

**Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development****Grants to Named Recipients (AS 37.05.316)****Grant Recipient: Angelus Memorial Park Cemetery, Inc.****Federal Tax ID: 92-0023678****Project Title:****Project Type: Remodel, Reconstruction and Upgrades**

# Angelus Memorial Park Cemetery, Inc. - Cemetery Capital Improvements

**State Funding Requested: \$500,000****House District: Statewide (1-40)**

One-Time Need

**Brief Project Description:**

Capital improvements, renovations and equipment purchases.

**Funding Plan:**

Total Project Cost:	\$500,000
Funding Already Secured:	(\$0)
FY2013 State Funding Request:	<u>(\$500,000)</u>
Project Deficit:	\$0

**Detailed Project Description and Justification:**

Angelus Memorial Park & Cemetery was established in 1951, and consists of 36 beautiful acres located on Klatt Road, Anchorage. It is a 501 3 (c) 13, non-profit organization. The cemetery is operated by a volunteer Board of Trustee that consists of nine members. Currently 7,090 persons are interred at the cemetery and 1,130 of those are military veterans. The cemetery is nondenominational and welcomes everyone from all faiths and walks of life. The cemetery has been unprofitable for the last several years and the Board of Trustees has had to make tough decisions in an effort to balance their budget. Positions have been eliminated, wages & benefits have been cut, and capital improvements has been discontinued. These financial cuts have resulted in substantial savings and have brought Angelus close to a break even status. However, due to the elimination of capital improvement expenses, the cemetery is now unable to grow and prosper, and it is unable to provide the community with much needed services. The financial issues of Angelus have further been impacted by the acquisitions of a 7 acre cemetery in the Matanuska-Susitna Valley in 1983. This Valley cemetery was acquired because it was in bankruptcy proceedings and the State of Alaska needed a suitable buyer to maintain the cemetery. If a suitable buyer was not found, the property was going to be returned to the Credit Union, which could not guarantee what the future use of the property would be, or if buried persons would be able to remain interred there. Even though Valley Memorial Cemetery operates at a very low expense, it is in desperate need of improvement. The worksho does not have heat, mowing equipment is needed, there is no running water nor is there bathroom facilities for staff nor the public. Unfortunately, funds for capital improvements for the Valley cemetery are not available. In addition, Angelus Memorial Park & Cemetery maintains the only indoor columbarium in South Central Alaska. This indoor columbarium offers the opportunity for loved ones' ashes to be placed in a secure, indoor location that may be visited year round. Unfortunately, the indoor columbarium at Angelus is filled to capacity. Also, the cemetery has many acres left for development. Available spaces for public assistance burials are limited and development of existing property to accommodate future burial sites require surveying and drilling of water wells. Our community also does not have the benefit of a "Scattering Garden" and Angelus would like to develop one for residents who would like to scatter loved ones' ashes in a nicely landscaped area,

with monuments and benches, in a local setting where they can return to visit. Angelus and Valley Memorial Park Cemetery does have an irreducible trust fund that is currently invested in stocks and bonds for the future care of those interred at the cemeteries. Mandated operating guidelines do not allow the cemeteries to use these funds for operational expenses or capital improvements. Based on the financial plight of Angelus and Valley Memorial Park Cemetery, your consideration for financial grant monies would be greatly appreciated. These funds could bring much needed improvements and equipment that would enable the cemeteries to provide needed services to the community, as well as provide the cemeteries with future growth and prosperity.

**Project Timeline:**

Projects will commence in the summer of 2012 and will be completed by the summer of 2013. All expenditures will occur as the projects progress.

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

Kimberly Woody

**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

## **ANGELUS MEMORIAL - \$ 841,960 Breakdown**

Wrought iron fencing & gates along Klatt Road - **\$ 170,000.00** - The existing fence is dire need of major repairs. Not only for beautification but for security purposes. Currently, there are no electric gates.

New columbarium niche units (for cremains) - **\$ 87,610.00** - We are almost completely sold out of indoor columbarium niche units. Cremation rates continue to increase and without additional units we will not be able to meet the needs of the community. Currently, Angelus is the only facility that has an indoor columbarium.

Tow along backhoe - **\$ 9,000.00** - Angelus has just established an area for upright headstones. This piece of equipment is needed to install the headstones.

Cremains scattering garden - **\$ 175,400.00** - There is not an established area for the scattering of cremains in the Anchorage area. Funds are needed for landscaping, monuments, excavation, benches, etc.

Surveying & plotting of the extension of the Last Supper Garden - **\$ 8,500.00** - This is the most affordable garden in the park. This area is also the area we utilize for public assistance burials.

New wells in the undeveloped areas - **\$ 60,000.00** - Out of 6 gardens, four are almost completely full. New gardens are in need of establishment in order to meet the need of future burials.

Repairs & maintenance on all of the existing monuments - **\$ 7,000.00** - All monuments are in need of general maintenance and repairs. 2012 is the scheduled year for these repairs.

New four wheeler with plow attachment - **\$ 15,000.00** - The four wheeler would be utilized to help with snow removal within the grounds and the outdoor columbarium area.

New lawn mower, weed eaters & misc. tools - **\$ 9,000.00** - With the implementation of new gardens, additional equipment will be needed.

Landscaping for the new Sacred Hearts garden - **\$ 3,000.00** - This is the newly established garden allowing upright headstones.

Landscaping at the flag pole entrance - **\$ 4,000.00** - The flag pole needs to be replaced.

New computers & laptop - **\$ 3,000.00** - The computers have not been replaced in over 7 years. A laptop would be a wonderful tool for marker designs when we visit elderly or homebound

New heating & air for the office - **\$ 96,450.00** - The office does not have any air conditioning. The heating unit is the original unit installed when the building was built.

New van - **\$ 30,000.00** - A new van would be utilized for the pick-up and transportation of bodies from the airport and to and from the Valley Park.

Needs and cost for the **Valley Memorial Park** are as follows:

New lawn mower, weed eaters & misc. tools - **\$ 5,000.00** The lawn mower no longer works and tools need to be replaced.

Four wheeler with plow attachment - **\$ 15,000.00** - Currently staff is utilizing a 1978 four wheeler. We could utilize the plow for snow removal.

Revamping the flag pole area - **\$ 10,000.00** - There has been no maintenance on the flag pole area during the time Angelus has owned the park. The area is in dire need of maintenance.

Repairs & maintenance on all existing monuments - **\$ 4,000.00** - Maintenance must be maintained on the monuments. 2012 is the scheduled year for general maintenance and repairs.

Heat for the shop - **\$ 43,000.00** - There is no heat in the shop. Staff has been heating the necessary tools at home.

Public bathroom - **\$ 80,000.00** - There is no bathroom for the public or the staff. The facility, sewer, well and electricity would all be required.

Storage facility for gasoline & diesel - **\$ 7,000.00** - Currently gasoline & diesel is being stored in drums. This is neither safe nor secure.

Landscaping in all existing monuments - **\$ 10,000.00** - Landscaping gardens & beds need to be established.

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