

Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development**Grants to Named Recipients (AS 37.05.316)****Grant Recipient: Talkeetna Sunshine Health Clinic****Federal Tax ID: 92-0117838****Project Title:****Project Type: Equipment and Materials**

Sunshine Community Health Center, Inc. - Talkeetna Clinic Senior Transportation Van

State Funding Requested: \$35,000**House District: 15 / H**

One-Time Need

Brief Project Description:

Purchase New Van as replacement for older donated vehicle presently supporting local transit project.

Funding Plan:**Total Cost of Project: \$35,000***There is no other funding needed***Detailed Project Description and Justification:**

The \$35,000 is to be used to purchase a new van for the Sunshine Transit Coalition a program of Sunshine Community Health Center (SCHC) in partnership with the Upper Susitna Seniors and Sunshine Day Care, Food Bank, presently supported by community residents. According to SCHC data, 40% of patients visiting the Talkeetna clinic are below 100% of poverty, 38% lack health insurance, and 50% of missed appointments are due to unreliable transport. Families in the Upper-Susitna Valley live in poverty and lack the resources to maintain vehicles. Compromising participation in school, health care, and employment. The Upper Susitna Senior Center reports senior attendance at weekly meal programs drops significantly due to winter transport issues. The mission of the transit program aligns with Mat Su Community Needs Assessment finding that transportation and access to primary health care, behavioral health care, and dental care should be a top priorities. In the past year, our transit program has averaged 300 rides a month between downtown Talkeetna, Sunshine Community Health Center, the food bank, library, and Senior Center on the Parks Highway. Until this program started in March 2009, there was no other commercial or private program offering transportation services.

In March 2009, SCHC received a donated 1999 Chevy Astro van with 150,000+ on the odometer from a Talkeetna resident, and through a donation from the Talkeetna Bachelor's Society, we were able to insure and register the vehicle.

With some health center money earmarked for transportation and health care, we launched the transit program, and during this first 10 months, we were able to handle some of the minor repairs like tires, oil changes, and oil and fuel filters, however soon minor repairs became major and funds to be used for fuel needed to be used for repairs. In January of 2010, the current van started experiencing some major repair needs like a new transmission, which cost us \$1600. A week after the transmission was replaced we had to replace the alternator. Each time the van needs a repair it has to be taken out of service which means someone doesn't get to their appointment, the food bank or senior meal.

In March of 2010, we were once again the recipient of a donated van, a 1993 Dodge Caravan with 169,469 miles on the odometer. Now with two aging vans, if one van is out of service for repairs we have a back up, however both vans are old

Total Project Snapshot Report

FY 2011 Capital Budget

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with many miles already on the odometer and we daily place another 400+ miles on the vehicle. The need for a new reliable van is paramount to the continuation of this much-needed service.

SCHC conducted a needs survey in 2008 and transportation surfaced a significant barrier to health care access. Local community councils are supportive and endorse the program in Talkeetna and Willow.

Project Timeline:

FY2011 Upon receipt of funds old vehicles we will retire and new made operational within 30 days.

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

Sunshine Community Health Center

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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