

Boating Safety Federal Program

FY2001 Request: \$660,000
Reference No: 32553

AP/AL: Appropriation
Category: Health/Human Services
Location: Statewide
House District: Statewide (HD 1-40)
Estimated Project Dates: 07/01/2000 - 06/30/2003

Project Type: Health and Safety
Contact: Nico Bus
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Brief Summary and Statement of Need:

The goal of the State Boating Safety Program is to reduce preventable boating accidents and fatalities. Each year an average of 25-30 Alaskans lose their lives in non-commercial boating accidents. This is more than 10 times the national average and the highest boating fatality rate in the nation. State boating programs of the other states are very effective. Since 1971, recreational boating fatalities decreased nationally by 30% even though the number of recreational boats increased by 50%. This funding allows Alaska to begin to manage its own boating safety program that will provide for boater education, program infrastructure, and developing a long-term plan.

Funding:	<u>FY2001</u>	<u>FY2002</u>	<u>FY2003</u>	<u>FY2004</u>	<u>FY2005</u>	<u>FY2006</u>	<u>Total</u>
Fed Rcpts	\$660,000	\$660,000	\$660,000	\$660,000	\$660,000	\$660,000	\$3,960,000
Total:	\$660,000	\$660,000	\$660,000	\$660,000	\$660,000	\$660,000	\$3,960,000

<input type="checkbox"/> State Match Required	<input type="checkbox"/> One-Time Project	<input type="checkbox"/> Phased - new	<input type="checkbox"/> Phased - underway	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> On-Going
0% = Minimum State Match % Required		<input type="checkbox"/> Amendment	<input type="checkbox"/> Mental Health Bill	

Operating & Maintenance Costs:

	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Staff</u>
Project Development:	0	0
Ongoing Operating:	0	0
One-Time Startup:	0	0
Totals:	0	0

Additional Information / Prior Funding History:

In July 1998, Governor Knowles established the Office of Boating Safety within the Division of Parks & Outdoor Recreation. In recognition of Alaska's efforts to reduce boating fatalities, Alaska secured conditional program approval and a \$329,000 partial funding allocation from the U.S. Coast Guard in Oct. 1998. The program received \$329,000 in federal receipts in FY 2000, and is now actively working toward achieving the program's goals.

Project Description/Justification:

Description of Work to be done: To reduce the number of boating accidents and fatalities this project supports the state's basic boating program by providing for the development of new boater education programs, printed materials, financial support of successful programs already in place, boating safety educator and law enforcement training, and to increase public awareness and support for boating safety.

Project Benefits: This is the official boating safety program for Alaska. Through this program, boating fatalities will be decreased and the public will receive information and education on safe boating practices and procedures. Every other state has significantly decreased their boating fatality rate by adopting a federally approved boating safety program.

Economic Development: As a result of the program, we anticipate an increase in sales for boating safety devices and equipment through Alaskan vendors. We also hope to see a reduction in the cost in rescue and body recovery. Program efforts should reduce the economic cost to Alaska families due to boating accidents and fatalities. Should Alaska pass a boating safety act and register boats, registration fees currently sent to the federal treasury would remain in Alaska.

Project Support: The Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation is working closely with the U.S. Coast Guard, the Dept. of Public Safety, the Div. of Motor Vehicles, the Indian Health Service, state boating organizations, safety organizations, and individual boaters. The program has a long list of public and private supporters, including:

United States Coast Guard
United States Coast Guard Auxiliary
Alaska Municipal League
Alaska Boating Association (ABA)
Valdez Harbor Users Association
Seward Boat Owners Association
Whittier Boat Owners Association
Alaska Wilderness Recreation and Tourism Association
Knik Canoers and Kayakers
Alaska Marine Dealer's Association
Trails and Recreational Access for Alaskans Board (TRAAK)
Alaska Safety Advisory Council (ASAC)
Kenai River Special Management Area Citizen's Advisory Board
Alaska Boating Safety Advisory Council (ABSAC)
Mat-Su State Parks Citizen's Advisory Board
Big Lake Community Council
Sitka State Parks Citizen's Advisory Board
Denali Safety Council
Alaska Department of Public Safety
Alaska Wildland Adventures
National Transportation Safety Board
Alaska Department of Health and Social Services - Community Health and EMS section
Western States Boating Administrator's Association
National Association of State Boating Law Administrators

Alternative Financing Considered: Other than federal funds, there is no funding option for a boating safety program.

Specific Spending Detail: The majority of the funding will be used for boating education programs such as curriculum development, printed materials, and instructor training . Some of the funds will also be used for project administration, officer training, and small access projects.

Projected Revenue to the State: The federal government will reimburse the state up to a total of 50% of its expenditures on a boating safety program, not to exceed our yearly allocation.

Does this project leverage other funding for the state? A fully functional state boating program will empower and assist non-profit organizations to seek additional funding outside government to expand and improve upon the basic program this project funds.