

MH Treatment and Recovery Based Special Needs Housing FY2008 Request: \$750,000
Reference No: 37901

AP/AL: Appropriation **Project Type:** Renovation and Remodeling
Category: Health/Human Services
Location: Statewide **Contact:** Janet Clarke
House District: Statewide **Contact Phone:** (907)465-1630
Estimated Project Dates: 07/01/2007 - 06/30/2012

Brief Summary and Statement of Need:

This grant program provides funding to develop special needs housing for Trust beneficiaries that cannot be funded under AHFC because of statutory limitations.

| Funding: | FY2008 | FY2009 | FY2010 | FY2011 | FY2012 | FY2013 | Total |
|-----------------|------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------------|
| AHFC Div | \$250,000 | | | | | | \$250,000 |
| GF/MH | \$250,000 | | | | | | \$250,000 |
| MHTAAR | \$250,000 | | | | | | \$250,000 |
| Total: | \$750,000 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$750,000 |

| | | | | |
|---|---|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| <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 |
| <u>One-Time Startup:</u> | <u>0</u> | <u>0</u> |
| Totals: | 0 | 0 |

Additional Information / Prior Funding History:

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

Project Description/Justification:

The program provides funding to develop special needs housing that cannot be funded under AHFC because of statutory limitations. Funding for residential housing that requires a substantial treatment component or that houses individuals who have been remanded by the courts is prohibited under AHFC statutes. These funds will allow for the acquisition, development or rehabilitation of such needed facilities.

Special needs housing includes housing designed to meet the needs of persons with specific and special housing needs, including supportive services. Special needs housing projects under the AHFC grant program must also meet the definition of “residential housing” under AS 18.56.390(12). This definition restricts special needs housing to housing primarily providing dwelling accommodations. The Attorney General’s Office has determined that when an ancillary use such as supportive services prevails over the primary purpose of dwelling accommodations, the facility ceases to be considered residential housing. The definition of “residential housing” also takes into account whether the occupants are free to come and go as they choose. If a person is compelled by law to remain at a certain facility, this level of compulsion and confinement often does not meet the statutory definition of “residential housing”.

Because of the restrictive nature that the definition of residential housing places on the Special Needs Housing program with AHFC, many agencies that serve Trust beneficiaries do not qualify for funding under the AHFC program. The Department of Health and Social Services is not constrained by this definition and would be able to fund programs in which treatment is an integral part of the housing accommodation, or where residents are legally compelled to reside at a facility.

Department's Mission: *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.

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The end result to which this project contributes is "Improve and enhance the quality of life for Alaskans with serious behavioral health problems."