

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

Sunshine Community Health Clinic, Inc. - Willow Clinic Senior Transportation Van

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

One-Time Need

Brief Project Description:

Purchase of a New Van to be used in support of local Senior 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. Presently we operate a successful local transit project for Talkeetna. The need is there to begin a similar program for Willow; where 56% of our patients are below poverty; unemployment rate is 7.5% and 40% lack health insurance. At least 5% of our Willow patients hitchhike to appointments. Others needing care may only receive it when they can get acquaintances to bring them or a local churches makes arrangements. Families in the Upper-Susitna Valley live in poverty and lack the resources to maintain vehicles.

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.

A new van will ensure access to health care and other essential services by replacing a much older donated unreliable vehicle.

Project Timeline:

FY2011 Upon receipt of funds old vehicles we will retire and new program will be operational in 60 days.

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