

May 15, 2009

Senator Daniel K. Inouye
Chair
Committee on Appropriations
522 Hart Building
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Thad Cochran
Vice Chair
Committee on Appropriations
113 Dirksen Building
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Tom Harkin
Chair
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and
Human Services, and Education
731 Hart Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Inouye, Cochran, and Harkin:

I submit the following projects to the Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education:

Youth Employment in Parks

Municipality of Anchorage

Anchorage, AK

\$200,000

Youth will be hired to complete park improvement projects and run recreation programs for youth.

During the summer of 2009, 75 youth will be hired to complete park improvement projects and run recreation programs for youth associated with three themes: Soft-surface Trails, Watersheds, and Urban Forestry.

Youth Employment in Parks seeks to:

- 1.) Create a meaningful "first job" experience and career pathway for diverse youth to work in the outdoors and natural resources fields.
- 2) Expose youth to the outdoors and connect them with nature to support healthy lifestyles.
- 3) Provide youth with community action skills and character development so they may become effective citizens.
- 4) Improve community through enhanced recreation opportunities, parks and public spaces.

Page 2

Senator Begich Requests

LHE

Yuut Uaungviat Aviation Training Program

Association of Village Council Presidents

Bethel, AK

\$650,000

The Yuut Uaungviat program trains people in the region to be pilots. The funds will be used to recruit students and build capacity.

Yuut Yaungviat Aviation Training Program has the potential to significantly impact the Yukon Kuskokwim Delta. The region has chronic unemployment and a dependence on planes for transportation of goods, services and people. The airline industry in the region is chronically understaffed; forced to hire pilots from the lower 48 that are not familiar with the unique weather and terrain of the region. The Yuut Yaungviat Aviation Training Program trains people in the region to be pilots. Such training will result in employment that is rewarding, long-term and secure. The Yuut Yaungviat has a building, staff, planes and a well-designed program.

More than \$2.4 million has been invested in Yuut Yaungviat in the past three years. The funds will be used to promote the program. Yuut Yaungviat is requesting funds to pay utilities, staff salaries and basic administrative costs for two years as well as funds to develop and implement a marketing plan, develop and plan a scholarship fund and gather information on forming an endowment.

Mobile Classrooms for Vocational Training Resource Center

Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska

Juneau, AK—Serving Southeast Alaska

\$1,109,600

The project will address work skill deficiencies by delivering skills to remote areas in the region.

Some Alaska communities are experiencing unemployment rates of over 80%. This project addresses the work skill deficiencies in a changing economy. While larger communities have job-training programs, vocational training remains inaccessible for rural residents. The project will add three mobile classrooms with wireless internet capability and laptop computer workstations, three mobile construction training labs to the CCTHITA Vocational Training Resource Center. The goal is to train 1500 rural Alaskan during the next 24 months.

Page 3

Senator Begich Requests

LHE

Alaska's People Career Center

Cook Inlet Tribal Council

Anchorage, AK

\$1,500,000

CITC collaborates with the Alaska Department of Labor, unions and others on workforce development.

Over the past 5 years CITC served 17,345 individuals with career counseling and job placement services, emergency financial assistance, case management, crisis intervention, and training information in order to move participants into employment and self-sufficiency. Of the 17,345, CITC assisted 6,241 unemployed participants to enter unsubsidized employment. Alaska Native participants in CITC's programs originate from every region of Alaska.

CITC actively collaborates with the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development (DOLWD), the US Department of Labor, union leaders, Native and non-Native for-profit employers, and CITC-owned microenterprises – all of which build ladders of opportunity for our participants. Alaska's People Career Center (APCC) is a workforce development program run by Cook Inlet Tribal Council (CITC) for Alaska Native participants, specializing in job placement in sustainable high growth industry careers. Successful economic development is dependent upon developing and employing a trained workforce. APCC has facilitated highly successful partnerships among unions, private businesses, and social agencies to provide career opportunities to Alaska Natives - a chronically underutilized workforce, with disproportionate rates of unemployment. CITC seeks funding to expand this proven employment approach to include important emerging private sector projects involving weatherization (e.g. assessments and repairs), alternative energy (e.g. wind generation), green technology (e.g. hybrid transportation maintenance), resource management (e.g. water quality analysis), and information technology (e.g. network engineers). With its successful experience, APCC is in a position to assist in supplying the essential training and labor needed to ensure success for these and other growing industries.

Operations for the Career and Technical Center

Northwestern Alaska Career and Technical Center

Nome, AK

\$500,000

For operational support of a regional vocational learning center.

Northwestern Alaska Career and Technical Center (NACTEC) is currently seeking funding of \$500,000 per year for three years for operational support of a regional vocational learning center in Nome, Alaska. The center is designed to provide high school students with the necessary resources and skills to prepare them for skilled employment opportunities and the pursuit of postsecondary education. At NACTEC, students receive instruction in four focus areas: career and technical skills, career exploration, life skills, and work readiness skills.

Nome Public Schools (NPS) and Bering Strait School District (BSSD) students in grades nine through twelve have the opportunity to attend NACTEC for intensive sessions of two to four weeks to study Art, Aviation, Business Communications, Building Trades, Career Exploration, Careers in the Legal System, Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA), Driver's Education, Early Childhood Development, Entrepreneurship (Start Your Own Business), Field Biology (Salmon Lake camp), Financial Leadership (Money Management), Fishing Industry, Food Service, Health Career Exploration, Machine Shop, Marketing, Metal Fabrication, Small Engine Repair, Video Technology, or Welding.

Students explore a variety of careers through participation in job shadows at sites throughout Nome and meetings with Nome professionals. Throughout this process, students are assisted in postsecondary education and career planning.

The goal at NACTEC is to assist students in developing career skills, work readiness skills, and the independent living skills to be successful in the world beyond high school. Through this, we hope to enable rural students to transition from village settings to the more complex social and economic environments found in larger communities. By increasing the likelihood of successful post-high school transitions, NACTEC is working to create a well-trained local workforce prepared to meet the demands of tomorrow's jobs in northwestern Alaska.

Page 5

Senator Begich Requests

LHE

Workforce Development

Southwest Alaska Vocational Education Center

King Salmon, AK

\$600,000

Expand operations as a comprehensive regional workforce training center.

This is a new project. However, it is based on the foundation work that was completed through their last Two Year Federal Earmark Grant US Department of Labor (Employment and Training Administration under authority of Workforce Investment Act April 1, 2006 – September 30, 2008 - Earmark PY05 CFDA 17.261, EA 15414-06-60, Employment and Training Project). This grant was highly successful as SAVEC surpassed “all” of its stated goals and objectives. For example, SAVEC surpassed its enrollment goal by 653%, served 99.8 % of the target audience in Bristol Bay when the goal was 90%, demonstrated a 99.08% completion rate when the goal was 90%, and exceeded our placement goal from the target 58 persons to 511 people actually placed.

Within this grant, SAVEC was able to build an infrastructure to offer Distance Delivery Instruction by creating a full video conferencing lab, two distance delivery computer labs for individual courses, and full group distance delivery labs complete with Smart Board technology. They spent two years building the distance delivery infrastructure and we would like to enter into Phase II (program delivery) of which is the basis for this new project grant for entry level skills for “all” employment.

Page 6

Senator Begich Requests

LHE

ECHO—Education through Cultural and Historical Organizations

Alaska Native Heritage Center

Anchorage, AK

\$1,459,000

ECHO is a major educational and cultural enrichment initiative, serving hundreds of thousands of children, teachers, and adult learners.

Established by Congress as part of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, Education through Cultural and Historical Organizations (ECHO) is a major educational and cultural enrichment initiative, serving hundreds of thousands of children, teachers, and adult continuing learners in AK, HA, MA and MS. Alaska has been an essential partner among the communities served by ECHO programs because it is culturally and economically diverse. This shared heritage serves as the basis of initiating new contacts and conversations, facilitated by today's digital communication tools. While varying in their individual missions, the partners all embrace certain key goals: to enhance appreciation of regional heritage, to facilitate dialogue and understanding between communities and individuals, and to provide life-enhancing educational opportunities beyond those provided by traditional classrooms.

The goal of the ECHO partnerships program is to increase understanding of cultural diversity and multicultural communication. The results of these efforts range from the cultivation of traditional artists and their invaluable contributions to music, film, theater, and visual arts, to work skills development. The program offers internships to Alaska Native teens and adults with two weeks of cultural and historical education followed by three months of on-the-job training. Interns are exposed to museum studies, collections management, retail sales, the economics of tourism, marketing, public relations, and other aspects of cultural tourism, and become specialists in their own cultural heritage.

**EEA-Equities Education Act
Alaska Native Heritage Center
Anchorage, AK
\$1,000,000**

ANHC provides age-appropriate, culturally relevant programs for thousands of students of all ages; teaching cultural and traditional history as well as promoting understanding and preserving cultural values.

Established by Congress as part of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, EEA enables ANHC to provide age-appropriate, culturally relevant programs for thousands of students of all ages; teaching cultural and traditional history as well as promoting understanding and preserving irreplaceable cultural values. Programs include School Visits and Outreach to Schools, a for-credit High School program, Winter Weekend ‘Celebrating Culture’ Saturdays, a Family Cultural Education Program, Master Artist Mentoring Program, Cultural Awareness Workshops, a vibrant exhibition program, and Summer Cultural Host/Docent Training and Internships focusing on youth development and modern work skills. These programs, whose continuation is assured with Alaska Native Education Program funding, have demonstrated effectiveness in improving the academic success of Native students while perpetuating Alaska Native knowledge and traditions.

Successful educational programs for Alaska Native children and youth must include innovative partnerships between public and private entities as well as a dedication to family involvement. The Alaska Native Heritage Center has demonstrated the positive results of combining high academic standards with traditional values and deep connection with culture to produce positive youth development. Alaska Native youth participating in our programs are less likely to discontinue public school and are graduating at a higher rate than their Alaska Native peers not enrolled in programs.

Alaska Native youth face many challenges relating to identity, academia, self empowerment, employability and overall development in urban settings. Providing credit courses for students, outreaching the community through the public school system, and youth leadership programs are vital components that serve to teach students, recruit potential or ambivalent students, interest students anew, and sustain a meaningful and supportive connection with Alaska Native youth at risk.

Page 8
Senator Begich Requests
LHE

Climate Change Education
Alaska Sealife Center
Seward, AK
\$500, 000

Establish a marine climate change education program.

This project will establish a marine climate change education program that enables coastal communities in Alaska to better understand the current and future impacts of climate change and begin to develop adaptation responses in key sectors such as subsistence and commercial fisheries, tourism development, offshore oil and gas production, coastal urban development, transportation and energy infrastructure. The program will initially target 12 coastal communities in western, south central and south eastern Alaska who depend on healthy marine ecosystems to meet their economic, social and cultural needs. The program will enable these communities to gain and share knowledge via distance learning technology and by hands-on training at the village level.

Page 9

Senator Begich Requests

LHE

Skills Alaska

Avant-Garde Learning Foundation

Anchorage, AK—Serving students statewide

\$1,942,000

Provides Assessment Center, Skills tutor, and Skatekids Online to assist schools to ensure better alignment to standards. Provides educators with web-based technology to make informed decisions.

Skills Alaska administers an education initiative that provides policy makers, administrators, teachers, students and parents in schools and school districts in Alaska with the tools they need, as well as the constant guidance and expertise, to put the essential elements of standards and accountability in place and realize the goals of the ground breaking education law, the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001. In the classroom, Skills Alaska delivers on the promises of NCLB, putting its policies to work where it matters most---right in the classroom. Through web based technology, educators obtain the resources to align existing materials and curricula with state academic standards. Skills Alaska ensures that standards drive classroom instruction and student achievement.

Skills Alaska will include the Assessment Center, Skills Tutor and SkatekidsOnline in the classroom. Skills Alaska works with existing school curricula to ensure better alignment to standards. At the same time it also provides educators with the latest web-based technology to instantly analyze classroom data and make informed decisions about where instruction may need to be tailored or refined to improve student achievement. The inclusion of Skate kids Online· under the Skills Alaska umbrella affords a rich interactive learning environment for students to master basic reading skills for elementary students.

Integrated Alaska Native Education Programs

Cook Inlet Tribal Council

Anchorage, AK

\$2,500,000

Provide a nationally-recognized program to improve academic performance and graduation rates through a pedagogy based in cultural values and positive youth development.

Cook Inlet Tribal Council, Inc. (CITC) has a 25-year history of providing essential educational services to at-risk Alaska Native and American Indian students in Anchorage schools. CITC's nationally-recognized programs improve academic performance and graduation rates through a pedagogy based in cultural values and positive youth development. CITC currently serves over 1,000 K-12 Native students and their families across the Anchorage School District, through a successful partnership with the public school administration. CITC seeks funding to expand the number of students served within the Anchorage schools, specifically: the Chinook program (grades K-6) which focuses on increasing early childhood literacy and math skills for students who are below proficiency in these areas through individualized instruction, utilizing school district curricula as well as culturally enriched curricula; and Partners for Success program (grades 7-12) which focuses on increasing the overall academic achievement and improving the graduation rate of Native students. This expansion funding will allow increased positive impact on Alaska Native graduation rates and proficiency scores and further refine a model that can be propagated nationally for at risk school children.

Quality education for Alaska Native people is among the most critical trust responsibilities of the federal government. By improving Native education, we can build a successful and self-determined future for Alaska Native people and communities. Congress has set forth legislation under No Child Left Behind, specifically Title VII, Part C: the "Alaska Native Educational Equity, Support, and Assistance Act," also known as the Alaska Native Education Program (ANEP), to provide direction and funding for Alaska Native Education. The grants funded through ANEP have demonstrated significant academic progress for Alaska Native students, and provided extensive experience to communities and educators regarding successful educational approaches for Alaska Native students. CITC has seen first-hand the difference that ANEP programs, such as our Partners for Success program, have made in the lives of our Native youth.

Page 11

Senator Begich Requests

LHE

Classroom Technology

Literacy Council of Alaska

Fairbanks, AK

\$4950

Add technology to the ESL classrooms to serve over 148 students.

Literacy Council of Alaska has 148 ESL students in their Adult Literacy Program receiving classroom instruction or one on one tutoring. Over 7,000 hours of instruction are being offered this year in the classroom or by tutors. 12 families participate weekly in family literacy program with 1,400 hours of educational services offered this year.

The council will purchase an “Interactive Whiteboard” also known as a smart board. This would aid in ESL instruction, English language comprehension, and classroom communication. They also plan to purchase 2 TVs and 2 DVD players which are especially important in the advanced English and Culture Classes as well as Citizenship classes.

Alaska Native Students in Engineering (ANSEP)

University of Alaska

Anchorage, AK—Serving students statewide

\$1,000,000

Program leads high school freshmen through undergraduate school and graduate school in engineering programs.

The Alaska Native Students in Engineering Program (ANSEP) is a collaborative effort between the National Science Foundation, the US Department of Education, the Rasmuson Foundation, and many private companies. More than 50 organizations support this program.

Beginning when they are high school freshmen, structured programs lead students each step of the way through high school into undergraduate years on to graduate school and in to professional life. The goal is to empower students around engineering and science. More than 200 Alaskan high school students in 36 schools and 120 university students at the University of Alaska are currently actively studying to be engineers. Prior to ANSEP, many of the high schools in Alaska did not offer the coursework necessary for students to come to the University prepared to be successful in engineering and science BS degree programs.

Reclaiming Alaska's Dena'ina Athabascan Language and Culture

Koahnic Broadcast Corporation

Anchorage, AK—Serving statewide

\$215,000

The funds will be used to produce special broadcast and web material to preserve the Dena'ina Athabascan Language and storytelling.

Koahnic Broadcast Corporation (KBC) is a non-profit Native media organization headquartered in Anchorage, Alaska, with the mission of being a leader in bringing Native voices to Alaska and the nation. KBC requests these funds for a Reclaiming Alaska's Dena'ina Athabascan Language and Culture initiative to produce special broadcast and web material celebrating and preserving the Dena'ina Athabascan language and storytelling traditions.

The Dena'ina people are the original inhabitants of the southcentral Alaska region. The Dena'ina language is one of the endangered indigenous languages of North America and today is spoken by fewer than one hundred people.

KBC operates KNBA-FM in Anchorage, the nation's only urban Native public radio station. KBC proposes an initiative to produce a series of radio and web features celebrating and preserving the Dena'ina Athabascan language and storytelling traditions, including: broadcasts of "The Dena'ina Word of the Week"; special reports and features on language loss and reclamation; interviews with Elders and new language learners; reports on the family of Athabascan languages including Navajo and the eleven Alaskan Athabascan language groups; storytelling and oral history features and features about Dena'ina Alaskan place names.

In addition to radio broadcasts and series, KBC understands the need for a web presence, both for the transmission of podcasts and as a site for images related to the programs, expanded information on the topics covered, and links to other resources and organizations. Cook Inlet Tribal Council, The Kenaitze Indian Tribe and The Alaska Native Language Center have already done some website work that KBC can link to and collaborate with for expanded educational uses.

Page 13
Senator Begich Requests
LHE

Alaska 2-1-1
United Way Anchorage
Anchorage, AK
\$496,000

The 2-1-1 system supports all health and social service providers and is adaptive and flexible. It provides referral service 24/7 for those seeking resources for aid.

Now that Alaska 2-1-1 is fully operational for its core function of Information and Referral, there are three critical systems enhancements outlined in this funding request. 1.) Technical Partnerships and Enhanced Operations resulting in access to services by all Alaskans 2.) Caller data partnerships: Expand strategic alliances to benefit from caller data mining for social service planning 3.) Enhanced Crisis Readiness and Response

Every hour of every day someone in Alaska needs essential services – from finding food and shelter to securing adequate care for a child or aging parent. Faced with an array of social service agencies and multiple directories, often people do not know where to turn. In many cases, people end up going without these necessary services because they do not know where or how to start. Alaska 2-1-1 helps people find help.

Callers can access:

- Basic human needs resource (food, clothing, shelter, temporary financial assistance, transportation, disaster)
- Physical and mental health resources (crisis intervention, prenatal care, support groups, counseling, drug and alcohol intervention, rehabilitation, children's health insurance programs)
- Financial stability (employment referral services, EITC, WIC, credit counseling, food stamps, rent and utility assistance, unemployment benefits, job training, education programs)
- Support for older Americans and persons with disabilities (home health care, adult day care, congregate meals, Meals on Wheels, respite care, transportation, homemaker services)
- Support for children, youth and families (childcare, after-school programs, family resource centers, summer camps, recreation programs, mentoring, tutoring, literacy programs, protective services)
- Support for community crisis or disaster recovery (2-1-1 systems in other states have proven valuable in disaster relief efforts. The ability to respond and assist will be developed as funding allows.)

Nugen's Ranch Replacement Facility
Alaska Addiction Rehabilitation Services, Inc.
Wasilla, AK—Serving statewide
\$300,000

Construction of a new residential substance abuse treatment facility-25 bed adult facility in the Mat-Su Valley.

Funding is requested for the construction of a new residential substance abuse treatment facility to replace the existing facility. There is an urgency to this request since the existing facility, which is located on the Palmer-Wasilla Highway, will be impacted by the pending acquisition of road right of way to upgrade the intersection at Seward Meridian road. This right of way is scheduled to be acquired by November 2009.

This new facility will be a 25 bed adult facility that will serve 17 men and 8 women annually. Anticipated outcomes of the expansion include a reduction in alcohol and drug abuse, achievement of a stable living environment, improvement in health, mental health and family relationships. A number of clients are homeless. Due to their housing instability and the frequent prevalence of co-occurring disorders, they are unable to participate successfully in outpatient programs while struggling to meet daily needs while on the streets. The proposed expansion project will improve treatment outcomes, increase long term housing stability, and improve general health and self-care of the participants. This project is in line with the SAMHSA objectives reauthorized by the Children's Health Act of 2000, Public Law 106-310.

With the proposed new facility, Nugen's Ranch can be an integral part of the solution to the growing alcohol and substance abuse problem in the Mat-Su Valley and the rest of Alaska. Nugen's Ranch aims to increase the availability and capacity of their long-term residential treatment program by 40% to provide effective coordinated and integrated treatment services to persons with co-occurring alcohol/substance abuse and mental health disorders from all regions of Alaska.

Electronic Health Record Demonstration Project

Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium

Anchorage, AK—Serving Alaska Native statewide

\$5,000,000

Development of an electronic health record system for the Alaska Native Medical Center to facilitate the development of a health information exchange.

The Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium requests funding for the development of an Electronic Health Record for the Alaska Native Medical Center (ANMC) to facilitate the development of a Health Information Exchange. This system will allow ANMC to develop a system to coordinate electronic records for health needs of patients and providers using secure data transfer. An electronic health record and health information exchange can significantly improve the health status of Alaskans while at the same time reducing costs, improving safety. Currently, a patient who is referred care by a Regional Tribal Organization to ANMC, then back home again, often has duplicate tests done simply because there is no means to electronically transfer data about the patient. The patient can receive seamless care from the time he/she leaves the village through all of the referrals with little duplication of service and a seamless transition home. This results in much better care for the patient at reduced cost.

This project will demonstrate the feasibility of integrating IHS affiliated facilities with each other, with IHS core functions, with the Department of Veterans Affairs, and with the general public.

Oral Health Disparities Project

Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium

Anchorage, AK—Serving Alaska Natives statewide

\$2,500,000

Train Dental Health Aides to work in Rural Alaska. The program has trained 4 students so far and have a goal of training 50.

Although training for primary Dental Health Aides (DHA) is provided in Alaska, training for the first Dental Health Aide Therapists (DHAT) has been provided through the New Zealand's Otago University School of Dentistry because there was no mid-level dental practitioner training in the United States. In September, 2006, the ANTHC began to train DHATs in Alaska, the first such program in the United States. The first 4 students graduated in December 2008 in Anchorage, Alaska after completing a 2 year training program. Over the next five years, ANTHC would like to have 50 DHATs trained and providing dental services in Alaska.

The training is conducted in two phases. The first year of training is in Anchorage where trainees receive both didactic and clinical training from the University of Washington with the assistance of ANTHC training site employees. The curriculum will be based upon the very successful New Zealand and Canadian dental therapy training programs.

The second year of training, conducted in Bethel, is a clinical clerkship. At the end of the second year of training, each trainee will return to their sponsoring tribal health organization to complete an additional clinical preceptorship under the direct supervision of a dentist. Once the preceptorship is completed, the DHAT can apply for certification from the federal Community Health Aide Certification Board. Re-evaluation of skills and continuing education are required every two years for recertification.

Upon completion of the training, the DHATs will be able to provide dental services including prevention education, diagnosis of dental decay using x-rays, develop plans for the treatment of decay, provide local anesthetics and restore and extract teeth under the general supervision of a dentist.

The ANTHC is committed to address the oral health disparities faced by Alaska Natives by expanding the opportunities for Alaska Natives to receive safe and effective oral health care. With the valuable assistance of our partners, we are able to continue this important work. We anticipate that the positive relationships between Alaska Native children with providers from their own communities will encourage better oral health practices.

Staffing and Operational Enhancement

Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium

Anchorage, AK—Serving Alaska Natives statewide

\$1,000,000

Provide additional staffing and operational funds to meet increased demands for patient care due to population migration from the Villages to Urban Alaska.

The Alaska Native Medical Center (ANMC), jointly owned and operated by ANTHC and Southcentral Foundation, is the statewide tertiary care center for Indian Health Service beneficiaries in Alaska. Annually, they provide over: 370,000 clinic visits; 5,500 inpatient admissions; 1,300 infant deliveries; and 11,000 surgical procedures. The ANMC also has the distinction of being Alaska's only Level II trauma center, a title that certifies its ability to provide quality care to people with traumatic injuries 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

ANTHC needs additional staffing and operational funds to meet increase demands for patient care due to population migration patterns and other factors. In the first two months of FY 09, we had to divert 371 patients to other hospitals because we did not have sufficient staffing to meet the health care needs of our patients. The subset of these patients who did not have alternative resources cost ANMC \$520,000. The annualized cost would be over \$3M.

Department of Health and Human Services Public Health Facility

Municipality of Anchorage

Anchorage, AK

\$2,500,000

Design, engineering and related costs to develop a replacement facility for the Municipality of Anchorage's Department of Health and Human Services.

One year of funding to support the design, engineering and related costs to develop a replacement facility for the Municipality of Anchorage's Department of Health and Human Services. The MOA seeks additional capital funding from the State of Alaska and other revenue sources to match costs to build a complete replacement facility.

The existing DHHS facility, was first built in 1960 as a three-story hospital expanded to five floors, and is currently used to house the majority of the Municipality of Anchorage's Health and Human Services Department. It continues to serve the residents of Anchorage as a major health care clinic.

In order to continue to provide the Anchorage community with essential services that address and guard against public health and safety issues, it is necessary to develop a new facility.

Page 18
Senator Begich Requests
LHE

Project Access
Anchorage Project Access
Anchorage, AK
\$500,000

A local replication of a national model to improve health outcomes and reduce emergency room charity care. Anchorage Project Access provides needed health care to those most in financial need.

Anchorage Project Access (APA) is a local replication of a national model that has proven to improve health outcomes and reduce emergency room charity care cost in many communities. For three years, APA has provided needed health services to those most in financial need. Practitioners representing all medical specialties donate services on a rotating pro bono basis. No doctor or practitioner has received or ever will receive any payment for clinical, administrative or consultative services from APA. APA coordinates the care donated by medical specialists with services and products donated by other health care providers including nurse practitioners, podiatrists, physical therapists, surgery/radiology/sleep centers, medical hardware providers and both Anchorage hospitals. Carrs/Safeway Pharmacies and Anchorage Neighborhood Health Center Pharmacy manage and distribute subsidized pharmaceuticals to eligible Project Access patients. Care coordinators get the right patient to the right doctor at the right time, avoiding unnecessary or repetitive care and minimizing emergency room use.

- Over 1,012 clients have received medical care in the first three years of operation.
- These patients account for over 2,646 initial evaluations made through the APA office (does not include multiple follow-up appointments made directly by providers offices)
- The above appointments include over 288 surgeries.

Page 19

Senator Begich Requests

LHE

Health Clinic Replacement

City of Atka

Atka, AK

\$2,143,074

Replace deteriorating clinic that does not meet code and is too small for current use.

This is two sectioned building project consisting of first replacing the failing health clinic and then adding on a community office/meeting component. The current building is a deteriorating, 30-plus-years old, locally built, 940 s.f. clinic that does not meet code, is too small for current use/population, and is in immediate need of replacement. The Denali Commission has proposed an approved 1,500 s.f. prototype small community clinic model. The community facility is slightly smaller and is intended to contain a meeting area/public use space, a small area that can be used as a snack bar, and several offices. Atka does not have such a facility at this time.

Outpatient Expansion

Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation

Dillingham, AK

\$2,000,000

Create outpatient clinics to handle increased traffic. Focus on preventative medicine and illnesses with a high rate of mortality for Alaska Natives.

Since Kanakanak Hospital inception, patient treatment has shifted predominately from Inpatient to Outpatient care. The current facilities have no allocated space for specialty clinics. This year the specialty clinic is expecting to conduct 30 specialty clinics in the Outpatient Department with no addition space available for to deal with the patient load. The current leading causes of death could be significantly lowered with the expansion of the outpatient services both in preventative medicine as well as the treatment of illnesses that have a high rate of mortality amongst Alaska natives.

The Outpatient Expansion will consist of three specialty clinics and two Outpatient surgical suites. The three specialty clinics will house an Oncology/Hematology, Cardiology clinic, and Pediatric Clinic and other specialty clinics that are routinely conducted on a monthly basis. Procedures such as, colonoscopies, echocardiogram, and Orthopedic and Podiatry surgeries will be conducted in the outpatient surgical suites.

Bristol Bay currently leads the state in per capita deaths caused by malignant neoplasms. Early diagnosis and treatment is the best way to significantly impact the high rate of mortality caused by malignant neoplasms. Bristol Bay ranks second in the state in per capita deaths due to cardiac disease. Having Outpatient Services expanded to accommodate specialty clinics in the areas of Oncology, Orthopedics, Gastrointestinal and Cardiology will impact the current statistic and save the lives of many Alaska Natives who currently perish without access to these medical specialties in the Bristol Bay Region.

The secondary purpose of our Outpatient expansion is to develop Ambulatory Surgical services to address the expensive travel to Anchorage, delayed access to medical treatment in larger markets [i.e. Anchorage]. Improved technology has also increased the frequency of outpatient surgery procedures, with shorter medical procedure duration and fewer complications it make sense to let patients go home sooner. About 65% of all surgical procedures are done on an outpatient basis thus more patients are undergoing treatment without admission to the hospital.

Page 21

Senator Begich Requests

LHE

Prenatal Housing and Village Outpatient Boarder Quarters

Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation

Dillingham, AK

\$1,000,000

A new building would improve and expand service to patients and expectant mothers. Currently, the facility can only accommodate 2 mothers.

A new building would improve and expand this service to patients and expectant mothers. Currently, there is only room in Boarder Quarters for 6 ambulatory patients. Maternal Housing can accommodate only 2 expectant mothers. If more than one mother is present, then family members cannot be accommodated. Increasing capacity would allow accommodations for family members, increased privacy, and improve the delivery of preventative medicine such as vaccinations, screenings, and education.

Boarder Quarters is isolated from the rest of the hospital and security is always a concern. Maternal Housing is undersized, sharing its building with offices, and is not protected by fire sprinklers. It is the desire of the BBAHC to provide comfortable, safe, and secure quarters for these patients. The most cost effective method to improve these services is by taking advantage of the efficiencies afforded by new construction.

Dena'ina Health and Wellness Clinic

Kenaitze Indian Tribe

Kenai, AK

\$1,000,000

Build a new facility in Kenai for the Dena'ina Health Clinic.

Kenaitze Indian Tribe plans to build a new expanded facility in Kenai, Alaska, for the Dena'ina Health Clinic, Dena'ina Dental Clinic, and Nakenu Family Center, resulting in service integration between primary medical care, dental care, mental health and substance abuse programs. Constructing a new facility to centralize Tribal services on Tribal land is keeping with the Tribe's mission "to foster the governmental, social, cultural, and economic well-being of its members and their families.

The number of Alaska Natives/American Indians in the Kenai Peninsula Borough has increased from 2,935 in 1990 to 5,065. During the same 10-year period the total population of the Borough increased by 23%, while the percentage of Natives increased by 42%, with a large influx to our area from remote villages. A very tangible result of the population influx has been a dramatic increase in the number of clients using all Tribal services, which in most cases doubled or even tripled.

Consolidating the medical, dental and behavioral health programs into one larger facility is an important step forward in the Tribe's long-term strategic plans to better meet the growing demands of the Native community. The creation of one centralized location will provide continuity of care; enhance prevention and early intervention; greater accessibility to clinics and programs by clients and less stigma for mental health customers; streamline transportation; greater communication and integration of services; and, huge savings in cost (average \$17,000 per month for rent) which would go directly back into the Tribe's programs and services.

General Hospital Surgery and Clinical Services

City of Ketchikan

Ketchikan, AK

\$3,000,000

Expand and renovate the Ketchikan General Hospital's surgical and procedural Services, clinical areas and associated support services.

The City of Ketchikan is seeking financial assistance to enable expansion and renovation of Ketchikan General Hospital's surgical and procedural services, clinical areas and associated support services. Ketchikan General Hospital (KGH) is a community hospital and its building and grounds are owned by the City of Ketchikan. Revenues from local municipal health and hospital sales tax are not adequate to fund the capital needs required to bring the forty-six year old facility up to current regulatory and functional standards. In addition, the increasing demand for life-saving and advanced technology, as well as the continued rise in uncompensated care, has further reduced available operational revenues for covering critical high cost capital improvements.

KGH provides the highest level of surgical, inpatient and clinical services in southern Southeast Alaska, caring for residents and visitors throughout Ketchikan Gateway Borough, Metlakatla, Prince of Wales Island, Hyder, Wrangell and Petersburg. Caring for a service area population of 30,000, KGH currently has an active medical staff of 25 physicians including family practice, internal medicine, general surgery, orthopedics, and obstetrics and gynecology. Additionally, visiting ophthalmologists, a plastic surgeon, urologists and ENT physicians use the hospital's surgery facilities. The ability to attract and accommodate visiting specialists is critical to Ketchikan's ability to provide a level of health care locally in southern Southeast Alaska.

Page 24

Senator Begich Requests

LHE

Elder Care Addition

Maniilaq Association

Kotzebue, AK

\$2,000,000

Construct an 18 bed long-term care wing co-located with the Maniilaq Health Center.

This project will provide care to elders in a region that is geographically isolated from the rest of Alaska. Currently there are no other options for elders and their families to receive these services within the region. This project would serve as a demonstration of co-location of an elders care wing onto an IHS facility. It will greatly expand care to Alaska Natives and all residents of Northwest Alaska without any increase in the IHS budget.

Construction of an 18 bed long term nursing care wing co-located with the Maniilaq Health Center. The project is a 15,000 square foot addition to the Maniilaq Health Center. It will be operated under an Eden Alternative model of care. A feasibility study has shown that it will be financially feasible with a break even occupancy level of 75%. Medicaid will be the primary source of revenue for the projected \$1.9M annual operations budget.

Design of the project was completed in November 2008 and a contractor was selected through an RFP process in December 2008. Phase I of construction will begin in summer 2009 utilizing \$7M in funding from the State of Alaska. Maniilaq is seeking Phase II funding of \$10.7M to complete the project.

Northwest Alaska Cancer Treatment Center

Maniilaq Association

Kotzebue, AK

\$1,600,000

Establish a cancer treatment center. Establish and maintain a database of at-risk and known cancer patients and complete screenings.

Funding is requested to establish a cancer treatment center. The first step in this major project is keeping and maintaining a database of at-risk and known cancer patients, and completing screenings on these patients. The next step would be to create an aftercare and hospice program for the known cancer patients. Funding will create a cancer center with proper equipment, including a CT scan, in order to detect cancer at the earliest possible stage.

Cancer rates among the Alaska Native people have skyrocketed, both statewide and in Northwest Alaska. Cancer has emerged as a serious threat to the survival of indigenous peoples. Because of Maniilaq's program, people in Northwest Alaska will be able to receive treatment close to their homes instead of having to travel thousands of miles for care. This will advance treatment and prevention efforts, promoting the health of individuals and communities in Northwest Alaska.

Medical Clinic Renovation

City of Petersburg

Petersburg, AK

\$500,000

Renovate and expand the medical clinic to create 4 more exam rooms, a physician's office and an additional room set up for telemedicine and training.

This request involves the renovation and expansion of the Petersburg medical clinic. This project would create 4 more exam rooms, a physician's office and an additional room set up for telemedicine and training. The design of the project has been completed and is ready for construction.

This project meets the Federal goal of improved health care services and access in rural areas. The primary care clinic at Petersburg serves a rural population of 3,500 people on Mitkof Island in Alaska's Inside Passage. This isolated island community is served only by air and water transportation. The primary care clinic was designed and built in 1995 to accommodate three providers. Since then the patient demand has increased by 38% and a fourth provider was added to accommodate the additional load. There are serious problems of capacity with the clinic today that impinge upon patient privacy, with a cramped business office, tiny waiting room, and inadequate nurses' station.

Page 26

Senator Begich Requests

LHE

Family Medicine Residency

Providence Health & Services Alaska

Anchorage, AK

\$1,000,000

The program will address the critical physician recruitment and retention problem in Alaska.

The Alaska Family Medicine Residency was developed in 1997 to address the physician shortage by training 8 physicians per year to practice across the state. The Residency has grown and now has 12 physicians per year. To be a truly statewide program and to optimally prepare the residents to practice in rural Alaska, the residents have many rural rotations. In the second year, residents have a 6 week required rotation in either Bethel or Dillingham. In the third year, residents spend an additional 8 weeks in rural locations of their choice; as way to explore future practices. The residents have intensive trans-cultural training. The rural elements of the Alaska Family Medicine Residency make it one of the most successful programs in the country for placing physicians in rural and underserved practice sites.

The funding requested will go to pay for faculty, staff and other necessary infrastructure to keep this program viable.

Hydaburg Health Center

Southeast Alaska Regional Health Consortium

Sitka, AK

\$1,000,000

Repair, renovate and expand the Hydaburg health Center.

Exterior surfaces and structures of this building will be repaired or replaced, code deficiencies will be corrected, the floor plan will be modified to provide efficient patient flow, and about 500 square feet of additional space will be added to the existing 3,200 square foot facility. Design is currently funded by the Denali Commission and scheduled for completion March 31, 2009, at which time the project will be construction ready.

The Hydaburg Health Center, which was built in 1980, is used by the entire community of Hydaburg for both emergency care and routine primary care. There are no other providers in the community. The need for renovation and repair of the existing clinic fits into two categories: 1) Need to address code and condition issues related to health and safety and 2) Need to update the clinic layout to improve patient flow and efficiency.

EMS Ambulance Gurney Replacement Project

Tok Community Clinic

Tok, AK

\$71,400

Replace 20-year old outdated gurneys.

The new ambulance gurneys would fit into our existing ambulances with a minimal modification to the floor mounts. The gurneys are \$5,700 each and the clinic will replace all twelve gurney and purchase two of the wide deck extension kits at \$1,500 each. Additional money needed, not covered by the \$71,400 grant, would be covered by local matching funds.

Page 28

Senator Begich Requests

LHE

CT Scanner

Wrangell Medical Center

Wrangell, AK

\$366,677

Purchase a remanufactured CT scanner.

Wrangell Medical Center is requesting appropriation for the purchase of a remanufactured GE Lightspeed 16 Slice CT Scanner with Lightspeed Gantry, table, tube, and a Liebel CT 9000 Injector (or similar model), as well as funding to remodel a 490-square foot space to accommodate this equipment.

In the past 12 months, it is estimated the absence of a CT Scanner has resulted in at least \$308,000 in “wasted” medevacs for the facility (11 medevacs at \$28,000 each). Periodically Medevac patients are sent out of the community, only to have them return after CT Scan results at the referral site reveals the transfer was not needed.

Bethel Hospital Staffing Package

Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation

Bethel, AK

\$3,660,000

Pay for staff at the Bethel Hospital. For 66 new positions.

Although Congress funded construction of the hospital and appropriated the staffing package to the HIS, the staffing package was never funded to the Yukon Kuskokwim Delta Regional Hospital (YKHC). Since YKHC took over the operation of the hospital in 1991, YKHC has been underfunded \$3.66 million for staffing every year for a total of \$58.6 million.

Pathways to Sobriety

Municipality of Anchorage

Anchorage, AK

\$503,234

Comprehensive care for homeless and chronic alcoholics including veterans with dual diagnosis. Includes detoxification and treatment; comprehensive case management services, and housing assistance.

The Municipality is proposing a continuation of a comprehensive system of care for homeless and chronic alcoholics (including veterans and those with a dual diagnosis) to include detoxification and treatment; comprehensive case management services, and housing assistance (temporary, transitional and permanent). Earlier iterations of this project were funded, respectively, by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in 2002, the U.S. Department of Justice in 2004, and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in 2008.

This project includes strategies for voluntary engagement and referral to and from Therapeutic Court for persons who are dually diagnosed, and/or who are experiencing alcohol and/or drug abuse. To implement these strategies, case managers in the project will: (1) identify and assess individual need, mental health and substance use issues; (2) provide outreach and engagement to meet clients' immediate needs; and, (3) integrate and link individuals to substance and mental health treatment, social and income support, housing, legal and medical assistance and rehabilitation/employment.

Job Training

Denali Commission

Statewide

\$7,000,000

Provide Job Training in Conjunction with Projects

The Denali Commission has placed job training at the center of its comprehensive plan for economic growth in Alaska. In just a few short years, the Commission has made significant strides in assisting rural communities with their workforce development needs. As the Commission funds projects for new clinics, roads, and tank farms, it also builds sustainability into those projects by providing training for local residents to maintain and operate the new facilities. Training projects include: Allied Health Professions, Construction Trades, Facility Operations and Maintenance, Administration of Public Infrastructure, Youth Initiatives

Health Care Facilities
Denali Commission
Statewide
\$39,000,000

Planning and Construction of Health Care Facilities

Congress amended the Denali Commission Act in 1999 to provide for planning, designing, constructing and equipping health facilities. The Health Facilities program is a collaborative one, with the partnership of numerous organizations. The Commission has methodically invested in regional networks of primary care clinics across Alaska, and these clinics have remained a priority. In response to Congressional direction in 2003, funding for additional program areas addressing other health and social service related facility needs was initiated. The Health Facilities Program has adopted innovative additions to clinic design, including behavioral health and dental care. The program has expanded to include annual initiatives like domestic violence facilities, elder housing, primary care in hospitals, emergency medical services equipment and hospital designs. Projects Funded: Primary Care Facilities, Behavioral Health Facilities, Domestic Violence Facilities, Elder Housing/Assisted, Living Facilities, Primary Care in Hospitals.

Page 31

Senator Begich Requests

LHE

If you have any questions or need further information about any of these projects, please don't hesitate to contact me.

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has a pecuniary interest in any of the congressionally directed spending items I have requested, consistent with the requirements of paragraph 9 of Rule XLIV of the Standing Rules of the Senate. I further certify I have posted a description of the items requested on my official website, along with the accompanying justification.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Begich". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mark Begich
United States Senator