

Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development

Grants to Named Recipients (AS 37.05.316)

Grant Recipient: SeaShare

Federal Tax ID: 91-1641242

Project Title:

Project Type: Other

SeaShare - Seafood Food Security and Processing Sector Resiliency Project

State Funding Requested: \$10,000,000

House District: Statewide (1-40)

One-Time Need

Brief Project Description:

Increase food security with a strong, sustainable food system in Alaska.

Funding Plan:

Total Project Cost:	\$13,730,000
Funding Already Secured:	(\$3,730,000)
FY2025 State Funding Request:	<u>(\$10,000,000)</u>
Project Deficit:	\$0

Funding Details:

75% of the funding will be spent on seafood purchase and transportation. To strengthen local food systems, 10% percent will be allocated to longer-term assets such as freezers and equipment to serve as remote food banks. While the average non-profit budget holds more than 20% overhead, SeaShare runs a lean operation and would require only 15% for costs associated with executing this project and ensuring food safety.

Detailed Project Description and Justification:

SeaShare, the US seafood industry's response to hunger, has over the last 30 years donated 270 million seafood servings to Americans in need. Those struggling to feed their families face the burden of not only getting enough to eat, but also accessing nutrient-rich foods that promote good health and help reduce the risk of chronic disease. SeaShare exists to provide food banks and feeding centers in Alaska and the lower 48 access to nutritious seafood.

Although Alaska seafood production far outstrips the protein needs of Alaska, roughly one in seven people in Alaska face food insecurity, including one in five Alaskan children. Additionally, Alaska currently imports 95 percent of its food supplies at a cost of \$2 billion per year. SeaShare works to address hunger in Alaska, for example, coordinating the State's donation of 60,000 lbs of salmon to the Yukon in 2023, and has assisted in creating distribution hubs in Alaska by coordinating the acquisition and refurbishment of freezer containers for foodbanks in Juneau, Kodiak, St. Paul, Dillingham and Bethel. SeaShare has worked closely with entities throughout the state including Nana Corp, Tanana Chiefs, Kawark, and BBNA.

However, transportation costs and logistical burdens within Alaska are the number one constraint to increasing seafood donations throughout the state, particularly to rural areas with the most acute hunger needs. Most small communities do not have capacity to receive a full container of frozen seafood or to store it long term. Alaska communities located off the road or barge system face even higher food costs.

With this funding, SeaShare can immediately assist in improving the resilience and competitiveness of the Alaska seafood

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**\$7,500,000
Approved**

12:21 PM 6/14/2024

industry by purchasing "oversupply" from the 2023 harvest, which is currently draining storage resources, and distributing to communities with established freezer capacity and feeding programs. Foodbanks have seen rising food prices and healthy protein donations are in high demand.

This funding will also allow SeaShare to assist in improving food security throughout Alaska by facilitating energy-efficient freezer purchases for additional Alaskan communities and creating a broader network of food distribution and transportation partners throughout the state. SeaShare can currently respond to emergency food shortage situations in a limited capacity, but establishing long-term partnerships will allow proactive, cost-effective supply of Alaska seafood to communities in need.

Where applicable, SeaShare will use funding to supply small Alaska processors with equipment that would allow for full utilization, such as processing trim meat into burgers, which would then provide a long-term source of inexpensive, healthy seafood items processed and distributed within Alaska. This will enhance access to affordable, quality food within Alaska, adding to the long-term food security of the state. SeaShare has successfully partnered in this manner in the past with Alaska seafood producers.

SeaShare works in partnership with seafood companies, CDQ groups, tribal entities, freight carriers and others to carry out our mission. SeaShare will continue to build partnerships throughout Alaska and work closely with the Governor's Office of Food Security. An active, diverse Board of Directors from the seafood community, including Alaskan residents and producers, oversees SeaShare's mission. Board members and staff utilize expertise in key areas of the industry, including policy and law, marketing and communications, harvesting and production, logistics, and finance. The organization is guided by a sense of responsibility for the stewardship and efficient utilization of Alaskan resources. SeaShare has 30-year history of safely and efficiently distributing seafood. Our seafood donors and suppliers count on us to make sure nothing is lost, sold, or compromised. We ensure receiving agencies can confirm their ability to distribute safely and equitably.

Project Timeline:

FY25 - FY29

Entity Responsible for the Ongoing Operation and Maintenance of this Project:

SeaShare

Grant Recipient Contact Information:

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Has this project been through a public review process at the local level and is it a community priority? Yes No

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12:21 PM 6/14/2024