

Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development**Grants to Municipalities (AS 37.05.315)****Grant Recipient: Wasilla****Federal Tax ID: 92-6010143****Project Title:****Project Type: Other**

Wasilla - Mat-Su Youth Court

State Funding Requested: \$50,000**House District: 14 / G**

Future Funding May Be Requested

Brief Project Description:

Provide the Mat-Su Community with a diversion program for juvenile offenders that promotes accountability, restorative justice, and education through early intervention.

Funding Plan:

Total Project Cost:	\$50,000
Funding Already Secured:	(\$0)
FY2012 State Funding Request:	<u>(\$50,000)</u>
Project Deficit:	\$0

*Funding Details:**This is the first time for the request***Detailed Project Description and Justification:**

The City of Wasilla/Wasilla Police Department provides building space, utilities, bookkeeping and grant reporting, and administrative support, so all that is left is paying for two .75 FTO employees that run the crime prevention program. We have a state grant, some borough funds, fees & small donations but they do not make up for our deficit after losing a \$50,000 state grant from DOE.

The President of the United Youth Courts of Alaska has requested an additional \$300,000 for funding statewide as many youth courts are struggling with funding to keep their doors open. That request would be added to the \$429,000 in the Governor's budget. These funds get distributed statewide through the Division of Juvenile Justice.

Project Timeline:

This was originally proposed as an amendment to the Operating Budget but was rejected by House staff as a Capital Expense. This is an annual expense based on budget cuts from the Department of Education.

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

City of Wasilla

Grant Recipient Contact Information:

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Title:	Mat-Su Youth Court Manager
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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

<i>For use by Co-chair Staff Only:</i>
10:27 AM 5/27/2011

Mat-Su Youth Court

Mission Statement

Provide the Mat-Su Community with a diversion program for juvenile offenders that promotes accountability, restorative justice, and education through early intervention.



The Mat-Su Youth Court (MSYC) is a state-sanctioned court that operates in the Matanuska-Susitna Valley, Alaska, which deals with first-time juvenile offenders that have committed misdemeanors. The system consists of teen attorneys, judges, clerks, and bailiffs. Assisted by the program staff and a legal advisor, the court meets twice per week to hear cases. The most common charge is shoplifting. The vast majority of defendants who enter the system plead guilty, and their cases are handled strictly as sentencing hearings. A three-judge panel hands down sentences consisting of community work service hours, an essay, and other sanctions, such as a letter of apology, viewing an adult arraignment, a tour of the Mat-Su Pretrial Facility, a drug/alcohol assessment, or a Juvenile Anti-Shoplifting class.

The Mat-Su Youth Court was established in mid-1996. The concept of the program was modeled after the highly successful Anchorage Youth Court. As a non-profit organization, Mat-Su Youth Court is under the umbrella of the City of Wasilla's Police Department, but relies on state and federal grants, city and borough contributions, local fundraising, and charitable donations from the community to fund the program. Cases are referred to MSYC from the Division of Juvenile Justice's Youth Corrections office in Palmer.

Contact us:

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