

Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development**Grants to Named Recipients (AS 37.05.316)****Grant Recipient: Fairbanks Native Association****Federal Tax ID: 92-0037488****Project Title:****Project Type: Remodel, Reconstruction and Upgrades**

Fairbanks Native Association - Hannah Solomon Kitchen Expansion and Safety Project

State Funding Requested: \$333,410**House District: Fairbanks Areawide (7-11)**

One-Time Need

Brief Project Description:

FNA is seeking one-time funds to augment the Hannah Solomon Building, which is a senior center as defined by the Older Americans Act, by adding a new kitchen with larger appliances and exterior electric outlets to directly benefit 350 seniors.

Funding Plan:

Total Project Cost:	\$360,410
Funding Already Secured:	(\$0)
FY2012 State Funding Request:	<u>(\$333,410)</u>
Project Deficit:	\$27,000

Detailed Project Description and Justification:

Our objective is to improve the health of 350 seniors through better nutrition at the FNA Elders program. FNA is seeking one-time funds to augment the Hannah Solomon Building, which is a senior center as defined by the Older Americans Act, by adding a new kitchen with larger appliances and exterior electric outlets. The renovated kitchen and food preparation area will directly benefit 350 seniors who partake in congregate meals, home delivered meals, events held at the Hannah Solomon Building, and distribution of traditional foods through the senior center. Funding from the Rasmuson foundation will replace the furnace, flooring in both bathrooms, and repair the roof of the Department offices.

Need: The Hannah Solomon building located at 317 Wendell Street in Fairbanks cannot handle the increasing number of seniors who come for hot lunch every Monday through Friday. Expanding the building will provide a larger cooking area to prepare food for congregate meals, home-delivered meals, workshops, and events. It will give staff an area to prepare donated meat, fish and other traditional foods important to Native Elders' diets and spiritual and cultural well-being.

Safety: New commercial appliances will allow us to prepare and store food in larger quantities, which is particularly helpful for donated game meat, fish, berries, and other traditional foods. The dishwasher will increase sanitation (there is currently no dishwasher.) The current appliances are standard size and as old as the building.

The porch area in the back of the building will be replaced by a 10' x 30' kitchen with commercial refrigerator, stove, and dishwasher. This renovation will triple the size of the kitchen. The current kitchen is 11' x 9'. The new kitchen will have larger food storage and preparation capacity. The kitchen will include standard features for a commercial kitchen such as easy to clean countertops, backsplashes and other surfaces, space for food and equipment storage, a microwave oven, and a triple

aluminum sink. An opening between the new kitchen and the dining room area will allow food to be passed quickly to the dining area. Flooring and fixtures will be appropriate for a commercial food preparation kitchen. New ventilation and R23 insulation will reduce energy consumption.

ADA Compliance: The addition will also include an entry area, separate from the kitchen, with wheelchair access and a coat hanging area. Floors and floor coverings in the entry area will be uniform with dining area to accommodate those with walkers and wheelchairs.

Building to Code: The roof on the addition will tie in with two existing roof lines. Appropriate alterations will be made to the support structure, electrical and heating systems, fixtures, doors, and other necessary renovations to the existing space in order to accommodate the reconfigured building. An additional electrical subpanel will be added to safely address the increased electrical burden of the appliances and outdoor outlets.

External outlets will be added for outdoor activities and winter car plug-in. The entire building will be painted. A storage shed off the current deck will be moved. The project will meet all building, health and safety standards set by the state, city and borough for a senior center.

Project Timeline:

If funds can be secured by July, it is possible the project could be completed by October, 2011. It would be difficult to fund a contractor in Fairbanks at a competitive rate if late in assuming the acquisition of funds. The external construction of the project will be launched in Spring 2012. This project is expected to be completed by the end of Summer 2012.

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

Community Services Department of Fairbanks Native Association

Grant Recipient Contact Information:

Name: Freda Williams
 Title: Director of Community Services Department
 Address: 315 Wendell Street, 2nd Floor
 Fairbanks, Alaska 99701
 Phone Number: (907)452-5225
 Email: commsvs1@alaska.net

Has this project been through a public review process at the local level and is it a community priority? Yes No



Fairbanks North Star Borough

Office of the Mayor

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February 10, 2011

Freda Williams
Community Services Director
Fairbanks Native Association
317 Wendell Street
Fairbanks, AK 99701

Dear Ms. Williams:

I am writing to express my full support for Fairbanks Native Association (FNA)'s Elders Program, and efforts to expand services for seniors in need. FNA Community Services Department oversees the Elders Program, and make sure 5,400 hot meals per year are given to local seniors. This includes feeding seniors a hot lunch at the Hannah Solomon building at 317 Wendell Street, or delivering hot meals to seniors in their homes.

FNA serves primarily Alaska Native/Native American elders, and it is common for the staff to serve traditional foods such as moose, fish and berries. There is very little space in the current kitchen, which makes it difficult to prepare a large quantity of food in a short time. We support the expansion of the kitchen so more efficient food service can be delivered to these seniors.

The Fairbanks North Star Borough *Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy* supports development of elder care facilities and senior campuses as one of our Quality of Life Improvements.

Fairbanks North Star Borough figures show a 20% increase in its senior population this decade. We expect 2010 census figures to show a disproportionately larger increase for Native Elders. More Alaska Natives/Native Americans live longer and are taking advantage of local resources. Since 2007, there is been increased migration by Alaska Natives into Fairbanks from surrounding villages. Elders move into the Borough so they can be with their urban families and have better access to health care as they age. We expect this increase to put more pressure on local resources.

Since FNA's operating dollars are restricted to providing direct care services, they cannot afford the construction costs associated with the kitchen expansion. I support this one-time state appropriation.

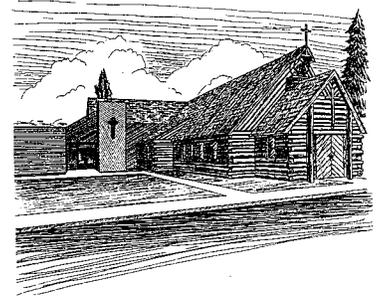
Sincerely,

Luke Hopkins, Mayor

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

Office: 1030 Second Avenue • Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

Telephone: 907-456-5235



Thursday, February 10th, 2011

The Rev. Scott O. Fisher, Rector

Mr. Steve Ginnis
Executive Director, Fairbanks Native Association
Fairbanks, Alaska

To whom it may concern,

This letter is being written in support of the Fairbanks Native Association's Capital Funds Project to expand the Hannah Solomon Building at 317 Wendell Street. I am writing this letter as the rector of St. Matthew's Episcopal Church here in Fairbanks. St. Matthew's is a large multi-cultural congregation of at least 1200 members, at least 60% of whom are Alaskan Native.

Many of our members and their families, and others throughout the Fairbanks community, make use of the services offered at the Hannah Solomon Building. The Building is EXTENSIVELY used – from hosting traditional meals to feeding Seniors during the week, to cooking for community and others potlatches etc. It is frequently the only accessible building for some of those community activities.

The Goal of expanding the serving and kitchen areas of the Building is certainly then worthwhile. I and St. Matthew's are honored to be asked to support such an endeavor, and heartily do so.

If we can provide any further information on our support, please feel free to contact us.

Respectfully,

The Rev. Scott Fisher, rector

Denakkanaaga, Inc.

"Our People Speak"

February 2, 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

It has come to my attention that the Fairbanks Native Association (FNA) will be applying for a grant to expand the Hannah Solomon Building in order to meet the needs of the senior population residing in Fairbanks, AK.

Denakkanaaga is a non-profit entity that serves the elders in the Doyon/Tanana Chiefs Conference region. Denakkanaaga fully supports FNA's efforts to expand their facility.

In the Hannah Solomon building FNA provides a 5-day a week hot lunch program to the elders. This program is vital to the elders in the area of their health and nutrition needs, and for some, it is the only hot meal of the day for them due to the economy and living conditions. It also provides a place for social gathering which is often not accessible to them due to the lack of transportation.

Transportation is another thing that is offered through the program. Transportation with their bus picks up the elders each day and returns them to their home in order for them to partake in the hot lunch program. Also, the transportation gives them the opportunity to do their grocery and clothing shopping, go to the bank, and go to the clinic on regularly scheduled times. They also have monthly excursions such as lunch in one of the local restaurants or attending funerals and potlatches or some other activity that is not regularly scheduled.

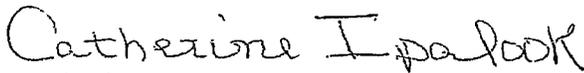
And lastly, the building is used for educational workshops of interest to the elders. Meetings are also held in the facility that includes issues of importance to the health and welfare of our elders.

With that said, the expansion of FNA's facility desperately needs funding in order to increase the size of their building. For the past six or seven years this has been a priority for FNA. Today there is not enough room for the elders in their building. I know of several elders that do not take part in the varied programs that FNA has to offer because of overcrowding, which is the main reason for the request for expansion. I will add that the services that FNA offers and oversees in the Fairbanks area is vitally important, needed, and greatly appreciated by the elders.

I hope that attention and deliberation will be given to the Fairbanks Native Association for their expectations and plans to make their facility larger and more comfortable for the elders in the community of Fairbanks.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,


Catherine Ipalook, Executive Director

Serving the Elders of Interior Alaska

101 Dunkel Street, Suite 135, Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

Phone: (907) 451-3900 Fax: (907) 451-3909

What is Fairbanks Native Association?

FNA is a grant-funded community non-profit organization. We are a charity just like the Red Cross, or the food bank. We provide Education, Behavioral Health, and Community Services to the Fairbanks North Star Borough and clients from all over the state.

Important points that make us who we are:

1. FNA is a major Alaska employer with a dedicated staff of 218; about 45% are Native.
2. FNA serves the *whole community* – some programs serve more non-Natives than Natives.
3. FNA has a budget of \$12 million. That money comes from federal, state and private grants, as well as a very small amount from bingo operations and donations.
4. FNA *is not* an ANCSA corporation; it **does not** have acreage and funds conveyed by the 1971 Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act.
5. FNA is a social service provider: we are restricted by the grant money we are awarded to provide only the services to federal and state grants allow us to. FNA **cannot** spend operating grant money on capital projects.

FNA Programs:

Behavioral Health Services

- **Ralph Perdue Center**
- **Gateway to Recovery**
- **Women & Children's Center for Inner Healing**
- **Graf Rheeneerhaanjii**
- **Fairbanks Alcohol Safety Action Program (FASAP)**

Education

- **Early Head Start**
- **Head Start**
- **Parents as Teachers**
- **Johnson O'Malley** – tutoring and cultural activities for Native students

Community Services

- **Community Services & Elders**

FNA's mission is: *“To provide quality services in a professional manner for our membership and the greater Fairbanks community. These services are provided through special and innovative programs which preserve the member's unique lifestyle and culture while improving the quality of life.”*

FNA was founded in 1963 by a small group of activists who wanted Natives to have a culturally-friendly place in the urban center of Fairbanks. The volunteer group hosted craft sales, potlatches and other cultural events. In the 1970s FNA added sobriety and recovery services, followed later by an elders program, a preschool, and several programs for adolescents, and by the late 1990s, FNA was administering more than 30 federal, state and private grants.



Hannah Solomon Building back Deck Area.



**Hannah Solomon Deck Area and Storage Shed
at 317 Wendell St. in Fairbanks.**



Wheel chair access to Deck Area.



Limited counter space for safe food prep.





Crowded sink area.



Table to augment counter space.