

**Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development****Grants to Named Recipients (AS 37.05.316)****Grant Recipient: Alaska Medicare Clinic, Inc.****Federal Tax ID: 27-0542419****Project Title:****Project Type: Other**

# Alaska Medicare Clinic, Inc. - Services and Support for Medicare Population

**State Funding Requested: \$200,000****House District: Anchorage Areawide (11-27)**

Future Funding May Be Requested

**Brief Project Description:**

Funding will assist in providing critical support services for the under-served Medicare population.

**Funding Plan:**

Total Project Cost:	\$200,000
Funding Already Secured:	(\$0)
FY2014 State Funding Request:	<u>(\$200,000)</u>
Project Deficit:	\$0

*Funding Details:**Funding was received in FY 2011 for capital and start-up costs.***Detailed Project Description and Justification:**

In 2010 members of the Alaska healthcare community joined together and developed a non-profit Medicare clinic to help address the shortage of primary care services for the growing and underserved Alaska Medicare population.

Recognizing the projected growth of the Medicare eligible population, the anticipated shortage of medical providers, and the increasing difficulty for Medicare patients to find providers, the Alaska Medicare Clinic was created as a pilot project and potential model that could be replicated in other communities throughout Alaska.

In cooperation with the State of Alaska and the Alaska State Legislature, the Alaska Medicare Clinic received funding in FY 2011 to assist with capital and start up costs.

Since opening the doors in May of 2011, the Alaska Medicare Clinic has seen over 2500 individual patients and has had over 10,000 patient encounters. Patient satisfaction with services, efficiency and staff is very high. The clinic has an excellent reputation in the medical community and is supported by numerous specialists in Anchorage. After twenty months of operation, and taking into account the complexity of the patient' health care issues, the clinic anticipates that with 2.5 FTE physicians on staff, the clinic will handle approximately 10,000 appointments per year.

The maximum number of daily patient appointment slots is significantly lower than originally projected when the clinic was built. Given the complexity of the seniors' health issues and the ever growing numbers of seniors seeking care at the clinic, 2 to 3 patients are turned away daily with a three month waiting list, the need for the clinic's services is not debatable.

A significant issue that has occurred since opening the Alaska Medicare Clinic is the reduction in the federal Medicare reimbursement rate. The reimbursement rate has fallen 5.5% since 2010. The reimbursement rate is a leading factor in health care professionals' ability to care for and accept Medicare patients. This was a primary driver in the healthcare community coming together to provide a solution for Alaskans. The federal reimbursement rate for Medicare will likely continue to decline. Further reduction in the reimbursement rate will continue to exacerbate access to quality medical care for Alaska seniors.

This grant, in the amount of \$200,000 will assist the Alaska Medicare Clinic to continue to support its mission to provide essential health care assistance and care to Alaska's elderly citizens.

### Project Timeline:

If funds are made available, funds will be expended before June 30, 2014.

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

Alaska Medicare Clinic, Inc.

### 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