

**MH: Deferred Maintenance and renovation required to accommodate Women's Mental Health Unit**

**FY2019 Request: \$3,685,000**  
**Reference No: 60431**

**AP/AL:** Appropriation **Project Type:** Renovation and Remodeling  
**Category:** Public Protection  
**Location:** Eagle River (Chugach State Park) **House District:** Unidentified House District  
**Impact House District:** Unidentified House District **Contact:** April Wilkerson  
**Estimated Project Dates:** 06/01/2019 - 06/30/2023 **Contact Phone:** (907)465-3460

**Brief Summary and Statement of Need:**

The Department is requesting funding for renovation and relocation of the integrated Mental Health Unit (MHU) and infirmary/detoxification unit at Hiland Mountain Correctional Center (HMCC). The funding would allow the renovation and relocation of the existing women’s acute MHU and construction of a medical infirmary and detox unit, increasing the capacity from 14 to 25 beds and allowing for a more therapeutic and secure environment while freeing up segregation beds.

<b>Funding:</b>	<b>FY2019</b>	<b>FY2020</b>	<b>FY2021</b>	<b>FY2022</b>	<b>FY2023</b>	<b>FY2024</b>	<b>Total</b>
1037 GF/MH	\$2,540,000						\$2,540,000
1092	\$1,145,000						\$1,145,000
MHTAAR							
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$3,685,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$3,685,000</b>

<input type="checkbox"/> State Match Required	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> One-Time Project	<input type="checkbox"/> Phased - new	<input type="checkbox"/> Phased - underway	<input type="checkbox"/> On-Going
0% = Minimum State Match % Required		<input 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	
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

**Prior Funding History / Additional Information:**

**Project Description/Justification:**

The Alaska Department of Corrections (AKDOC) is the state’s largest behavioral health provider. On any given day 65% of AKDOC’s population has been identified as Trust Beneficiaries. 22% of those individuals are diagnosed with a severe and persistent mental illness. Since FY08 the department has seen a 61% increase in the number of contacts provided by behavioral health staff and individuals continue to enter AKDOC sicker than ever before. The department has seen a 19% increase in the number of individuals diagnosed with a severe and persistent mental illness (SPMI) with the largest growing population being female offenders. Each year the Department serves approximately 200 offenders on its female acute mental health unit. In addition, the Department has a growing number of women requiring acute detoxification.

The proposed Mental Health Unit (MHU) project will provide funding to allow the expansion and relocation of the existing women’s acute MHU, increase the available bed count from 14 to 25, ensure that female offenders have the same resources available to them as the male population and allow for a more therapeutic and secure environment while freeing up segregation beds. This expansion would relocate the existing women’s acute care psychiatric unit from its current location in Segregation Housing to an existing building previously

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used by the industries programs. Moving and expanding the MHU would allow security to take over the 14 beds that make up the current MHU and provide more segregation beds for this growing population.

The current facilities cannot meet the increasingly complex needs of the female offenders. The women's acute mental health unit, a former segregation unit retrofitted to serve as a treatment unit, is always full and often over capacity. This frequently results in the placement of seriously mentally ill offenders in Segregation until a treatment bed becomes available. There are no beds available for female offenders who are going through serious detox/withdrawals or who have other complex medical needs; therefore two or three times a week women in acute withdrawal are housed in the men's infirmary at the Anchorage Correctional Complex. The Department has identified this project as essential to our efforts in aiding female Trust beneficiaries who require acute intervention for their mental health, medical and substance abuse needs.