

Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development**Grants to Named Recipients (AS 37.05.316)****Grant Recipient: Alyeska Vocational Services****Federal Tax ID: 51-0192526****Project Title:****Project Type: Planning and Research**

Alyeska Vocational Services - Deaf Center Planning & Development

State Funding Requested: \$50,000**House District: Statewide (1-40)**

One-Time Need

Brief Project Description:

Deaf Center Development and Planning

Funding Plan:**Total Cost of Project: \$50,000***There is no other funding needed***Detailed Project Description and Justification:**

Deaf Center Development and Planning Funding - \$50,000

The support services for deaf and hard of hearing Alaskans have been integrated into generalized social resources. This trend in the past decade has had negative results. Integration into generalized programs does not make programs more accessible for deaf persons, but less, because communication access diminishes the more services are integrated into offices with no sign language access. (And, the staffer that took a couple ASL classes cannot effectively translate sign language communication.) An accompanying and directly correlated trend is more troubling: more deaf adults are becoming jobless, homeless, and despondent. The consequences of watered down and integrated services for deaf and hard of hearing persons must be reversed. The time for action is now.

There are two organizations working hard together to reverse such a negative trend: the Alaska Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and Deafblind Council (ADC) and Alyeska Vocational Services (AVS). The goal of this unique partnership is to establish a Deaf Center in Alaska. A center that provides: resources, networking peer-support, independent living training, employment training, interpreter services and a host of other resources. It is a central location with all services fully accessible to deaf persons using sign language. The ADC/AVS partnership has created a webpage advocating the need for a Deaf Center, please see their website <http://www.alaskadeafcouncil.org/deafcenter/index.htm>

We are asking for your support to fund a comprehensive development plan for establishing a state of the art Deaf Center for Alaskan Citizens. \$50,000 of Legislature funding will:

- Produce a pre-development plan, evaluate potential sites, building design and costs
- Identify the services provided for the deaf and hard of hearing in Alaska historically
- Develop a Business plan including project sustainability
- Identify partnerships to co-locate and maximize resources
- Development a technology plan for the center including: live internet videoconferencing, video remote interpreting, and remote counseling or peer support services, and other emerging technology applications.

In addition, this funding will explore site planning of a Deaf Center of Alaska as an initial building in an eventual town center

setting where social services offices for all disabilities and disadvantaged persons will be encouraged, drawing many social service facilities to a centralized location with services offices for different needs and support within walking distance. Generalized services offices currently inaccessible to deaf persons now, in the future could become part of a town center setting and accessible to all.

Experienced, professional consultants qualified to produce a comprehensive development plan are available, including Mary Jane Michael, former director of the Office of Community and Economic Development of the Municipality of Anchorage, former Executive Director of the Municipality of Anchorage, and currently on the Board of Trustees for the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority. Nancy Burke of the Trust, is prepared to offer technical assistance.

This funding request is needed to grow these ideas to reality. Please support a \$50,000 item in the DHHS budget specifically for a Deaf Center Comprehensive Development Plan.

Project Timeline:

FY2011

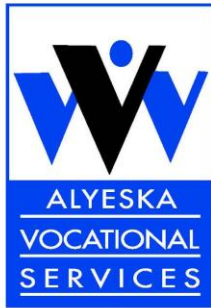
Entity Responsible for the Ongoing Operation and Maintenance of this Project:

Alyeska Vocational Services

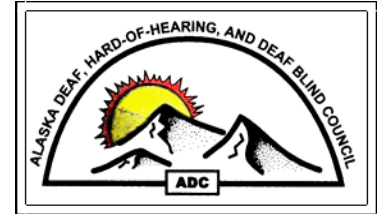
Grant Recipient Contact Information:

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



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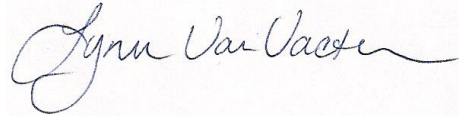
Sincerely,



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