

**AHFC Rental Assistance for Persons Displaced Due to Domestic Violence - Empowering Choice Housing Program (ECHP)**      **FY2024 Request: \$1,500,000**  
**Reference No: 60777**

**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:**

The Empowering Choice Housing Program is a referral-based transitional housing assistance program designed to serve the housing needs of victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking.

<b>Funding:</b>	<b>FY2024</b>	<b>FY2025</b>	<b>FY2026</b>	<b>FY2027</b>	<b>FY2028</b>	<b>FY2029</b>	<b>Total</b>
1004 Gen Fund	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000	\$9,000,000
<b>Total:</b>	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000	\$9,000,000

<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 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:**

Sec11 Ch1 SLA2022 P92 L28 HB281 \$1,500,000  
 Sec8 Ch1 SLA2021 P78 L33 HB69 \$1,500,000  
 Sec5 Ch1 SLA2020 P66 L12 HB205 \$1,500,000  
 Sec1 Ch1 SLA2019 P6 L3 SB2002 \$1,500,000  
 Sec1 Ch1 SLA2018 P9 L20 SB142 \$1,500,000  
 Sec1 Ch1 SLA2017 P7 L14 SB23 \$1,500,000

**Project Description/Justification:**

The Empowering Choice Housing Program (ECHP) provides transitional rental assistance to families displaced due to domestic violence or sexual assault. The Alaska Housing Finance Corporation (AHFC) administers program funds through the same mechanism and locations as the federal U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Housing Choice Voucher program.

Program management of ECHP includes, but is not limited to:

- 1) Working directly with landlords to set up housing assistance payments for participating families;
- 2) Monitoring the number of vouchers issued in each participating community;
- 3) Tracking the number of vouchers in shopping status, leased or available; and,

- 4) Adjusting housing assistance payments for each participating community and their respective rental markets.

AHFC administers the program in partnership with the Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (ANDVSA) and the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault. The Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault represents direct service programs and refers families and program participants to AHFC. The Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault implements, maintains, and monitors Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault crisis intervention and prevention programs.

**The projected outcomes are:**

- Rental assistance for up to 214 households statewide, displaced from permanent housing or otherwise at risk of displacement because of a recent or reoccurring instance of domestic violence as defined by Alaska Statute, Section 18.66.990(3); and,
- Housing stability for families occupying shelters, families living in abusive households, and families living in places not meant for habitation.