

MH Trust: AHFC Rural Housing Coordinator - Northwest Arctic Borough

FY2025 Request: \$135,000
Reference No: 65206

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: 07/01/2024 - 06/30/2029

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 the Northwest Arctic Borough. The Rural Housing Coordinator will engage community partners; document best practices, and lessons learned of a grass-roots effort to building local capacity; develop a coalition to address homelessness and to strategize on addressing overcrowding, substandard housing, and increasing affordable housing. The coordinator works with the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation (AHFC) and Association of Alaska Housing Authorities staff to maximize local, State, and federal funding opportunities and to ensure effective use of available dollars.

Funding:	FY2025	FY2026	FY2027	FY2028	FY2029	FY2030	Total
1092	\$135,000	\$135,000	\$135,000	\$135,000	\$135,000	\$135,000	\$810,000
MHTAAR							
Total:	\$135,000	\$135,000	\$135,000	\$135,000	\$135,000	\$135,000	\$810,000

<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	0
Totals:	0	0

Prior Funding History / Additional Information:

Sec4 Ch1 SLA2023 P11 L21 HB41 \$135,000

Project Description/Justification:

In addition to being geographically and culturally diverse, Alaskan communities are unique in their housing resources and housing challenges. There is no “one-size-fits-all” checklist to improve access to safe and affordable housing in rural Alaska. The role of the Rural Housing Coordinator (RHC) program in Kotzebue is to develop additional resources for homeless individuals in Kotzebue and develop a plan to improve overcrowding and housing quality in other villages in the region.

The RHC program works with local leadership to develop a coordinated response to homelessness. Local government, nonprofit partners, religious organizations, and dedicated volunteers are providing services, but the community needed an organized coalition working together to form a safety net. The coordinator works to identify partners and develop systemic responses. Additionally, RHC staff identify unmet needs and work to address those gaps.

Examples of RHC projects include:

- Development of a Community Coalition to address homelessness;
- Development of as-needed emergency shelter in regional community for families displaced due to domestic violence or other emergent need;
- Establishment of a seasonal overnight emergency shelter for homeless individuals;
- Working with existing programs to create a referral system between agencies to provide services more efficiently; and
- Founding a nonprofit organization in partnership with the Coalition board to pursue additional funding.

The projected outcomes are:

- Ongoing operation of seasonal shelters right-sized to the community needs;
- Ongoing summer food program supporting elders and homeless families;
- Work with the regional housing association, local government, and other stakeholders to address overcrowding in rural communities; and
- Securing additional funding to support Rapid Rehousing and Utility Assistance programs.