

Alaska Veterans' Housing and Health Needs Survey

FY2002 Request: \$200,000
Reference No: 34767

AP/AL: Appropriation

Project Type: Planning

Category: Housing/Social Services

Location: Anchorage Areawide

Contact: Laddie Shaw

House District: Anchorage Areawide (HD 10-26) **Contact Phone:** (907)428-6016

Estimated Project Dates: 07/01/2001 - 06/30/2002

Brief Summary and Statement of Need:

This survey by the Department of Military & Veterans Affairs, the Department of Administration, and veterans' service organizations establishes a comprehensive approach to meeting the long-term care needs for all Alaskan veterans. The survey will explore use of federal funding to improve or expand Pioneer Homes, establish regional clinics, and test new care programs and cost sharing. It will also help establish programs that allow greater flexibility in the use of veterans' medical benefits. Results will help define alternative strategies, needs and requirements.

Funding:	FY2002	FY2003	FY2004	FY2005	FY2006	FY2007	Total
Gen Fund	\$200,000						\$200,000
Total:	\$200,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$200,000

<input type="checkbox"/> State Match Required	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> One-Time Project	<input type="checkbox"/> Phased - new	<input type="checkbox"/> Phased - underway	<input 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 August 1999, a report from Health Dimensions Consulting Group recommended a survey of this type.

Project Description/Justification:

In partnership with the Department of Administration (DOA) and veterans' service organizations, the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMVA) will survey all options and programs that provide long term medical care in Alaska. This will help determine whether the State of Alaska is able to make full use of the funding models in the strategic plan for long term care services developed by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

Methodology for projecting long-term care needs developed by the Federal Advisory Committee on Veterans Long-Term Care will be used. The survey will help determine how to effectively utilize all available VA and other federal funding resources to support using or renovating existing bed space in the Alaska Pioneer Home system, or to assist the state in the building of a State Veterans Home.

The Veterans Administration (VA) meets far fewer of the long-term care needs of Alaska's veterans in comparison to the rest of the nation. Part of the gap comes from the fact that Alaska does not have a veterans' nursing home and is one of only three states without a State Veterans' Home. Alaska is also the only one of these three states without a request or plan to build a home.

The VA is attempting to establish other approaches to providing long-term veterans' care in addition to building and expanding veterans' homes and nursing facilities. Their new approach and willingness to explore a wide range of options, reinforces the need for this survey.

This survey will provide answers to the following questions:

1. Veteran population to be served?
2. Availability and suitability of alternative health care?
3. Level of care needed now and in the future (i.e. skilled nursing, supervised residential, domiciliary)?
4. Partnerships and resources?
5. Facility requirements?
6. Most efficient solutions?
7. Grant opportunities?
8. Interface between veterans' benefits and other medical benefits?

Position requirements:

None

Specific Spending Detail:

The funding will be used to contract for consultants to perform the work. The \$200,000 is half of what a similar study cost in the State of Washington.