the public safety issue, rape victims who learn that they will be transported to Anchorage have declined to file a sexual assault report with law enforcement involvement. These unreported crimes of sexual assault are not investigated or prosecuted, and the perpetrator remains free and able to repeat offend.

A SART Team would provide a formal, coordinated, and multidisciplinary response that prioritizes victims' needs, holds offenders accountable, and promotes public safety. A Mat-Su SART Team would be committed to victims' rights and needs, organize its service delivery to enhance evidence collection, and educate the community about services available for the intervention and prevention of sexual assault. A Mat-Su SART Team would develop protocols that provide a way for team members to institutionalize interagency expectations in order to maintain high quality, consistent responses over the long-term. It would increase both the victims' willingness to participate in the forensic process as well as the conviction rate of sexual perpetrators.

Additionally, strong forensic evidence increases plea bargains and saves the State thousands of dollars over going to trial.

This group of agency representatives has researched and assembled a SART start-up budget of \$124,785 and an annual operating budget of \$217,690. We have asked the Mat-Su Borough to support the annual operating costs up to \$190,565 in its operating budget and are hopeful for the appropriation. Additional revenue necessary for operations will come from partners in the list below. Victims must not be charged for medial-forensic exams either directly or indirectly in accordance with Alaska law. Therefore, the Borough's financial assistance is critical for ongoing operational support and sustainability.

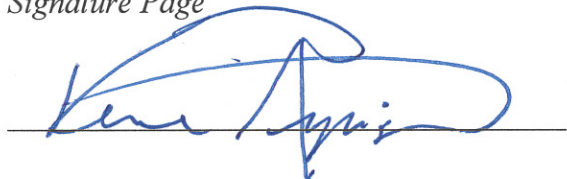
We respectfully request \$124,785 from the Governor's 2014 budget for the Mat-Su SART start-up. The bulk of this budget covers SART training, consultation and equipment. A copy of the start-up and operating budgets are attached. Alaska Family Services, which will provide the advocacy portion of the SART, is prepared to serve as the fiscal agent for this project.

If you require further information, please let us know. Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

[See attached Signature Page.]

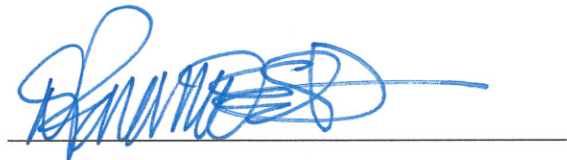
Signature Page



Verne Rupright
Mayor of Wasilla



Virgie Thompson
Mayor of Houston



Deena Paramo
Superintendent, Mat-Su Borough School District



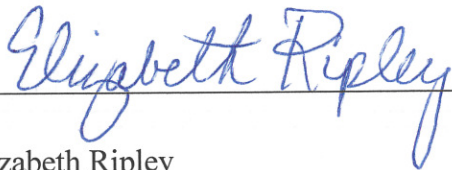
Larry DeVilbiss
Mat-Su Borough Mayor



DeLena Johnson
Mayor of Palmer



John Lee
CEO, Mat-Su Regional Medical Center



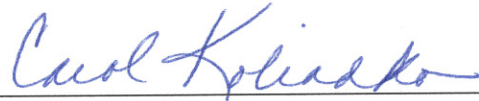
Elizabeth Ripley
Executive Director, Mat-Su Health Foundation



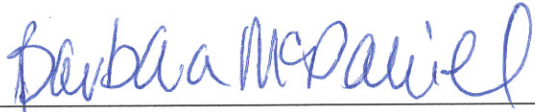
Donn Bennice,
President/CEO, Alaska Family Services



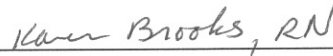
Jen Burkmire
CEO of The Children's Place



Carol Koliadko
Mat-Su Public Health Center



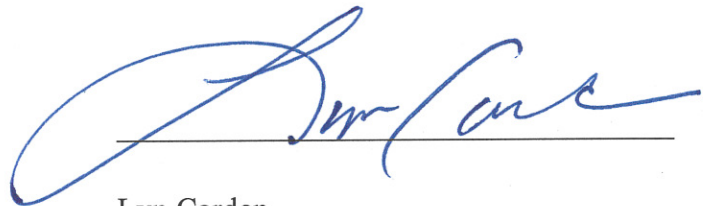
Barbara McDaniel
President, Alaska NOW




Karen Brooks, RN
Mat-Su Public Health



Sharon Lilja
Asst. Director – Valley
Denali Family Services



Lyn Carden
Greater Wasilla Chamber of Commerce



Linda A. Combs
Palmer City Council Member



Stephanie L. Allen
United Way of Mat-Su