

AP/AL: Appropriation
Category: Health/Human Services
Location: Statewide
House District: Statewide (HD 1-40)
Estimated Project Dates: 07/01/2005 - 06/30/2010

Project Type: Renovation and Remodeling
Contact: Larry J. Streuber
Contact Phone: (907)465-1870

Brief Summary and Statement of Need:

This project will provide funding for the acquisition, construction, or rehabilitation of housing for children and youth that are Severely Emotionally Disturbed. There is a shortage of housing in Alaska of such care available to serve children and youth, resulting in placement of these children in more restrictive settings.

Funding:	FY2006	FY2007	FY2008	FY2009	FY2010	FY2011	Total
AHFC Div	\$250,000						\$250,000
MHTAAR	\$150,000						\$150,000
Total:	\$400,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$400,000

<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 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:

CH157/SLA04/P11/L24 – \$250.0 GF/MH \$150.0 MHTAAR
 CH84/SLA03/P11/L5 – \$150.0 MHTAAR \$250.0 AHFC Dividends

Project Description/Justification:

This request will address unique housing needs of individuals with special needs that cannot be met through AHFC due to the restrictive nature for their definition of residential. Children that are Severely Emotionally Disturbed (SED) often require specialized placements, such as a group home, in order to stabilize in a community-based setting. There is a shortage of such care available to serve children and youth in Alaska, resulting in placement of these children in more restrictive settings.

The Department and the stakeholder groups are involved in a collaborative effort to re-structure the children's system of care to address the over-reliance on restrictive residential care, particularly large residential facilities outside of Alaska. The Bring The Kids Home initiative has resulted in collaborative work groups that have developed a number of projects for which the Trust has allocated funding and support. These funds will leverage the funding received for these complimentary projects by assisting with the capital costs necessary to purchase or renovate housing to meet the special needs of these children with SED returning to Alaska or diverting from more restrictive settings. These high needs children may require specialized housing adaptations in order to return to and stabilize in a community-based placement. The high cost of housing and renovation in Alaska may make this untenable for potential foster parents and discourage them from accepting high needs children and youth.

Much effort has been placed in leveraging these funds with private and foundation funding. It is likely that a matching Rasmussen Grant could double the number of people to be housed using this program. These funds will be used for

MH: Group Home Development

FY2006 Request: \$400,000
Reference No: 37901

either purchasing an appropriate home or renovation of an existing home, when one is not available in the community. Emphasis will be placed on increasing the overall number of beds for children with SED.

The project will provide safe, in-state, community-based housing alternatives for children and youth with severe emotional disturbances who are ready for transition out of more restrictive residential care or who are at risk of transition into more restrictive residential care due to a lack of safe in-state housing alternatives. This request is needed due to the extreme lack of affordable, appropriate housing options for this highly at risk population.

The Department's mission statement is: *To promote and protect the health and well being of Alaskans*. The project supports the Department's mission by providing needed housing that is safe and secure for Alaskan youth suffering from severe emotional disturbances.