

Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development

Grants to Named Recipients (AS 37.05.316)

Grant Recipient: The Arc of Anchorage

Federal Tax ID: 92-0028571

Project Title:

Project Type: Remodel, Reconstruction and Upgrades

Arc of Anchorage, Inc. - Crisis Housing and Training Center

State Funding Requested: \$800,000
One-Time Need

House District: Anchorage Areawide (17-32)

Brief Project Description:

The Arc of Anchorage is seeking a legislative grant to convert an existing building into temporary crisis housing and a training center.

Funding Plan:

Total Cost of Project: \$845,000

	<u>Funding Secured</u>		<u>Other Pending Requests</u>		<u>Anticipated Future Need</u>	
	<i>Amount</i>	<i>FY</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>FY</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>FY</i>
Other Funds	\$44,037	2009				
Total	\$44,037					

Explanation of Other Funds:

The Arc of Anchorage received a \$44,037 grant from the Mental Health Trust Authority.

Detailed Project Description and Justification:

The Arc of Anchorage ("The Arc") is seeking a legislative grant to convert an existing building into temporary crisis housing and a training center.

Renovating the building formerly known as ARCA House will enable us to provide crisis/emergency housing to people who experience developmental disabilities or mental illness in a setting that allows them to access the disability services and behavioral health care they deserve. Currently, service providers in Anchorage are hard pressed to provide temporary housing for people who arrive, sometimes unexpectedly, from rural communities because of a mental health crisis. At present, such housing is available only if there is a vacancy in existing long-term housing programs. The only other option is hospitalization at one of the psychiatric hospitals in Anchorage – which is frequently the most expensive and least desirable solution.

Temporary crisis housing in Anchorage would allow Alaskans from small communities to access the emergency, assessment, and outpatient services not always available in their hometowns. Temporary housing would allow a person's treatment team to devise and secure approval for a plan for services beyond the crisis, when returning home is not an option. It would benefit some Alaskans who would otherwise be sent to facilities in the Lower 48, as well as facilitate the return of other Alaskans who are already in facilities in the Lower 48. The availability of temporary crisis housing might also reduce unnecessary arrest and incarceration of people who experience cognitive disabilities or mental illness.

For use by Co-chair Staff Only:

**\$800,000
Approved**

There are also occasions when Anchorage residents who experience mental illness, either alone or in conjunction with a developmental disability, must leave their permanent residence for a time while they seek help. On those occasions, this housing would provide a temporary refuge in a supportive setting. Less frequently, but often enough to merit a solution, people who experience developmental disabilities arrive in Anchorage without housing arrangements. Some come from rural Alaska, where their families are no longer able to care for them. Some arrive from the Lower 48, typically after the death of elderly parents who also served as their primary care providers, to be near siblings or other family members who reside in Anchorage.

Having struggled for years to meet immediate needs despite Anchorage's dearth of suitable emergency and crisis housing for people who experience cognitive disabilities or mental illness, The Arc is excited about beginning to fill that gap when this housing becomes available upon completion of renovations.

While the two wings of this renovated building would be reserved for residential use, the renovations also include use of the central area as a training center for The Arc's staff. The Arc's promise to families to provide services of the highest possible quality, combined with increasing statutory and regulatory requirements for training, means we must conduct year-round training on a wide variety of topics for our 350 employees. Our existing office space can no longer accommodate the space requirements for this training. Dedicated training space in this building would increase our capacity, increase efficiency, and free space currently being used for training to revert to its original purpose of facilitating communication between families and the staff who work with them.

Project Timeline:

The project will be completed by Fall 2011. Construction will begin as soon as funds are received.

Entity Responsible for the Ongoing Operation and Maintenance of this Project:

The Arc of Anchorage

Grant Recipient Contact Information:

Name: Chris Hall
 Address: 2211 Arca Drive
 Anchorage , AK 99508
 Phone Number: (907)777-0340
 Email: chall@thearcofanchorage.org

Has this project been through a public review process at the local level and is it a community priority? Yes No