MH: Rural Housing Coordinator - New Region **FY2024 Request: $135,000**
Reference No: 64686

AP/AL: Appropriation
Project Type: Life / Health / Safety
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: 07/01/2023 - 06/30/2028
Contact Phone: (907)330-8359

Brief Summary and Statement of Need:
This project funds a Rural Housing Coordinator position to support state operating infrastructure in a region that does not yet have this position. The Rural Housing Coordinator will engage community partners, build local capacity, and establish a coalition to address homelessness. This position will strategize on how to address overcrowding, improve substandard housing, and increase affordable housing. The coordinator will work with the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation and Association of Alaska Housing Authorities staff to maximize local, state, and federal funding opportunities and to ensure effective use of available dollars.

Funding:	FY2024	FY2025	FY2026	FY2027	FY2028	FY2029	Total
1092 MHTAAR	$135,000						$135,000
Total:	$135,000	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$135,000

☐ State Match Required ☐ One-Time Project ☐ Phased - new ☐ Phased - underway ☑ Ongoing
0% = Minimum State Match % Required ☐ Amendment ☑ Mental Health Bill

Operating & Maintenance Costs:

	Amount	Staff
Project Development:	0	0
Ongoing Operating:	0	0
One-Time Startup:	0	
Totals:	0	0

Prior Funding History / Additional Information:

Project Description/Justification:
Beneficiary and Special Needs Housing program funds pre-development and development activities for Alaska nonprofit service providers and housing developers. Funds are for developing community-based supportive housing in conjunction with the Homeless Assistance Program. This program has developed 307 units since FY2000.

Demand for special needs housing remains critical. The Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority (AMHTA) has made housing one of its five focus areas for funding. The Alaska Independent Living Council and other special needs advocacy groups have identified supportive housing as a top priority in their statewide planning efforts. Target populations consist of mental health beneficiaries and other special needs groups including severely emotionally disturbed children and the homeless.

Examples of special needs housing include:

- Congregate housing for people with mental illness or developmental disabilities;
- Supportive housing for victims of domestic violence;
- Supportive housing, including assisted living for people with mental illness, developmental disabilities, or multiple disorders;
- Transitional housing with support services for newly recovering alcoholics and addicts; and,
- Permanent or transitional housing support for the homeless and AMHTA beneficiaries.

The Alaska Housing Finance Corporation (AHFC) administers these housing development funds in conjunction with other resources, including other federal grant and tax credit programs, to the greatest extent possible. Leveraging these funds enables AHFC to administratively streamline housing development projects and expedite the release of funding to nonprofit housing developers, particularly those who also intend to borrow money from AHFC.

The projected outcomes are:

- Ongoing operational support for 17 congregate housing properties for victims of domestic violence, people with mental illness or developmental disabilities and chronically homeless Alaskans;
- Reducing recidivism among clients spending time in institutions;
- Increasing supportive housing, including assisted living, for Alaskans with mental, physical, or developmental disabilities, or multiple disorders; and,
- Increasing transitional housing with support services for newly recovering alcoholics and addicts.