

MH: AHFC Homeless Assistance Project

FY2021 Request: \$8,150,000

Reference No: 62877

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: James Wiedle

Estimated Project Dates: 07/01/2020 - 06/30/2025

Contact Phone: (907)330-8359

Brief Summary and Statement of Need:

The purpose of this authorization is to support programs that address homelessness by providing assistance to families in imminent danger of becoming homeless or those who are currently homeless. On a statewide basis, these programs serve youth, families, and victims of domestic violence.

| Funding: | <u>FY2021</u> | <u>FY2022</u> | <u>FY2023</u> | <u>FY2024</u> | <u>FY2025</u> | <u>FY2026</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|-----------------|--------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------------|
| 1037 GF/MH | \$850,000 | | | | | | \$850,000 |
| 1092 | \$950,000 | | | | | | \$950,000 |
| MHTAAR | | | | | | | |
| 1139 AHFC | \$6,350,000 | | | | | | \$6,350,000 |
| Div | | | | | | | |
| Total: | \$8,150,000 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$8,150,000 |

| | | | | |
|-----------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| <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"/> Ongoing |
| 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 | |
| Totals: | 0 | 0 |

Prior Funding History / Additional Information:

- Sec4 Ch1 SLA2017 P12 L21 HB59 \$7,750,000
- Sec5 Ch1 SLA2016 P16 L20 HB257 \$7,700,000
- Sec4 Ch24 SLA2015 P11 L18 HB73 \$7,700,000
- 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 Homeless Assistance Program (HAP) enables thousands of homeless and/or near homeless families to obtain or retain safe and sanitary shelter each year. The HAP serves youth, families and victims of domestic violence throughout the state.

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 to transition back to permanent housing. Other Alaska Housing Finance Corporation (AHFC) programs may be leveraged with these funds when appropriate. All HAP funds will be combined and administered as one program by AHFC.

This program has taken on the role of a housing trust and is the coordinated funding for homeless prevention activities in Alaska. There are four main funding sources: AHFC, Mental Health Trust Authority Authorized Receipts (MHTAAR), general fund/mental health, and other federal or private resources. In FY2020, the award of \$4.9 million in state funds for 35 programs served over 12,500 Alaskans.

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 previous competitive rounds, the total amount of Homeless Assistance Program (HAP) grant requests received by AHFC exceeded \$8 million. In recognition of this limited funding, AHFC has limited the amount that can be requested by each renewal applicant. This program has become increasingly relied upon as 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. A portion of these funds are used to support the operation of the statewide information and referral system 211.

Inadequate funding will stress the existing service partners to either exceed their capacity or turn away clients. Families in areas where no shelter exists may be forced to live in substandard and/or overcrowded conditions that are 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, homeless Alaskans may cycle into the correctional or mental health system due to lack of adequate housing.

The projected outcomes are to:

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