



Fairbanks Community Food Bank :: Freely Given Food, Given Freely

725 26th Ave. Fairbanks, AK 99701 • Tel: (907) 45-SHARE • Fax: (907) 451-7751 • Website: www.FairbanksFoodBank.org
Samantha Kirstein, Community Development Director • E-mail: Sam@FairbanksFoodBank.org

March 11, 2019

Representative Jennifer Johnston
Alaska House of Representatives
Delivered via Erin.Shine@akleg.gov

Dear Representative Johnston,

This is a letter of support for the restoration of the funds for the Human Services Community Matching Grant funds which are available to Anchorage, MatSu and Fairbanks. AS 29.60.600 outlines the HSCMG program and the Legislature provided a rigorous process which these three communities must follow to receive and distribute these funds. A requirement is that the state provides 70% of the funding and the local Borough provides 30%, and the local governments must pledge to spend no more than 5% of the funds on administrative expenses. In Fairbanks, in March 2019, 14 agencies have applied for this funding. There will be a rigorous all-day process which begins on Saturday, March 16th, then a scoring will occur on Monday evening, March 18 at 5:30 pm. Depending on the funding available this year, a decision will be made on who is funded and who is not. The funding levels for last year follow:

Municipality of Anchorage	\$826,231
Fairbanks North Star Borough	\$271,458
MatSu Borough	\$289,311
Total	1,387,000

The Fairbanks Community Food Bank received \$19,656 from the State of Alaska and \$10,344 from the FNSB, for a total of \$30,000 in 2018. Though \$30,000 does not seem like a significant amount of money in the dollars you are reviewing, it is crucial to this small, local food bank who provides 350,000+ meals annually in Interior Alaska. We collect nearly 3 million pounds of local surplus food and give it free to people who need it. We do the work primarily with volunteer labor which represents the work of over 1500 different people (22,000 volunteer hours in the past 12 months). Believe me, every dollar counts in an agency who receives free food and gives it away free. One-fourth of all the assets we need to keep the doors of this food bank open are CASH and three-fourths are COMMUNITY DONATED food, services, volunteer hours, buildings, vehicles, warehouse equipment. Less than 5% of the money we need to operate this food bank is government funding. 95% comes through small local individual donations, earned income, fundraisers, foundations and corporations. The State of Alaska money is very highly leveraged and we are certainly one of the best investments this State makes each year. And that is the case with the other 13 agencies who

have applied for these funds in March 2019. The other agencies who will suffer this loss to their small budgets if this funding is not restored are the following:

Fairbanks Community Food Bank
Literacy Council of Alaska
Love in the Name of Christ of the Tanana Valley
Big Brothers Big Sisters
Alaska Legal Services
Alzheimer's Disease Resource Agency of Alaska
Alaska Center for Children and Adults
Northern Hope Center
No Limits, Inc
Resource Center for Parents and Children/Stevie's Place
North Star Council on Aging Meals on Wheels
Interior Community Health Center
Boys and Girls Club of the Tanana Valley
Interior AIDS Association

The statutory social service definition is listed in AS 47.75.060 and each of these applying agencies listed above meet the basic definition of a service that will "prevent or alleviate serious mental or physical hardship."

We request your support for the restoration of the funds for the Human Services Community Matching Grant funds. Without this funding, many services will be lost to the most vulnerable people in Alaska.

Sincerely,



Samantha Kirstein
Community Development Director





Municipality of Anchorage

Ethan Berkowitz, Mayor

March 13, 2019

The Honorable Jennifer Johnston
Alaska State House of Representatives
State Capitol Room 501
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Representative Johnston,

The loss of State of Alaska funding for Human Services Community Matching Grants (HSCMG) in Anchorage would have a profound impact on Alaskans who rely on the critical safety net services provided by the non-profits who receive these funds. These dollars are leveraged to maximum impact by the community. Here are some of the potential impacts, as described by our non-profit partners, which would result from a loss of state HSCMG support:

- Abused Women's Aid in Crisis (AWAIC), the only emergency shelter for victims of domestic violence in Anchorage, would have to lay off 2 full-time staff in the emergency shelter who provide case management, crisis intervention, information, resources and referrals and answer the 24-hour crisis line. Without these two positions AWAIC would be forced to reduce the 52-bed capacity of the shelter to provide safe services to those in need.
- Catholic Social Services programs Clare House and Brother Francis Shelter would see an enormous impact. The loss of HSCMG funds would reduce the budget at Clare House by 17%, which would require closing Clare House during the day. This closure would put children and families outside and at-risk, with no other day-shelters for families to turn to for safety.
- HSCMG makes up 7% of the Brother Francis Shelter (BFS) budget. This reduction would require a reduction in staff and operating hours for BFS to remain open. Other possible scenarios include either closing completely during the day or reducing the capacity at the shelter during the night to keep staff ratios at a safe level.
- Alzheimer's Resource of Alaska (ARA) would have to assist 345 fewer unduplicated individuals, most of whom seek out multiple program services within the year. ARA would staff 115 fewer one-on-one consultations, and anticipates delayed response times for the 2,215 Information & Referral calls they receive annually. Cutting back these services will hasten premature institutional placement for Anchorage residents living with dementia because losing these services will reduce valuable caregiver supports, leading to increased caregiver burnout and negative health outcomes.

- Bean's Café will have to reduce or eliminate current services to those experiencing homelessness. These services include a reduction of hours or days of operation, reduction or elimination of client service functions including mail handling services, over-the-counter meds, referrals to services, and workforce readiness program. Unfortunately, many of the things that would likely be eliminated are the items that help put Bean's Café clients on a path to self-sufficiency. The core mission of Bean's Café is focused on making sure no one goes hungry and those services would be prioritized.
- Other programs affected by a reduction in HSCMG funding include:
 - Covenant House Alaska's Youth Emergency Shelter which provides emergency shelter, food and case management for homeless and at-risk youth.
 - RurAL CAP Safe Harbor Muldoon, which provides transitional housing and supportive services for individuals with families and children who are experiencing homelessness or housing insecurity.
 - RurAL CAP Sitka Place, which provides permanent housing and supportive services for vulnerable individuals experiencing chronic homelessness.

Municipal funds will need to be re-prioritized as well, leading to a loss in Municipal match available for the HSCMG program. If state funding cuts are finalized, the Municipality will have to use our 30% (\$243,000) match to seek winter warming spots for the hundreds of newly homeless who will no longer be supported in shelter or housing. Many of the programs who receive HSCMG funds use them to leverage other dollars like the Homeless Assistance Program (HAP) and Special Needs Housing Grant (SNUG). The currently proposed \$4.9 million in cuts to HSCMG, HAP and SNUG will have a devastating impact on the entire community of Anchorage resulting in more homeless individuals, providers who are unable to meet the sheltering needs of the homeless and an overall decline in the quality of life for our most vulnerable individuals, children, and families.

For the reasons listed above, the Municipality of Anchorage recommends that HSCMG funding be added back into the State of Alaska budget.

Sincerely,



Ethan Berkowitz



Catholic Social Services

3710 East 20th Avenue, Anchorage, AK 99508 • (907) 222-7300 • Fax (907) 258-1091 • www.cssalaska.org

March 13, 2019

Brother Francis Shelter

Dear Senator Von Imhof and Alaska Senate Finance Committee,

Clare House

On behalf of Catholic Social Services, I am writing to express our support for the Human Service Community Matching Grant in Alaska and to urge you to consider putting it back in to our state budget.

Family Disability Services

Homeless Family Services

Pregnancy Support &
Adoption Services

The Human Service Community Matching Grant (HSCMG) is one of the only funds that supports basic safety net services in our communities.

Refugee Assistance &
Immigration Services

Clare House and Brother Francis Shelter – the two largest shelters for people experiencing homelessness in Anchorage, and programs operated by Catholic Social Services – receive HSCMG funding. These programs already run on very lean budgets. A cut of the magnitude of losing the HSCMG would require us to drastically reduce our services. Please let me help to give you a sense of what a reduction of HSCMG funds would look like at Clare House and Brother Francis Shelter:

St. Francis House

Clare House is a shelter for women with children and pregnant women. We served nearly 300 women and children in FY18. Without HSCMG funds, Clare House would lose 17% of its overall budget, and would need to close for part of, or all of, the day. Currently, families can stay in the day and night, which provides safety and consistency while they pull their lives back together. Closing in the day would mean that moms, kids, and pregnant women would be turned out on to the street all day. These families come to Clare House seeking safety and shelter. Having those families with nowhere to turn, children and babies with nowhere to go, would be wrong and would be a cost to our community. They will likely use more emergency services without safe shelter in the day, and their likelihood of finding permanent stability would decrease.

Brother Francis Shelter is the largest shelter for adults experiencing homelessness in Anchorage. Additionally, we are the lowest barrier shelter, providing service to people who literally have nowhere else they can go to for safety. Without HSCMG funds, the number of adults we provide shelter for every night of the year at Brother Francis Shelter would reduce from 240 adults to only 100 to 150 adults. This reduction would be necessary because HSCMG is the only grant funding we receive for operational services and losing it would mean we could not afford to keep all our staff. If HSCMG funds are cut, more than 100 people who had previously been sheltered would join those who are already sleeping outside in Anchorage every night, a growing number of them being seniors or people experiencing mobility challenges, which requires them to use wheelchairs and walkers. This will also be a cost on our community, increasing use of emergency services, public safety dollars and likely, the use of corrections.

These are grim pictures, but I hope they make the point. HSCMG is a vital resource in Anchorage and a great return on investment. It requires matching funding from the Municipality, which brings in \$1 for every \$3.24 spent. The people we serve, besides

*Providing Help
Creating Hope*





Catholic Social Services

3710 East 20th Avenue, Anchorage, AK 99508 • (907) 222-7300 • Fax (907) 258-1091 • www.cssalaska.org

Brother Francis Shelter

Clare House

Family Disability Services

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Refugee Assistance &
Immigration Services

St. Francis House

being the poorest and most vulnerable in Anchorage, are our families, friends, and neighbors. We pray for each of them and will continue to support them in our work at Catholic Social Services to transition adults and families to permanent stability in terms of housing, employment, and social and emotional well-being, as best we can. However, we cannot do something with nothing. This work requires financial investment in the future potential of the people of our state, and their basic health and safety in this moment.

Please return HSCMG funds to the Fiscal Year 2020 Alaska State budget to ensure that safe shelter for the poorest among us remains.

With Gratitude,

Lisa DH Aquino, MHS
Executive Director, Catholic Social Services

*Providing Help
Creating Hope*





Letter of Support: HSCMG Funds

The Anchorage Coalition to End Homelessness (ACEH) serves as the Anchorage Area Continuum of Care (CoC) and homeless response system body. As the Anchorage CoC, ACEH is responsible for preparing and submitting the annual community grant application to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) which generates \$4 million annually for ten homeless service providers in the Anchorage community. This funding is restricted and can only be used for specific purposes but provides important support for high-end solutions. Many of these providers use HUD funding in conjunction with HSCMG funding to offer a full spectrum of services and meet the needs of the most vulnerable members of our community.

In 2018, nine programs in Anchorage received HSCMG funding for a total of \$1.5 million. These programs provide services that prevent and alleviate challenges for those with serious mental or physical hardships. HSCMG is one of the only funding streams to support operations for safety net services like basic shelter and food provision, including AWAIC, RurAL CAP, and Covenant House Alaska. If HSCMG funding is eliminated, widespread social impacts would be experienced across the community as well as the services provided directly to recipients. The elimination of HSCMG funded programs would result in more unsheltered homelessness, food insecurity, and a surge in the utilization of expensive emergency services. The proposed budget cuts will ultimately result in state and municipal governments incurring greater costs through the elimination of prevention and early intervention services.

ACEH believes in the work of our community partners and the positive impacts and services their clients and the broader community receive. The loss of HSCMG funding will have immediate impacts on Anchorage's most vulnerable through a drastic reduction or elimination of services including Brother Francis Shelter, Beans Cafe, and Food Bank of Alaska. These services support those experiencing homelessness and prevent those at risk from entering homelessness. ACEH's vision that homelessness is a rare, brief and one-time event is only feasible through the work and dedication of our committed community partners whose programs and efforts are supported by and funded through HSCMG. Eliminating the HSCMG funding would negatively impact already at-risk citizens and have expensive ripple impacts throughout the community. ACEH is in support for the restoration of the HSCMG funds for our vulnerable populations and greater Anchorage community.

Anchorage HSCMG Recipients

Program	FY19 HSCMG	FY20 Proposed
AWAIC	\$150,000	\$ -
Catholic Social Services	\$300,000	\$ -
Covenant House	\$150,000	\$ -
RurAL CAP	\$252,408	\$ -
Alaska Institute for Justice	\$150,000	\$ -
Alzheimer's Resource of Alaska	\$50,000	\$ -
Bean's Café	\$277,461	\$ -
Food Bank of Alaska	\$100,000	\$ -
Lutheran Social Services	\$100,000	\$ -
Total Impact	\$1,529,859	\$ -



March 12, 2019

Via Email

Through: erin.shine@akleg.gov

Re: Human Services Community Matching Grants

Dear Representative Johnston, *Jennifer*

Alzheimer's Resource of Alaska (ARA) has received funding as a sub-grantee under the Human Services Community Matching Grant programs in Fairbanks and Anchorage. With the proposed elimination of this program in the Governor's proposed budget, we will serve 492 fewer Alaskans in these two communities who are struggling with the impacts of dementia upon their lives.

The number of Fairbanks and Anchorage residents living with dementia is growing rapidly, and the serious physical and mental health impacts on the family members who provide more than 75% of their care are increasing as well. Local decision-makers determined that our services addressing their needs were the kinds of essential human services that improve well-being with measurable results. Alzheimer's Resource of Alaska is the reliable resource center where Anchorage and Fairbanks residents find classes, trainings, socialization activities, acceptance, coaching, and counseling through one of the most arduous experiences facing our senior population.

Specifically, with the elimination of HSCMG funds, we will serve 328 fewer Anchorage residents, and 164 fewer Fairbanks residents as a result. This is a conservative estimate of unduplicated clients, most of whom seek out multiple program services within the year. The loss of these funds would lead to reducing our *Mind Matters* program of concurrent client and caregiver education and support by 35% in these communities. We would staff significantly fewer one-on-one consultations and memory screenings and would anticipate delayed response times in the Information & Referral calls we receive. Family caregivers will experience increased burden, a factor that drives many premature out-of-home placements

I have attached a letter from one of our Fairbanks area family caregivers to illustrate the significance of services in one family's experience. Contending with the impacts of dementia is overwhelming without guidance. We ask that you retain this program within the DHSS/SDS budget for these communities and those we serve.

Sincerely,

Pamela R. Kelly, JD
Executive Director

Attachment

Anchorage

1750 Abbott Rd.
Anchorage, AK 99507
Phone (907) 561-3313
Fax (907) 561-3315

Fairbanks

565 University Ave, Suite 2
Fairbanks, AK 99709
Phone (907) 452-2277
Fax (907) 457-3376

Juneau

3225 Hospital Dr, Suite 101
Juneau, AK, 99801
Phone (907) 586-6044
Fax (907) 586-6084

Mat-Su Valley

777 N. Crusey Street
Suite B101, Wasilla, AK 99654
Phone (907) 746-3413
Fax (907) 746-3412

January 23, 2019

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Pam Guzy and I would like to express my appreciation and support for the Alzheimer's Resource of Alaska.

When my Mother was diagnosed with Alzheimer's, I was numb. I had NO idea where to turn or which way to go. Thankfully, I went to see Joan Adams at Alzheimer's Resource of Alaska. From the very beginning, I knew I had found the right place for help. Joan has such a wonderful attitude of "ok, it's Alzheimer's. I'm going to help you learn how to handle it and to help you respond to the many different situations that you will be facing... AND I'm going to help you take care of yourself." **What a relief...a place where someone understands, and can HELP.**

As I began the Savvy Caregiver class, I had no idea how much I would be learning about this disease now, but most importantly, what would be happening in the future. Sometimes I would think, "Man, I'm glad I will never be worrying about that" as different issues were discussed. Little did I know...I am SO glad we got a manual to take home because as this disease progresses, I am referring back to it. We had discussions within the group of others dealing with the same thing I was...**I was not alone!!!** I learned it was ok to laugh, and yes, cry with these people, and it was a safe place. I went on, and will continue to take many classes, including The ABC's of Caregiving, Honoring Connections: The Holiday Season & Dementia, What is Good for the Brain, Support Group, and of course, the dreaded Dementia Tour (poor Joan, I was a crying mess after that one!)

I cannot imagine Fairbanks without Alzheimer's Resource of Alaska and Joan Adams. I have learned and received so much emotional support from this woman. Although it is a privilege to be my Mothers caregiver, I don't have the time or energy to travel to another city or get on the internet to learn about this disease. Even if I did, it would never be as meaningful as sitting in the same room with people who understand and can discuss what I am going through, will laugh, and most importantly cry with me. This is a safe and loving group of people, who through the care, knowledge and understanding of Joan Adams and Alzheimer's Resource of Alaska, I can truly call my friends.

PLEASE keep this wonderful woman and organization in our community. I sincerely hope none of you have to face this terrible disease, but if you do, you have a wonderful place to go for support and help. Thank you for your time.

Pam Guzy
1729 University Ave S, Apt E56
Fairbanks, AK 99709



March 11, 2019

Representative Jennifer Johnston
Capitol Building, Room 501
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Representative Johnston,

Abused Women's Aid In Crisis, Inc. (AWAIC) is an Anchorage recipient of the Human Services Community Matching Grant (HSCMG). AWAIC has been receiving HSCMG funds for over two decades and it is a critical source of funding for the emergency shelter for victims of domestic violence in community.

AWAIC's 52 bed emergency shelter for domestic violence victims is the only one of its kind in Anchorage and ensures the provision of critical services to the community. In FY18 HSCMG funding helped provide 17,908 safe bed nights for 633 victims of domestic violence and their children through AWAIC services.

HSCMG funds are used to fund one full-time advocate and one full-time case manager in the emergency shelter. These positions provide crisis intervention, case management, resources, personal support, and transportation to those residing in shelter. In addition to direct services to victims of domestic violence staff are also responsible for the safety and security of the shelter and answering the 24-hour crisis line of which staff responded to 5,136 crisis and community support calls.

These are critical positions to the operations of the emergency shelter. With a reduction in staffing AWAIC would have to consider a reduction in the capacity of the emergency shelter. The current 52 beds are in high demand and AWAIC has been at or over capacity an average of 49% for the last five years. To reduce the resources available to an already extremely at-risk population is not a decision that AWAIC wants to contemplate however it must be considered under the potentially extreme losses that AWAIC may be facing in the amended budget as proposed by Governor Dunleavy.

Additionally, HSCMG funds are used as leverage for our other shelter grants and the loss of these funds would impact multiple funding sources that make up the intricate fabric of funding for AWAIC's emergency shelter for victims of domestic violence.

I ask that you support AWAIC as a critical resource in Anchorage and continue funding for the HSCMG in the FY20 budget.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions regarding AWAIC and our funding.

Sincerely,

Suzi Pearson
Executive Director





North Star Council on Aging/Fairbanks Senior Center
Meals on Wheels
1424 Moore Street. Fairbanks, Alaska 99701
Phone: 907-452-1735 / Fax: 451-9974
nscoa.manager@alaska.net

March 12, 2019

Representative Jennifer Johnston
Alaska House of Representatives
Delivered via: Erin.Shine@akleg.gov

Dear Representative Jennifer Johnston,

The North Star Council on Aging (NSCoA), aka Fairbanks Senior Center, offers this letter of support for restoration of the Human Services Community Matching Grant (HSCMG) funds into the FY20 budget. The removal of these funds would significantly impact the Fairbanks North Star Borough's (FNSB) non-profits and NSCoA's Meals on Wheels program (MOW).

The HSCMG helps non-profits assist vulnerable populations ranging from children safety, the homeless, those with food insecurities, essential medical care, legal services, and the senior population. The failure to continue the HSCMG will directly impact NSCoA's funding of \$30,000 (\$20,690 from state funds and \$9,310 from FNSB), which in turn eliminates our ability to provide 6,000 meals.

The HSCMG funds prevent or alleviate serious mental and/or physical hardship, and the MOW program is a critical piece of successful aging in place instead of costly institutional care. Sadly, many seniors would suffer serious mental and/or physical hardship if funding for the HSCMG is not restored. NSCoA services an Alaskan senior population which was ranked first in the United States as the fastest aging population at 61%. We are seeing an unprecedented aging population that has been titled the "Silver Tsunami Wave". This rapid aging population, of 60 and older is the largest in recent times.

All 13 FNSB non-profit agencies that received the FY19 HSCMG provided critical health and human services needs, and were able to leverage other funding sources for a combined 75 times greater value of services to the community. Many of our local non-profits network together to support the crucial needs of the Interior citizens, and cutting the HSCMG will effect each one directly but also collectively. An example of a working partnership is NSCoA's collaboration with

the Fairbanks Food Bank (FFB). With the HSCMG funds, the FFB provides over 13,000 pounds of food to the MOW program, allowing NSCoA to keep program costs down while ensuring no senior endures silent hunger and the side effects of malnutrition. A collective reduction in funds of \$60,000 between both agencies will cripple our ability to have direct impacts on the most needy in our communities.

A listing of FNSB agencies who will suffer a loss to their small budgets if the funding is not restored:

Meals on Wheels - North Star Council on Aging
Fairbanks Community Food Bank
Literacy Council on Alaska
Love in the Name of Christ of the Tanana Valley
Big Brothers Big Sisters
Alaska Legal Services
Alzheimer's Disease Resources of Fairbanks
Alaska Center for Children and Adults
Northern Hope Center
No Limits, Inc
Resource Center for Parents and Children/Stevie's Place
Interior Community Health Center
Interior AIDS Association
Boys and Girls Club of the Tanana Valley

We urge you to see the crucial value of the HSCMG funds, and the negative impact to be felt by Alaska's most vulnerable populations, and in NSCoA's case, the valuable pioneers who built our magnificent state.

Respectfully,



Darlene Supplee
Executive Director



Youth Engagement Center · Transitional Living · Street Outreach

March 13, 2019

Representative Jennifer Johnston
1500 W. Benson Blvd.
Anchorage, AK 99503

Dear Representative Johnston:

I am writing in support of the restoration of funds for the Human Services Matching Grant.

While we were relieved that behavioral and mental health services were not cut in the proposed budget, we are concerned that housing and homelessness services are being targeted. Covenant House Alaska (CHA) does not receive any behavioral health funding and relies on our partnerships with Southcentral Foundation and Volunteers of America to deliver those *critical* services to our youth. However, arguably the most considerable barriers to achieving and maintaining behavioral and mental health are housing instability and homelessness. A reduction in our ability to provide needed housing services puts an even heavier burden on our partners and other agencies who work to address Alaska's crises in mental and behavioral health. Housing and behavioral health services go hand in hand, and rely strongly on each other to achieve health and wellness in broad terms for our community.

The proposed changes to the social services budget will result in a minimum 14%, potentially 28% reduction in funding for CHA. Specifically, defunding the Human Services Community Matching Grant program would result in a reduction of \$114,685 in funding for Covenant House Alaska during the 2020 fiscal year.

With all our partners our services are being delivered, we have been making tangible, noticeable differences in our wider community. For instance, our national pilot program, the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Project, is now up and running. Our brand-new, mobile team of Permanency Navigators and Rapid Re-Housing staff are – for the first time – able to operate outside the limited roles of site-bound case workers. Youth are getting housed faster in environments that are best for their unique needs – and it is making a significant difference. We are now remaining connected with youth after they leave our services and progress in their lives with jobs or education, providing the kind of consistency and support that all young people need as they grow up. While we would never allow this budget reduction to force us to close our doors, it would absolutely stop the progress we are making in new innovations in services like these.

Cuts to the Human Services Matching Grant and Homeless Assistance Program would directly impact our emergency services—services that immediately offer safe haven and keep youth engaged and knowing that they are cared for. The drastic cuts proposed would have a devastating ripple effect on all progress made.

Furthermore, deep cuts to the social services budget would cost the state more in emergency medical visits, prison time, and add more stress on our already overburdened foster care system. In the past two years, 5,290 Alaskans utilized homelessness prevention services like shelters and social services. Of those, only 3.2% of those people returned to homelessness afterward, which means nearly 97% of them avoided homelessness and its calamitous side effects by getting the help they needed.

For every young person who falls on hard times but does not end up on the streets, who instead goes on to become a productive, employed and fulfilled member of our community, there are countless saved costs and future benefits that cannot be quantified. In order to keep our momentum in making sure every young Alaskan has what they need to thrive and grow into our next generation of Alaskan leaders, we strongly support and encourage the restoration of funds for the Human Services Community Matching Grant program to the FY20 state budget.

I look forward to meeting with you and offering further education on the best forms of cost savings our state government has—it's non-profits.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alison E. Kear". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Alison E. Kear
Executive Director
Covenant House Alaska
Direct line: (907) 339-4203



TOGETHER, WE ARE DEFENDERS OF POTENTIAL

1057 West Fireweed Lane
Suite 202
Anchorage, AK 99503

BBBSAK.org

March 13th, 2019

Representative Johnston
Alaska State House
House Finance Budget Subcommittee of the DHSS
Delivered via: Erin.Shine@akleg.gov

Dear Representative Johnston,

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Alaska (BBBSAK) offers this letter of support for the restoration of the Human Services Community Matching Grant (HSCMG) funds into the FY20 budget. The removal of these funds would significantly impact the Fairbanks North Star Borough's (FNSB) nonprofits and BBBSAK's Fairbanks program.

The HSCMG helps nonprofits assist vulnerable populations, ranging from youth to the homeless, those with food insecurities, essential medical care, legal services, and the senior population. The failure to continue the HSCMG will directly impact BBBSAK's funding of \$30,000 (\$20,690 from state funds and \$9,310 from FNSB), which in turn eliminates our ability to provide mentors to 20 Fairbanks youth.

The BBBSAK program in Fairbanks addresses the social needs of FNSB youth without enough positive adult attention in their lives. Youth without enough positive adult attention in their lives often do not develop the resiliency and self-esteem they need to avoid negative behaviors and, as a result, are at greater risk of delinquency, drug use, alcohol use, teen pregnancy, academic failure, and suicide. Nurturing and stable relationships with caring adults are essential to healthy human development. BBBSAK reduces the risks these youth face by matching them with trained, screened, and professionally supported adult volunteer mentors who provide structured, reliable, friendship-based relationships with their Little Brothers and Little Sisters. These relationships focus on the unique needs of the youth, foster feelings of caring and support, and encourage positive behaviors that facilitate each youth's development.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Larry Persily
Yuliya McDaniel
Katie Carrigan
Louis Ulmer
Sally Saddler
Josh Brown



TOGETHER, WE ARE DEFENDERS OF POTENTIAL

1057 West Fireweed Lane
Suite 202
Anchorage, AK 99503

BBBSAK.org

All 13 FNSB nonprofit agencies that received the FY19 HSCMG provided critical health and human services needs, and were able to leverage other funding sources for a combined 75 times greater value of services to the community. Many of our local nonprofits network together to support the crucial needs of the Interior's citizens, and cutting the HSCMG will impact each organization and the citizens whose needs they meet. The agencies who will suffer a loss to their small budgets if this funding is not restored are the following:

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Alaska
Fairbanks Community Food Bank
Literacy Council of Alaska
Love in the Name of Christ of the Tanana Valley
Meals on Wheels - North Star Council on Aging
Alaska Legal Services
Alzheimer's Disease Resources of Fairbanks
Alaska Center for Children and Adults
Northern Hope Center
No Limits, Inc
Resource Center for Parents and Children/Stevie's Place
Interior Community Health Center
Interior AIDS Association
Boys and Girls Club of the Tanana Valley

We urge you to see the crucial value of the HSCMG funds, and the negative impact that will be felt by Alaska's most vulnerable populations.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Trina Resari-Salao'.

Trina Resari-Salao
Vice President of Programs and Acting CEO

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Larry Persily
Yuliya McDaniel
Katie Carrigan
Louis Ulmer
Sally Saddler
Josh Brown

March 11, 2019

Dear Governor Dunleavy,

We are writing to you today first as Alaskans but also as supporters of the Fairbanks Community Food Bank.

We started the "Will Skate 4 Food" hockey tournament in 2017 to support the Fairbanks Community Food Bank because we knew we had the chance to create something fun that could also have a positive impact. We combined our respective skill sets to leverage the generous hearts and competitive spirits of our hockey community. In the two years, we have held the tournament "Will Skate 4 Food" has collected over 10,000 pounds of food and over \$8,000 in monetary donations provided directly to the Fairbanks Community Food Bank.

As a young man, Jay benefitted from an organization like the food bank and promised that he would give back when he was able. Years later, our family, just like hundreds of families in the Interior, found ourselves in a position where we would have needed the Food Bank if it hadn't been for our support system. Alaskans take care of each other and the Food Bank allows now us to be part of that support system for our neighbors.

The budget you have proposed would decimate our communities, driving out the people, businesses, and organizations that support the Fairbanks Community Food Bank. This will increase demand on the Food Bank while essentially eliminating the donor base that is vital to its success.

Consider the deep and far-reaching impacts of your proposed budget. Just as we have chosen to help our neighbors, choose to be part of Alaska's support system when we need it the most.

Sincerely,

Jay and Kim McFadden
Directors
Will Skate 4 Food

March 12, 2019

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Alan Mitchell. I have lived in Fairbanks, Alaska for a total of 30 years (some absences for military duty), and have worked with the Fairbanks Community Food Bank in many capacities, but most recently as the organizer for the largest food drive of the year, the Fairbanks Holiday Food Drive for the past five years. In the last two years, we received over 20,000 pounds of food each year; there is great need here.

I invest my time and energy in the Fairbanks Community Food Bank because I once needed help, and I know the value of receiving food from the Food Bank; it's not just food that is given and received, but hope for the future as well. I am one man, and I can't do everything; but I am one man, and I can do something. Therefore, I give what I can and encourage others to do the same.

The salvaged and collected food which comes in daily is divided. Two-thirds of the food goes into food boxes for individuals (about 325,000 meals last year alone) and one-third goes to about 100 other local agencies who have food programs on their agency sites. The food is donated to the Fairbanks Community Food Bank for free, therefore, it is given to these other agencies for free.

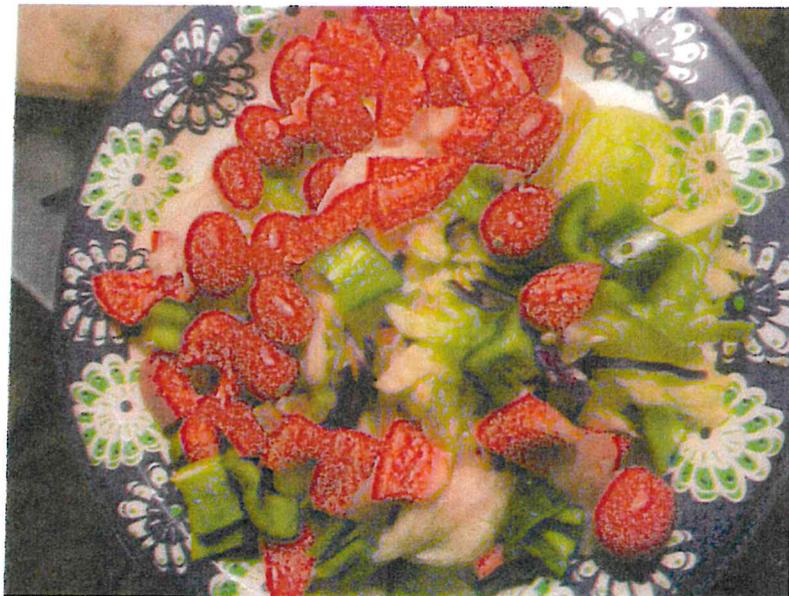
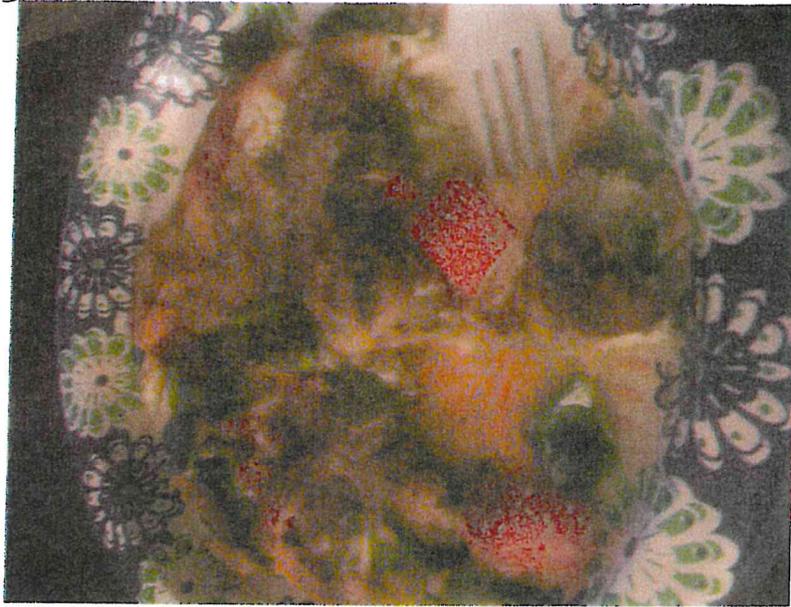
This is truly and most definitely a critical and essential service to Interior Alaska. They do a great deal with very little, so every little bit makes a BIG impact for many adults, children, and seniors here.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Alan Mitchell', with a stylized, wavy underline.

Alan Mitchell

Letter of support for Fairbanks Community Food Bank
and the restoration of the Human Services Community
Matching Grant funds into the FY20 budget.



Hi, this is Tim Hurley. The top picture is an omelet that I made from things I got from the new H.E.L.P program. The picture below it is the salad I made from free fresh food in the H.E.L.P program. This new program is unbelievable. I'm on a fixed income and have not been able to afford the fruits and vegetables that I get from this program. This is the best food I have had for years. Thanks, Tim

(this is an unsolicited comment from a person who uses the HELP program. He has given us permission to share this with you, January 31, 2019).



March 13, 2019

Hon. Representative Jennifer Johnston,
Alaska House of Representatives

Dear Representative Johnston:

On behalf of the Arctic Alliance for People and from one who has served on the Fairbanks North Star Borough Health and Social Services Commission for many years, I strongly urge the legislature to fund the Community Matching Grant program. Local agencies have a direct and positive impact on the lives of so many in need while saving the state in costs of these services. To eliminate this program, and so rapidly, is not only a breach of trust, but such action poses a sudden, unplanned and severe disruption to vital human services.

It is counterintuitive to reduce legislatively-mandated support that ultimately increases costs to the state in providing health and public safety. The negative impacts of such actions should be carefully considered in terms of value. Is it worth reducing supports that prevent premature institutionalization of the elderly who could otherwise remain at home? What are the long-term costs of weakening an already underfunded mental health system? How much will it cost the state to take up the safety net that the non-profit sector currently provides efficiently? In the North Star Borough, for every state dollar, local agencies leverage nearly twenty times that in additional funding and services.

Some may argue that religious communities could take on the work the state subsidizes. They do not have the capacity to take on this large an enterprise. With the contraction of the state budget, corporate sponsorship would not be reliably consistent. The non-profit sector is the most effective way to invest in safeguarding public health and well-being, and they would find it extremely difficult to accomplish without a mechanism like the Community Matching Grant.

Sincerely,

Pete Pinney, Secretary/Treasurer



Northern Hope Center

TO: Whom It May Concern

FROM: Karen Blackburn, Northern Hope Center Executive Director

RE: Letter of Support Requesting the Restoration of the HSCMG Funds into the FY20 Budget

DATE: March 11, 2019

As an Executive Director of a Nonprofit in Fairbanks, Alaska, I am writing to plead with you to restore the HSCMG Funds into the FY20 budget. The funds that are being taken away from the FY20 budget are greatly needed by all the nonprofits and agencies that receive this funding in this community. The government should be aware of the overwhelming need in this state for mental health services. By cutting this funding my program would suffer greatly as funding for the services we provide are already very limited.

Here is an overview of Northern Hope Center: The Northern Hope Center is a member-driven mental health drop-in center for adults 18 years of age and older. Northern Hope Center (NHC) is located at 909 Cushman St. Suite 103 and is open Monday through Friday from Noon – 4:00 pm. NHC is a comfortable, stress free environment with activities and a warm meal at no cost to the members. A place where members can relax, be themselves, feel accepted and safe. Members find the support and encouragement they need to rebuild meaningful lives. The center provides opportunities for members to form friendships, members can practice getting along with others and regain social and communication skills. They find friends who accept, support and encourage one another toward independence and growth. Members help each other solve daily living problems, like finding housing or transportation, or getting and keeping a job. Members can get involved in running their center, helping with everything from cleaning to web design. Members can be employed by the center; these positions are designed to help a member build self-esteem and gain and practice skills in a safe environment without the work-related activities they often feel are too stressful.

Northern Hope Center has a board of directors, of which a majority are members. Mission, philosophy, and policies and procedures have been developed to ensure that a safe, warm place to have a meal and socialize can be sustained within a non-clinical setting where peer-to-peer involvement is central to all operations.



Northern Hope Center

TARGET POPULATION – Adult with a diagnosable mental, behavioral, or emotional disorder of sufficient duration to meet diagnostic criteria specified within DSM-IV or their ICD-9-CM equivalent (and subsequent revisions) with the exception of DSM-IV “V” codes, substance use disorders, and developmental disorders which are excluded, unless they co-occur with another diagnosable serious mental illness that has resulted in functional impairment which substantially interferes with or limits one or more major life activities. Who, as a result, have a genuine need for relief from isolation, a need for the opportunity to socialize with their peers, a healthy meal which they may not get elsewhere; a way to connect to essential services through advocacy and referral and the opportunity for meaningful employment and income.

Northern Hope Center is the only Mental Health Drop In Center in the Fairbanks NorthStar Borough, the services we provide are a great asset to the community. With our budget already limited, losing this funding will be devastating and cause drastic cuts to NHC.

State Officials have claimed to be aware of the need in the Mental Health field and now the time has come for you all to show that you care about the mental health of the people in this great state. Please restore the HSCMG Funds into the FY20 Budget at the full amount.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K. Blackburn", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Karen Blackburn
Executive Director
Northern Hope Center



Rural Alaska Community Action Program, Inc.

731 East 8th Avenue, Anchorage, AK 99501
(907) 279-2511 ♦ Fax: (907) 278-2309
www.ruralcap.com

March 12, 2019

Senator Natasha von Imhof, Chair
Senate Health & Social Services
Finance Subcommittee
State Capitol Room 516
Juneau AK, 99801

Dear Senator von Imhof:

The Rural Alaska Community Action Program, Inc. (RurAL CAP) was founded in 1965 to implement the federal government's anti-poverty programs (the Great Society) as the Community Action Agency for the state. Our mission is to empower low income Alaskans through advocacy, education, affordable housing and direct services that respect our unique values and cultures. We continue that mission now in the face of even greater need. I write today to ask for the restoration of funding for critical anti-poverty programs targeted for cuts by Governor Dunleavy's proposed budget.

According to federal data, about 80,000 Alaskans lived in poverty in 2017. Of that number, approximately half live in deep poverty, defined as income less than one-half of the official poverty threshold. Alaska Natives are 300% more likely to live in poverty in Alaska than non-Hispanic whites. Alaska ranks 33rd in the United States in percent of children in poverty at almost 15%. It is clear that anti-poverty programs in Alaska are severely underfunded, and the efforts that need to be made in order to reduce poverty are substantially greater than what is occurring today.

Some of the proposed cuts will eliminate or drastically reduce critical programs which will disproportionately affect the most vulnerable Alaskans, leaving them without a safety net. One such program is the Human Services Community Matching Grant (HSCMG), which provides funding for a spectrum of anti-poverty initiatives and is currently targeted for elimination.

In urban areas, these programs serve the homeless population in a variety of ways and include RurAL CAP's programs providing housing to people experiencing homelessness. Many of these Alaskans have limited access to healthcare, disability programs, and substance abuse or mental health services. Bean's Café, the Brother Francis Shelter, Covenant House, and the Food Bank of Alaska collaborate to provide essential services to vulnerable individuals in Anchorage. The

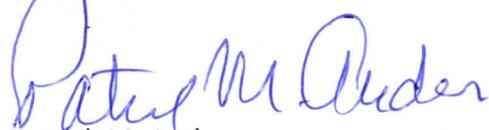
Fairbanks Community Food Bank does the same there. All are among the anti-poverty programs targeted for elimination from the Governor's budget proposal. Many of our clients will be substantially affected.

Our clients come from many different backgrounds and experiences. One client earned a decent family income and lived in suitable housing for many years until a divorce and health issues pushed this client to living on the streets of Anchorage. Without good nutrition or a safe place to stay and with limited health care, this client was kept in poverty. Our programs address such challenges client by client. Proposed cuts to Alaska Housing Finance Corporation funding and Medicaid are additional proposed funding cuts that would severely impact our ability to meet such needs.

The burden of addressing the negative impacts of poverty will be shifted to individuals, local governments, healthcare providers, and the State of Alaska. Every individual who lives on the street in Anchorage costs Anchorage and State of Alaska service providers approximately \$47,000 annually in response costs. Anchorage first responders, healthcare providers, the State of Alaska Department of Corrections, and others incur significant costs in responding to the critical needs of those experiencing homelessness.

At this time in its history, Alaska needs to address efficiencies in State Government. We also need to address our citizens' needs and examine root cause for issues like poverty. Reasons for poverty among the homeless include a lack of employment opportunities, deficiencies in education and training, behavioral issues, substance abuse issues, and chronic disease, among others. Please consider maintaining critical programs that receive assistance from the HSCMG, for the good of all Alaskans.

Respectfully,



Patrick M. Anderson
Chief Executive Officer
RurAL CAP



March 13, 2019

No Limits Inc

From: Roscoe Britton

To: Whom it may Concern

This letter is in reference to and support of the Human Services Community Matching Grant (HSCMG) that our agency receives from the Fairbanks North Star Borough.

Our agency (No Limits Inc) operates the Southside Reentry Center, which is a Transitional Housing/Reentry program, is in full support for the restoration of the HSCMG funds. Without these funds, our agency would struggle to meet our mission statement: "The mission of the reentry center is to reduce recidivism through a highly structured program where individuals modify their behavior patterns that lead to criminal activities." The individuals who enter our program are mostly beneficiaries of the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority (AMHTA) which are defined as (people with mental illness, people with developmental disabilities, people with chronic alcoholism and other substance related disorders, and people with traumatic brain injury resulting in permanent brain damage.) and fall under the definition of AS 47.75.060.

The funding we receive as well as the other agencies that receive funding from this program are vital to the individuals we serve, for housing and supportive services, without these funds agencies would not adequately or competently be able to serve these individuals. The services our program provides are housing, supportive services (transportation, life skills, clothing, counseling, support groups, employment support, etc...). In the category of reentry No Limits Inc role is to help in the overall recidivism rate in the State of Alaska and the City of Fairbanks and to empower individuals to successfully transition back into the community and become productive members of the community as well as reuniting families. The ultimate goal we are trying to achieve with individuals is for them to gain permanent housing and to sustain that housing.

Our agency, as well as the other agencies that get the HSCMG funding will be crippled, which would result with staff cutbacks and less services to provide to our participants. The result could mean potentially increasing the homeless situation in Fairbanks but most importantly sending a message to the individuals we serve, that there is no hope without having the necessary resources and services to help them to become successful in life.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at (907) 451-9650.

Sincerely,

Roscoe Britton

Roscoe Britton
Program Director

From: cbfc@acsalaska.net
To: [Caroline Schultz](#)
Cc: [Erin Shine](#)
Subject: re: Community Matching Grant
Date: Tuesday, March 12, 2019 2:38:09 PM

Hello... as Operations Manager at The Carol H. Brice Family Center in Fairbanks, I strongly encourage the legislature to reinstate, or even increase, the Community Matching Grant funds that Governor Dunleavy has removed from the budget. The bang-for-the-buck it provides is a no-brainer.

Karl Greer, Operations Manager
The Carol H. Brice Family Center

From: bbrado@interioraids.org
To: [Erin Shine](#)
Cc: genet@gci.net; eholland@fnsb.us
Subject: Support for Human Services Community Matching Grant Restoration
Date: Wednesday, March 13, 2019 5:01:38 PM

Dear Representative Johnston,

I'm writing to express support for the restoration of the Human Services Community Matching Grant. The \$1,387,000 provided through the HSCMG is leveraged by the local required match to become in excess of \$1,800,000. Additionally, it is distributed through a rigorous local evaluation process that identifies high priority community needs and targets basic human services as defined in Alaska law.

The Fairbanks North Star Borough uses a competitive process to identify local private non-profit agencies that provide services that "prevent or alleviate serious mental or physical hardship". Please consider restoring the HSCMG to the FY20 budget.

Sincerely,

Becca Brado
President, Arctic Alliance for People
Fairbanks, AK
(907) 987-2807 (Cell)



March 13, 2019

Hon. Representative Jennifer Johnston,
Alaska House of Representatives

Dear Representative Johnston:

On behalf of the Arctic Alliance for People and from one who has served on the Fairbanks North Star Borough Health and Social Services Commission for many years, I strongly urge the legislature to fund the Community Matching Grant program. Local agencies have a direct and positive impact on the lives of so many in need while saving the state in costs of these services. To eliminate this program, and so rapidly, is not only a breach of trust, but such action poses a sudden, unplanned and severe disruption to vital human services.

It is counterintuitive to reduce legislatively-mandated support that ultimately increases costs to the state in providing health and public safety. The negative impacts of such actions should be carefully considered in terms of value. Is it worth reducing supports that prevent premature institutionalization of the elderly who could otherwise remain at home? What are the long-term costs of weakening an already underfunded mental health system? How much will it cost the state to take up the safety net that the non-profit sector currently provides efficiently? In the North Star Borough, for every state dollar, local agencies leverage nearly twenty times that in additional funding and services.

Some may argue that religious communities could take on the work the state subsidizes. They do not have the capacity to take on this large an enterprise. With the contraction of the state budget, corporate sponsorship would not be reliably consistent. The non-profit sector is the most effective way to invest in safeguarding public health and well-being, and they would find it extremely difficult to accomplish without a mechanism like the Community Matching Grant.

Sincerely,

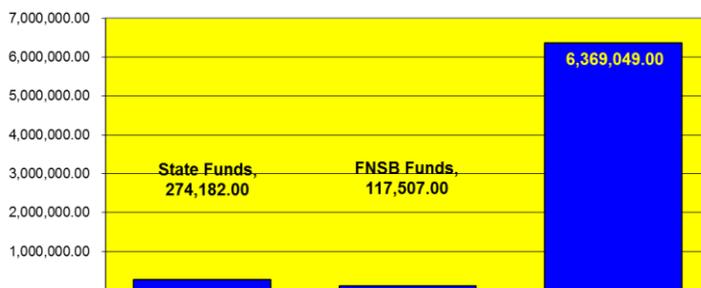
Pete Pinney, Secretary/Treasurer

Human Services Community Matching Grant

Highlights of the Community Impact



The agencies used state funds to leverage **18** times that amount in the value of services to the community!



State funds	\$274,182
Borough funds	\$117,507
Income generated by projects	\$631,246
Other funds received by projects	\$2,365,869
In-kind generated by projects	\$2,980,245
Total value to the community	\$6,369,049

Highlights of Services Provided in FY 2018

Grant funds were distributed to thirteen non-profit agencies

- **Alaska Legal Services Corporation** provided 176 people with legal assistance in areas of family law, health care, housing and income.
- **Alzheimer's Disease Resource Agency** served 1682 participants, including individuals diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease or related dementia, family caregivers and professionals who care directly for individuals diagnosed.
- **American Lung Association in Alaska** provided Fairbanks medical professionals with valuable CEU credits on issues crucial to identification and diagnosis of lung disease particular to the types of particulate matter found in the air in the FNSB area.
- **Big Brothers Big Sisters** matched 66 children with trained adult mentors. Mentors reduce a child's risk taking behaviors.
- **Boys & Girls Club** provided a safe and fun place for 437 youth who participated in Clubhouse programs designed to improve academic success, character, leadership development & healthy lifestyles.
- **Fairbanks Community Food Bank** provided 28,890 people with food boxes.
- **Interior AIDS Association** provided substance abuse treatment for 93 people.
- **Interior Community Health Center** provided affordable preventive and primary health care to over 900 individuals.
- **Literacy Council** gave literacy services to 175 adults who attended classes & tutoring. All English as a Second Language students improved their English proficiency.
- **Love Inc** provided case management solutions to 860 families.
- **North Star Council on Aging** provided meals to over 283 Seniors through the Meals on Wheels program.
- **No Limits** provided services to 52 previously incarcerated individuals in facilitation of their reentry to the community.
- **RCPC Stevie's Place** family advocates served 502 children & caregivers, providing support such as crisis intervention and forensic medical services for the child and non-offending parent/caregiver during child maltreatment investigations.

FY18 Human Services Community Matching Grant

Agency Grant Amount	What They Do	Why It Matters
Alaska Legal Services \$30,000	Provide civil legal assistance to people who cannot afford to hire an attorney.	Access to legal services can be critical for dealing with domestic violence, lack of medical care, homelessness, or loss of income. All of these are serious hardships for a significant portion of the FNSB population.
Alzheimer's Disease Resource Agency \$30,000	Provide information and support to individuals experiencing dementia and their caregivers.	Services reduce depression, anxiety and stress in caregivers so their family members can remain at home longer with improved quality of life.
American lung Association of Alaska \$17980	Provide medical providers the education to identify pollution specific lung disease in the FNSB area.	The FNSB area has the worst particulate air pollution of its type in the nation. Providing medical providers with up to date diagnostic education helps them to better treat the types of lung disease common secondary to this type of air pollution.
Big Brothers Big Sisters \$30,000	Match children who need extra adult attention with trained adult mentors.	Mentoring significantly reduces the likelihood a child will engage in criminal or violent behavior, use drugs or alcohol, become sexually active at an early age, or drop out of school.
Boys & Girls Club \$30,000	Provide a safe, supervised and drug-free environment for children and youth.	Services reduce the risk of substance abuse, early sexual involvement & juvenile delinquency. Services contribute to academic success, good character & citizenship, and healthy lifestyles.
Fairbanks Community Food Bank \$30,000	Collect local surplus food and provide it to people who request food assistance.	Food insecurity harms the ability to learn and grow in children, and contributes to poor health & reduced ability to function for all people.
Interior AIDS Association \$30,000	Substance abuse treatment for people with chronic opioid addictions.	With treatment, addicts can rebuild their lives, improve family relationships and become productive community members.
Interior Community Health Center \$30,000	Access to health care for people who are poor, near-poor, uninsured and/or underinsured.	Affordable health care promotes health, prevents disease, reduces disease complications and improves health outcomes.
Literacy Council \$30,000	Literacy services to adults who read below 4th grade level and to non-native English speakers.	Illiterate adults are more likely to experience poverty, mental & physical health risks and social isolation. Non-English speakers face similar challenges.
Love Inc of the Tanana Valley \$30,000	Provides case management to individuals who are experiencing a wide range of challenges.	Some people experience challenges to their independence that are not covered by other support agencies. Love Inc fills this need and helps them with its community partners.

FY18 Human Services Community Matching Grant

<p>No limits Inc. \$30,000</p>	<p>Prisoners re-entering society need supports to be able to successfully transition from prison back into the community.</p>	<p>People coming out of the prison system often times have issues that hinder their successful transition to the community. Successful reentry reduces recidivism and helps them to once again become contributing members of society.</p>
<p>North Star Council on Aging \$30,000</p>	<p>Meals on Wheels delivers nutritious meals to homebound senior citizens.</p>	<p>Services provide improved nutrition and a regular welfare check. Both contribute to a seniors' ability to stay in their own home.</p>
<p>Resource Center for Parents and \$30,000</p>	<p>Provide "one stop" MDT forensic interviews, medical care and support to victims of severe child abuse.</p>	<p>Severe Child abuse is difficult enough for the victim and their caregivers. This evidenced based program stream lines the process and provides most services and intervention in one location for the victims and caregivers. This reduces the long term trauma from the abuse.</p>