

Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development**Grants to Named Recipients (AS 37.05.316)****Grant Recipient: Covenant House Alaska****Federal Tax ID: 13-3419755****Project Title:****Project Type: Other**

Covenant House Alaska - Victim Support and Case Management - Youth Sex Trafficking Victims

State Funding Requested: \$194,000
One-Time Need

House District: Anchorage Areawide (16-32)

Brief Project Description:

Requested funding would create a two-year pilot project to provide prevention, identification and counseling services for sex trafficking, domestic and street violence and sexual assault.

Funding Plan:

Total Project Cost:	\$194,000
Funding Already Secured:	(\$0)
FY2013 State Funding Request:	<u>(\$194,000)</u>
Project Deficit:	\$0

Funding Details:

Funding would be phased over two fiscal years (\$97,000 per year). After the completion of the second year, Covenant House Alaska would seek non-state funding to continue the program objectives.

Detailed Project Description and Justification:

For several years now, Covenant House Alaska (CHA) has worked closely with local partners on human/sex trafficking (Anchorage Police Department, FBI, Salvation Army etc.), but recently became aware of significant and severe details regarding the formalized, deliberate trafficking of CHA youth. CHA has worked with youth involved with international and local trafficking cases, fairly large trafficking rings and "survival sex" practices (sex in exchange for basic necessities, like a bed). Youth as young 14-years-old have come to CHA seeking shelter and safety from sex trafficking. The trafficking activities are savvy, violent and life changing. Traffickers use other victims and creative strategies to lure youth into private locations and then employ violence, rape and threats to maintain control over them.

To this end, CHA has identified a strong need for specialized, wrap around services for youth who have been sexually assaulted, victims of domestic and street violence and survivors of sex trafficking. CHA seeks to strategically respond to information gathered internally, from law enforcement and policy makers regarding trafficking activities. CHA would embed a masters-level clinician into our system. This individual would be present and available at the shelter when victims are ready to disclose. The individual would also serve as a clearing house for domestic violence, sexual assault and trafficking information (to gain real data about the issue) and be a specialized, trained resource for law enforcement investigations (\$85,000, per year for two years).

The second aspect of the project is to specifically enhance homeless youth outreach activities. Currently, CHA is out on the streets looking for youth for forty hours per week. Funding would help target outreach activities to prevent and mitigate

trafficking by providing training and increased job duties to a current staff member. The individual would be charged as the Human Trafficking Specialist, undergo trafficking and law enforcement training and serve as the liaison between CHA and law enforcement (\$12,000 per year for increased job duties and training).

The total project cost is \$97,000 per year (\$194,000 total). After the project, CHA would continue the project (if appropriate and essential) with a non-state funding source.

Project Timeline:

The funding would create a two-year pilot program to provide services and stronger statistical information regarding trafficking activities in Alaska. After the second year, Covenant House Alaska would seek other funding sources to continue the project.

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

N/A

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