

Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development**Grants to Named Recipients (AS 37.05.316)****Grant Recipient: Copper River Native Association****Federal Tax ID: 9****Project Title:****Project Type: New Construction and Land Acquisition**

Copper River Native Association - Copper River Region's Multi-Disciplinary Combined Facility

State Funding Requested: \$2,000,000**House District: 39 / T**

One-Time Need

Brief Project Description:

This will fund construction costs, medical equipment, and furnishings for the Copper River Region's new Multi-Disciplinary Combined Facility.

Funding Plan:

Total Project Cost:	\$19,000,000
Funding Already Secured:	(\$9,000,000)
FY2014 State Funding Request:	(\$2,000,000)
Project Deficit:	\$8,000,000

Funding Details:

State funded \$8 million, and we secured a \$1 million grant from HUD. Our actual need now is for \$10 million, but in recognition of our current economic climate, we are only asking \$2 million and will try to find other sources of funding for the remaining \$8 million

Detailed Project Description and Justification:

We anticipate opening the doors to our new facility in August of 2013. This money will help with construction costs, medical equipment and furnishings for our new facility.

Historically and tragically, the Copper River Native Association (CRNA) has had to transport seriously ill people often over 200 miles to medical services in Anchorage. For decades, CRNA has only had single provider, non-certified Community Health Aides (CHA's) in each of its five village medical clinics. This was one of the factors that made the US Indian Health Services declare the Copper River Region as the number one neediest place in America" for its decision to award CRNA with the Joint Venture staffing package. It has been just a year that CRNA has had its own mid-level medical practitioner. We now have an Advanced Nurse Practitioner who has been evaluating the medical needs of our beneficiaries and who will be relocating into the new facility within a year.

The facility received many letters of support when funding was requested (and received) last year from: Alaska Village Initiative, AVCP, Copper River Regional Health Network, APIA, Native Village of Cantwell, Cross Road Medical Center, Gakona Village Council, Department of Health & Human Services, RurAL CAP, Southcentral Foundation, Gulkana Village Council, SEARHC, TKHCUSDA, the Alaska State Troopers, and others.

This facility will save lives and improve the desirability and attraction of life within the Copper River Region for generations

to come.

Project Timeline:

Construction has started with funds already provided. The facility is expected to open in August of 2013. Purchases of medical equipment and furnishings will begin this spring and summer.

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

Copper River Native Association

Grant Recipient Contact Information:

Name: Jacquie Pepper
Title: CRNA
Address: Drawer H
Copper Center, Alaska 99573
Phone Number: (907)822-8859
Email:

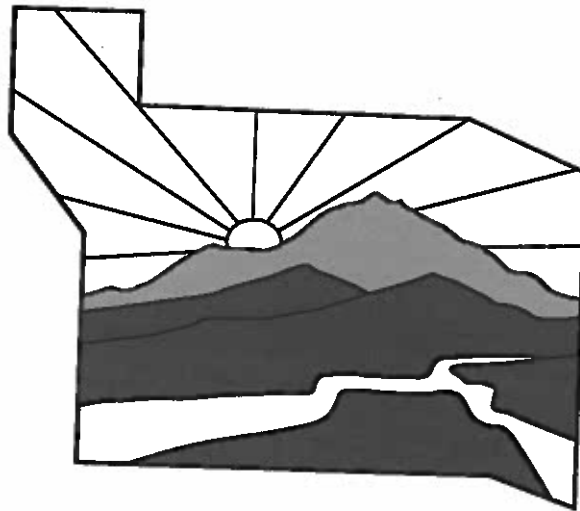
Has this project been through a public review process at the local level and is it a community priority? Yes No

**Request for Legislative Appropriation
The State of Alaska Legislature:
Capital Funding Proposal for FY 2014**

**Copper River Region's
Multi-Disciplinary Combined Facility:
Unfunded Construction Costs,
Medical Equipment, and Furnishings**

Submitted by:

**Copper River Native Association
Administrative Department**



Copper River Region's Multi-Disciplinary Combined Facility- FY14

Request: \$10 million in one-time Capital Costs be dedicated toward upcoming unfunded construction costs, medical equipment, and furnishings for the Copper River Region's new Multi-Disciplinary Combined Facility.

Project Status:

During this past fiscal year, Governor Sean Parnell included the funding of \$8 million toward the construction of the \$19 million, 33,000+ square foot Copper River Region Multi-Disciplinary Combined Facility in the community of Tazlina. Copper River Native Association (CRNA) secured a Federal HUD grant for \$1 million. Total expenses are anticipated to run roughly \$19.5 million to pay the remainder of construction costs. CRNA has been guaranteed a portion of this amount through a USDA loan. Repayment of such a loan would be onerous and draw funds away from vital health services. With unfunded costs approximating \$10 million and the need to outfit the facility with medical equipment and furnishings at roughly \$2.3 million, CRNA is seeking relief and assistance from the State of Alaska Legislature.

In May 2012 the Groundbreaking Ceremony took place. Since that time, the CRNA contractor, Dawson Construction has been excavating, pouring concrete, and has completed the structure to where wiring, plumbing and finishing are the main priorities. The architects designing the facility are Livingstone Sloan, Ltd of Anchorage. The building will be called the Robert Marshall Building in honor of a founding father of Copper River Native Association and a beloved Native elder residing within the region.

In July 2012 Governor Parnell toured the site, watched the pouring of concrete, and conducted a ceremony dedicating the facility to the medical health needs of the Native beneficiaries of the Copper River Basin and the behavioral health and dental health needs of all residents of the extended region.

Several news stories have appeared in various venues including National Native News (syndicated across the country through National Public Radio- NPR), the Copper River Record Newspaper, Anchorage Daily News and KCAM-AM Radio for the Copper River and KCHU-FM Radio for Valdez, Cordova, Whittier, Glennallen, and McCarthy. The anticipation and partner cooperation has reached an all-time high. This is a project over forty years in the making.

Coordination with other providers, especially Cross Road Medical Center, is stronger than ever in agency recorded history. Copper River Native Association is an active member of the Copper River Regional Health Network with twelve other related service providers, we have

eight MOA's demonstrating ongoing mutual support, and are looking toward innovative means to utilize staff across the agency-to-agency network. Public support for the construction project is growing as the facility comes into fruition.

CRNA serves Alaska Native/ American Indian populations as a Public Law 93-638 Contractor through the US Indian Health Services and enjoys the current Medicaid Encounter Rate for all services. With the opening of the new facility and with current enrollment efforts, CRNA anticipates that 60% of all medical, dental, and behavioral health encounters will be Medicaid recipients. Alaska gets a 100% reimbursement on all Native beneficiaries receiving Medicaid services within our facility and by our care providers. This is not the case for those seeking services outside of CRNA. These **savings** are a direct benefit to the State of Alaska and the **health** returns for our region immensely benefit our people and the State of Alaska in so many unquantifiable ways.

CRNA thanks the State of Alaska Legislature and Governor Parnell for their ongoing dedication to the health and wellness of the people of the Copper River Region in FY13 with the support of \$8 million committed toward this Multi-Disciplinary Combined Facility. Construction is proceeding on schedule and without any delays.

The Current Request:

Copper River Native Association is anticipating opening its doors on the new Multi-Disciplinary Combined Facility in August of 2013.

Historically and tragically, CRNA has had to transport seriously ill people, elders and pregnant women often over 200 miles to medical services in Anchorage. This has been the crux of CRNA's successful pleas for assistance in creating the facility. Also, since services requiring the most intensive medical interventions have been performed in Anchorage, Copper River Native Association has never had the funding nor purchased the medical equipment necessary to operate a fully functioning standalone medical clinic. Our extant medical clinics do not have the basic laboratory equipment, x-ray machines, and even the light boards for reading x-rays. Many of the basic examination tools that other clinics employ have never been supplied. (The Coulter Diagnostic Systems alone will cost \$634,000 before factoring in shipping and set up.)

For decades, CRNA has only had single provider, non-certified Community Health Aides (CHA's) in each of its five village medical clinics. (In January of 2013, one of our CHA's gained certification. Progress is being made in this area as well.) This was one of the factors that made the U.S. Indian Health Services declare the Copper River Region as "**the number one neediest place in America**" for its decision to award CRNA with the Joint Venture staffing package. It has been just a year that CRNA has had its own mid-level medical practitioner. We now have an Advanced Nurse Practitioner who has been evaluating the medical needs of our

beneficiaries and who will be relocating into the new MDCF within a year. The CRNA Nurse Practitioner has helped compile our list of required medical equipment and furnishings for the new location.

CRNA has enumerated medical equipment and furnishing needs that exceed **\$2.3 million** and this accounting detail is available upon request. Also, CRNA faces an additional **\$10 million** of unfunded costs directly associated with the construction costs of the Multi-Disciplinary Combined Facility. CRNA understands and anticipates that it will pay millions of dollars out of its reserves toward the outfitting of the MDCF to make this operation fully functional. CRNA provides the health care for roughly half of the population, and all of the behavioral health care, and all of the dentistry services in an impoverished area of Alaska, an area recognized by the State as being underfunded and needy. Because of this, reserves are tightly guarded and spending is highly conservative, but we also know that the region truly needs this facility for the health of everyone. For these reasons, CRNA is requesting be added to the upcoming State of Alaska Capital Budget for FY14.

This request for assistance is a **one-time** request for the initial set up and unfunded costs associated with this facility that will save lives and improve the desirability and attraction of life within the Copper River Region for generations to come.

Requested Amount

CRNA requests **\$10 million** (of \$12.3 million total costs) of the State of Alaska FY14 Capital Budget be dedicated toward upcoming unfunded construction costs, medical equipment, and furnishings for the Copper River Region's Multi-Disciplinary Combined Facility through the **Copper River Native Association**.

Thank you for your consideration.