

**Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development****Grants to Named Recipients (AS 37.05.316)****Grant Recipient: Anchorage Neighborhood Health Center, Inc.****Federal Tax ID: 92-0047965****Project Title:****Project Type: Other****Anchorage Neighborhood Health Center, Inc. - Interim Patient Access and Mobility Initiative****State Funding Requested: \$90,000**  
One-Time Need**House District: Anchorage Areawide (11-27)****Brief Project Description:**

One time request to provide interim support for patient transportation to the Anchorage Neighborhood Health Center (ANHC)
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**Funding Plan:**

Total Project Cost:	\$226,000
Funding Already Secured:	(\$96,000)
FY2014 State Funding Request:	(\$90,000)
Project Deficit:	\$40,000

*Funding Details:**cy2012 - Municipality of Anchorage - \$37,000**cy2013 - Municipality of Anchorage - \$40,000**fy2013 - ANHC - \$9,500**fy2014 - ANHC - \$9,500**cy2014 - Municipality of Anchorage - \$40,000**(budget process for these funds begins July, 2013)***Detailed Project Description and Justification:**

The Anchorage Neighborhood Health Center, (ANHC), is a private non-profit corporation dedicated to improving the health of the community. Our mission is, "to improve wellness by providing high quality, compassionate healthcare regardless of ability to pay". ANHC has been Anchorage's only Federally Qualified Health Center, (FQHC), since 1974, with the opportunity to slide fees based based on income and the responsibility to accept all patients regardless of their ability to pay.

In that time, it has grown to become one of Alaska's largest integrated primary care practices, providing medical, dental, behavioral health, pharmacy, lab, and care coordination services to almost 13,000 patients in 2012. Though it welcomes all patients, ANHC specializes in reducing barriers to care. Seventy two percent of patients live at, or below, 100% of the federal poverty line and forty six percent of patients are uninsured. Additionally, ANHC remains one of the few practices in Anchorage that accepts new Medicare patients and is the largest provider of care to the homeless in the community. In September, 2012, ANHC moved into its new health center in midtown Anchorage.

Since ANHC made the decision to construct its new health center in midtown Anchorage, it has worked with the Municipality of Anchorage to secure public transportation for patients who rely on People Mover service to access appointments, visit the

pharmacy, or undergo lab tests. Between twelve and fifteen percent (over 1,560 in 2012), of ANHC patients report through surveys that they rely on public transportation. Lack of reliable access to medical and dental appointments and services is a key barrier that can cause patients to delay care until they have no choice but to utilize emergency services, at great cost to the entire community. Both of the nearest People Mover stops to the new health center are in excess of 4/10 of a mile away; a significant barrier for the elderly, homeless, and young families who are the primary users of public transportation.

ANHC successfully partnered with the Municipality of Anchorage for the 2012 budget year to establish a shuttle service that connects ANHC with the downtown Anchorage Transit Center. After analyzing the costs of self-operating or contracting for shuttle services, ANHC contracted with MV Transit, (who also operates Anchor Rides services), as the most cost effective alternative. ANHC and MV offer a shuttle that operates between 10am and 5pm. Since it began operations in September, average daily ridership has continued to grow from 21 passengers per day to a high of almost 27 passengers in December. In 2013, ANHC and the Municipality have both dedicated funds to shuttle operations while the search for a cost effective People Mover route deviation to the health center is sought.

Our board and staff will continue to diligently work with the Municipality of Anchorage to seek scheduled People Mover service to ANHC by 2015. ANHC requests \$90,000 support from the state of Alaska to maintain its shuttle service through the end of 2014. For the remainder of 2013 and into 2014, ANHC anticipates that its practice will continue to grow by 500-600 new patients per month to its eventual capacity of 20,000 patients. The need for transportation for patients to the health center will continue to increase.

### Project Timeline:

2011: \$40k budget award from MoA for 2012 shuttle operations

2012: Shuttle begins operations 9/17. MoA budget awards \$40,000 to continue shuttle in 2013.

2013: ANHC continues advocacy with Municipality of Anchorage for a People Mover route deviation to serve the new health center, or for additional support to fund shuttle in 2014.

2014: ANHC continues advocacy for People Mover route deviation in advance of projected end of shuttle in early 2015.

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

Anchorage Neighborhood Health Center

### 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