

Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development**Grants to Named Recipients (AS 37.05.316)****Grant Recipient: Southcentral Foundation****Federal Tax ID: 92-0086076****Project Title:****Project Type: New Construction and Land Acquisition**

Southcentral Foundation - Wellness Warriors Auditorium Construction

State Funding Requested: \$1,965,870**House District: Anchorage Areawide (16-32)**

One-Time Need

Brief Project Description:

Construction of an auditorium for the Family Wellness Warriors Initiative Training Center. The auditorium is an integral part of the Training Center and its construction will enable the program to train community leaders from all over the state in techniques to enabling them to prevent domestic violence and child maltreatment more effectively and at lower cost.

Funding Plan:

Total Project Cost:	\$2,621,160
Funding Already Secured:	(\$655,290)
FY2012 State Funding Request:	<u>(\$1,965,870)</u>
Project Deficit:	\$0

*Funding Details:**2008-present: SCF-\$4.5m**2010: State of Alaska-\$650,000:apartment renovation to on-site program housing***Detailed Project Description and Justification:**

The Family Wellness Warriors Initiative (FWWI) is a statewide education and training project developed to prevent domestic violence, child sexual abuse, and child maltreatment. The program focuses on Alaska Native families who experience the highest incidence of any group in a state where reports of child maltreatment have increased 107% in the past decade with close to half of all reports of child abuse and neglect substantiated. The ability to counter abuse has never been more needed or more important than today. FWWI's vision is to break the cycle of abuse in Alaska in this generation. The program is unique in that it attacks these problems by preventing their occurrence, or reoccurrence, rather than dealing with them after harm has been inflicted.

FWWI was developed by Alaska Native leaders to incorporate the values, strengths, and beliefs of Native cultures. It is sponsored by and receives support from Southcentral Foundation (SCF), the Alaska Native Regional Health Care organization serving Anchorage, the Mat-Su Borough, and the Anchorage Service Unit. The program started in 1999 and has trained nearly 2,000 people since then.

Commensurate with the magnitude of the problems, FWWI training and community development requires intensive work on

the part of all involved in creating major change in communities. FWWI holds approximately 15 multi-day trainings per year at the Anchorage training center. There are also weekly support groups and gatherings. The FWWI Three-Year Model for Alaska Native Areas, is a comprehensive community and regional development model enabling communities and regions to implement culturally appropriate intensive training, leadership development, parent education, and family and community support that will reverse the escalating levels of domestic violence and child maltreatment in Alaska. FWWI trainings are heavily experiential and model how natural helpers and leaders can create an environment for people to identify harmful patterns of thinking and behavior while learning tools needed to maintain safe and healthy relationships. In helping communities acquire these tools, FWWI enables participants to take them back to their communities to help eradicate domestic violence and child maltreatment.

Based on prior successes, people want to obtain FWWI training. Unfortunately, capacity and facility constraints require the program to place applicants on a wait list that averages eight to twelve months. The proposed auditorium will help increase the capacity and reduce the waiting time for FWWI training.

The Family Wellness Training Center property was purchased by the SCF Board expressly for use as a training center. The original property included a central building and two small apartment buildings. Since then, the apartment buildings have been renovated for dormitory space and an addition constructed on the central building to provide meeting space. Additional property abutting the site has been purchased to create parking and space to expand the conference center. SCF has invested over \$4.5 million dollars into the transformation of the property into a conference center. The transformation also was supported by a grant from the State of Alaska for \$650,000 to help it accommodate the needs of the training center and its state-wide participants.

The present project involves the construction of an auditorium that will accommodate 100 participants. These large group meetings are an essential component of Family Wellness Warriors Initiative (FWWI) program and create a major, expensive logistical problem when held off-site. The Auditorium will provide an ideal venue for these trainings by reducing the cost burden on participants due to the proximity and availability of less expensive, on-site housing. Additionally, it would enable the programs to conduct trainings during the peak conference and tourist season when hotel and meeting rooms double in price when even available. SCF continues to actively support FWWI's intent to eliminate domestic violence and child maltreatment by committing at least \$655,290 to the auditorium construction project.

In summary, the proposed auditorium construction project will expand FWWI's training capacity as it would be able to accommodate all program trainings on-site to reduce programmatic costs and increase accessibility to trainings by participants from across the state. If funded by the State of Alaska, the auditorium would allow FWWI to provide trainings for up to 100 participants from rural Alaska, essentially doubling the current training capacity and expanding the state's capacity to end domestic violence, child sexual abuse, and child neglect in Alaska.

Project Timeline:

February 1st-Design process started.
May 1st-Solicit Statements of Qualifications (SOQ) and proposals from construction contractors.
June 1st-Award construction contract.
July 1st-Break ground and construction begins.
September 1st-Equipment and furnishings ordered.
November 1st-Equipment installation.
December 16th-Construction complete and ready for occupancy.
March 31st-All expenditures incurred, payments remitted and reimbursements received.
April 15th-Project closed out.

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

Southcentral Foundation

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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