

**Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development****Grants to Named Recipients (AS 37.05.316)****Grant Recipient: Upper Susitna Valley Seniors Center****Federal Tax ID: 92-0117838****Project Title:****Project Type: Equipment and Materials**

# Upper Susitna Valley Seniors Center - Seniors Meals on Wheels Program

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

One-Time Need

**Brief Project Description:**

Meals on wheels service for Upper Susitna Valley Seniors.

**Funding Plan:****Total Cost of Project: \$15,000***There is no other funding needed***Detailed Project Description and Justification:**

According to a study done by renowned economist Dr. Eugene Smolensky, Professor of Public Policy at the University of California at Berkeley in America 1 in 9 seniors— an astonishing 5 million people—is at risk of hunger, and the situation is likely to worsen significantly if we do not act. What we learned from the study is that hunger is neither confined to one age cohort among the elderly, nor one ethnic or racial group, nor one geographic location. Just as the problem is not confined to one group or entity, neither is the solution, which is Sunshine Community Health Center in partnership with the Upper Susitna Senior Center and supported by the Sunshine Transit program is proposing the development of the “Upper Susitna Meals Program”. As with the National Meals on Wheels Program, seniors are not the only group to benefit from a program we will make the service available to those who are elderly, homebound or disabled. Between the numbers of seniors participating in the weekly lunch program, the number of seniors registered at the Clinic and the number of homebound care coordination patients served by the clinic we believe we would be providing meals to at least 15 to 20 people weekly. This service will greatly enhance the nutrition and health care of our elderly, homebound and disabled young and old.

According to the Upper Susitna Seniors (USS) 40+ seniors, attend the Tuesday lunch every week served at the Senior Center. Seniors receive a weekly hot meal consisting of soup, salad, entrée, vegetable and dessert. For some this is most nutritious meal they have all week. Sunshine Community Health Center provides in-home care to 10 homebound patients, who have expressed interest in receiving a weekly meal.

Sunshine Transit delivers another 12 people to the food bank on the first Tuesday for the free food baskets. According to data obtained from the various service program at least 30% of those attending the senior meals, going to the food bank and being patients in the clinic’s care coordination program at below 100% of poverty and another 14% below 200% of poverty.

The closest meals on wheels program is Huston and the distance makes participating in this program cost prohibited. Currently the USS program charges \$6-7.00 per meal during their Tuesday lunches. We figured that participating in the

program in Huston would elevate that cost to \$15.00, making unobtainable for those in need.

Our plan is to provide two meals per week to those who are homebound, disable or senior. The current Tuesday meal offered at the Senior Center would be delivered to anyone who is interested and a second meal would be prepared on Thursday at the Senior Center for delivery only. Further we would operate on a sliding fee scale so no one would be denied a meal because they couldn't afford it.

The cost for this start up program would be \$16,300 a year with the following breakdown:

Expenses

Cook- \$4680 (\$90 week for 52 weeks)

Food- \$7800 (\$150 week in food/ meal for 52 weeks)

Delivery- \$ 2600 (\$50.00 per week)

Supplies- \$1300 (containers for meals)

**Project Timeline:**

FY2011 Program could be up and running within 30-60 days of receiving the funding. This would include hiring cook, advertizing the program, registering individuals, planning out meals and purchasing food.

**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