

Environmental Health Laboratory Equipment

FY2026 Request: \$585,000
Reference No: 64632

AP/AL: Appropriation
Category: Health/Human Services
Location: Statewide
Impact House District: Statewide (HD 1 - 40)
Estimated Project Dates: 07/01/2025 - 06/30/2030

Project Type: Equipment / Commodities
House District: Statewide (HD 1 - 40)
Contact: Shaundy Perry
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Brief Summary and Statement of Need:

The Department of Environmental Conservation requests funds to replace scientific laboratory equipment procured in FY2005 when the Environmental Health Laboratory (EHL) was built. This equipment is used to provide analytical and technical information in support of state and national environmental health programs including those associated with the surveillance food, water, milk, fish, shellfish, and soils. Most of the EHL’s equipment has aged beyond its useful life of 10 years and is technologically obsolete and/or at high risk of breakage or failure.

Funding:	FY2026	FY2027	FY2028	FY2029	FY2030	FY2031	Total
1004 Gen Fund	\$585,000						\$585,000
Total:	\$585,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$585,000

<input type="checkbox"/> State Match Required	<input 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 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
<u>One-Time Startup:</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Totals:	0	0

Prior Funding History / Additional Information:

Due to the prolonged procurement, installation, and calibration timelines required to get new equipment online, the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) seeks to replace aged equipment in concern for system failure resulting in halting testing. While several pieces of laboratory equipment need replacement, the DEC prioritized the most critical items needed in FY2026 due to parts no longer being manufactured, and the inability to meet testing detection levels.

Project Description/Justification:

Due to the prolonged procurement, installation, and calibration timelines required to get new equipment online, the DEC seeks to replace aged equipment in concern for system failure resulting in halting testing. While several pieces of laboratory equipment need replacement, the DEC prioritized the most critical items needed in FY2026 due to parts no longer being manufactured, and inability to meet testing detection levels. That equipment follows:

1. BioMerieux Pathogen Detection System to perform rapid screening and biochemical confirmations for foodborne pathogens: Listeria, Salmonella, Staphylococcus, Campylobacter, E. coli, Shiga toxin E. coli, Enterococcus, Pseudomonas, and Klebsiella. (\$275.0)

2. Autoclaves to perform sterilization of media, reagents, and supplies, sanitation and decontamination of biological waste. (\$260.0)

Critical equipment failure of items #1 and 2 above will impact seafood compliance testing (PR-AK Seafood processors), seafood surveillance testing (GF-FSS), shellfish (GF-commercial shellfish), Laboratory Flexible Funding Model (LFFM) grant deliverables (FED-U.S. Food and Drug Administration [FDA]), dairy (GF-FDA), drinking water (FED-Public Water System Supervision [PWSS]), meat testing (PR-slaughter/butcher facilities), surface water (IA-DEC Division of Water [DOW]), and foodborne illness support and investigations (GF-Food Safety and Sanitation program with the Municipality of Anchorage and Alaska Department of Health). Additionally, Food Safety and Sanitation FDA grants would be impacted as the EHL will be unable to perform as its laboratory to meet standard 10 of the manufactured food program regulations (MFRPS). Drinking Water PWSS grant funding would be compromised as the EHL would be unable to perform as its primacy lab, and the Office of the State Veterinarian's regulatory program would be impacted due to the inability to perform as the State dairy central lab.

3. Exterior Deep Freezer securing and housing over 20 years of irreplaceable fish tissue archive at -20°C. Critical failure would compromise this valuable and exceptional collection of multiple fish species from various water bodies across the state collected by federal, State, and international partners. Collaborative research with universities and other state and federal agencies relies on these archived samples to better understand contaminants in Alaska fish and develop fish tissue consumption guidelines protective of human health. As laboratory testing technology and capability increase and contaminants can be detected at lower levels, and as it becomes necessary to test fish for new or emerging contaminants, archived samples are critical to provide baseline data and demonstrate trends over time. Loss of this collection would prohibit additional future sampling for known or emerging contaminants that provide this essential data. (\$50.0)

This request supports the Governor's priorities of securing the safety of Alaskans, supporting numerous industries, and fostering economic growth in Alaska.