

HB

375

377

(4 of 4)

SFIN

FILE

~~FIELD~~
~~STW#1~~

Admin #1 ✓

deed #1 ✓

deed #1 - language
#2 - as amended

Dec #1 ✓
#2 ✓

F&G 1 ✓

Gox #1 - language
#2

HSS #1
3
#5

DLWD #1

DNR #1
2

Statewide #1 ^{language} amendment to:
#2 - language
Intent #1 - as amended

Discussions on
FY05 Operating
Budget

HB 375 & HB 377

Public Comments

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DOCUMENT(S)
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Maniilaq Association

P.O. Box 256
Kotzebue, Alaska 99752
(907) 442-3311

April 23, 2004

Written Testimony

Dear Sir or Madam:

My name is Mamie A. Reich, I am the Elders Personal Service Coordinator here at Kotzebue Senior Center. I help the elders with their financial needs, Public Assistance, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Social Security (SS), or anything they need assistance on.

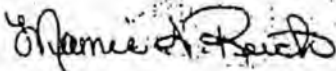
Many of the elders run into problems with Supplemental Security Income (SSI). The elders are told that they were overpaid, not they have to pay it back, and this is what happens. They receive the checks and spend it. All they know is that the check was sent to them, so they don't own it back. So I have Alaska Legal Service step in and help. This has been happening very often lately. Elders are also having problems with their IRS. They make payments on what they own and they keep getting letters saying they own more money, so they go on paying. Now I look at the papers and I find out they have overpaid IRS, I ask the elders not to pay any more, to get the receipt from them, and to give them to Alaska Legal Services to help them out. Alaska Legal Service is helping a lot of people here also the region. Many times they are told they need a lawyer, but they cannot afford that. They can hardly make end meet with money they get, sometimes they also forget about it. I have seen this many times.

One elder passed away in 1996, this year she got a bank statement for taxes; I found out she has money yet in the bank. The son calls the bank to see if he can get the money, but they told him that he needs a lawyer. He cannot afford a lawyer, so I talked with Russ at Alaska Legal Services and he helped him out.

Things like this happen. We are very happy to have Alaska Legal Services here. They have helped many people here in Kotzebue, also the region. When elders come to me for help I call Alaska Legal Services here and talk to Russ.

Alaska Legal Service has done a lot of good work here. They are needed.

Respectfully Yours,



Mamie Reich
Elders Personal Support Coordinator

Member Villages

Ivlsappaat, Nunarchiaq, Ipnatchiaq, Karyak, Kivalinia, Laugoiik, Qikiqtaruk, Nautanaq, Nuurvik, Akuligaq, Isinnaq
Amber, Buckland, Deering, Kiana, Kivalina, Kobhuk, Kotzebue, Noatak, Noorvik, Selawik, Shungnak

Subject: University of Alaska Funding

Date: Fri, 16 Apr 2004 11:45:11 -0800

From: Jennifer Madsen <Jenni@pobox.alaska.net>

To: Mindy_Rowland@legis.state.ak.us

CC: ffmlj@aurora.uaf.edu, Lteders@fs.uaf.edu, afrec@uaa.alaska.edu, Lisa_harbo@yahoo.com

Honorable Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

It is of great concern that we have not seen our collective bargaining agreements funded at the University of Alaska. All four of the collective bargaining groups are affiliated with Alaska Public Employees Association/American Federation of Teachers and all four have cooperatively agreed with the University of Alaska on collective bargaining agreements. Funding of these contracts is essential in the operations of the university.

Although, the contracts are agreed upon for multi years, it is an annual requirement of law that contracts between university employees and the university be funded by name. This requirement is not met by funding the university generally. Rather, specific mention of the contracts funded must be made.

The language as used last year (unedited) and in prior years is set out below. Please ensure that similar language is included in the final version of the funding legislation for the University of Alaska.

* Sec. 29. SALARY AND BENEFIT ADJUSTMENTS. The operating budget
11 appropriations made to the University of Alaska in sec. 1 of this Act include amounts for
12 salary and benefit adjustments for university employees who are not members of a collective
13 bargaining unit and for implementing the monetary terms of the following collective
14 bargaining agreements with entities representing employees of the University of Alaska:
15 (1) Alaska Higher Education Crafts and Trades Employees;
16 (2) Alaska Community Colleges' Federation of Teachers;
17 (3) United Academics;
18 (4) United Academics-Adjuncts.

Your attention on this matter is greatly appreciated.

Respectfully,
Jennifer Madsen
Field Representative

cc: United Academics, Alaska Higher Education Crafts and Trades Employees (Local 6070), United Academics-Adjuncts, Alaska Community Colleges' Federation of Teachers.

Jennifer Madsen
Field Representative
APEA/AFT (AFL-CIO)

907-274-1688
800-478-9992
(fax) 907-277-4588

RECEIVED

APR 16 2004



FAIRBANKS LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION OFFICE
119 N. CUSHMAN ST. SUITE 101
FAIRBANKS, AK 99701

WRITTEN TESTIMONY TRANSMITTAL SHEET

TO:	Senator Lyda Green	FROM:	Fran/Fbx LIO
COMMITTEE:	Senate Finance, Co, Chair	DATE:	4/14/2004
FAX NUMBER:	465-2187	PAGES:	10
PHONE NUMBER:	465-6600	FAXED ON:	4/14/2004
RE:	Written Testimony: Budget Hearings	TELECONFERENCED ON:	4/13/2004

URGENT FOR REVIEW PLEASE COMMENT PLEASE REPLY PLEASE RECYCLE

NOTES/COMMENTS:

Written testimony for budget hearings before the SFIN committee, teleconferenced on 04/13/04. The originals will be pouched to Senator Green's office.

Fran/Fbx LIO

PHONE: 452-4448

FAX: 456-3346

4/13/04

To Senate Finance Committee
From: Carter Crawford tpc-ccrawford@gei.com

100 Maple Dr FBW 99709

Please restore the Community Block Grant to full funding of \$1.2 million. In my last teleconference, Rep Hawker said it was back up and now I understand you have cut it 40% again. Please to the information I have sent down in the past.

You will only save state dollars temporarily. And then you are in for a painful escalation in costs for state- mandated services that the grant was providing at 25% of the cost.

Most of you champion private enterprise and an economy based on private sector employment. Cutting the Community Grant goes against everything I thought you stood for, including adding to the costs and services of one your least favorite agencies, the State HSS.

By restoring full funding you will:

Provide more service

Provide local jobs

Reduce community health and social problems

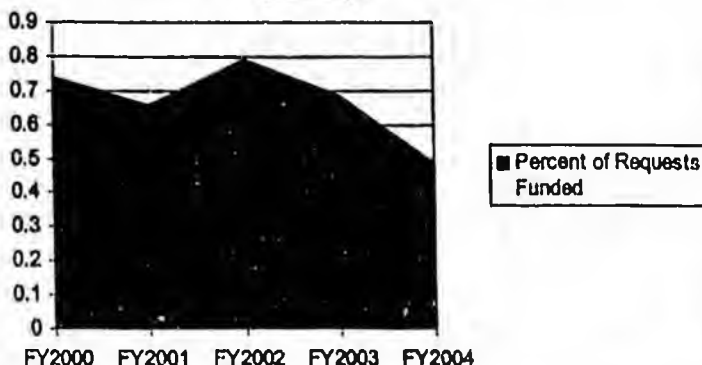
Reduce state costs.

It does not get any better than that.

State Funding Decreased 42% Since FY 2002.

The community lost the potential to generate \$459,466, \$769,652, and \$1,287,480 of other funds, project income and in-kind contributions in FY02-03-04 respectively, due to insufficient state funding.

Percent of Requests Funded FY00-FY04



FY 2004 Human Services Community Matching Grant Projects NOT Funded

Big Brothers Big Sisters	Match children in need of additional adult attention with adult volunteers.	\$50,000	\$919,862
Fairbanks Community Food Bank	Collect local surplus food and give it to people who need it, through agencies who are trained to identify and respond to those needs.	\$50,000	\$2,052,000
Alaska Legal Services Corp.	Provide legal assistance to low-income families (those with incomes below 125% of poverty level) in civil cases such as housing, income, public assistance benefits, health care and family law.	\$50,000	\$80,508
Interior Community Health Center	Provide preventative & primary health care services on a sliding fee schedule to low & moderate income people.	\$50,000	\$184,000
North Star Council on Aging	Deliver hot healthy meals to homebound elders living within the FNSB, to include frozen meal service on weekends.	\$50,000	\$268,343
North Star Youth Court	Operate community-based juvenile justice diversion and victim/offender mediation program.	\$50,000	\$181,896
Interior AIDS Association	Provide a full service, methadone maintenance treatment program to opiate dependent persons. (Requested \$49,558 but only \$31,014 was available)	\$31,014	\$138,718
Total Projects Funded		\$331,014	\$3,825,327

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National Senior Service Corps	Support transportation needs of senior citizens volunteering their time through Foster Grandparents, Senior Companions, and RSVP programs.	\$50,000	\$314,014
Hospice of the Tanana Valley	Provide Patient Care Services and support to terminally ill people and their loved ones. Provide Bereavement Services, education, information and training on issues relating to death and dying, grief and loss.	\$50,000	\$535,134
ACCA	Provide early intervention services to children, age birth to three, in social services custody who begin life with medical, biological or social risks and who experience developmental delays.	\$50,000	\$10,225
Bread Line, Inc.	Feed people through the Soup Kitchen, operate a day labor program, and supply donated clothing and other household goods to those in need.	\$48,500	\$115,139
Fairbanks Native Association	Provide a van service that picks up public inebriates and substance abusers, assesses their condition, and transports them to an appropriate facility.	\$50,000	\$169,254
Boys & Girls Club of the Tanana Valley	Provide an affordable summer day camp program where youth ages 8-12 participate in programs and activities designed to encourage academic and social development, positive choices, increased self esteem and competence.	\$50,000	\$79,275
Fairbanks Counseling & Adoption	Engage at-risk youth ages 14-18 in the positive physical and emotional challenges of wilderness adventure leading to the cessation of substance abuse, achievement of physical fitness and school/job retention culminating in an increased capacity for creating a positive pro-social outlook on life.	\$35,000	\$64,439
Total Projects Not Funded		\$352,044	\$1,287,480

Total Project Request for FY 2004

\$683,058

\$5,112,807

car and sell it. And make the fine for someone who knowingly loans/rents etc a car to the convicted subject to a \$10,000 fine as well.

ALL OF THE ABOVE IS CONSTRUCTIVE, BUT BASED ON NEGATIVE EVENTS. NOW I WANT TO SHIFT TO A VERY POSITIVE USE OF STATE FUNDS, AN INVESTMENT IN LOCAL HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES THAT WILL SAVE THE STATE HUGE SUMS OF MONEY.

This is the Community Matching Grant program. I am in private industry, a hard-nosed fiscally conservative Republican who has championed this piece of legislation for years. I became familiar with it when I volunteered for the HSS Commission, agreed to early morning meetings, was the only one to attend all meetings and became Chair.

I was absolutely amazed at what these non-profits were accomplishing on very limited budgets, and what they were saving the state. The formula was and is real simple. Low salaries, tons of volunteers and donated materials, a combination of local, state, private and some federal funding, an intense review process, and strong boards driving results. ✓

With some improvements from the Commission, they became far more fiscally responsive, requests were based on documented needs and each agency had to document success in order to receive future funding.

The range of services for the agencies receiving funding is broad, but due to declining revenues, becomes restricted to the top social problems in Fairbanks as defined by the United Way studies.

Alcoholism, domestic violence, health and well-being of children, food and shelter, and care for the elderly.

In each and every case, the agencies supply these service at a minimum of 25% of the cost of a state agency. And in each and every case these agencies PREVENT costs to the state in adjudication and or incarceration and institutionalization. ✕

THE COMMUNITY MATCHING HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES GRANT HAS BECOME THE MODEL FOR A STATE, LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND NON-PROFIT COLLABORATION. The state provides the foundation, the borough, in our case, matches it 30% and the non-profits must provide both cost effective services, but also a strong volunteer match as well. And each year the use is evaluated twice, once during the year and once at year-end.

The Governor has proposed to continue the Community Grant, but at a lower level than 04, but it now includes the Mat-Su region for separate funding. This means

that the same dollars must now include an approximate 15 % increase (20,000 hh) in the number of homes represented by the three areas.

Not only will this end up costing the State more money as more people in need and more offenders slip through the cracks, but there is a real risk that some agencies may fold.

The subject of Faith-Based Service providers has been suggested, not only to relieve the state of its funding, but also to expand the services provided. Everyone supports the growth of more services provided by the communities. But none of these groups is prepared to take on the responsibility of professional services, and most are trying to replace the number of people no longer served due to funding cuts.

Finally I will depart from the views of most of my hss friends is supporting no reinstatement of the Longevity Bonus. Those truly in need will get the State aid they need, and if they are too proud to ask, then so be it. I saw the complaints in three categories. First the group for whom no amount of preplanning could take care of their basic needs. Second the group of "haves" who are simply really angry at the state for not rewarding them for all their years of hard work, support for the state etc. The third group, which is the largest, are the greedy "how dare you take my cushion for which I did not plan because Uncle Alaska would provide my entitlement" group. I am 65 and when I was 21 my father said do not count on Social Security for retirement living. I did not, I sacrificed, I saved, and every year I will get SSS I will be ever so grateful. It is somewhat amusing that these seniors suffer the same mentality as our Gen X and Y'ers. And that of course extends to the supporters of fully funding the Dividend.

Following is some lengthy documentation of facts related to the Grant.

IT IS AN INVESTMENT.

IT SAVES THE STATE MONEY ...IN BOTH DIRECT COSTS OF ADJUDICATION, INCARCERATION AND INSTITUTIONALIZATION.

IT SAVES THE STATE MONEY BY PROVIDING SERVICES THAT THE STATE WOULD HAVE TO PROVIDE AT 4X THE COST.

IT SAVES THE STATE MONEY BY PROVIDING PREVENTION SERVICES.

IT IS THE MOST COST EFFECTIVE WAY TO DELIVER SERVICE.

IT HAS A POWERFUL ROI BY LOWERING THE NEED FOR STATE SERVICES AND EMPLOYEES.

April 13, 2004

Message to the Senate Finance Committee and the Interior Delegation

The nonprofit human service agencies in the Fairbanks North Star Borough work exceedingly well together, as partners, to offer the best, unduplicated services to individuals that money can buy. However, if that money is insufficient or nonexistent, the staff and ultimately the services, HAVE BEEN cut and WILL BE cut in the future. Basic needs such as adult literacy from Adult Learning Programs of Alaska or Literacy Council of Alaska, food from the Food Bank, primary and preventative medical care from the Interior Community Health Center, legal advice and referral from Alaska Legal Services, and mentors from Big Brothers Big Sisters, WILL go unmet if this Community Matching Block Grant Funding is cut now or in the future.

And shelter from homelessness from Family Focus

I work with the individuals who depend on these basic services as they try to work on their GED's or try to get a job. If their stomachs are aching from lack of food, or they don't have the money to pay for dental work in their mouths, they don't do well studying or obtaining a job no matter how hard they try.

If the Community Matching Block Grant Funding is cut the whole community suffers because of a reduced quality of life for ALL children and adults. If services are cut, the hopelessness and frustration is not just felt by those who are attempting to better their lives, but also by those of us who are just trying to provide service to increase the education levels, healthy lifestyles, and safety of the community.

In the Alaska State Constitution, it is written, "the Legislature shall provide for public welfare." If we cut the funds which provide service to the most needy of our community, how is that "providing for public welfare?"

My request from you tonight is to raise the Health and Social Services Matching Block Grant amount to at least 1.16 million and to continue this funding instead of phasing it out.
Thank you.

Submitted by:

Jackie Debevec

Ms. Jackie Debevec
3662 Hardluck Drive
Fairbanks, AK 99709
(907) 452-6434x21
jdebevec@adultlearning.org

Group Affiliation:

Arctic Alliance (Vice President)

Adult Learning Programs of Alaska (Recruitment and Retention Coordinator)



Fairbanks North Star Borough

Health & Social Services
Commission

520 Fifth Ave. PO Box 71267 Fairbanks, Alaska 99707-1267 (907) 459-1474 FAX (907) 459-1280

MEMORANDUM

To: Senate Finance Committee
From: Carrie Dershin, Chair, Health and Social Services Commission
Date: April 13, 2004
Subject: Community Matching Block Grant

On behalf of the Fairbanks North Star Borough Health and Social Services Commission, I am expressing our support of the Community Matching Grant. As a follow up to my testimony, I am including a brief report on the community impact of the Human Services Community Matching Grant. This will further illustrate the need to continue this vital grant program.

It is my hope that you are already well aware of the impact that these funds have on the delivery of *essential human services* within our community. These range from hot meals and emergency food boxes to attainable health care to youth leadership and mentoring. The services that are provided by our local non-profits are non-duplicative, efficient and cost-effective.

In FY03, state funds of \$312,083 combined with the Borough allocation of \$184, 291 leveraged a total community value of \$4,946,767 when other sources of funds and the value of in-kind donations are considered. In short, these funds provided a value to the community *fourteen times* that of the actual grant dollars allocated.

The need to preserve this grant and the impact that these funds have in our community is significant. The health and care of our community is critical to the overall growth and development of our future. Unfortunately the future of the Community Matching Grant is at risk. Since FY02, state funding for the Community Matching Grant has decreased 42%. With the Mat-Su Borough now eligible for the funding as well, this reduces the amount coming into our community even further. The current proposal that you have on the table is such a significant loss. Rather than the combined total of \$331, 014 coming to agencies as in FY04, we could see less than \$190,000. This roughly translates into only four local agencies that could receive this grant. This is down from the eleven agencies of two years ago. This significantly impacts our community's ability to: deliver hot meals to homebound elders, provide legal assistance to low income families, offer juvenile justice alternatives, help with dental needs to low income residents, welcome kids into a safe after school program and provide an emergency shelter and crisis response to homeless youth. All of the agencies that provide these services would not be funded under the proposed Senate budget.

The House has recommended an increase of the Governor's budget to total \$1,159,000. I ask that the Senate do the same. The need for services is going to continue to increase. Our safety net which has been held together by our local non-profits is continuing to be stretched and could lose its strength without the necessary fiscal support from our state and our local community. The Human Services Community Matching Grant is an *exceptionally cost-effective* use of public dollars that exemplifies the deeply rooted philosophy of neighbors helping neighbors. Thank you for the valuable work that you do and for your continued and future support keeping our communities healthy and well.

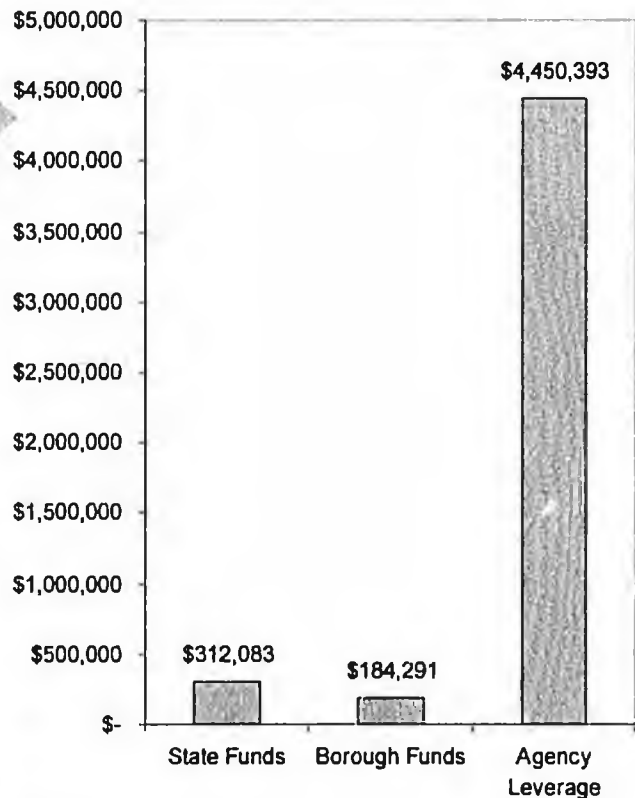
12

**FY 2003
Human Services Community Matching Grant
Highlights of the Community Impact**

Grant Funds Were Distributed to Eleven Non-profit Agencies

- ACCA
- Alaska Legal Services Corporation
- Big Brothers / Big Sisters
- Fairbanks Community Food Bank
- Fairbanks Native Association
- Hospice of the Tanana Valley
- Interior AIDS Association
- Interior Community Health Center
- National Senior Service Corps
- North Star Council on Aging
- North Star Youth Court

Funding Leverage



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

FY 2003

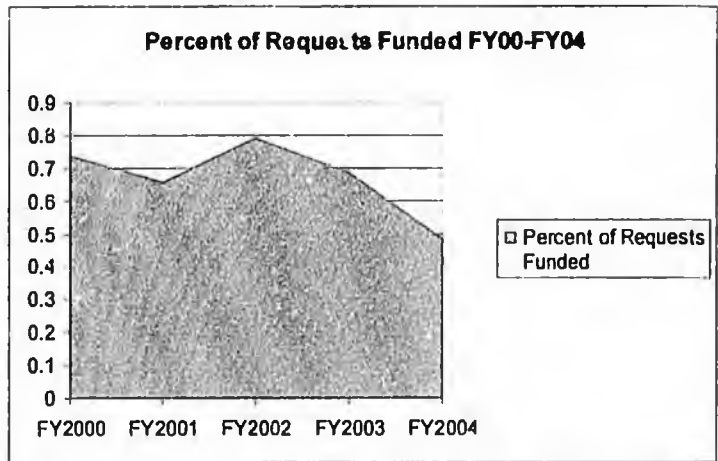
State funds	\$ 312,083
Borough funds	\$ 184,291
Income generated by projects	\$ 294,776
Other funds received by projects	\$ 1,588,481
In-kind generated by projects	\$ 2,567,136
Total value to the community	\$ 4,946,767

Highlights of Services Provided

- Distributed 1,360,798 pounds of food to hungry people using 16,147 volunteer hours
- Homebound seniors received 38,480 hot meals delivered to their home
- 2,081 low income individuals received primary and preventative medical care services
- 366 terminally ill people and their loved ones received direct care and support
- 250 individuals received legal advice and referrals for housing, family law, health, and income maintenance problems
- 522 children spent time with their Big Brother / Big Sister, enriching their lives with adult attention and support; over 68% showed improvement in school performance
- 92 youth were arraigned in youth court, diverting work from the formal juvenile justice system; youth defendants paid \$3,086 in restitution and contributed 1,615 hours of community service
- Provided transportation for 3,809 senior volunteer trips from their residences to 27 active workstations
- Community Service Patrol drivers picked-up and transported 1386 public inebriates

**State Funding Decreased 42%
Since FY 2002.**

The community lost the potential to generate \$459,466, \$769,652, and \$1,287,480 of other funds, project income and in-kind contributions in FY02-03-04 respectively, due to insufficient state funding.



FY 2004 Human Services Community Matching Grant Projects Funded			Other Fun Project Incom. & In-Kind Contributions
Agency	Brief Project Description	Grant Amount	
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Total Projects Not Funded		\$352,044	\$1,287,480

SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE TESTIMONY ON THE BUDGET

April 13, 2004

To: Senate Finance Committee
Re: Budget
From: Taber Rehbaum, Arctic Alliance for People
Personal address: P.O. Box 438, Ester AK 99725 taber@mosquiconet.com 458-0423

I would like to strongly urge the Senate Finance Committee to increase the amount designated for the Health and Social Services Community Matching Block Grant to no less than \$1.160 million, the amount that would accommodate funding Mat-Su programs without further reductions to the Fairbanks and Anchorage portions. I would also urge you to abandon the language calling for a phase out of this program. My understanding is that this language initially originated in a House Finance committee. The House, acknowledging the importance of the Block grant, has since removed that language.

The programs funded through the Block grant **save the State money** - many times over the small General Fund component - medicaid dollars, corrections dollars - public assistance dollars, etc. The process used to fund the programs is **extremely efficient** (a volunteer commission in Fairbanks, for example) and keeps the programs and agencies **fully accountable**.

The exacting nature of the grant process ensures that each program clearly identifies the need, develops the methodology to address that need, shares all budget and management information, and provides **measurable positive outcomes** to show that the funds are having an impact. Missions and measures - outcome-based funding - this is the clearest example that the State has - and its working!

The programs funded through the Block grant also have an economic impact on our community by creating jobs and reducing the need for local intervention services (police calls, emergency room visits, etc). The State dollars are **leveraged to bring much more money into the community** - and that leveraging is magnified by the use of volunteers and in-kind contributions.

Please bring the Senate numbers up to the \$1.160 million that the House has set forth for this grant. Anchorage, Fairbanks, and Mat-Su are depending on this money, and thousands of Alaskans will benefit from the services funded by this grant.

Cutting or eliminating this program will cost the state a great deal - in **real dollars** and in lost human potential. Help us continue to make this State a wonderful place to live. Fully fund the HSCMBG at \$1,160,000



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

HB 375; HB 377

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate Finance Committee Name

Committee on Grant Funding for Human Services Dated April 13, 2007
Bill / Subject Community Matching Grant

My name is Julie Shefchik, I have been volunteering with the NSYC since July 1999. I am a Senior at West Valley High School, and I am testifying on behalf of the North Star Youth Court.

Recently, we participated as an organization vying for funds allocated to the Human Services Community Matching Grant.

Of the seven organizations applying for this ~~money~~ much needed money, not all will get it. I would ask you to consider this when debating the budget. As Chief Judge for the NSYC, I ~~first hand~~ participate first hand in bettering our community and the youth who pass through the youth court.

The NSYC plays an integral role in lowering the recidivism rate of ~~per~~ juvenile offenders in ~~the~~ the DFYS. We take cases that would otherwise go un-noticed or poorly adjudicated. The NSYC acts as a true part of the Alaska Court System, alleviating stress put on the DFYS and the Juvenile Justice System.

I ask you to consider the need of the community of Fairbanks, the need for the North Star Youth Court, and all of its wonderful volunteers and employees. Thank you for hearing my testimony.

SIGNED: Julie Shefchik Julie Shefchik
Testifier

North Star Youth Court
Representing

5576 Grandview Court Fairbanks Ak 99709
Address / Phone Number

907 460-4274

907 456 6792 (NSYC office)



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APR 16 2004

Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate Finance Committee name

Committee on HB 377 / HB 375, dated _____, Bill/Subject

Speaking on behalf of the AK Nurses Assoc & Valley Hospital, I am asking for your support in funding the Public Health Service fully.

I am a certified infection control nurse working for the past 10yr Frontline in the acute care setting as the infection control nurse.

The Public Health system is an integral part of providing healthy initiatives, prevention & training for health & well being of our communities

The Public health nurses & team members are the Frontline workers in our communities for infection prevention & surveillance for community health concerns. They are part of my team @ the hospital as well as other healthcare providers in our communities.

Public health care helps keep HC costs down by decreasing inappropriate visits to Emerg. Rooms & Urgent care centers, which then allows these services to be readily available to those who need it.

PHN talk to & care for people nobody else wants to see. In the fastest growing area in the state we are seeing health disparities for people with no insurance, on Medicaid & Medicare due to limits by private medical providers. PHN advocate & support practices & lifestyles to keep people well & out of the costly HC system.

Signed: Pat Ball RN CIC

By providing interventions such as ① Home visits for new mothers & babies ② Partnering w/ schools,

Testifier

Churches & other org. to provide health education to children & families ③ working with me in TB & STP surveillance, treatment & control ④ Flu or infectious disease investigation, tx & education to stop diseases/infections before an outbreak ⑤ Immunizations of vaccine preventable diseases.

Valley Hosp / AK Nurses Assoc.
Representing (Optional)

PO Box 876443 Wasilla
Address

907-746-8674 (w)
Phone number

We should think about the small pox, SARS & ANTHRAX events most recently affecting the American people. It could happen here & the PHN would be frontline. These services must be maintained or increased to meet the emerging infections & those conditions that impact the health of our communities

Public health services are frontline but are often forgotten because they work behind the scenes.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the SFIN committee name

committee on _____, dated 4/13/04
bill/subject

2 pages

see attached from Kathy Wells

Signed: _____

Testifier

Representing (Optional)

Mailing Address

Phone Number

RE: Don't Cut State Parks Budget

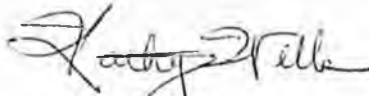
Dear Senate Finance Committee Members:

I have been serving as a member of the Mat-Su State Parks Citizen's Advisory Board since 1998, have been a user of State Parks since 1980, and for the sixth year in a row I feel the compelling need to speak out about cuts to the State Parks Budget. I am very aware of the fiscal problems within the State of Alaska; however, I am dismayed that the legislature each year continues to starve State Parks of adequate funding necessary to maintain the parks in a safe manner.

State Parks is currently and has been woefully under funded for the past decade. The band aids for this problem have been to use volunteers, contract out some of the state parks to private business and to initiate user fees. Using volunteers and contracting out parks are problematic and not a viable long term solution for these reasons:

- 1) Volunteers need training and staff supervision. Volunteers are not able to address Park regulation issues or enforce regulations. Staff must be available to supervise and assist volunteers.
- 2) Contracting out the Parks to private enterprise reduces the amount of revenue to the State. Maintenance and care of the Parks is not consistent. Private enterprise has been known to leave in the middle of a season because they either can't handle managing the park or discover there is little revenue to be made. There is no law enforcement available to private enterprise unless they call the State Troopers.

User fees are an appropriate means of raising revenue to maintain State Parks, however, State Parks do not always get to keep the revenue made and each year the legislature argues over what the parks should receive. I am tired of the old argument that the constitution does not allow you, our legislators to dedicate funds. If the State Parks bring in the revenue through receipts each year then it can be determined each year during budget time that they are allowed to keep the receipts. Our State Parks personnel should be given support and incentives to generate revenue through fees and rewarded by being able to use these fees to sustain our parks. State Parks deferred maintenance costs are out of this world and have been neglected long enough. Would you want one of your family, friends or relatives falling through an outhouse hole? That happened not long ago. We have the largest State Park system in the country with an operational budget at approx. 5.2 million. That is a steal! State Parks are looking shabby and unkempt, our residents and tourists notice this and so should you. Public health and safety is being compromised and will result in liability to the State due to reduced staffing. State Parks are for Alaskans first, step up to the plate and declare enough is enough. Leave the operating budget as it is and let the Parks keep their receipts! If you need to cut spending, consider cutting the legislature's budget. It has been increased each year.



Kathy Wells
k.wells@excite.com
373-6414



Cover Sheet

Anchorage Legislative Information Office
Office - (907) 269-0111 Fax - (907) 269-0229

To: SENATOR LYON GREEN, CO-CHAIR, SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Atten: SENATOR GREEN Fax: 965-3805 Phone: _____

From: ANCHORAGE LIO Phone: 269-0111

Instructions: _____

Sent: _____ Date: 4-14-04 Time: 8:25 A.M.

Disposal of Original: _____ Pouch: _____ Discard: _____

Number of Pages: 13 (counting cover sheet)

SUPPORT FOR THE STATE LIBRARY, ARCHIVES, AND MUSEUMS

ALASKA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

I am Barbara Sweetland Smith. I am speaking today on behalf of the Alaska Historical Society. Our concern today is with the line items for the Alaska State Museums, the Alaska State Archives and the Alaska State Library, which fall under the administration of the Department of Education and Early Development.

We understand that Senator Wilken has proposed adding \$75,000 to the budget for the Division of Libraries, Archives, and Museums. The 500 statewide members of the Alaska Historical Society strongly support his intent and thank him for his recognition of the need for these funds.

We would like to urge the Senate Finance Committee to give serious consideration, as well, to the budget for the Division of Libraries, Archives and Museums approved by the House of Representatives. The House added funds to restore a curator's position cut last year at the State Museums and added two professional positions to the State Archives. The House also restored monies to the Alaska State Libraries for contractual services and operating supplies—both cut sharply last year.

The additional funds for the State Museums and the State Archives correct a serious imbalance in administration of our historical collections. The curator's position at the Sheldon Jackson Museum was cut last year, leaving only 3 people to manage a vast and irreplaceable collection of artifacts.

The State Archives has been woefully understaffed for years. It is quite astonishing that Alaska's archives system does not have an archivist responsible for and knowledgeable about electronic records preservation. The House of Representatives' budget would correct that egregious omission. Also, the State Archives has imperative need for a Records Analyst based in Anchorage, where so many state records are generated, in order to assure proper flow of documents to the Records Center and the Archives.

The House funding for the State Library meets a critical operational need.

The line item for the Division of Libraries, Archives and Museums is less than ½ of 1% of the DEED budget. Yet, these agencies provide vital and unique educational services around the state to schools, adult Alaskans, and visitors. They also are vital as a means for preserving our state's history.

The Alaska Historical Society urges the Senate support the State Library, Archives, and Museums by accepting the DEED budget approved by the House of Representatives.



St. Francis House provided **food assistance to 4,925 individuals last month.** Additionally, we facilitated the distribution of 236 boxes of USDA Food, a program that targets the elderly, pregnant women and children. By March, we were the only significant source for financial assistance in Anchorage that still had funds. That month we distributed nearly \$11,000.00, for the prevention of eviction and utility shut-off to 38 families including 54 children. When we resume the financial assistance program next winter, the funds we receive through **HSMG will determine how many families we can prevent from becoming homeless.** Community belt tightening is felt the most at the bottom and reductions in family support services have dramatically increased the need for emergency assistance. Many people tell us they have been unable to secure adequate employment before unemployment benefits run out. Unemployment and hunger are at an extreme level in villages resulting in families moving to Anchorage seeking relief from their situation. We have 95 families from Mat-Su on our food pantry database and we serve families as far south as Girdwood. **Our client load is up 20% over the last year. Our staff is up 0%. The HSMG helps to fund one of our four staff positions, the essential position of Resource and Volunteer Coordinator. Through the funding of that single position, St. Francis House leveraged 1,240 hours of donated labor by 45 volunteers in March.** Some of the people that we rely on to help us deliver services are people who also rely upon St. Francis House to provide them with a user friendly setting in which to develop social and job skills. We are a work site for developmentally delayed students, adult and youth offenders and community restitution programs. The work of St. Francis House is simple enough for anyone to be successful and meaningful enough to strengthen the weakest self-esteem, and soften the hardest attitude. This is a win-win exchange that provides immeasurable benefits to the community. Please reconsider your recommendation to cut this important lifeline to so many Alaskans during this very difficult economic period.





ALASKA PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION

Committed To Advancing Alaska's Public Health Since 1978

ALPHA

Page 1 of 2

April 13, 2004

Senate Hearings on CSHB375 Operating Budget

We Urge Your Support for Public Health Nursing Fund Restoration!

Dear members of the Senate Finance Committee:

On behalf of the Alaska Public Health Association, representing over two hundred public health professionals from across Alaska who are deeply committed to developing sound public health policy and sustaining a strong public health system to improve the health of all Alaskans, we urge you to restore full funding to the Division of Public Health's Section of Nursing.

At a time when State Government takes pride in leading by focusing on Mission and Outcomes, we are deeply concerned that proposed cuts to the Division of Public Health Nursing Section will negatively impact health outcomes in our communities. At the very time we need to be strengthening the public health infrastructure to respond to increasing demands for disease prevention and control, these budget cuts risk further eroding the public health infrastructure.

Public health nursing is the front line public health workforce in Alaskan communities to deliver disease prevention and protection, health promotion, and health assessment services.

The public health infrastructure extends beyond the 23 public health centers to more than 250 communities through the travel of Itinerant Public Health Nurses. In four communities, services are contracted directly with Norton Sound Health Corporation, Maniilaq Health Corporation, North Slope Borough Health Department and Municipality of Anchorage Health Department.

The success of our public health nurses is the result of years of establishing and building trust in the communities they serve, working to identify those at risk, to monitor health status while supporting local communities in responding to health concerns. The skilled contribution for health assessment, planning and development by Public Health Nurses is highly valued.

Core services provided by public health nurses includes disease protection and prevention to prevent and control chronic and communicable diseases, including TB, Hepatitis A/B/C, HIV, STD, food-water-vector borne diseases, diabetes, obesity, and cardio-vascular disease.

In an era where terrorism, SARS, West Nile Virus, Small Pox, new and emerging diseases can threaten the public's health, Public Health Nursing has been at the core of the State of Alaska's response plans to assist in the development of statewide and regional disaster preparedness, training and exercises for bio-terrorism preparedness, and to respond at the community level to potential threats to the public's health.

April 13, 2004

Services provided by Public Health Nurses also help to expand access to health care, in communities where there are no providers, or when other providers are unavailable to serve.

Among the most pressing and important service issues are increasing demands for disease control services. This winter, for example, public health nurses were on the front lines responding to cases of Viral Meningitis, Pertussis (Whooping Cough), Salmonella and a near-record flu season. Increased surveillance and continued follow up for the 2000-2001 tuberculosis out break continues to be needed. Achieving and sustaining immunization rates to protect our children, youth and adults at risk are all essential outcomes in the Department of Health and Social Services mission and measures.

Disease control efforts by the Alaska Division of Public Health are central to delivering the State's constitutional mandate to protect and promote the public's health. It is also critical in assuring Alaska's viability as a tourist destination and place where businesses want to operate.

We are deeply concerned with the impact of budget cuts to Public Health Nursing. The dilemma of reduced funding and support for the Division of Public Health has resulted in a restructuring of Alaska's Public Health Nursing services, in an effort to limit the impact on services to communities. Plans to transition services to the private sector are ambitious at best and without comprehensive planning, will result in critical health services and – most importantly -- the protection of the public's health to be threatened.

As the infrastructure for public health continues to erode, we express concern that the Division of Public Health Section of Nursing may be spreading itself too thin, which could result in a risk to the public's health and decreases in health outcomes for our infants, children, adults and elderly.

Ultimately, the legal responsibility for safeguarding and promoting the health of the population rests with government public health agencies.

We urge you to prioritize full restoration of funds to the Division of Public Health Section of Nursing along with support for a tobacco tax, among other sources of revenue being proposed.

Thank you.



Marie J. Lavigne, Executive Director
Alaska Public Health Association

APRIL 13, 2004

SENATORS:

I WISH TO ADDRESS THE FUNDING FOR THE ALCOHOL SAFETY ACTION PROGRAM (ASAP). IT IS MY UNDERSTANDING THAT ONLY HALF OF THE REQUESTED FUNDING HAS BEEN APPROVED. FOR PUBLIC SAFETY REASONS, I REQUEST REINSTATEMENT OF ALL THE FUNDS.

ASAP MONITORS ALCOHOL RELATED MISDEMEANOR CASES FOR THE DISTRICT COURT. AT ANY GIVEN TIME, THERE ARE 13,000 TO 15,000 OPEN CASES AT ANCHORAGE ASAP. ASAP IS THE NEUTRAL LINK BETWEEN THE CLIENTS, THE TREATMENT COMMUNITY, AND THE COURTS.

DUE TO BUDGET CUTS, THE KENAI ASAP OFFICE WAS CLOSED JULY 1, 2003. THE EFFECT WAS OVERWHELMING. EIGHTY PERCENT (80%) OF DEFENDANTS ORDERED TO COMPLETE TREATMENT STOPPED ATTENDING THEIR SESSIONS, AS NO ONE WAS AVAILABLE TO REPORT THEIR NONCOMPLIANCE TO THE COURT. I HATE TO THINK OF WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO ANCHORAGE SHOULD THERE BE NO MONITORING AGENCY. UNFORTUNATELY, UNLESS SOMEONE IS REPORTING (NON)COMPLIANCE TO A HIGHER AUTHORITY (I.E. THE COURTS), MANY PEOPLE WILL NOT ATTEND TREATMENT ON THEIR OWN. I DO NOT RELISH THE THOUGHT OF DRIVING AROUND TOWN WITH NUMEROUS UNTREATED DUI OFFENDERS STILL ON THE STREET.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION.



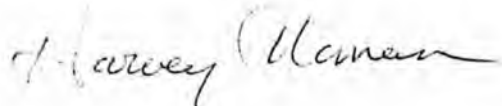
Jeannette Chernikoff, MS
PO Box 90781
Anchorage, Alaska 99509
Email: RuskiAK@aol.com

PUBLIC COMMENT

SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE

SUBJECT: ASAP FUNDING

As you consider restoration of funds for ASAP please take care to restore all 13 positions. It is my understanding that funding itself has been restored but only half of their staff. This may have been a simple oversight. If so, please move to correct the situation as all 13 positions are sorely needed. The ASAP office does a great job, and the state is getting excellent bang for the buck. Let's not cripple their efforts. Thanks



Harvey G. Homan

4005 Spennard Rd.
Anch. AK 99517.

To: Senate Finance Committee

From: Suzan Cheeseman
P.O. Box 671501
Chugiak, AK 99567
907-688-8085
bcheese@gci.net

Date: 4/13/04

Re: Alcohol Safety Action Program (ASAP)

As this bill has progressed through various committees I have been paying close attention to the funding for ASAP. It appears that the majority of the funds for ASAP have been restored but there has only been enough money placed in the personnel line to restore 7 of the present 13 positions. This perhaps is an oversight. However, oversight or not, this needs to be corrected.

ASAP is the agency that monitors drug and alcohol treatment for the courts and DMV on misdemeanor cases. State statute mandates that all DWI offenders be ordered to ASAP. The courts also order offenders to ASAP for monitoring on DV Assaults, Disorderly Conduct, Controlled Substance and Weapons offenses, Child Abuse and Neglect and numerous other misdemeanor cases involving alcohol or drugs. Without full staffing of the present 13 positions, the numbers and kinds of cases that can be monitored will be drastically reduced leaving offenders with substance abuse issues without a monitoring body. These positions are critical for proper monitoring and for the safety of the community.

Please consider the consequences of deleting so many positions from this critical agency and place the positions back into the budget.

Sincerely,



Suzan Cheeseman

April 12, 2004

TO: SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE

RE: OPERATING BUDGET - ALCOHOL SAFETY ACTION PROGRAM (ASAP)

DEAR SIR/MADAM:

I URGE YOU TO RESTORE THE FUNDING AND ALL 13 POSITIONS TO THE ALCOHOL SAFETY ACTION PROGRAM (ASAP). THIS IS AN IMPORTANT AND WORTHWHILE PROGRAM WHERE PUBLIC SAFETY IS CONCERNED.

SINCERELY,



ERIKA and DAVID HENRY
9930 WHITEFISH CIRCLE
ANCHORAGE, AK 99515
dehenry@ptialaska.net

To: Senate Finance Committee

From: James Stanton
117 W. Haworth Cir
Wasilla, AK 99654
907-357-0713
jstanton@mtaonline.net

Ref: Alcohol Safety Action Program (ASAP)

I have been watching the funding bill proceed through the different committees and have paid close attention to the funding of ASAP. If I read the figures correctly you have re-funded the majority of ASAP but only placed enough funds in the personnel section for 6 of the 13 positions currently held at ASAP. Why would you refund almost the entire program but not place the funds in the personnel section of the budget?

ASAP is the only agency in the state that monitors alcohol related misdemeanors. These positions are critical for the proper monitoring and case management of offenders with in such a critical agency.

Please consider the consequences of deleting so many positions and place the line numbers back into the budget.

Sincerely;

 4/13/04
James Stanton

April 13, 2004

Dear Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

I have just been informed that you want to cut five of the thirteen positions at the Anchorage ASAP office.

The ASAP offices are a vital part of the safety of the community and to cut any positions places all individuals—not just our clients—in a very precarious position. You should think about increasing the staff in our office due to the number of cases we handle on a daily basis.

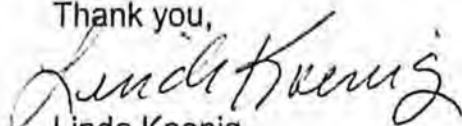
There is a lot more to this job then you realize. Not only do we see clients regularly, and in some cases repeatedly, but we also work very closely with the agencies that provide the services to help the clients to lead more productive lives and contribute to the community. Our probation officers attend state court, municipal court and Wellness court on a weekly basis to keep the court informed on the status of the clients—whether they are making progress in their treatment or just blowing it off. To provide the information to the probation officers to take to court, it takes staff to keep in touch with the agencies to be able to provide the information the court needs to make a decision on how to best help the clients.

This office receives and sends as many as two or three hundred pages of documents, either through the mail, by fax, or delivered by the court or the clients. We take in between seventy-five and one hundred telephone calls on any given day. To cut any of these positions would be not only detrimental to the state of Alaska, but to the community as a whole.

My job here started as a six month temporary position to help catch up on the workload, back on December 26, 2000. Since then the workload has steadily increased and my job is now a permanent position. I do not think cutting the ASAP program would be in the best interest of the community or the state for that matter.

Please remain funding the ASAP program, including all staff required to maintain the services desperately need in this state.

Thank you,


Linda Koenig



Alaska Women's Resource Center

610 C Street, Suite 2A ♦ Anchorage, AK 99501 ♦ (907) 276-0528 ♦ fax (907) 279-6754

Ladies and Gentlemen.

I am deeply concerned by the proposed reductions in funding support for programs that assist individuals impacted by chemical dependency and family violence. We must think not only of reducing expenses but also of protecting our community. A \$600,000 reduction is too much for service agencies to absorb without significant loss of service and safety provisions to victims throughout the state. This reduction will not only impact the individuals and their families that utilize these services, but the community as a whole, as the negative repercussions of untreated individuals strike our community.

Unfortunately this is a pay now or pay later situation. Either we continue to support treatment, rehabilitation and preventive programs or we increase support to criminal detention facilities. How many women and children must be hurt and families destroyed before we see their pain as our pain? Please work to find the necessary funds to keep programs at level funding for FY05.

I ask you to revisit this topic as an individual that holds an executive level position within the community, serves as President of a non-profit board, and someone who has seen first hand the pain that can be caused both inside and outside a family unit when a family member does not receive necessary treatment for chemical dependency and family violence.

Thank you,
Phenie Miller
Board of Director's
Alaska Women's Resource Center

APRIL-13-2004

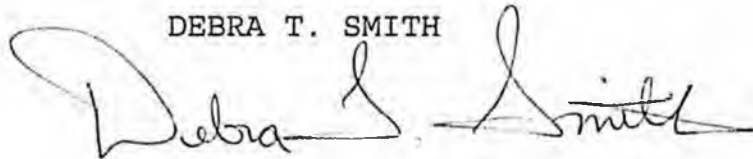
RE: SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE

RE: OPERATING BUDGET FOR ASAP

THIS IS TO INFORM WHOM EVER THAT I'M REQUESTING ALL FUNDING TO BE RESTORED BACK TO ASAP BUDGET.AND FOR ALL 13 POSITON'S FOR THE ASAP STAFF MEMEBERS TO BE RESTORED.ASAP MISDEMEANOR SERVICES MONITOR CLIENTS CASES FOR THE COURTS.AND NEEDS TO STAY IN PLACE TO HELP THE COURTS STAY ON TOP OF THE STATUS OF WHAT THE CLIENTS IS DOING.I ENJOY WORKING FOR THE ASAP OFFICE. THIS IS VERY AN IMPORTANT PROGRAM THAT WORK WITH THE COURT.

SINGCERELY

DEBRA T. SMITH

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Debra T. Smith". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name.

Subject: HB375

Date: Wed, 14 Apr 2004 13:10:21 -0800

From: The Venhaus Haus <robert.venhaus@gci.net>

To: MINDY_ROWLAND@LEGIS.STATE.AK.US

MINDY,

MY OPENION ON THE STATE'S OPERATING BUDGET IS THAT IT IS TIME THAT ALL THE LEGISLATORS AND GOVERNOR TAKE A PRUDENT SPENDING POLICY THAT EXPENSES DO NOT EXCEED REVENUE. GROWTH AT THE COST OF EXCESS STATE SPENDING IS NOT ALWAYS THE BEST WAY TO GO. ITS TIME WE ALL FACE THE FACT THAT USING DEBT GROWTH MONIES WE REACH THE POINT OF RETURN THAT INCOME WILL NOT SUBSTAIN NEW PROJECTS OR SPECIAL INTERERST PROGRAMS. I FAVOR A SPENDING LIMIT CAP ON OPERATING BUDGET ITEMS.

ROBERT VENHAUS
600 WEST 76TH AVE. #409
ANCHORAGE, AK. 99518

907-346-1558

Hello Senate Finance Committee,
My name is Richard Warrington
I am urging the Senate to:

- Support the development of a Fiscal Plan that will ensure adequate fiscal resources to support state services for vulnerable Alaskans
- Fully fund Jail Alternatives services program in the base State budget of the Department of Corrections and expand the program beyond Anchorage
- Restore funding to Mental Health Court and expand courts beyond Anchorage
- Restore funding to severely emotionally disturbed youth services grants in Department of Health Social Services to help prevent children being sent out of state
- Restore funding for services to seriously mental ill adults in Department of Health Social Services
- Fully fund Alaska Mental Health Board to advocate for Alaskans with mental illness and brain injured
- Adequately fund housing programs for Alaskans with disabilities or that are homeless

All of this helps the Brain Injured in the State also, Brain Injury Cognitive impairments overlap the other style of disabilities that are under these things. And Alaska has the highest rate of Brain Injuries each year.

The Mental Health Board are working at helping the Brain Injured around the state getting more assistants to survivors so that survivors don't have to leave the state to get the assistants they need.

Richard Warrington
Kevin, JK

HB 375

Thank You Mr. Chairman and members of the committee for your time:

My name is Diane Ivy-Dahlin and I'm the Youth Court Coordinator in my community and requesting your support for funding for youth court programs State wide.

Wrangell Youth Court program has become one of our community's fastest growing youth led diversionary programs, developed in May of 2001 at a time when our juvenile crime rate was 30% higher than a neighboring community, and juveniles did not have an option other than the traditional court systems.

Since the inception of this program less than 3 years ago our first time offender juvenile crime rate has dropped more than 30%, and our youth membership has more than quadrupled.

Alaskan Youth Court Programs are empowered by the Alaska State law. This opportunity allows, youth to volunteer and make a positive difference in their Communities, offer an alternative adjunction and sentencing procedure, to decrease juvenile crime, target issues around drug, inhalant and alcohol abuse and lower recidivism amongst young offenders as well as to involve youth in implementing restorative justice.

Youth Court programs ease the case load of the district and superior courts, juvenile probation offices and school districts. Youth Offenders are dealt with quickly, effectively by peer judgment and work to restore broken trust to victims, families, their community, and accept responsibility to correct mistakes made early in life.

Not only are youth court programs cost effective, but when compared to the cost of one incarceration for one juvenile offender those cost can be greater than the necessary to run one youth court program for an entire year.

State and Nation Wide, Youth Court Programs have proven to be a success.

Youth are given the opportunity exercise and be involved with positive structured activities, volunteerism, youth leadership, mentoring, citizenship, active in their communities, held accountable, alternative career opportunities, an opportunity to understand our Constitution and Bill of Rights.

These programs build healthy relationships and healthy choices that will effect youth the rest of their lives and help build collaborative relationships with, courts, law enforcement, schools, youth, parents, business and community.

I'm asking the Senate to match the house on this
In closing, I encourage each of you to see if there is a youth court program in your community and to listen to what these future leaders have to offer.

So youth courts are equally funded in the Senate and House,



Catholic Social Services

225 Cordova Street • Anchorage, Alaska 99501 • (907) 277-2554 • fax (907) 272-7370 • catholicocialservices@css-ak.org
www.cssalaska.org

April 14, 2004

Senator Lyda Green
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Senator Green:

Thank you for giving Catholic Social Services the opportunity to testify on the fate of the Human Services Matching Grant. As I mentioned last night, the proposed reduction will negatively impact the level of service we are able to provide those in need in Southcentral Alaska.

You heard compelling testimony from three of our programs: Brother Francis Shelter, St. Francis House and Clare House concerning how the reduction in the Human Services Matching Grant will affect their clients, and the community.

We respectfully request that you restore the funding to the level that the House Finance Committee recommended.

Sincerely,

Ellen Lawlor Krsnak
Community Development Director

CC: Senator Wilken
Senator Bunde
Senator Dyson
Senator Stevens
Senator Hoffman
Senator Olson



A United Way Partner Agency

Adoption • Beyond Shelter • Brother Francis Shelter/Anchorage • Brother Francis Shelter/Kodiak • Charlie Elder House • Clare House
Immigration & Refugee Services • McAuley Manor • Pregnancy Support Services • Special Needs Services • St. Francis House

APRIL-13-2004

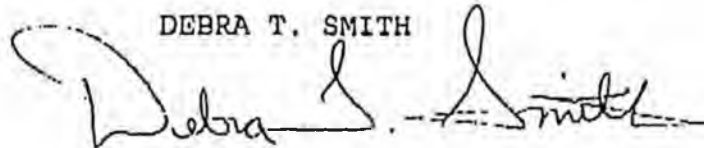
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Alaska Women's Resource Center

610 C Street, Suite 2A ♦ Anchorage, AK 99501 ♦ (907) 276-0528 ♦ fax (907) 279-6754

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Unfortunately this is a pay now or pay later situation. Either we continue to support treatment, rehabilitation and preventive programs or we increase support to criminal detention facilities. How many women and children must be hurt and families destroyed before we see their pain as our pain? Please work to find the necessary funds to keep programs at level funding for FY05.

I ask you to revisit this topic as an individual that holds an executive level position within the community, serves as President of a non-profit board, and someone who has seen first hand the pain that can be caused both inside and outside a family unit when a family member does not receive necessary treatment for chemical dependency and family violence.

Thank you,
Phenie Miller
Board of Director's
Alaska Women's Resource Center

April 13, 2004

Dear Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

I have just been informed that you want to cut five of the thirteen positions at the Anchorage ASAP office.

The ASAP offices are a vital part of the safety of the community and to cut any positions places all individuals—not just our clients—in a very precarious position. You should think about increasing the staff in our office due to the number of cases we handle on a daily basis.

There is a lot more to this job than you realize. Not only do we see clients regularly, and in some cases repeatedly, but we also work very closely with the agencies that provide the services to help the clients to lead more productive lives and contribute to the community. Our probation officers attend state court, municipal court and Wellness court on a weekly basis to keep the court informed on the status of the clients—whether they are making progress in their treatment or just blowing it off. To provide the information to the probation officers to take to court, it takes staff to keep in touch with the agencies to be able to provide the information the court needs to make a decision on how to best help the clients.

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Please remain funding the ASAP program, including all staff required to maintain the services desperately need in this state.

Thank you,



Linda Koenig



April 13, 2004

Senator Lyda Green, Co-Chair
Senate Finance Committee
State Capitol Building, Room 520
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Mailing Address
P.O. Box 201849
Anchorage, AK 99520

Fairview Center
1217 E. 10th Avenue
(907) 257-4686 appointments
(907) 257-4654 fax

Fairview Dental Clinic
1217 E. 10th Avenue
(907) 257-4661 appointments
(907) 257-4654 fax

Mountain View Health Center
3521 Mountain View Drive
(907) 792-2300 phone
(907) 792-2369 fax

Administrative Office
207 E. Northern Lights, #112
(907) 792-6538 phone
(907) 792-6526 fax

Patient Accounting
207 E. Northern Lights, #112
(907) 792-6500 phone
(907) 792-6546 fax

Dear Senator Green:

This letter is regarding the reduction in funding and the addition of the Mat-Su area in sharing the Human Services Matching Grant. Currently, the Anchorage Neighborhood Health Center receives \$134,000 annually to support our dental clinic. Over 50% of the patients we see are below 100% of poverty and uninsured. Many of our patients come from the Mat-Su Valley, Seward, and the Kenai Peninsula because dentists in those communities don't participate in Medicaid or accept low-income patients.

Governor Murkowski had HSMG funding in his budget in the amount of \$1 million and the House has \$1.16 million so Mat-Su can get funding while holding Fairbanks and Anchorage harmless. That *small* amount of money is supporting the health and social services safety network for Fairbanks and Anchorage. The basics of food, shelter, health care and legal services are critical to people who are poor and vulnerable.

As a community health center, ANHC is barely surviving due to cuts in other programs such as Denali KidCare, Medicare, and VA. As those programs are reduced, more and more people are dropping into the safety net. That safety net is about to break and then where will your constituents go for care? I can tell you that going to the emergency room will be a costly waste of time since they do not perform dental services.

I would be happy to partner with you, other legislators, Mayor Begich and the agencies to discuss how Anchorage and Fairbanks can resolve this issue within the community. In the meantime, please restore the HSMG to at least the Governor's request so we can continue serving the community.

Sincerely,

Joan L. Fisher
Executive Director

cc: Senator Gary Wilken
Senator Con Bunde
Senator Fred Dyson
Senator Ben Stevens

*Anchorage Neighborhood Health Center
~Our Care is Centered on You~*



4/13/04

To Senate Finance Committee

From: Carter Crawford ipc-crawford@gei.com

100 Maple Dr Falls 99709

Please restore the Community Block Grant to full funding of \$1.2 million. In my last teleconference, Rep Hawker said it was back up and now I understand you have cut it 40% again. Please to the information I have sent down in the past.

You will only save state dollars temporarily. And then you are in for a painful escalation in costs for state- mandated services that the grant was providing at 25% of the cost.

Most of you champion private enterprise and an economy based on private sector employment. Cutting the Community Grant goes against everything I thought you stood for, including adding to the costs and services of one your least favorite agencies, the State HSS.

By restoring full funding you will:

Provide more service

Provide local jobs

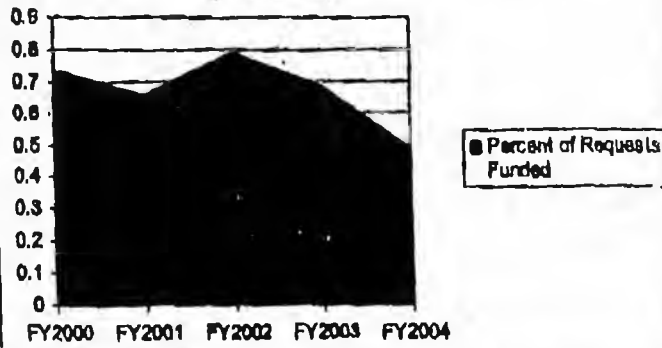
Reduce community health and social problems

Reduce state costs.

It does not get any better than that.

Since FY 2002.

The community lost the potential to generate \$459,466, \$769,652, and \$1,287,480 of other funds, project income and in-kind contributions in FY02-03-04 respectively, due to insufficient state funding.



Organization	Description	Request Amount	Funded Amount
Big Brothers Big Sisters	Match children in need of additional adult attention with adult volunteers.	\$50,000	\$919,862
Fairbanks Community Food Bank	Collect local surplus food and give it to people who need it, through agencies who are trained to identify and respond to those needs.	\$50,000	\$2,052,000
Alaska Legal Services Corp.	Provide legal assistance to low-income families (those with incomes below 125% of poverty level) in civil cases such as housing, income, public assistance benefits, health care and family law.	\$50,000	\$80,508
Interior Community Health Center	Provide preventative & primary health care services on a sliding fee schedule to low & moderate income people.	\$50,000	\$184,000
North Star Council on Aging	Deliver hot healthy meals to homebound elders living within the FNSB, to include frozen meal service on weekends.	\$50,000	\$268,343
North Star Youth Court	Operate community-based juvenile justice diversion and victim/offender mediation program.	\$50,000	\$181,898
Interior AIDS Association	Provide a full service, methadone maintenance treatment program to opiate dependent persons. (Requested \$40,558 but only \$31,014 was available)	\$31,014	\$138,718

FY 2004 Summary of Projects & Community Meetings
 Grant Projects NOT Funded

Interior AIDS Association	Balance of request not funded	\$18,544	\$0
National Senior Service Corps	Support transportation needs of senior citizens volunteering their time through Foster Grandparents, Senior Companions, and RSVP programs.	\$50,000	\$314,014
Hospice of the Tanana Valley	Provide Patient Care Services and support to terminally ill people and their loved ones. Provide Bereavement Services, education, information and training on issues relating to death and dying, grief and loss.	\$50,000	\$535,134
ACCA	Provide early intervention services to children, age birth to three, in social services custody who begin life with medical, biological or social risks and who experience developmental delays.	\$50,000	\$10,225
Brand Line, Inc.	Feed people through the Soup Kitchen, operate a day labor program, and supply donated clothing and other household goods to those in need.	\$48,500	\$115,100
Fairbanks Native Association	Provide a van service that picks up public inebriates and substance abusers, assesses their condition, and transports them to an appropriate facility.	\$50,000	\$169,264
Boys & Girls Club of the Tanana Valley	Provide an affordable summer day camp program where youth ages 8-12 participate in programs and activities designed to encourage academic and social development, positive choices, increased self-esteem and competence.	\$50,000	\$70,275
Fairbanks Counseling & Adoption	Engage at-risk youth ages 14-18 in the positive physical and emotional challenges of wilderness adventure leading to the cessation of substance abuse, achievement of physical fitness and school/job retention culminating in an increased capacity for creating a positive pro-social outlook on life.	\$35,000	\$84,438
Total Projects Not Funded		\$52,044	\$1,287,480
Total Project Request for FY 2004		\$883,058	\$5,112,807

(2)

car and sell it. And make the fine for someone who knowingly loans/rents etc a car to the convicted subject to a \$10,000 fine as well.

ALL OF THE ABOVE IS CONSTRUCTIVE, BUT BASED ON NEGATIVE EVENTS. NOW I WANT TO SHIFT TO A VERY POSITIVE USE OF STATE FUNDS, AN INVESTMENT IN LOCAL HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES THAT WILL SAVE THE STATE HUGE SUMS OF MONEY.

This is the Community Matching Grant program. I am in private industry, a hard-nosed fiscally conservative Republican who has championed this piece of legislation for years. I became familiar with it when I volunteered for the HSS Commission, agreed to early morning meetings, was the only one to attend all meetings and became Chair.

I was absolutely amazed at what these non-profits were accomplishing on very limited budgets, and what they were saving the state. The formula was and is real simple. Low salaries, tons of volunteers and donated materials, a combination of local, state, private and some federal funding, an intense review process, and strong boards driving results. ✓

With some improvements from the Commission, they became far more fiscally responsive, requests were based on documented needs and each agency had to document success in order to receive future funding.

The range of services for the agencies receiving funding is broad, but due to declining revenues, becomes restricted to the top social problems in Fairbanks as defined by the United Way studies.

Alcoholism, domestic violence, health and well-being of children, food and shelter, and care for the elderly.

In each and every case, the agencies supply these service at a minimum of 25% of the cost of a state agency. And in each and every case these agencies PREVENT costs to the state in adjudication and or incarceration and institutionalization. ✗

THE COMMUNITY MATCHING HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES GRANT HAS BECOME THE MODEL FOR A STATE, LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND NON-PROFIT COLLABORATION. The state provides the foundation, the borough, in our case, matches it 30% and the non-profits must provide both cost effective services, but also a strong volunteer match as well. And each year the use is evaluated twice, once during the year and once at year-end.

The Governor has proposed to continue the Community Grant, but at a lower level than 04, but it now includes the Mat-Su region for separate funding. This means

that the same dollars must now include an approximate 15 % increase (20,000 hh) in the number of homes represented by the three areas.

Not only will this end up costing the State more money as more people in need and more offenders slip through the cracks, but there is a real risk that some agencies may fold.

The subject of Faith-Based Service providers has been suggested, not only to relieve the state of its funding, but also to expand the services provided. Everyone supports the growth of more services provided by the communities. But none of these groups is prepared to take on the responsibility of professional services, and most are trying to replace the number of people no longer served due to funding cuts.

Finally I will depart from the views of most of my hss friends is supporting no reinstatement of the Longevity Bonus. Those truly in need will get the State aid they need, and if they are too proud to ask, then so be it. I saw the complaints in three categories. First the group for whom no amount of preplanning could take care of their basic needs. Second the group of "haves" who are simply really angry at the state for not rewarding them for all their years of hard work, support for the state etc. The third group, which is the largest, are the greedy "how dare you take my cushion for which I did not plan because Uncle Alaska would provide my entitlement" group. I am 65 and when I was 21 my father said do not count on Social Security for retirement living. I did not, I sacrificed, I saved, and every year I will get SSS I will be ever so grateful. It is somewhat amusing that these seniors suffer the same mentality as our Gen X and Y'ers. And that of course extends to the supporters of fully funding the Dividend.

Following is some lengthy documentation of facts related to the Grant.

IT IS AN INVESTMENT.

IT SAVES THE STATE MONEY ...IN BOTH DIRECT COSTS OF ADJUDICATION, INCARCERATION AND INSTITUTIONALIZATION.

IT SAVES THE STATE MONEY BY PROVIDING SERVICES THAT THE STATE WOULD HAVE TO PROVIDE AT 4X THE COST.

IT SAVES THE STATE MONEY BY PROVIDING PREVENTION SERVICES.

IT IS THE MOST COST EFFECTIVE WAY TO DELIVER SERVICE.

IT HAS A POWERFUL ROI BY LOWERING THE NEED FOR STATE SERVICES AND EMPLOYEES.

April 13, 2004

Message to the Senate Finance Committee and the Interior Delegation

The nonprofit human service agencies in the Fairbanks North Star Borough work exceedingly well together, as partners, to offer the best, unduplicated services to individuals that money can buy. However, if that money is insufficient or nonexistent, the staff and ultimately the services, **HAVE BEEN** cut and **WILL BE** cut in the future. Basic needs such as adult literacy from Adult Learning Programs of Alaska or Literacy Council of Alaska, food from the Food Bank, primary and preventative medical care from the Interior Community Health Center, legal advice and referral from Alaska Legal Services, and mentors from Big Brothers Big Sisters, **WILL** go unmet if this Community Matching Block Grant Funding is cut now or in the future.

*And shelter from
homelessness from Family Focus.*

I work with the individuals who depend on these basic services as they try to work on their GED's or try to get a job. If their stomachs are aching from lack of food, or they don't have the money to pay for dental work in their mouths, they don't do well studying or obtaining a job no matter how hard they try.

If the Community Matching Block Grant Funding is cut the whole community suffers because of a reduced quality of life for ALL children and adults. If services are cut, the hopelessness and frustration is not just felt by those who are attempting to better their lives, but also by those of us who are just trying to provide service to increase the education levels, healthy lifestyles, and safety of the community.

In the Alaska State Constitution, it is written, "the Legislature shall provide for public welfare." If we cut the funds which provide service to the most needy of our community, how is that "providing for public welfare?"

My request from you tonight is to raise the Health and Social Services Matching Block Grant amount to at least 1.16 million and to continue this funding instead of phasing it out.
Thank you.

Submitted by:

Jackie Debevec

Ms. Jackie Debevec
3662 Hardluck Drive
Fairbanks, AK 99709
(907) 452-6434x21
idebevec@adultlearning.org

Group Affiliation:
Arctic Alliance (Vice President)
Adult Learning Programs of Alaska (Recruitment and Retention Coordinator)



Fairbanks North Star Borough

Health & Social Services
Commission

520 Fifth Ave. PO Box 71267 Fairbanks, Alaska 99707-1267 (907) 459-1474 FAX (907) 459-1280

MEMORANDUM

To: Senate Finance Committee
From: Carrie Dershin, ^{CD} Chair, Health and Social Services Commission
Date: April 13, 2004
Subject: Community Matching Block Grant

On behalf of the Fairbanks North Star Borough Health and Social Services Commission, I am expressing our support of the Community Matching Grant. As a follow up to my testimony, I am including a brief report on the community impact of the Human Services Community Matching Grant. This will further illustrate the need to continue this vital grant program.

It is my hope that you are already well aware of the impact that these funds have on the delivery of *essential human services* within our community. These range from hot meals and emergency food boxes to attainable health care to youth leadership and mentoring. The services that are provided by our local non-profits are non-duplicative, efficient and cost-effective.

In FY03, state funds of \$312,083 combined with the Borough allocation of \$184,291 leveraged a total community value of \$4,946,767 when other sources of funds and the value of in-kind donations are considered. In short, these funds provided a value to the community *fourteen times* that of the actual grant dollars allocated.

The need to preserve this grant and the impact that these funds have in our community is significant. The health and care of our community is critical to the overall growth and development of our future. Unfortunately the future of the Community Matching Grant is at risk. Since FY02, state funding for the Community Matching Grant has decreased 42%. With the Mat-Su Borough now eligible for the funding as well, this reduces the amount coming into our community even further. The current proposal that you have on the table is such a significant loss. Rather than the combined total of \$331,014 coming to agencies as in FY04, we could see less than \$190,000. This roughly translates into only four local agencies that could receive this grant. This is down from the eleven agencies of two years ago. This significantly impacts our community's ability to: deliver hot meals to homebound elders, provide legal assistance to low income families, offer juvenile justice alternatives, help with dental needs to low income residents, welcome kids into a safe after school program and provide an emergency shelter and crisis response to homeless youth. All of the agencies that provide these services would not be funded under the proposed Senate budget.

The House has recommended an increase of the Governor's budget to total \$1,159,000. I ask that the Senate do the same. The need for services is going to continue to increase. Our safety net which has been held together by our local non-profits is continuing to be stretched and could lose its strength without the necessary fiscal support from our state and our local community. The Human Services Community Matching Grant is an *exceptionally cost-effective* use of public dollars that exemplifies the deeply rooted philosophy of neighbors helping neighbors. Thank you for the valuable work that you do and for your continued and future support keeping our communities healthy and well.

CD

**Fairbanks North Star
Borough
Health & Social
Services Commission**



Grant Funds Were Distributed to Eleven Non-profit Agencies

- ACCA
- Alaska Legal Services Corporation
- Big Brothers / Big Sisters
- Fairbanks Community Food Bank
- Fairbanks Native Association
- Hospice of the Tanana Valley
- Interior AIDS Association
- Interior Community Health Center
- National Senior Service Corps
- North Star Council on Aging
- North Star Youth Court

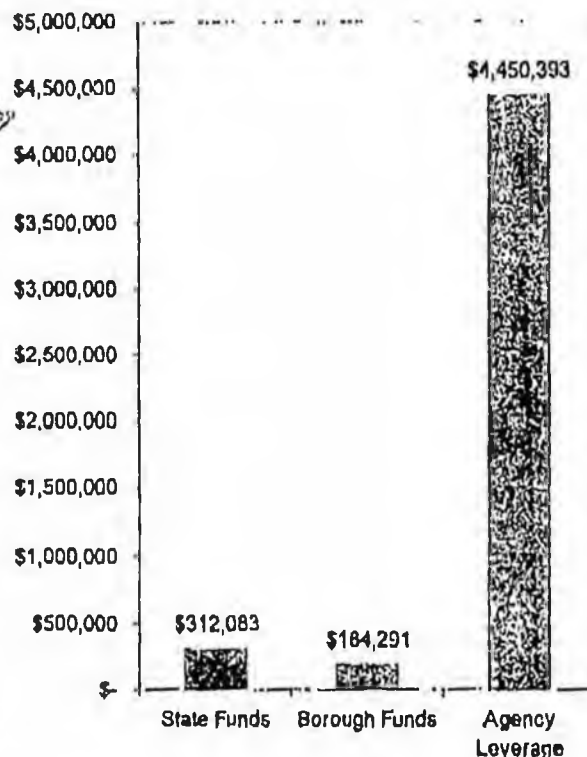
The agencies used state funds to leverage funding for the amount in the value of services to the community

FY 2003	
State funds	\$ 312,083
Borough funds	\$ 184,291
Income generated by projects	\$ 200,735
Other funds received by projects	\$ 1,500,441
In-kind generated by projects	\$ 2,903,138
Total value to the community	\$ 4,450,393

Highlights of Services Provided

- Distributed 1,360,798 pounds of food to hungry people using 16,147 volunteer hours
- Homebound seniors received 38,480 hot meals delivered to their home
- 2,081 low income individuals received primary and preventative medical care services
- 366 terminally ill people and their loved ones received direct care and support
- 250 individuals received legal advice and referrals for housing, family law, health, and income maintenance problems
- 522 children spent time with their Big Brother / Big Sister, enriching their lives with adult attention and support; over 68% showed improvement in school performance
- 92 youth were arraigned in youth court, diverting work from the formal juvenile justice system; youth defendants paid \$3,086 in restitution and contributed 1,615 hours of community service
- Provided transportation for 3,809 senior volunteer trips from their residences to 27 active workstations
- Community Service Patrol drivers picked-up and transported 1386 public inebriates

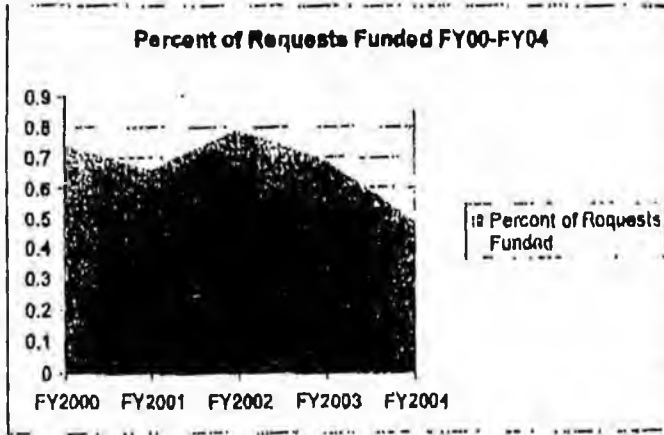
Funding Leverage



2

State Funding Decreased 42% Since FY 2002.

The community lost the potential to generate \$459,466, \$769,652, and \$1,287,480 of other funds, project income and in-kind contributions in FY02-03-04 respectively, due to insufficient state funding.



Big Brothers Big Sisters	Match children in need of additional adult attention with adult volunteers.	\$50,000	\$019,862
Fairbanks Community Food Bank	Collect local surplus food and give it to people who need it, through agencies who are trained to identify and respond to those needs.	\$50,000	\$2,052,000
Alaska Legal Services Corp.	Provide legal assistance to low-income families (those with incomes below 125% of poverty level) in civil cases such as housing, income, public assistance benefits, health care and family law.	\$50,000	\$80,508
Interior Community Health Center	Provide preventative & primary health care services on a sliding fee schedule to low & moderate income people.	\$50,000	\$184,000
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Interior AIDS Association	Balance of request not funded	\$18,544	\$0
National Senior Service Corps	Support transportation needs of senior citizens volunteering their time through Foster Grandparents, Senior Companions, and RSVP programs.	\$50,000	\$314,014
Hospice of the Tanana Valley	Provide Patient Care Services and support to terminally ill people and their loved ones. Provide Bereavement Services, education, information and training on issues relating to death and dying, grief and loss.	\$50,000	\$535,134
ACCA	Provide early intervention services to children, age birth to three, in social services custody who begin life with medical, biological or social risks and who experience developmental delays.	\$50,000	\$10,225
Brand Line, Inc.	Feed people through the Soup Kitchen, operate a day labor program, and supply donated clothing and other household goods to those in need.	\$48,500	\$115,139
Fairbanks Native Association	Provide a van service that picks up public inebriates and substance abusers, assesses their condition, and transports them to an appropriate facility.	\$50,000	\$169,254
Boys & Girls Club of the Tanana Valley	Provide an affordable summer day camp program where youth ages 6-12 participate in programs and activities designed to encourage academic and social development, positive choices, increased self esteem and competence.	\$50,000	\$79,276
Fairbanks Counseling & Adoption	Engage at-risk youth ages 14-18 in the positive physical and emotional challenges of wilderness adventure leading to the cessation of substance abuse, achievement of physical fitness and school/job retention culminating in an increased capacity for creating a positive pro-social outlook on life.	\$35,000	\$04,430

(3)

SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE TESTIMONY ON THE BUDGET

April 13, 2004

To: Senate Finance Committee
Re: Budget
From: Taber Rehbaum, Arctic Alliance for People
Personal address: P.O. Box 438, Ester AK 99725 taber@mosquitonet.com 458-0423

I would like to strongly urge the Senate Finance Committee to increase the amount designated for the Health and Social Services Community Matching Block Grant to no less than \$1.160 million, the amount that would accommodate funding Mat-Su programs without further reductions to the Fairbanks and Anchorage portions. I would also urge you to abandon the language calling for a phase out of this program. My understanding is that this language initially originated in a House Finance committee. The House, acknowledging the importance of the Block grant, has since removed that language.

The programs funded through the Block grant **save the State money** - many times over the small General Fund component - medical dollars, corrections dollars - public assistance dollars, etc. The process used to fund the programs is **extremely efficient** (a volunteer commission in Fairbanks, for example) and keeps the programs and agencies **fully accountable**. The exacting nature of the grant process ensures that each program clearly identifies the need, develops the methodology to address that need, shares all budget and management information, and provides **measurable positive outcomes** to show that the funds are having an impact. Missions and measures - outcome-based funding - this is the clearest example that the State has - and its working!

The programs funded through the Block grant also have an economic impact on our community by creating jobs and reducing the need for local intervention services (police calls, emergency room visits, etc). The State dollars are **leveraged to bring much more money into the community** - and that leveraging is magnified by the use of volunteers and in-kind contributions.

Please bring the Senate numbers up to the \$1.160 million that the House has set forth for this grant. Anchorage, Fairbanks, and Mat-Su are depending on this money, and thousands of Alaskans will benefit from the services funded by this grant.

Cutting or eliminating this program will cost the state a great deal - in **real dollars** and in lost human potential. Help us continue to make this State a wonderful place to live. Fully fund the HSCMBG at \$1,160,000



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

HB 375? HB 377

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate Finance

Committee Name

Committee on Grant Funding for Human Services Dated April 13, 2004

Bill / Subject Community Matching Grant

My name is Julie Shefelik, I have been volunteering with the NSYC since July 1999. I am a Senior at West Valley High School, and I am testifying on behalf of the North Star Youth Court.

Recently, we participated as an organization vying for funds allocated to the Human Services Community Matching Grant.

Of the seven organizations all going for this money, much needed money, not all will get it. I would ask you to consider this when debating the budget. As Chief Judge for the NSYC, I ~~first hand~~ participate first hand in bettering our community and the youth who pass through the youth court.

The NSYC plays an integral role in lowering the recidivism rate of ~~just~~ juvenile offenders in ~~addition~~ the FNSB. We take cases that would otherwise go un-noticed or poorly adjudicated. The NSYC acts as a true part of the Alaska Court System, alleviating stress put on the DFYS and the Juvenile Justice System.

I ask you to consider the need of the community of Fairbanks, the need for the North Star Youth Court, and all of its wonderful volunteers and employees. Thank you for hearing my testimony.

SIGNED:

Julie Shefelik Julie Shefelik
Testifier

North Star Youth Court
Representing

557 Grandview Court Fairbanks Ak 99709
Address / Phone Number

407 4160-4274

907 456 6792 (NSYC Office)

RE: Don't Cut State Parks Budget

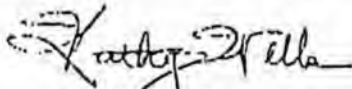
Dear Senate Finance Committee Members:

I have been serving as a member of the Mat-Su State Parks Citizen's Advisory Board since 1998, have been a user of State Parks since 1980, and for the sixth year in a row I feel the compelling need to speak out about cuts to the State Parks Budget. I am very aware of the fiscal problems within the State of Alaska; however, I am dismayed that the legislature each year continues to starve State Parks of adequate funding necessary to maintain the parks in a safe manner.

State Parks is currently and has been woefully under funded for the past decade. The band aids for this problem have been to use volunteers, contract out some of the state parks to private business and to initiate user fees. Using volunteers and contracting out parks are problematic and not a viable long term solution for these reasons:

- 1) Volunteers need training and staff supervision. Volunteers are not able to address Park regulation issues or enforce regulations. Staff must be available to supervise and assist volunteers.
- 2) Contracting out the Parks to private enterprise reduces the amount of revenue to the State. Maintenance and care of the Parks is not consistent. Private enterprise has been known to leave in the middle of a season because they either can't handle managing the park or discover there is little revenue to be made. There is no law enforcement available to private enterprise unless they call the State Troopers.

User fees are an appropriate means of raising revenue to maintain State Parks, however, State Parks do not always get to keep the revenue made and each year the legislature argues over what the parks should receive. I am tired of the old argument that the constitution does not allow you, our legislators to dedicate funds. If the State Parks bring in the revenue through receipts each year then it can be determined each year during budget time that they are allowed to keep the receipts. Our State Parks personnel should be given support and incentives to generate revenue through fees and rewarded by being able to use these fees to sustain our parks. State Parks deferred maintenance costs are out of this world and have been neglected long enough. Would you want one of your family, friends or relatives falling through an outhouse hole? That happened not long ago. We have the largest State Park system in the country with an operational budget at approx. 5.2 million. That is a steal! State Parks are looking shabby and unkempt, our residents and tourists notice this and so should you. Public health and safety is being compromised and will result in liability to the State due to reduced staffing. State Parks are for Alaskans first, step up to the plate and declare enough is enough. Leave the operating budget as it is and let the Parks keep their receipts! If you need to cut spending, consider cutting the legislature's budget. It has been increased each year.



Kathy Wells
k.wells@excite.com
373-6414



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate Finance Committee name

Committee on HB 377 / HB 375, dated _____
Bill/Subject

Speaking on behalf of the Ak Nurses Assoc & Valley Hospital, I am asking for your support in funding the Public Health Service fully.

I am a certified infection control nurse working for the past 10 yr Frontline in the acute care setting as the infection control nurse.

The Public Health system is an integral part of providing healthy initiatives, prevention & training for health & well being of our communities

The Public health nurses & team members are the Frontline workers in our communities for infection prevention & surveillance for community health concerns. They are part of my team @ the hospital as well as other healthcare providers in our communities.

Public health care helps keep HC costs down by decreasing inappropriate visits to Emerg. Rooms & Urgent care centers, which then allows these services to be readily available to those who need it.

PHNs talk to & care for people nobody else wants to see. In the fastest growing area in this state we are seeing health disparities for people w/ no insurance, on Medicaid & Medicare due to limits by private medical providers. PHNs advocate & support practices & lifestyles to keep people well & out of the costly HC system.

Signed: Pat Bull RN CIC By providing interventions such as (1) Home visits for new mothers & babies (2) Partnering w/ schools,

Testifier

Valley Hosp / Ak Nurses Assoc.

Representing (Optional)

P.O. Box 876443 Wasilla.

Address

907-746-8674(w)

Phone number

Churches & other org. to provide health education to children & families (3) working with me in TB & STP surveillance, treatment & control (4) Flu an infectious disease investigation, tx & education to stop disease/infections before an outbreak (5) Immunizations of vaccine preventable diseases.

We should think about the small pox, SARS & ANTHRAX events most recently, affecting the american people. It could happen here & the PHN would be frontline. These services must be maintained or increased to meet the emerging infections & those conditions that impact

Public health services are frontline but are often forgotten because they work behind the scenes.

April 13, 2004 testimony at budget hearing.

Elfrida Nord, former Chief, Section of Nursing, for 12 years, now happily retired.

representing the Alaska Nurses Assn.

Madam Chair and Members of the Senate Finance Committee; thank you for the opportunity to speak.

At a minimum I urge you to ~~also~~ add back the \$770,000 for Public Health Nursing that the House Finance Committee approved. A look at history will tell you that transitioning of clients has been occurring and PHN basically serve those that are not going to transition for a number of reasons, largely, age, lack of funds and confidentiality. Public Health Nurses provide very different services than the private sector and the Health Corporations. Public Health services are not synonymous with individual medical services. It is the client, in this case many of the villagers who will not get needed services.

PHNs have long advocated that their clients have a medical home and are complementary, not in competition with the private sector or Health Corporations.

The loss of Public Health Nurse aides may result in loss of programs like infant car seat program and decreased outreach to Medicaid eligible children, as well as forcing the highly skilled PHN to do a lot of tasks that someone with less skills could do. Generalist PHN positions were saved from cuts because they can

provided reduced public health services whereas the aides cannot provide the services that protect the public's health such as communicable disease control.

This restructuring plan is not being done because it is a reasonable thing to do, it is an appearance of creating the least amount of disruption of services to the public. It is being driven by potential loss of resources, not reasonable planning. This doesn't make sense from a vital program point of view keeping in mind that there is a Constitutional mandate under Article VII for the state to provide public health services. Two years ago the Legislature was convinced through the "Back to Basics" increment that the nursing component needed more resources and provided about half of what was requested. Now the proposal is to cut 4 times what was clearly needed only 2 years ago. If cuts like this are necessary for a balanced budget, then it is time to look for new resources. Thanks for listening to me.

LAW OFFICES
DILLON & FINDLEY

A PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION

The Ebner Building
350 North Franklin Street
Juneau, Alaska 99801
Telephone (907) 586-4000
Facsimile (907) 586-3777
E-mail: law@dillonfindley.com
April 12, 2004

JUNEAU
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Paul L. Dillon
Thomas W. Findley
Arthur H. Peterson
Kristen D. Pettersen

Paralegal
Karen Lane

ANCHORAGE
Ray R. Brown
Mauri Long
Linda O'Bannon
Paralegal
M. Benita Raymond
Carol E. Butler

510 L Street, Suite 603
Anchorage, Alaska 99501
Telephone (907) 277-5400
Facsimile (907) 277-9896

Hon. Lyda Green, Co-chair
Hon. Gary Wilken, Co-chair
Alaska Senate Finance Committee
Capitol, Room 518
Juneau, Alaska 99801

HAND-DELIVERED

Re: Operating Budget, Dept. of Community & Economic Development
-- Alaska Legal Services Corporation

Dear Senators Green and Wilken:

I am writing in **support** of the House budget bill's inclusion of \$125,000 for the Alaska Legal Services Corporation, in the Department of Community and Economic Development's FY 2005 operating budget. This bill is currently in your committee, and I strongly urge you to retain, or raise, that amount for ALSC.

This appropriation is crucial to the continuing civil-law legal services that ALSC provides to Alaska's low-income people, including seniors, families, battered spouses, and the typically disadvantaged. It thus helps the functioning of the justice system, itself.

For the last three decades, I have closely observed the operations of ALSC, as a member of its board of directors. And I can assure you that the state gets the most "bang for the buck" from its financial aid to this corporation – **efficiency!** Its lawyers and support staff work for nominal wages, and put in great amounts of uncompensated overtime, because of their commitment to the principle of equal access to justice.

In advance, I thank you for your efforts and for your consideration of this matter – to the benefit of all Alaskans.

Yours truly,


Arthur H. Peterson

cc: Greg Razo, Pres., and Andy Harrington, Exec. Dir., ALSC

Subject: HB 375

Date: Tue, 13 Apr 2004 16:28:58 -0800

From: "BOB CONGDON" <afrec@uaa.alaska.edu>

To: Mindy_Rowland@legis.state.ak.us

CC: afnkb@uaa.alaska.edu, ffmlj@uaf.edu, lteders@alaska.edu, bwatts@apea-aft.org

Honorable Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

Thank you for considering public testimony on House Bill 375, the general appropriations bill for FY05. ACCFT represents over 300 faculty members throughout the state at University of Alaska campuses. Last year, after prolonged negotiations, university management and ACCFT agreed to a contract. This is the second year of funding that contract.

It is an annual requirement of law that contracts between university employees and the university be funded by name. This requirement is not met by funding the university generally. Rather, specific mention of the contracts funded must be made.

The language as used last year (unedited) and in prior years is set out below. Please ensure that similar language is included in the final version of the funding legislation for the University of Alaska.

* Sec. 29. SALARY AND BENEFIT ADJUSTMENTS. The operating budget

11 appropriations made to the University of Alaska in sec. 1 of this Act include amounts for

12 salary and benefit adjustments for university employees who are not members of a collective

13 bargaining unit and for implementing the monetary terms of the following collective

14 bargaining agreements with entities representing employees of the University of Alaska:

15 (1) Alaska Higher Education Crafts and Trades Employees;

16 (2) Alaska Community Colleges' Federation of Teachers;

17 (3) United Academics;

18 (4) United Academics-Adjuncts.

Thank you very much.

Bob Congdon, President, ACCFT

cc: United Academics, Alaska Higher Education Crafts and Trades, United Academics--Adjuncts

Bob Congdon, President
 Alaska Community Colleges' Federation of Teachers
 Building K-214, UAA Campus
 3211 Providence Ave,
 Anchorage, AK 99508
 Phone: 907 786 4090; Fax: 907 786 4095



Alaska Native Health Board

3700 Woodland Drive, Suite 500
Anchorage, Alaska 99518

Phone: (907) 562-6006
FAX: (907) 563-2001

Testimony to Senate Finance Committee on Human Service Matching Grant April 13, 2004

The Alaska Native Health Board strongly encourages that funding for the Human Service Matching Block Grant be retained at \$1.16 million. The Senate's reduction of the block grant to \$667,000 will negatively impact shelters, food for the hungry, disaster assistance, oral health care, prescriptions, and meal delivery service to the frail elderly.

Please retain the full \$1.16 million as introduced by the House for Human Service Matching Grant funding.

ALASKA NATIVE TRIBAL HEALTH CONSORTIUM
ALEUTIAN/PRIIBILOF ISLANDS ASSOCIATION
ARCTIC SLOPE NATIVE ASSOCIATION
BRISTOL BAY AREA HEALTH CORPORATION
CHUGACHMIUT
COPPER RIVER NATIVE ASSOCIATION
COUNCIL OF ATHABASCAN TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS
EASTERN ALEUTIAN TRIBES

KETCHIKAN INDIAN COMMUNITY
KODIAK AREA NATIVE ASSOCIATION
MANILAQ ASSOCIATION
METLAKATLA INDIAN COMMUNITY
MT. SANFORD TRIBAL CONSORTIUM
NATIVE VILLAGE OF EKLUTNA
NATIVE VILLAGE OF TYONEK
NINILCHIK TRADITIONAL COUNCIL

NORTON SOUND HEALTH CORPORATION
SELDOVIA VILLAGE TRIBE
SOUTHCENTRAL FOUNDATION
SOUTHEAST ALASKA REGIONAL HEALTH CONSORTIUM
TANANA CHIEFS CONFERENCE
YUKON-KUSKOKWIM HEALTH CORPORATION
VALDEZ NATIVE TRIBE

April 13, 2004

Anchorage School District

W) 907-742-4322 (F) 907-742-4175

TO: SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE
FROM: LARRY WIGET, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, PUBLIC AFFAIRS
SUBJECT: HB 375: THE OPERATING BUDGET & SCHOOL DEBT
REIMBURSEMENT

The Anchorage School District respectfully requests the Alaska Legislature increase the amount of State Debt Reimbursement appropriation in the budget to fully fund the Anchorage School District's State debt reimbursement entitlement.

Our discussions with the State Department of Education and Early Development (DEED) indicate that the Governor's FY 2004-2005 proposed budget, the bill currently before you, does not include funding for the additional \$2,837,383* of the Anchorage School District's State debt reimbursement entitlement resulting from approval in January of ASD projects that qualify for State debt reimbursement under the combined authorization of House Bill 2003 and Statewide approval of Proposition C.

Pertinent Information

The State Department of Education and Early Development notified the Anchorage School District in January of approval of additional projects that qualify for State debt reimbursement. The authorization provides for 60 percent or 70 percent debt reimbursement on school construction projects that received local voter approval back to June 30, 1999. For the Anchorage School District, this involved submittal and approval of projects related to voter approval in April 2000 and April 2002 including portions of bonds refunded in 2002.

The District was required by State regulation to submit an estimated amount of State debt reimbursement for FY 2004-2005 by October 15, 2003. The District did not include anticipated reimbursement for the April 2000 and April 2003 bond projects in the submittal since approved agreements related to these projects had not been approved at that time.

The Anchorage School District requests the Legislature to increase the appropriation to honor the governor's commitment to fully fund the State Debt reimbursement entitlement.

**We have reviewed our cash flow needs on all existing projects, including Proposition 4 that was approved on April 6, 2004. The revised amount of additional State debt reimbursement for FY 2004 - 2005 is \$2,837,383 rather than \$3,570,976 provided legislators early on. The amount is less since not all our propositions passed.*



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate Finance
committee name

committee on SB 258 - HB 377, dated 4-17-04
bill/subject

Please avoid cutting the Mental Health Budget. The people who benefit from the services provided have very great needs and a very small voice. Most of them have a limited (to zero) means of improving the quality of their own lives. I personally provide Day Habilitation for a couple of individuals who qualify for waivers. I've been told that there are over 1,500 individuals on a waiting list that qualify for similar services. Although mental health is expensive, it is cheaper than running institutions or leaving people that need it uncared for. Currently people with different needs can be helped with Foster Care, Shared Care, Group homes, Supported living and In-home services. The people providing these services also need your support in order to avoid "burn-out" and continue a stable and reliable home environment for the individuals they serve.

Signed: Roger H. Fay
Testifier
Self

Representing (Optional)
Box 521215 Big Lake AK. 99652
Mailing Address
907-892-8901
Phone Number



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the SENATE FINANCE
 committee on SB-258 HB377 committee name
mental health , dated 4-7-04
 bill/subject

i reactive mental health services.
 my life is better because of it.
 Please dont cut mental health.
 i dont want to be sick all my life

Signed: Gary Hanthorn
 Testifier Self
 Representing (Optional) 801 e. mulchatna Dr
 Mailing Address
 Phone Number 376-3953

LAW OFFICES

DILLON & FINDLEY

A PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION

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April 12, 2004

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Hon. Lyda Green, Co-chair
Hon. Gary Wilken, Co-chair
Alaska Senate Finance Committee
Capitol, Room 518
Juneau, Alaska 99801

HAND-DELIVERED

Re: Operating Budget, Dept. of Community & Economic Development
-- Alaska Legal Services Corporation

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