

**Alaska Psychiatric Institute Wireless Infrastructure Upgrade**

**FY2023 Request: \$100,000**  
**Reference No: AMD 63906**

**AP/AL:** Appropriation

**Project Type:** Information Technology / Systems / Communication

**Category:** Health/Human Services

**Recipient:** Various

**Location:** Anchorage Areawide

**House District:** Anchorage Areawide (HD 12-28)

**Impact House District:** Anchorage Areawide (HD 12-28)

**Contact:** Amy Burke

**Estimated Project Dates:** 07/01/2022 - 06/30/2027 **Contact Phone:** (907)465-1624

**Brief Summary and Statement of Need:**

An upgrade of the Alaska Psychiatric Institute wireless infrastructure is needed. The current wireless infrastructure cannot provide sufficient coverage to enable the utilization of technology to help ensure safety, security, and efficiencies in patient assessments, as well as patient use of internet-based resources to further their foundational growth and independence. Patients are unable to have virtual visitation options for network support outside of the Anchorage area.

<b>Funding:</b>	<b>FY2023</b>	<b>FY2024</b>	<b>FY2025</b>	<b>FY2026</b>	<b>FY2027</b>	<b>FY2028</b>	<b>Total</b>
1037 GF/MH	\$100,000						\$100,000
<b>Total:</b>	\$100,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$100,000

<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"/> Ongoing
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:**

This amendment reduces the amount from \$500k to \$100k.

**Project Description/Justification:**

This project will expand wireless capability throughout the Alaska Psychiatric Institute to provide necessary connectivity for patient care and wellbeing.

When the Alaska Psychiatric Institute (API) was built in 1996 it did not anticipate the need for universal wireless infrastructure to meet the needs of the hospital's technological advancements in providing patient safety, security, assessments, and growth. In the past 25 years, the need and ability to use technology has become standard across the industry and necessary to maintain best practices for the health and well-being of the patients served. During the recent COVID-19 pandemic it has become more apparent than ever that API must invest in enhanced wireless infrastructure to ensure patients can have access to outside providers, family contact, internet based resources, and opportunities for foundational growth and independence.

The following patient care and safety concerns will be addressed by updating Wi-Fi throughout the building:

- Increased opportunity and reliability for patients to see providers while reducing risks of exposure due to infectious diseases or because of remote telehealth options.
- Ability to document in real time and transmit information directly to the patient's medical record. This will allow for more accurate up to date information.
- Allow patients to have increased visitation, not only during a pandemic but also for patients whose support network live outside of the Anchorage area.
- Increase the number of therapeutic resources available for health education to patients.
- Utilize wireless technology in different equipment throughout the hospital to include updating the medical carts remotely.
- This technology will increase efficiencies and accuracy in countless other ways.

This will be an enhancement/upgrade to the current Wi-Fi set up which was installed around 2011. This system is extremely limited with only six to seven access points with very spotty coverage in the units.

Potential out-year costs are hardware replacement when current items reach end of life. Depending on the model, useful life is roughly six to seven years.

If not approved, patient care and safety will suffer in multiple areas:

The opportunity for telemedicine increases dramatically when API can connect wirelessly throughout the building bringing the providers to the patients. Without this technology, API will increase risk to providers and other patients by exposing them to a patient who is in quarantine due to infectious disease instead of remote or telehealth options.

Without this technology, API will continue to lack the opportunity for real time documentation. Provider documentation is more likely to be accurate when the provider does not have to rely on memory or take handwritten notes for charting later. Data collection such as vital signs can be electronically transmitted into the medical record in real time. The use of tablets or other handheld devices to transmit real time information into the medical record is the standard of care.

Without upgraded Wi-Fi, API will be unable to offer visitation options to patients whose support network reside outside of Anchorage. Visitation with family and friends is a proven intervention which assists with the mental health of patients and is a patient right.

There will be severe limitations on being able to provide various therapeutic resources and health education to patients. API will be unable to update medical equipment as new equipment requires wireless connection for software updates. The medication carts currently require pharmacy staff to continuously visit the units to update the carts while a wireless option would allow API to update the carts remotely.