

**MH Integrating Cultural Resources into ADRD Programs and Environments**

**FY2004 Request: \$87,500**  
**Reference No: 37908**

**AP/AL:** Appropriation **Project Type:** Health and Safety  
**Category:** Health/Human Services  
**Location:** Statewide **Contact:** Larry Streuber  
**House District:** Statewide (HD 1-40) **Contact Phone:** (907)465-1870  
**Estimated Project Dates:** 07/01/2003 - 06/30/2008

**Brief Summary and Statement of Need:**

The goal of this research project is to advance the understanding of culture and the ways it can be used for planning enhanced programs and environments for persons with Alzheimer's Disease or Related Disorders (ADRD). This is a follow-up to the FY02 Adult Day Dementia Design and FY03 Adult Day Modifications projects previously supported by the Trust.

| <b>Funding:</b> | <b>FY2004</b> | <b>FY2005</b> | <b>FY2006</b> | <b>FY2007</b> | <b>FY2008</b> | <b>FY2009</b> | <b>Total</b> |
|-----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|
| MHTAAR          | \$87,500      |               |               |               |               |               | \$87,500     |
| <b>Total:</b>   | \$87,500      | \$0           | \$0           | \$0           | \$0           | \$0           | \$87,500     |

|   |   |                                       |  |  |
|---|---|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| <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 checked="" 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             |              |
| <b>Totals:</b>       | <b>0</b>      | <b>0</b>     |

**Additional Information / Prior Funding History:**

CH62/SLA01/P9/L22 \$30.0 MHTAAR  
 CH95/SLA02/P12/L10 \$250.0 MHTAAR

**Project Description/Justification:**

Cultural heritage is currently under-recognized and thus under-used as a therapeutic resource in the continuum of care settings—adult day care centers, assisted living, and long term care environments. Incorporation of cultural heritage in these settings requires sensitive identification of relevant phenomena, and its translation into activities and spatial organization of the physical environment which are responsive to culturally-based values, rituals, and life-style.

**Problem:** In communities where culture is acknowledged in settings for persons with Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders (ADRD), the potential of this approach is still largely untapped. While language, ethnic food, holidays and certain rituals serve as catalyst for selected applications, there is no systematic, teachable process to identify topics of local and individual relevance. There are no procedures to translate these topics into activities meaningful to, and appropriate for this population. In other communities with minority groups, their culture is not represented in settings such as adult day programs. Those attending are deprived of potential powerful resources. In some settings, the local minorities simply do not participate because of the total absence of cultural expressions meaningful to them, thus creating groups of unserved populations.

**Goals & Products:** The goal of the proposed project is to advance the understanding of culture and the ways it can be operationalized to enhance programs and environments for persons with ADRD.

The proposed project products will include:

1. A set of recommended culture-based design and program innovations for two specific communities, Kodiak and Bethel, representing different cultural groups, as well as two different sets of conditions in each community.

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2. Guidelines for teachable procedures addressing the identification and use of cultural resources by facilities' personnel and administrators.
3. Two regional training workshops addressing 'cultural competence'. One workshop will be for interested parties at the two communities involved, and the other will be for all Alaska's Adult Day Program staff and other Alaska Commission on Aging invitees.

**Methods:** The proposed project will be conducted using a professional research and development firm. The project is limited to Bethel and Kodiak. Research will explore significant aspects of each cultural community, including cultural group history and life experiences, assets, beliefs and values, caregiving practices, activities and preferences. The research will identify cultural elements of most significance to persons with ADRD. Research methods will include interviews and observations in each cultural community.

Interviews in (or about) each community will be conducted with four key groups:

- Cultural experts—curators, historians, or other scholarly authorities
- Experts on the community's elderly population—especially social service providers in the context of care facilities
- Cognitively intact, older adult community members
- Family members of community elders

Where needed, translators will assist with interviews. Some community members will be sought as expert "informants," to guide the selection of interview respondents and settings for observation, and to provide insight into the cultural community throughout the data collection and analysis.

Based on research findings, a "generic" process will be proposed for how to incorporate cultural heritage into environments for persons with ADRD. Using this process, sample design solutions will be developed, to show how the process could be applied to incorporate cultural resources into existing facilities in each community.

**Products & Significance:** The project's products will have implications for care giving practices, daily programs and activities, the design of environments for older persons, and the training of care providers and designers of environments for older adults.

The implemented interventions will have the potential for a direct positive impact on elders' quality of life in Kodiak and Bethel. These case studies will have also the potential to serve as a conceptual foundation for similar interventions in other Alaskan communities. Finally, the teachable process developed in this project will empower future caregivers to tap cultural resources in a more competent and systematic way.