

Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development**Grants to Named Recipients (AS 37.05.316)****Grant Recipient: The Arc of Anchorage****Federal Tax ID: 92-0028571****Project Title:****Project Type: Maintenance and Repairs**

Arc of Anchorage - Facility Deferred Maintenance

State Funding Requested: \$507,000**House District: Anchorage Areawide (11-27)**

One-Time Need

Brief Project Description:

This project will provide funds to improve housing and service facilities for Alaskans who experience intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Funding Plan:

Total Project Cost:	\$507,000
Funding Already Secured:	(\$0)
FY2015 State Funding Request:	<u>(\$507,000)</u>
Project Deficit:	\$0

Detailed Project Description and Justification:

The Arc of Anchorage is requesting funds to assist with critical deferred maintenance needs and entrance changes necessary at the main facility serving Alaskans who experience intellectual and developmental disabilities to ensure the safety of the staff and people served.

Since 1957, The Arc of Anchorage has provided services to children, adults, and families experiencing intellectual and developmental disabilities. Currently, The Arc serves nearly 500 people a year across Alaska and their families. The Arc houses seventy people in homes throughout Anchorage. The Recreation Center provides hundreds of people with education, living skills, and recreation activities. In addition, the Recreation Center hosts numerous community groups at its facility. Last year, The Arc's traveling nurse made more than 90 trips to rural Alaska to educate families and provide care for children who experience complex medical conditions. The Arc of Anchorage's main office building was built in two main phases. The first phase was constructed in the 1960s by the parents who founded the organization. It was initially designed as a school because, at the time, public education did not include people who experience disabilities. Once public education was opened to the people served by The Arc, the building was converted to office space.

The next phase was built in the late 1990s, using funds generated by The Arc's donation pick-up service. Increased demand for services has necessitated the hiring of additional staff, which has put a strain the main office building. The Arc has managed this growth by doubling up staff office space and remodeling areas to accommodate needed office space. The Arc's goal is to maximize the use and life of the building and continue to direct funds to services needed by Alaskans who experience disabilities. The main office building's heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) system is outdated. The 40 ton rooftop HVAC unit is 13 years old and needs to be replaced because parts are no longer available. The two air handling units in the older part of the building also require replacement for two reasons. The biggest issue is age; replacement parts are not readily available. If something breaks, like one of the pumps, it could take up to 6 weeks for a replacement to be constructed and shipped to Alaska. This would end up costing more than an "off the shelf" replacement

pump. Because there are many more staff members in the building than it was originally designed for, the systems needs new ducts and rerouting of the existing ducts in order to provide adequate ventilation to the whole building.

The Arc plans to be in this office building well into the future. One vital aspect in need of attention is our entrance way. It is a high traffic turnoff which is located on busy Northern Lights Boulevard without a stop sign or light. The Arc's main office building is a high-traffic building and is the center of services The Arc offers; investment in maintaining this building and entrance will provide The Arc staff and Alaskans who experience disabilities a safe place to work and receive services.

Over 400 staff need to turn into our only entrance and exit on a daily basis. Additionally Anchor Rides transports over 50 individuals daily to The Arc's recreation center and families drop off, pick up those coming to events. Currently this is an extremely dangerous entrance without any ability to slow traffic. The Arc proposes to expand the size of the entrance to make it more visible as well as install lights and signage alerting drivers to the flow of merging traffic. Over there years this has been a consistent concern and there have been multiple accidents. Since November 2013 there have been 6 accidents involving people we serve, our employees and the general public. The Arc's proposed changes to the entrance will assist in reducing these occurrences.

The Arc learned a valuable lesson last year when the electricity was out for several days in parts of Anchorage. Alaskans with complex medical conditions rely on electrified medical equipment so even a brief loss of power creates a dangerous situation for them. In an emergency, the agency needs to have back-up power for these residents' homes. The Arc proposes to install emergency generators at 3 of the homes where people with complex medical condition reside. These homes also happen to be among the larger residences operated by The Arc. In a city-wide emergency, the residents of other nearby homes operated by The Arc could congregate in these larger homes with emergency power.

This request will directly improve the lives of Alaskans who experience disabilities as well as ensure the safety of those who serve them for decades by preserving facilities that provide services they require to lead productive lives.

Project Timeline:

The Arc of Anchorage will begin once funds are approved and anticipates all work to be completed within 1 year.

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

The Arc of Anchorage

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