

MH: Transitional Housing for Substance Abuse**FY2006 Request: \$100,000****Reference No: 38368****AP/AL:** Appropriation**Project Type:** Construction**Category:** Health/Human Services**Location:** Statewide**Contact:** Larry J. Streuber**House District:** Statewide (HD 1-40)**Contact Phone:** (907)465-1870**Estimated Project Dates:** 07/01/2005 - 06/30/2010**Brief Summary and Statement of Need:**

This project will fund capital construction costs to build services-enriched transitional housing for individuals recovering from substance use disorders.

Funding:	<u>FY2006</u>	<u>FY2007</u>	<u>FY2008</u>	<u>FY2009</u>	<u>FY2010</u>	<u>FY2011</u>	<u>Total</u>
MHTAAR	\$100,000						\$100,000
Total:	\$100,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$100,000

<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:	300,000	0
One-Time Startup:	0	
Totals:	300,000	0

Additional Information / Prior Funding History:

CH157/SLA04/P11/L19 \$500.0 MHTAAR

CH00/SLA134/P11/L14 – \$300.0 MHTAAR

Project Description/Justification:

This program will provide funding through a competitive process to non-profit agencies statewide for developing new or existing transitional services-enriched housing units to support recovery sustainability for a high-risk, severely impaired chronic alcoholic population.

The beneficiaries of these services are often people who have failed to sustain recovery following prior treatment episodes for two reasons: the long-term, severe nature of their chemical dependency, and the lack of access to safe, sober housing with available support services designed to help them transition successfully from treatment to independent living. An estimated 65% of these people have special needs or co-occurring mental illness, fetal alcohol effects, traumatic brain injuries, or other disorders that complicate their ability to make this transition without the necessary support. Support includes assistance with employment, education, and basic independent living skills.

There is a significant gap statewide in the continuum of care for recovering alcoholics/addicts in the form of transitional services-enriched housing. This lack undermines the gains made in chemical dependency treatment programs by some of the most high-risk chronic alcoholics who need longer periods of time to recover and to practice skills learned at a more intensive level of service delivery. More transitional services-enriched housing is needed to increase positive outcomes and to maximize the likelihood of positive outcomes for the most severely impaired alcoholics.

These capital funds are to bridge the gap in the continuum of care for alcoholics/addicts in the form of transitional housing. Many Mental Health Trust beneficiaries transitioning out of alcohol/drug treatment cannot make the shift from the active treatment environment to living independently. These individuals require the structure and therapeutic supports found in transitional housing. The December, 2003 issue of *Drug Alcohol Findings* published a broad overview on the

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Drug Abuse Treatment Outcome Studies. This overview states that alcohol and drug-free transitional housing coupled with strong aftercare support services increases the opportunity for high-risk substance abusers to maintain their sobriety.

The client's ideal transitional plan from active treatment would include relocation to the client's community of origin or to a nearby hub or to the community of their choice. Transitional housing provides the logical step-down from active treatment to a community-based lifestyle. Being in or near the client's own community allows the recovering person the opportunity to reunify with their family, friends, or other known alcohol and drug free supports. This type of housing affords the recovering person the time and opportunity to practice life, coping, and problem-solving skills they learned in treatment. The client's mastery of a new life-style is accomplished while remaining in a safe, sober, and supported living environment.

This housing can be on a continuum from in-house staff providing services to housing in which case management is provided and services are located within the community. This would allow for levels of care consistent with the needs of clients and would allow transition to the community via employment and safe housing.

The Department's Mission is: *To promote the health and well being of Alaskans*. This project will improve transitional housing facilities that provide services for Alaskans.