

Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development**Grants to Named Recipients (AS 37.05.316)****Grant Recipient: NeighborWorks Anchorage****Federal Tax ID: 92-0082642****Project Title:****Project Type: Other**

Neighbor Works Anchorage - Community Engagement and Resident Services Expansion

State Funding Requested: \$100,000
One-Time Need

House District: Anchorage Areawide (16-32)

Brief Project Description:

Expand our outreach to more community members in affordable housing and to additionally increase participation by senior citizens and residents with disabilities.

Funding Plan:

Total Project Cost:	\$100,000
Funding Already Secured:	(\$0)
FY2012 State Funding Request:	<u>(\$100,000)</u>
Project Deficit:	\$0

Detailed Project Description and Justification:

NeighborWorks (NWA) has an ultimate goal of helping to increase the likelihood of individuals and families retaining stable, permanent housing by focusing on expanded efforts on resident services and community engagement. Being successful in retaining housing can be a challenge, especially for those families and individual that have special needs, have past histories that make accessing mainstream housing difficult, or who have experienced homelessness, trauma or another life altering event and are attempting to reintegrate into their community. To successfully retain housing one must be able to pay the rent on time and abide by the lease terms, tend to housekeeping and hygiene and be a respectful neighbor amongst others. Without extra help many of these families and individuals can find these requirements impossible to meet.

Through our community engagement efforts, NWA has proven successful in engaging over 200 residents to participate in improving their community to become leaders and encourage others to make a difference. We empower our residents and other community members by providing them with the training and tools to achieve their goals and in doing so motivate responsibility and confidence. The ultimate goal is to ensure stable long-term housing. We will expand facilitated communication with community based providers to ensure that individual resident needs are being met, working with residents to maintain a healthy living environment and providing access to services to help the meet the needs of daily living. Residents within our program will be provided with information and referral services regarding community services, transportation, medical and mental health providers, food, clothing and other basic needs.

Project Timeline:

Project will be implemented as funding is receive. \$9,600

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

NeighborWorks Anchorage

Grant Recipient Contact Information:

Name: Debe Mahoney
Title: Executive Director
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Anchorage, Alaska 99503
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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



January 19, 2011

The Honorable Bettye Davis
State Capitol Room 30
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Senator Davis:

NeighborWorks® Anchorage respectfully submits for your consideration a request for funding to support our work in the critical areas of affordable housing, strengthening neighborhoods, and community engagement. Formerly known as Anchorage Neighborhood Housing Services, Inc. we have been improving the quality of life for Anchorage families and individuals for 30 years.

We are requesting \$100,000 from the State of Alaska to help us expand our community engagement and resident services programs. These programs help ensure successful, long term, permanent housing; build community; train grass-root leaders; and give Anchorage citizens the tools they need to connect with and be active participants in their wider communities.

We greatly appreciate the opportunity to be considered for this important funding, and thank you for taking the time to review our request.

Sincerely,



Debe Mahoney
Executive Director

NeighborWorks® Anchorage Legislative Request 2011

NeighborWorks® Anchorage Community Engagement and Resident Services

Anchorage Neighborhood Housing Services, Inc. dba NeighborWorks® Anchorage (NWA) was founded in 1981 and is dedicated to improving the quality of life for families and individuals by strengthening neighborhoods and creating and preserving housing opportunities. NWA provides affordable rental opportunities to nearly 3,000 individuals through its 950 units, housed in nine properties throughout Anchorage. In addition to rental housing, NWA offers products and services through its homeownership line of business, supporting new homeowners and providing supportive services to existing homeowners. Our Community Engagement and Resident Services department provides opportunities that bring the talents, resources and skills of residents and other community members and partners together to increase their collective power to transform themselves and their community and work for social change. This results in improved lives and greater equity, and produces new or strengthened institutions, organizations, relationships and new standards and expectations for life in a community.

NeighborWorks® Anchorage is committed to housing our community's hard to house families and individuals, thereby reducing homelessness and contributing to long-term, stable housing. We are members of many local coalitions and working groups on affordable housing and other community issues. We are a member of the Anchorage Continuum of Care and a founding partner of the Anchorage Project Homeless Connect initiative. We work closely with many providers of supportive services to permanently house their clients and consumers, including providing housing for families coming out of emergency shelter. We work with local, non-profit recipients of federal homeless assistance programs to provide permanent housing solutions for our community's most vulnerable populations. Using the "Beyond Shelter" model, we provide the housing while our partners provide services such as mobile case management, self-sufficiency training, and other life skills development.

In addition to providing safe, clean and affordable housing, we offer opportunities for residents to have more than just a place to call home. NWA's community engagement programs and resident services offer continuous, self-renewing efforts aimed at relationship building, problem solving and building a stronger community. They are based on the belief that people have the ability to name their problems and identify the additional information and resources they need to solve them. This is a people-focused process that improves the quality of life for individuals and the greater community.

We provide information and referrals for a vast array of community services through our partner agencies. Over the past two years we also held six Community Resource Fairs at our properties. Participants were able to receive free credit reports and flu vaccines, sign their children up for Denali Kid Care, apply for library cards and access more than 17 additional services and resources.

In support of long-term, systemic change, we provide activities such as participation in NeighborWorks® America's Community Leadership Institute, Leadership Training and Coaching, and Resident Council support. We also encourage resident involvement through volunteer opportunities such as the Mobile Food Pantry and Project Homeless Connect.

Four of our properties currently have resident councils and two have floor leader programs. Resident councils serve as a means for residents to successfully integrate into their surroundings and become involved in leadership development. Resident council members learn how to conduct effective meetings and how to develop community organizing skills and techniques. Councils usually meet monthly to discuss property issues as well as resident programs and services. These councils plan social activities and events to encourage resident involvement and to promote relationship and community building efforts.

Throughout the year, we offer Community Leadership Training free of charge to residents and community members. Based on national practices, the workshops include topics such as team building, advocacy, civic engagement and diversity. Workshops include active participation, detailed workbooks and often guest speakers. Focused on the issues that the participants identify as the most critical challenges they face, we develop a curriculum based on national leadership training models. These workshops have led participants to attend assembly meetings, volunteer in the community and become award winning leaders in their neighborhoods.

In 2009, 27 community members participated in two leadership workshops. Six of those who attended served as emerging leaders in organizational and community leadership roles. These participants were each nominated for the Anchorage Downtown Business Partnership Spirit Award and were honored at the awards event. All of them were previously homeless individuals.

We have also discovered through our programs and projects that by mentoring someone who faces overwhelming challenges, their life can be transformed long term. Therefore, we are moving forward with this concept and are initiating a pilot mentoring project called Stepping Stones to work with at-risk adults. The team includes over ten community leaders who are fully committed to the project. Our goal is to mentor at least 10 individuals in 2011. We have no doubt that lives will change for all of us based on our past successes and the commitment of so many community leaders who have worked on the project for the last year. Our intent is to build on those successes, resulting in a model that can be duplicated in other communities.

Need Statement/Project Description

NeighborWorks® Anchorage recognizes that we must do more than provide “bricks and mortar” in order to create stable permanent housing, especially for those in our community that are the most vulnerable. As our community focuses on finding solutions to increase permanent, stable housing, NWA is taking a leading role by focusing expanded efforts on resident services and community engagement.

Our ultimate goal is to increase the likelihood of individuals and families retaining stable, permanent housing. We believe this is a foundation to a better quality of life. Families and individuals who can successfully retain housing can focus on other areas of life like health and well being, education, being financially sound, and planning for the future. Stable families benefit all our neighborhoods, communities and our future. Educational attainment and success is higher when children are not moving from school to school. Access to stable permanent housing can reduce the number of people in emergency shelter or those living in substandard conditions.

However, being successful in retaining housing can be a challenge, especially for those families and individuals that have special needs, have past histories that make accessing mainstream housing difficult, or who have experienced homelessness, trauma, or another life altering event and are attempting to reintegrate into their community. To be successful in retaining housing, one must be able to pay the rent on time and abide by the lease terms, tend to housekeeping and hygiene, and be a respectful neighbor, amongst others. Without extra help, many people with special needs and difficult histories can find these requirements impossible to meet, and therefore continue cycling through substandard housing nonstop. Many landlords will deny housing if past histories and references are poor, often limiting housing options. Lacking permanent housing, or being frequently transient is not just a negative social problem, it also has negative consequences for the individual. We all need to feel that we contribute to something, that we are part of something, and that we are accepted and valued by others. Lacking a stable community, those in a condition of transiency will often not be able to meet this need to belong.

Through our community engagement efforts, NeighborWorks® Anchorage has proven successful in engaging over 200 residents to participate in improving their community, to become leaders and to encourage others to make a difference. We empower our residents and other community members by providing them with the training and tools to achieve their goals, and in doing so motivate responsibility and the confidence to dream bigger.

Our goal is to expand our outreach to more community members in affordable housing and to additionally increase participation by senior citizens and residents with disabilities. Our current resident services team has nearly 40 years of combined experience empowering individuals, building community and engaging residents in the wider community; however, the increased need for services, the successful demand for additional leadership opportunities, and the addition of two new housing projects for seniors and the disabled present an opportunity for growth.

The ultimate goal is to ensure stable long-term housing. We will expand facilitated communication with community-based service providers to ensure that individual resident needs are being met, working with residents to maintain a healthy living environment, and providing access to services to help them meet the needs of daily living. Residents within our program will be provided with information and referral services regarding community services, transportation, medical and mental health providers, food, clothing and other basic needs.

Fund Request/Budget

NeighborWorks® Anchorage respectfully requests \$100,000 from the State of Alaska for Community Engagement and Resident Services expansion.

State support for the expansion of our Community Engagement and Resident Services programs will benefit all the stakeholders in the communities and neighbors we serve. We have received funds from the Wal-Mart Foundation for our Community Engagement and Stepping Stones Mentoring Project. Additionally, we have received a grant from the Environmental Justice Small Grant Program to provide leadership training to empower Fairview residents to become leaders in their communities through our Fairview Highway Justice Project. Funds from

these will leverage our financial goals to meet the outcomes for our Community Engagement and Resident Services program. We will be able to increase the number of resident leaders in our community. While these funds help support the mentoring and Fairview projects, additional support is needed to broaden our reach in our community and with our partners.

Expansion of NeighborWorks® Anchorage Community Engagement and Resident Services
 FY2012 Alaska Legislative Request

Resident Services Coordination		\$	44,200.00
Personnel Services from VISTA, AmeriCorps, or Direct Hire			
Resident Services Training & Support			21,600.00
Resident Council Support (3 new properties)	10,200.00		
Communications/Networking Equipment & Support (6 Properties)	8,400.00		
Community Resource Fairs (3 new properties)	3,000.00		
Community Leadership			24,600.00
Leadership Workshops (4 new workshops @ \$4,500 ea)	18,000.00		
Leadership Institute Training (8 team participants @\$825 ea)	6,600.00		
Community Outreach / Marketing			<u>9,600.00</u>
TOTAL REQUEST		\$	<u>100,000.00</u>

NeighborWorks® Anchorage is committed to changing lives, changing community and changing futures. Suffering trauma, dealing with physical or mental illness, and having no place to call home are burdens many of us will never face. For those who provide housing we must include opportunity, mentoring and access to resources in an effort to connect housing with hope and a positive chance for individual success.