

3/08

OVERVIEW/
CAPITAL GRANT
REQUEST:
"CHANLYUT" BY
COOK INLET
TRIBAL
COUNCIL

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

Representative Jay Ramras
Chairman

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Committee Members:

Representative Nancy Dahlstrom,

Vice-Chairman

Representative John Coghill

Representative Bob Lynn

Representative Ralph Samuels

Representative Max Gruenberg

Representative Lindsey Holmes

State Capitol, Room 120
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

March 13, 2008

Re: Statewide Capital Appropriation Request

Honorable Kevin Meyer, Co-Chair
House Finance Committee
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

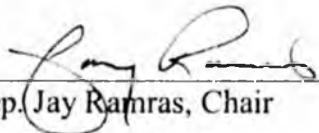
Dear Chairman Meyer,

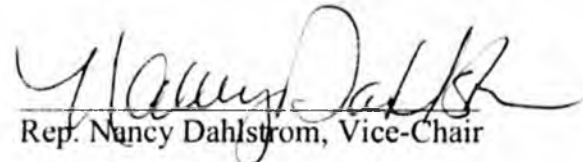
The House Judiciary Committee held a hearing earlier this year where representatives of Cook Inlet Tribal Council (CITC) presented an overview of an exciting initiative based on the highly acclaimed Delancey Street Program, which has a proven track record of over 30 years. The Delancey Street Model is a two year residential learning community that focuses on active learning of behavior, values, and work skills rather than therapy. This Anchorage based non-profit, CITC, has been selected as one of five replication sites nationwide. They have appropriately named it "Chanlyut" the Dena'ina Athabascan word for "new beginning".

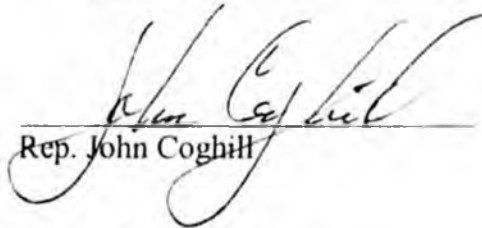
The distinguishing characteristics of these two programs are that no governmental funds are utilized for operations and no professional counselors are involved. This work and education based rehabilitation program uses training enterprises to instill personal responsibility and accountability for Alaskan men who are facing the challenges of addiction and/or successfully reentering society after incarceration.

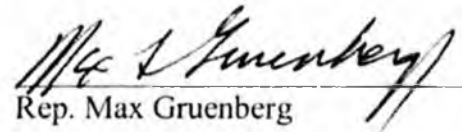
The purpose of this correspondence is to convey our support for their program and urge your positive consideration of a statewide capital appropriation request of \$3 million dollars for the expansion of the program to 100 beds. We have attached a brief program overview for your information and review.

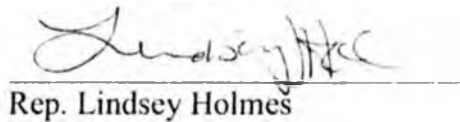
We the under signed believe that this appropriation should be viewed as an investment as opposed to an expense as we believe that it will result in significant programmatic operating savings in both the Corrections and HESS operating budgets. Most importantly, it will provide an effective venue for helping many troubled Alaskans return as successful, positive and contributing members of our society.

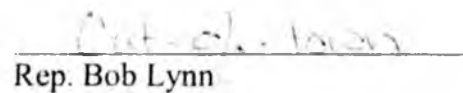

Rep. Jay Ramras, Chair

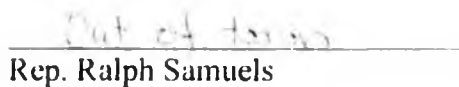

Rep. Nancy Dahlstrom, Vice-Chair


Rep. John Coghill


Rep. Max Gruenberg


Rep. Lindsey Holmes


Rep. Bob Lynn


Rep. Ralph Samuels

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CHANLYUT

("shawn-loot", Dena'ina Athabascan for "New Beginning")

Utilization of State of Alaska capital grant funds

Cook Inlet Tribal Council, Inc. (CITC) respectfully requests a state capital grant of three million dollars for the purchase of a new Chanlyut facility in order to expand this successful program to meet increasing needs and to provide an opportunity for 100 residents to rebuild their lives, while relieving the Department of Corrections and other social service agencies of the burden of housing and treating this population. Chanlyut will be self-sustaining based on funds generated from training schools and will not require operating funds from the state or federal governments.

The Project

Chanlyut is a residential, vocational, and educational program located in Anchorage that offers an alternative to long-term justice and substance abuse treatment, reintegrating residents as productive members of society. Chanlyut is an option for all Alaskans that offers a new beginning for men who are facing the serious challenges of addiction, homelessness, and/or reentering society after incarceration. While Chanlyut will provide culturally responsive services for Alaska Natives (who comprise a highly disproportionate number in the criminal justice system and in substance abuse treatment programs in Alaska), it is open to *all individuals* who feel that they have hit bottom and want to rebuild their lives. *Note: During the initial phase, Chanlyut will be a male-only; however, it will expand to include women once the program is well established.*

Chanlyut is built upon the belief that **change can take place from the outside – in; through acting “as if” they are successful, positive, contributing members of society, our residents become just that.** This notion is thousands of years old—Aristotle also believed that people “*acquire a particular quality by constantly acting a particular way...you become just by performing just actions, temperate by performing temperate actions, brave by performing brave actions.*” It also believes that this **change takes time; recovery is a lifelong process.** Chanlyut will provide a community environment in which residents develop the skills they need to make meaningful changes in their lives, **without professional staff or counselors.**

Chanlyut Expectations

- Residents will request to live at Chanlyut and undergo a rigorous interview and selection process to be selected;
- Residents commit to living in the program for a minimum of two years in order to develop and refine their knowledge, skills, and experiences;
- Residents will learn to care—care for themselves, for others, and for community; and
- The three “rules” for Chanlyut are:
 1. No violence,
 2. No threats, and

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3. No alcohol or drug use.
Any violation of these rules will result in immediate dismissal from the program.

What does Chanlyut provide?

- Community/family style living
- Room, board and clothing
- Life skills training
- Individualized educational services
- Vocational training in at least three core areas
- Hands-on work experience through business training schools, learning through doing
- Community involvement and service
- Financial skills-building
- Linkage with medical services
- **Empowerment for residents to solve their problems with their own solutions**

Educational Focus of Chanlyut

Chanlyut's focus is on learning rather than therapy. From the moment they wake up until they go to bed in the evening, residents have highly structured days that center on learning – both *formal learning*, through GED and/or postsecondary academic classes, life skills classes, vocational training, and groups; and *learning through doing*, through hands-on work experience in training schools, teaching others, community engagement, and day-to-day interactions. In July, 2007, Chanlyut residents opened the Mountain View Diner, where they receive training in the food service industry. Residents do not receive a paycheck; however, all proceeds from the Diner and all other micro-enterprises go directly into supporting Chanlyut residents. **During their time in Chanlyut, each resident will achieve an equivalency of a high-school diploma (and have the opportunity to further their post-secondary education), develop marketable job skills, and acquire positive behavioral values.**

Chanlyut exclusions:

Chanlyut does not accept sex offenders, arsonists, or individuals diagnosed and medicated for mental illness.

Current Project Location

Through a grant from the Rasmuson Foundation, Cook Inlet Tribal Council, Inc. (CITC) purchased property for Chanlyut, located at 4119 Mountain View Drive. The Chanlyut property is zoned for both business and residential use and was in need of complete renovation at the time of purchase. To that end, Chanlyut received a designated legislative capital grant appropriation from the State of Alaska in 2005 and 2006 for upgrades and remodeling the existing structure and to build a new structure.

Chanlyut's success is dependent upon the residents' investing in and taking ownership of improving their home and contributing to their community as they improve their lives through positive efforts.

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Chanlyut residents therefore participated in all aspects of the renovation and construction as part of their training/work experience. The “sweat equity” that went into building their new home taught the residents valuable work skills. More than that, these new concrete, wood and plaster walls replace their old walls of addiction, failure and hopelessness.

The new structure built on the Chanlyut property houses residents and provides potential space for some of the entrepreneurial training schools. Construction of this new facility was completed in the fall of 2007. Chanlyut is initially starting with a cohort of 6 residents, which will grow as the buildings grow, ultimately reaching a capacity of 20 residents by the summer of 2008.

Chanlyut has accomplished many of its preliminary goals. However, looking forward, it will quickly outgrow its twenty bed maximum in the current location. Therefore, Chanlyut is seeking an additional three million dollars to identify, purchase and either build or modify an existing building that will allow the program to grow to 100 residents. Each of these residents, if they do not return to crime or even while they are in residence, will save the State thousands of dollars in processing of defendants, housing inmates (an average of \$121 per day), and citizen injuries, and at the same time will provide a proven successful alternative to prison for those sentenced in our courts.

The Future

CITC expects Chanlyut to continue to grow and thrive. Annual operating expenses for the residential facility in full operation are projected to be an estimated \$300,000 annually, decreased within five years to a stand-alone, self-sustaining endeavor through “training school” micro-enterprises run by the residents. Capacity at the current location will be exhausted in the next year, requiring an expansion to a 100 bed facility for which the three million dollars in state capital funds are requested. After the 5-year phased implementation process, **Chanlyut residents, not “hired staff,” will ultimately operate and oversee all aspects of the facility and the project activities.**

Micro-enterprise training schools under consideration include landscaping and snow removal, craft trades, laborers, bookstore and cafe, and/or other businesses to be identified by Chanlyut residents and the Chanlyut Board of Directors, and responding to the identified needs of the Mountain View neighborhood.

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The Delancey Street Model

Chanlyut is an officially approved replication of the Delancey Street Model for education and rehabilitation. Delancey Street was founded in 1971 by ex-convict John Maher and Dr. Mimi Silbert in San Francisco, California. Their founding dream was to develop a new model to turn around the lives of substance abusers, former felons, and others who have hit bottom by empowering people with serious problems to become their own solution. The Delancey Street Model is a 2-year residential learning community that focuses on active learning – behavior, values, and work skills – rather than therapy.

As part of the learning experience, residents completely staff the Delancey Street enterprises, such as a restaurant, moving company, dry cleaners, promotional item sales, furniture design, automotive repair, and building trades. Revenues generated by the enterprises for the Delancey Street \$24 million annual budget make operations almost entirely self-sustaining.

Since 1971 more than 14,000 residents have graduated from Delancey Street into mainstream society as successful taxpaying citizens leading decent, crime-free, and productive lives. An estimated 75 percent of the residents remain law-abiding and drug-free after graduation.

Chanlyut Board of Directors

The Chanlyut Board of Directors has been instrumental in the formation and actualization of the vision for Chanlyut. Board Members include:

- Gloria O'Neill (Chanlyut Board Chair), President and CEO, CITC;
- Jewel Jones (Chanlyut Vice Chair), Interim CEO, Anchorage Community Land Trust
- Jeff Jessee (Chanlyut Secretary/Treasurer), Executive Director, Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority;
- Barbara Cash, President and CEO, RIM Design
- Larry Cash, President and CEO, RIM Architects
- Laurie Herman, Regional Director of Government Affairs, Providence Health System – Alaska
- Denise Morris, President and CEO, Alaska Native Justice Center;
- Royce Rock, Workforce Development Director, CITC, and
- Chief Robert Heum, Anchorage Police Department.

Chanlyut Partners

Community, Public Agency & Institutional Collaborators

- Abused Women's Aid in Crisis
- Anchorage Neighborhood Health Center
- Mountain View Arts and Culture District Association
- Mountain View Community Council

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- Mountain View Main Street
- Municipality of Anchorage, Office of the Mayor
- P.O. B. Montgomery & Co.
- State of Alaska Department of Corrections, Division of Probation and Parole
- State of Alaska Department of Corrections, Office of the Commissioner
- State of Alaska Department of Health & Social Services, Office of the Commissioner

Local Funding Partners for Chanlyut

- Alaska Airlines
- Alaska Native Heritage Center
- Alaska Native Justice Center
- ANCSA Regional Corporation Presidents & CEOs
- Arctic Slope Regional Corporation
- Ashley Reed and Associates
- BP
- Capital Office Systems
- Carpenters Local 1281
- Chugach Electric Association
- The CIRI Foundation
- ConocoPhillips Alaska, Inc.
- Cook Inlet Housing Authority
- Cook Inlet Region, Inc.
- Enstar Natural Gas Company
- Koahnic Broadcast Corporation
- Providence Health System
- Rasmuson Foundation
- RIM Architects and RIM Design
- Southcentral Foundation
- Standing Together Against Rape
- Wells Fargo Alaska
- Wells Fargo Foundation

Foundation Partner:

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Local Initiatives Funding Partners Four-year Operations grant.

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