

**Agency: Department of Health and Social Services****Project Title:****Project Type:** Planning and Research

# Alaska Youth Obesity Prevention

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

Future Funding May Be Requested

**Brief Project Description:**

This program will expand the capacity of the state's youth obesity prevention efforts. This combination of better student health education, more physical activity, good nutrition and community engagement will reduce the prevalence of childhood obesity in Alaska.

**Funding Plan:**

Total Project Cost:	\$1,375,000
Funding Already Secured:	(\$375,000)
FY2014 State Funding Request:	<u>(\$1,000,000)</u>
Project Deficit:	\$0

*Funding Details:*

*Provide detail of funding history (year, funding source, etc.): The Alaska Obesity Prevention and Control Program has been in place for ten years. Funding levels have varied over that time. The program received funding of approximately \$1.6 million in FY 2012 and \$1.7 million in FY 2013.*

**Detailed Project Description and Justification:**

Schools can improve the health and education of young people and prepare them to be healthy and productive adults. While schools alone cannot be expected to address all student health issues, schools are in a unique position to reduce the burden of childhood obesity, and thus reduce the future costs of obesity-related health issues.

Authorizations under the appropriation to include:

- 1.(50%) Competitive School District Grants: To help local school districts reduce rates of childhood obesity, a limited number of school districts will be awarded funding through a K-12 Obesity Prevention School Grant Program. Grantees will improve the school nutrition and physical activity environments by increasing opportunities for before, during and after school physical activity and improving the nutritional content of foods available for consumption at schools. Each competitively selected district may hire a coordinator who will have primary responsibility for developing programs such as farm-to-school, serving Alaska fish, and increasing salad bars in the schools. In addition, the coordinators will support school staff in implementing high-quality physical education and physical activity programming, consistent with national standards, aimed at helping students meet the recommended 60 minutes of daily activity. Outcomes of this grant program will be closely monitored and evaluated.
- 2.(10%) Healthy Futures: Expansion and growth of the Healthy Futures partnership and public education through schools.
- 3.(20%) Access to Local Foods: Coordinating with the Alaska Food Policy Council, support access to locally produced food through programs like Farm to School, Alaska Salad Bar to Schools, Child Nutrition programs such as Traditional Foods,

and Farmers Market Quest cards (ability to use food stamps at markets).

4.(20%) Professional Development: Professional development and technical assistance for school nurses and educators on health and physical education. Activity will be coordinated with the School Health and Wellness Institute.

**Project Timeline:**

Expenditures will occur during fiscal year 2014.

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

Department of Health and Social Services.

**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