

**MH: AHFC Homeless Assistance Program**

**FY2016 Request: \$7,700,000**

**Reference No: AMD 45390**

**AP/AL:** Appropriation

**Project Type:** Economic Assistance

**Category:** Health/Human Services

**Location:** Statewide

**House District:** Statewide (HD 1-40)

**Impact House District:** Statewide (HD 1-40)

**Contact:** Les Campbell

**Estimated Project Dates:** 07/01/2015 - 06/30/2020

**Contact Phone:** (907)330-8356

**Brief Summary and Statement of Need:**

This is a new FY2016 project. Funding will be used to provide grants to local communities/agencies to help develop support programs designed to reduce homelessness, provide services that prevent housing displacement and assist the homeless in transitioning back to permanent housing. Other Alaska Housing Finance Corporation (AHFC) programs may be leveraged with these funds when appropriate. All Homeless Assistance Program funds will be combined and administered as one program by AHFC.

| <b>Funding:</b> | <u>FY2016</u>      | <u>FY2017</u>      | <u>FY2018</u>      | <u>FY2019</u>      | <u>FY2020</u>      | <u>FY2021</u>      | <u>Total</u>        |
|-----------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| Gen Fund        | \$6,000,000        | \$6,000,000        | \$6,000,000        | \$6,000,000        | \$6,000,000        | \$6,000,000        | \$36,000,000        |
| GF/MH           | \$850,000          | \$850,000          | \$850,000          | \$850,000          | \$850,000          | \$850,000          | \$5,100,000         |
| MHTAAR          | \$850,000          | \$850,000          | \$850,000          | \$850,000          | \$850,000          | \$850,000          | \$5,100,000         |
| <b>Total:</b>   | <b>\$7,700,000</b> | <b>\$7,700,000</b> | <b>\$7,700,000</b> | <b>\$7,700,000</b> | <b>\$7,700,000</b> | <b>\$7,700,000</b> | <b>\$46,200,000</b> |

|   |   |   |  |  |
|---|---|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> State Match Required | <input type="checkbox"/> One-Time Project | <input type="checkbox"/> Phased - new         | <input type="checkbox"/> Phased - underway             | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> On-Going |
| 0% = Minimum State Match % Required           |   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amendment | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mental Health Bill |  |

**Operating & Maintenance Costs:**

|                      | <u>Amount</u> | <u>Staff</u> |
|----------------------|---------------|--------------|
| Project Development: | 0             | 0            |
| Ongoing Operating:   | 0             | 0            |
| One-Time Startup:    | 0             | 0            |
| <b>Totals:</b>       | <b>0</b>      | <b>0</b>     |

**Prior Funding History / Additional Information:**

- Sec4 Ch17 SLA2014 P13 L20 HB267 \$8,000,000
- Sec5 Ch15 SLA2013 P12 L31 HB66 \$8,000,000
- Sec5 Ch16 SLA2012 P13 L29 HB285 \$8,000,000
- Sec4 Ch4 SLA2011 P12 L4 HB109 \$10,000,000
- Sec5 Ch42 SLA2010 P18 L31 HB302 \$10,000,000
- Sec4 Ch13 SLA2009 P15 L9 HB83 \$8,000,000
- Sec4 Ch28 SLA2008 P16 L9 HB312 \$8,000,000

**Project Description/Justification:**

The purpose of this program is to support programs that address homelessness by providing assistance to families in imminent danger of becoming homeless or those who are currently homeless.

**The projected outcomes are to:**

- Prevent near homeless individuals and families from becoming homeless; and/or
- Provide homeless individuals and families assistance to obtain safe, sanitary shelter.

**Program Description:**

Established in 1993, this program enables thousands of homeless and/or near homeless families to obtain or retain safe and sanitary shelter each year. Demand for this program has increased steadily over the last five years as annual requests for the prevention and operating components exceed \$8 million per year.

This program has taken on the role of a housing trust and is the coordinated funding source for homeless prevention activities in Alaska. There are four main funding sources: general fund, general fund/mental health, mental health trust authority authorized receipts, and other federal or private resources. In FY2014, the award of \$5.9 million in state funds for 39 projects ensured approximately 9,000 households containing 12,800 people benefited from the program. 1,838 persons transitioned from homelessness to permanent housing and 1,225 households received financial assistance to prevent homelessness.

This program is supported by the 2009 “10-year Plan to Reduce Homelessness in Alaska” which identifies the activities and cost of reducing homelessness in Alaska over 10 years.

The Homeless Assistance Program (HAP) provides grants to assist nonprofit organizations, local governments, and regional housing authorities in addressing the emergency needs of homeless and near-homeless Alaskans. During the previous competitive rounds, the total amount of Homeless Assistance Program (HAP) grant requests received by AHFC has exceeded \$8 million; only \$5.9 million of those requests were funded. This program has become increasingly important since funds for grants such as homeless assistance from municipal grants and Federal Emergency Housing Assistance continues to shrink.

The most recent grantees have utilized HAP funds to expand shelter facilities, develop supportive transitional housing, provide case management and rental assistance services and develop supportive housing for mental health trust beneficiaries and the homeless. All funds will be combined and administered as one program by AHFC. A portion of these funds will be used to support the planning, operation and coordination efforts of the Alaska Coalition on Housing and Homelessness and the operation of the statewide information and referral system 211.

Inadequate funding will increase the number of homeless families in Alaska and force existing shelters to either exceed capacity or turn away clients. Families in areas where no shelter exists will be forced to live in substandard and/or overcrowded conditions, known to foster higher degrees of domestic violence and substance abuse. Low-wage earning households experiencing a family crisis will also have to contend with the likelihood of homelessness if emergency rental assistance is not available. In some cases, the homeless will cycle into the correctional or mental health system due to lack of adequate housing.

These funds have helped reduce the number of homeless veterans in Alaska, and brought the total number of chronic homeless down. In addition, the number of people who were unsheltered and staying in vehicles or camping has also decreased since the implementation of the state 10 year plan.