

McLaughlin Youth Center Safety and Security Phase 1 Completion

FY2012 Request: \$4,275,000
Reference No: 41336

AP/AL: Appropriation
Category: Health/Human Services
Location: Anchorage Areawide

Project Type: Renewal and Replacement
House District: Anchorage Areawide (HD 17-32)
Contact: Arnold Liebelt

Impact House District: Anchorage Areawide (HD 17-32)

Estimated Project Dates: 07/01/2011 - 06/30/2016 **Contact Phone:** (907)465-1870

Brief Summary and Statement of Need:

This request will fund the completion of the McLaughlin Youth Center Safety and Security Phase 1 project. The original appropriation was used to relocate the outdoor recreation area, parking for the juvenile justice center, completion of a new 25 bed detention unit, and design of the new medical suite. There is insufficient funding to complete construction of the new medical suite and training area, which is part of the original appropriation.

Funding:	<u>FY2012</u>	<u>FY2013</u>	<u>FY2014</u>	<u>FY2015</u>	<u>FY2016</u>	<u>FY2017</u>	<u>Total</u>
Gen Fund	\$4,275,000						\$4,275,000
Total:	\$4,275,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$4,275,000

<input type="checkbox"/> State Match Required	<input type="checkbox"/> One-Time Project	<input type="checkbox"/> Phased - new	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Phased - underway	<input type="checkbox"/> On-Going
0% = Minimum State Match % Required		<input type="checkbox"/> Amendment	<input type="checkbox"/> Mental Health Bill	

Operating & Maintenance Costs:

	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Staff</u>
Project Development:	0	0
Ongoing Operating:	0	0
One-Time Startup:	0	0
Totals:	0	0

Additional Information / Prior Funding History:

CH29/SLA08/P149/L24 - \$19,503.7

Project Description/Justification:

This request will fund the completion of the McLaughlin Youth Center Safety and Security Phase I project. \$19.5 million was appropriated in FY2009 to complete Phase 1 of a four phase project. Phase 1 includes relocation of the outdoor recreation area, relocate and increase parking for the juvenile justice center, completion of a new 25 bed detention unit, renovation of the old Intensive Treatment Unit (ITU), and renovation of old detention II unit into new medical suite and training space. There is insufficient funding to complete construction of the new medical suite and training area, which is the last component of this project.

There are three causes that lead to the shortfall for this project:

1. Medical Suite Space Calculation Error

As part of this project, the vacated detention II unit will be renovated into the new medical suite and training area. There was a miscalculation in the original budget as to the size for the new space. The original budget included 5,000 SF for the medical suite and training room. The actual space needed is 20,000 SF, which is a 15,000 SF discrepancy. The space will be used for training space, offices,

dentist office, mental health clinicians, nurse's office, and storage for confidential files. This error is the primary reason for the overall shortfall in the budget.

2. Duration: The original budget was based on a 1.5 year construction time line. It did not account for the necessary time for all the components within phase 1. The actual time line is 3.5 years, which requires more time to manage the overall project.

3. Asbestos Abatement

During the investigation of the ITU, it was determined that asbestos in the crawl area will need to be abated. This abatement was not anticipated with the original budget.

This request will address all these items and complete all the components of Phase 1. If this request is not funded, the contractor will need to demobilize and the medical suite and training space will need to be re-bid when funds become available. The cost of rebidding the project would substantially increase the amount of the request. Also, if a different contractor completes the project, they will not be familiar with the existing conditions to the extent the current contractor is. This could further inflate the overall cost. The funding is needed now to complete this project at the lowest possible cost. In the construction world, a delay in completion translates to an increase cost. The State has been fortunate lately to experience overall lower construction bids. This eventually will change and when it does, more funding will be needed for the same amount of work.

History

This project was part of an assessment study performed on the Division of Juvenile Justice's four oldest youth facilities. The other three were the Johnson Youth Center in Juneau, the Bethel Youth Facility, and the Fairbanks Youth Facility. The study was commissioned to identify safety and security breaches within these facilities. The consultant provided a summary of findings, recommendations, and estimated construction costs for each deficiency for each facility. The plan was finalized in December of 2007.

The threats to safety and security result from aging infrastructure, overcrowding, and an increase in behavioral health issues. The Department's plan for addressing the safety and security spans a ten-year period, starting with FY2009.

The McLaughlin Youth Center (MYC) is located in Anchorage and is the State's oldest and largest place of juvenile incarceration. As such, the staff is able to offer programs, counseling and controlled environments that are not cost-effective in smaller facilities. In this way MYC provides a central resource for the detained and adjudicated youngsters from Southcentral Alaska, as well as specialized services for other regions of the State. Some of the youth at MYC are transferred there because of behavioral health issues they exhibit at the smaller facilities that don't have the staffing for one-on-one supervision. Due to the behavioral health issues of many of the young offenders coming into MYC for specialized services, a high level of health, life safety and security precautions must be provided to protect the residents, staff and surrounding neighborhood.

Specific threats include the high rate of suicide amongst Alaskan adolescents, particularly amongst those suffering from mental illness, the aggressive behavior between some residents and between some residents and staff, and the potential for gang activity and its associated violence amongst residents and the constant threat of violent acts against residents outside the fence. Recent campus

shooting and failed bomb attacks exemplify the level of violence that must be prevented from occurring again on the McLaughlin Youth Center campus.

The young people who are ordered by the court to live in the State's youth facilities are placed there to mitigate their ability to harm other members of the community. While held, intense proactive counseling and individual programming is administered in an attempt to alter behavior patterns before they are ingrained as a way of life. If the institutions are not safe and the residents feel threatened, the Department simply cannot expect the therapeutic work to have any effect on these youngsters. It is imperative that these facilities be safe if we expect positive results to be realized from the staff's dedicated work.

The State's juvenile justice infrastructure is an important component of maintaining public safety and a last chance to habilitate our youth to be responsible members of their community. That investment not only protects our citizens today, but also reduces the threat tomorrow.

The statutory reference that is pertinent to this request: Sec. 47.14.100 Powers and Duties of department over care of child requires the Department to arrange for the care of every child committed to its custody.

Department's Mission: To Promote and Protect the Health and Well Being of Alaskans.
This project directly supports the Department's mission by creating safe and secure facilities for juvenile justice staff and incarcerated youth, as well as Alaskan communities.

End Result:
Vulnerable Alaskans have a safe living environment.

Core Services:
Promote safe children and strong families.

Hold juvenile offenders accountable for their behavior, promote the safety and restoration of victims and communities, and assist offenders and their families in developing skills to prevent crime