

**Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development****Grants to Named Recipients (AS 37.05.316)****Grant Recipient: Alaska State Hospital and Nursing Home Association****Federal Tax ID: 92-0034538****Project Title:****Project Type: Other**

# Alaska State Hospital and Nursing Home Association - Perioperative Curriculum Design

**State Funding Requested: \$65,000**  
One-Time Need**House District: Statewide (1-40)****Brief Project Description:**

Alaska is experiencing a severe shortage of trained perioperative and other specialty nurses. This project provides a nationally credentialed industry based training for operating room nurses for hospitals across the State.
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**Funding Plan:**

Total Project Cost:	\$130,000
Funding Already Secured:	(\$65,000)
FY2012 State Funding Request:	<u>(\$65,000)</u>
Project Deficit:	\$0

*Funding Details:**Funding secured from industry donation.***Detailed Project Description and Justification:**

Alaska continues to have a significant shortage of trained specialty-care nurses. The Alaska Health Workforce Plan approved by the Alaska Workforce Investment Board in May 2010 states that there will be 2,310 Registered Nurse vacancies in 2016. Of the current workforce, 40% is over the age of 50 and 16% are comprised of non-residents. This issue is particularly critical for perioperative nursing specialties, where a high percentage of traveling nurses are used to fill the current staffing gaps. The limitations on shift coverage created by the Mandatory Nursing Overtime Law are exacerbating this shortage. As the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) reaches implementation in 2014, additional Alaskans will be eligible for services that they have likely deferred.
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A task force of professional operating room nurses and Directors of Nursing have identified this project as a priority. ASHNHA is proposing to host a statewide consortium to recruit a cohort and train these nurses in the curriculum provided by the Association of Operating Room Nurses. A feasibility study is currently being conducted to determine how best to conduct the training so that nurses from Ketchikan, Juneau and Fairbanks and other communities can participate. The training is applicable to hospital OR's as well as surgery centers. The feasibility study will be completed by April 2011.
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We request \$65,000 which will be used to develop the curricula, hire an expert instructor and implement training for a cohort of licensed RN's pursuing this speciality. Through this process, the Consortium will refine the cooperative agreements and enhance training facilities and capacities for instructors. The request will be matched at least dollar for dollar by cash and
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**\$65,000  
Approved**

in-kind support from industry partners. These activities would be completed by the end of 2012, resulting in an addition of 12-18 Alaskans trained in perioperative specialty nursing and establishing the framework for meeting the needs for critical, high-demand occupations and improving the quality of life for Alaskans.

**History/Background:**

Alaska State Hospital and Nursing Home Association(ASHNHA) has extensive experience working with collaborations and projects to address workforce needs. AHSNHA is currently hosting a Coalition of public, private and industry partners to address health workforce shortages. In 2001, ASHNHA facilitated its members in developing Perioperative Nurse training at the individual facility level. This effort was reliant upon state support. It did not involve the creation of a consortium for sustainability. Many of the participants in that training continue to practice today, but facilities have had limited success in sustaining the training program. With an aging workforce, it is imperative that additional Alaskans are trained for this important field. The consortium model is working in Washington State thru the Northwest Perioperative Consortium. Alaska would intend to build on that success.

**Funding Need:**

Funding is needed to jump start the training consortia. The Association of Operating Room Nurses (AORN) has developed standards of practice for this profession and has developed training modules to teach to these standards. Funding will be used to purchase these professional materials, develop the consortium of facilities, identify and train preceptors at the participating facilities and hire the faculty for the intensive clinical training. Employers will provide preceptors, coordinate skills labs at their sites, assist students with the cost of the training and provide the necessary equipment for the training.

**Project Timeline:**

Training will be conducted by Summer 2012

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

Contributing Hospitals in Alaska

**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