

Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development**Grants to Named Recipients (AS 37.05.316)****Grant Recipient: Southwest Alaska Vocational and
Education Center****Federal Tax ID: 92-0174741****Project Title:****Project Type: Maintenance and Repairs**

Southwest Alaska Vocational and Education Center - King Salmon AFB Gymnasium Rehabilitation

State Funding Requested: \$471,079
Future Funding May Be Requested**House District: 37 / S****Brief Project Description:**

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| The Elmendorf AFB is offering the gymnasium located at the King Salmon AFB for educational purposes. This project requests operational & facility repairs funding from the state prior the SAVEC accepting the facility. |
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Funding Plan:

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| Total Project Cost: | \$471,079 |
| Funding Already Secured: | (\$0) |
| FY2012 State Funding Request: | <u>(\$471,079)</u> |
| Project Deficit: | \$0 |

Detailed Project Description and Justification:

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| The Southwest Alaska Vocational & Education Center (SAVEC) located in King Salmon is submitting a budget request for operational funding and repair of an existing AFB facility being offered to us by the United States Air Force. Our project is for the 2011 fiscal year with repeated operational funding for 2012+. |
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SAVEC's lease is in the renewal stages with the Air Force Base (AFB). Our new lease is scheduled to begin January 1, 2010. During initial discussions, they approached us about leasing the gymnasium next to the SAVEC facility. The gymnasium is scheduled for demolition by the AFB in the Summer of 2010. It would be a great tragedy for SAVEC, the local community, the region, and the state to lose this property. The facility is in great need by SAVEC; however, we have lacked the financial resources to fund this type of facility in the past. Knowing the facility is scheduled for demolition, it now becomes urgent for us to secure this building for expansion of our workforce development efforts for the Southwest Alaska region. However, we will need the State's assistance to provide operational support.

SAVEC has "minimal room" in our current facility to conduct any type of construction training that requires high ceilings, proper ventilation, and/or large amounts of space to conduct hands-on training. The ceiling height in our existing lab is seven foot. It lacks the proper ventilation for fumes and dust removal. Past plumbing classes had to be relocated outside due to the fumes generated by soldering pipe. The fumes completely engulfed the SAVEC facility and training operations had to be halted for safety reasons.

The culprit – one propane torch being used to solder pipe!

The size of the construction training room is too small for any type of lab activity. As a result, classes must be conducted outside. Weather conditions in Bristol Bay affect the amount of training that can occur. The best weather conditions are found in the spring season. Conducting all construction training during this short time period puts a strain on other types of training during the same time period that requires the use of our dorms. Conducting training outside and during peak season times (spring) presents a variety of challenges. These are as follows:

1. Safety:

Safety, due to wet weather conditions, becomes a major issue for SAVEC when training outdoors. All construction training involving power tools has to be cancelled for the day when it rains or snows outside. The risk for electrocution is too great for our students, staff, and instructors.

Wet weather creates slippery conditions and high wind can make it highly dangerous for many outdoor activities (i.e. ladder work, scaffolding, erecting walls, etc.) It is true that most construction projects occur outdoors and the elements they work in are simply realities of the industry; however, we are in a training environment where we teach safety upfront. It is best to teach safety in a dry or controlled environment prior to working in the elements. One mistake outdoors in the weather conditions can be deadly. There are simply days where inclement weather stops "all" construction in its tracks as is the case at a real life construction site. Lost training days due to weather conditions is costly to grants as well as industry. Loss of training days ultimately affects the quality of the student's training.

2. Lost Training Days:

Our wet weather (rain & snow) and cold climate limits us to train only during the spring time when the climate is more cooperative. Training activities outdoors must stop if it is raining, snowing, or a high wind condition exists for safety reasons. Although the students are redirected back to the classroom, valuable hands-on training is lost until conditions improve. Weather patterns can last for days in Bristol Bay delaying outdoor training. Lost training days simply cannot be made-up since many of our trainings are 7 day a week programs and are scheduled back to back. In most cases, the only spot to add extra time to a program is at its end. This adds significant costs to the training grant and requires prior approval from many of the sponsoring agencies. As you know, most training grant budgets are fixed. In most cases, the hands-on training is lost due to the short intensive nature of the program and added costs. Even if the grant allowed make-up for the lost training days, space is often not available due to our limited dorm space (see item number 3 below.)

3. The Spring Season is Peak Training Time for Many Agencies:

SAVEC has plenty of classroom space (200+ student capacity); however, our dorm space is limited to 15 student rooms with an addition of 2 instructor rooms. Based upon double occupancy, that equates to 30 students and 2 instructors.

By restricting construction training to the spring, it limits or eliminates the possibility of any other type of training that can be conducted at the Center. This was true during the 2009 spring quarter when our Heavy Equipment Training (HEO) program had to be cancelled due to scheduling conflicts with our CH2MHill & Weatherization classes – too much demand for construction training during a short window of time (March – June). Offering any type of Youth Academies during the spring and early summer months is most often impossible due to the competition for limited bed space. Both trainings require dorm space; however, the space is often already scheduled for other classes. Our schedule is open after August; however, conducting training outdoors is limited if not impossible due weather conditions. That could change with the addition of the gymnasium.

A large amount of space is needed to conduct construction training. Flying insects become a significant problem in King Salmon after a rain. Bug suits are often required to work in the elements. Outdoor trainings often must be halted due to rain. Power tools are used outdoors and exposure to the elements can result in electrocution. Safety is emphasized at all times; however; valuable hands-on training is lost due to wet conditions. Wind conditions affect training as well. Training is halted immediately when any weather related conditions affect safety on the site.

The addition of the gymnasium as a training facility would solve many of the challenges listed above. In addition, it would open the doors for further training. A number of new and existing courses including those for the youth could be added. The teaching of the NCCER curriculum for youth and adults would aid us in meeting the regional and state demand for a construction workforce including requirements from AGIA. A request for operational funding for the instruction side was included in our 2011 General Fund – Operation's Budget Request submitted to the Department of Labor & Workforce Development. Fishery related courses could be added to the list of possible classes and programs (i.e. aluminum/steel fabrication for boats, fiberglass repair, net hanging, etc.). As you know, the fisheries industry is a billion dollar business in Bristol Bay. In addition, the Village Police Officer's Training Academy (VPSO) could return to SAVEC. Due to the lack of training space such as the gym, they relocated across the street (Chugash Corporation) to conduct their training. It is in hopes they would return back to our facility if we were able to acquire the gymnasium.

We anticipate that we could train over 100+ people per year with the addition of this facility. The following classes or programs could be added:

- NCCER Curriculum for Youth and Adults
- Building Maintenance and Repair (All)
- General Maintenance Technology – CH2M Hill
- Plumbing & Electrical
- Fabrication and Boat Repair
- Drilling Occupations (Geothermal)
- Boiler Maintenance
- Shop Classes
- Cabinet Making
- Pre-Inspection for CDL

- Village Police Officer's Training

If SAVEC is to continue to expand and develop its regional workforce, including those for AGIA occupations, we need immediate state operational support for this project. This support includes acquiring matching funds a future Federal EDA grant for Renovation request. The rural communities have done an excellent job raising funds and supporting SAVEC; however, we need the state's support now in furthering career and technical education for our citizens. We want to fill Alaskan Jobs with Alaskans.

We propose adding a bay door to the end of the gym that would allow easy access to the road outside to bring in building materials, equipment, boats, CDL trucks, and more.

You will find our operational funding request for this facility. Please note that this is for "operations" only. These are our best estimations since the AFB does not keep records on steam heat usage for each of its King Salmon facilities other than SAVEC. The HVAC & Air Handling equipment will need immediate replacement before occupying the building. Other minor maintenance issues will have to be addressed upon occupying the facility. The roof will need immediate repairs and eventually replaced. The roof and HVAC equipment will need to be replaced immediately.

A bowling alley exists in one portion of the building and the Bristol Bay Borough has indicated an interest in providing funding for this operation. Leasing this portion of the facility to the community would help offset overhead costs.

As a side note, the AFB will be required to expose any known hazardous materials within the building prior to lease (i.e. asbestos, lead based paint, etc.) If SAVEC receives Federal EDA funding, it is our plans to utilize students to renovate the facility. That was the case when the SAVEC facility was renovated in 2002. Valuable training was gained through this project.

If the state is serious about expanding and developing our future workforce to fill Alaskan Jobs, we need direct operational state funding for this project. Grants "do not" provide adequate funding. This project came upon us fairly rapidly as the AFB approached us this past summer. The Bristol Bay Borough, Bristol Bay Native Association, Bristol Bay Native Corporation, Bristol Bay Economic Development Corporation, Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation, Bristol Bay Housing Authority, Bristol Bay Campus – UAF, Lake and Peninsula Borough, and others fully support this project and the commitment is very strong. We are prepared to assist you in acquiring funds from the State Legislature for this project. We need the states commitment to provide operational funding for this facility "before" we lease the building and seek EDA funding.

SAVEC calculated replacement value for the gymnasium if it was built today. New commercial work in the region ranges from \$300-\$350 per square foot. According to the AFB, the gymnasium has 8,317 sq. ft. in the building. That calculates to a replacement value for the gymnasium between the dollar amounts of \$2,495,100 to \$2,910,950.

SAVEC has worked hard to prepare itself for the future. We are "distance delivery ready!" Our school is one of the most advanced classroom technology centers in the State. We have performed above average within the State and now we need the Alaska Legislator's help in allowing us to address the workforce development needs within our region.

We appreciate the state's effort to address the needs of Regional Centers who have a vested interest in the state's growth. I would welcome the opportunity to speak to the legislature regarding our request.

Project Timeline:

This project would begin once SAVEC receives the final lease from the United States AFB (Elmendorf AFB to provide the lease.) It is anticipated this can occur by July 1, 2010. Expenditures would start at that point. Subsequent budget requests for operational funding will be approximately \$100k to \$175k less than the 2010 request. This is due to the fact that immediate major repairs must be completed in the 2010 budget year; however, not the remaining fiscal years.

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

We are requesting state operational funding each year from the state.

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