

Doniece Gott

From: Suzi P <suzi_p@awaic.org>
Sent: Friday, April 08, 2022 2:34 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: AWAIC Shelter & Transitional Housing Renovations - capital budget request

Dear Senate Finance Committee Members,

I am writing on behalf of Abused Women's Aid In Crisis, AWAIC. AWAIC is the only provider of emergency shelter and transitional housing for victims of domestic violence in Anchorage. In this year's capital budget there is a request from Senator Tom Begich for \$347,000 to assist with renovations of Harmony House, the 10-bed transitional housing located at AWAIC. This building was built in 2004 and has only had some general upkeep over the years. It is time for a major renovation.

This two-story structure helps women without dependent children ease into safe permanent housing. Approximately 90% of those we serve have mental health and/or substance use issues. 100% are very low income, some with no income. AWAIC does not charge rent if the individual is not capable however we work with them over time to build their esteem, address their barriers, find income, and help them to establish a positive rental history. Residents can stay up to 18 months with six months of follow up support. The operating funds for Harmony House come from a grant from the US Office of Violence Against Women.

The funds requested are needed to ensure the ongoing success of the program and that we have a safe and sound structure for residents to live in during their recovery from trauma.

I deeply appreciate your consideration.

Sincerely,

Suzi Pearson
Executive Director
Abused Women's Aid In Crisis, Inc.
907-743-5726 (office)
907-272-0100 (crisis)
100 W 13th Avenue
Anchorage, AK 99501



Dena'inaq elnen'aq' gheshtnu ch'q'u yeshdu. (Dena'ina)
I live and work on Dena'ina land. (English)

Doniece Gott

From: Abby Ferrer <aferrer@spbhs.org>
Sent: Friday, April 08, 2022 2:47 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Housing Trust Fund Testimony

Hi there,

My name is Abby Ferrer and I work under a HUD grant to address youth homelessness. I agree with those that are calling our current housing conditions a crisis, and I am experiencing the effects of it daily. In Homer, more and more houses are being lost to the short-term rental market as landlords struggle to afford their properties. Entire families are being displaced and our already scarce housing resources are rapidly disappearing. There are currently around 700 listings on Airbnb and Vrbo, and only two available long-term rentals. Our hospital, schools, mental health agencies, grocery stores and small businesses are struggling to fill available positions, leaving huge gaps in services. People that apply for housing vouchers today will join a two-and-a-half year long waiting list, and I have seen many awarded vouchers expire as we simply don't have the infrastructure to support them. Our city planner is rezoning areas of our downtown to allow for more housing construction, but without help builders will not be able to reconcile their profits with construction costs. None of these issues are exclusive to Homer, or even to Alaska, but Alaskans are uniquely vulnerable to these market conditions as we already lacked the resources to adequately house many of our rural and low-income communities.

We can fully expect things to worsen as Covid relief measures expire and we desperately need state support to avoid more hard-working folks facing homelessness. The Housing Trust Fund would benefit every single Alaskan who can't say for certain where they will be living next month, in one year, or in five years. It will promote the development of new resources and strengthen those that are unequipped to address the scope of the problem. It will allow for the revitalization of our tourism industry by retaining and supporting the workers who make it possible. It is the best way to encourage success as a state and as a community, and to demonstrate that people who are struggling are not doing so alone.

I am deeply grateful for your time and hope you will take this into consideration.

Abby Ferrer
Community Navigator
Southern Peninsula Behavioral Health Services
(907)299-9442

Doniece Gott

From: William Reiner <wreiner@gci.net>
Sent: Saturday, April 09, 2022 11:59 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: 08APR22 meeting

Today's 2022 session up coming State Budgeting.

I want to thank all the selfless serving folks that are asking for so much for so few.

I often wonder if they all were paying 10% sales tax, 15% State income tax, 35% federal income tax and of course the wonderful Property tax.

If they would be so liberal with projects put forward by all the different groups I have listened to on today's public hearing.

Now with that said:

I'm a Cash and Carry kind of a guy. So my individual opinion is NOT to go into debt with bonding things that particular communities won't or can't fully afford.

I need to only point to California to emphasize what the term Working poor is all about.

I'm happy that the APFC was able to provide the stop gap funding for previous boondoggle wants. But didn't really need projects.

It appears to me the 'Boom and Bust cycles do have value in Regulating Alaska's wants and needs. The choices were difficult. So the term "hand up and not hand out" is kept in mind with the different projects and programs.

I'm for a Budget this year that is Dollar for Dollar the same as last year.

Please close out the oil Tax Credits and share that pain across the Board.

So we don't make those mistakes again.

Thank you.

William Reiner