

MH Repair and Replacement of Village-Based Counselors' Offices **FY2004 Request: \$75,000**
Reference No: 37894

AP/AL: Appropriation **Project Type:** Deferred Maintenance
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:

Offices for rural mental health/substance counselors are in deplorable and non-therapeutic condition. This project would augment inadequate capital funding available from DHSS through their rural facilities needs assessment process.

Funding:	<u>FY2004</u>	<u>FY2005</u>	<u>FY2006</u>	<u>FY2007</u>	<u>FY2008</u>	<u>FY2009</u>	<u>Total</u>
MHTAAR	\$75,000						\$75,000
Total:	\$75,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$75,000

<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 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	
Totals:	0	0

Additional Information / Prior Funding History:

This is the first year of the project.

Project Description/Justification:

Offices for rural mental health/substance counselors are in deplorable and non-therapeutic condition. This project would augment inadequate capital funding available from DHSS through their rural facilities needs assessment process.

Project Description: Village-based counselors (VBC) provide frontline drug, alcohol, and mental health services in villages. The purpose of this project is to repair and/or replace counseling offices. VBCs are challenged to conduct business under unusual and difficult conditions. They make do with substandard offices, extraordinary social pressures, and hazardous travel. Their efforts are essential to the well-being of the people in rural regions.

Village offices lack confidentiality because of paper thin or partial walls, most lack windows, electrical outlets are scarce and extension cords are abundant; workable plumbing is rare; locks are missing (sometimes doors). Sometimes the only heating source is from a personal computer. Some offices have bats in the rafters; others have holes in the floors, heaters that emit noxious fumes, or columns of ice from floor to ceiling during the winter. These conditions have been verified during AMHB and AMHTA rural outreach activities.

Funds would provide a safe and appropriate place for health care workers to work. It is essential to the ability to provide services to the community. It also impacts recruitment and retention of health care workers in rural areas. Funding of this project can provide VBC with safe, warm, confidential offices. Community perception of the importance of village-based behavioral health services will be enhanced. Turnover in village-based counselors will decline and job satisfaction will increase, enhancing continuity of care for consumers in the village.

Trustees require documentation of at least a dollar for dollar match of other funds for each project in rural communities.

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In-Step Plan Area: Safe Care - improve the quality of behavioral health care. This proposal directly impacts this goal, which in turn positively influences mental health status, early life development, substance abuse, and suicide ideation/completions of individuals in need of care. It also enhances the safety and dignity of individuals in the community through avoiding arrests, promoting safe families, providing safe care and fostering economic security.