

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 16, 2010

The Honorable Daniel K. Inouye
Chairman
Senate Appropriations Committee
S-131, U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Vice Chairman
Senate Appropriations Committee
S-131, U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tom Harkin
Chairman
Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor,
Health and Human Services, Education,
and Related Agencies
Senate Dirksen Office Building, Room 131
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Ranking Member
Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor,
Health and Human Services, Education,
and Related Agencies
Senate Dirksen Office Building, Room 131
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Inouye, Vice Chairman Cochran, and Chairman Harkin:

As the Committee begins its consideration of the Fiscal Year 2011 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill, I request support for the following programs:

Project Name: Continue to serve low-income uninsured with donated health care
Amount: \$250,000

Location: Anchorage, Alaska

Intended Recipient: Anchorage Project Access (APA)

Purpose: Funding is requested for operational cost and case management for Anchorage Project Access to ensure low-income uninsured residents with donated services. APA care coordinator gets the right patient to the right doctor at the right time, avoiding unnecessary or repetitive care and minimizes emergency room use – all practitioners are pro bono. While a national health care plan will eventually provide relief to the underserved, APA continues to provide a cost-effective means of increasing access to health care for this population.

Project Name: Prepare Alaskans for Employment and Entry into Vocational Training

Amount: \$246,100

Location: Anchorage, Alaska

Intended Recipient: Nine Star Education and Employment

Purpose: Nine Star will expand Math for the Trades course, an established curricula of core mathematics skills essential for a variety of voc-tech careers, via distance delivery. The course will serve as a "train-the-trainer" course for local instructors who, once they have successfully completed the module, will be able to teach the class in the future. This effective, inexpensive way to prepare Alaskans for jobs and for entry into vocational training will allow thirty people statewide to take jobs and twenty to upgrade their skills sufficiently to qualify for a vocational training or apprenticeship program.

Project Name: Oral Health Disparities Project

Amount: \$2,500,000

Location: Anchorage and Bethel, Alaska

Intended Recipient: Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC)

Purpose: This Dental Health Aide Therapy Training Program is the only training program of its kind in the entire United States. The ANTHC is committed to addressing the oral health disparities faced by Alaska Natives by expanding the opportunities for Alaska Natives to receive safe and effective oral health care. Over the next five years, ANTHC would like to have 50 dental therapists trained to provide quality and cost-effective dental services in Alaska.

Project Name: Build Hospital and Nursing Home Replacement

Amount: \$2,500,000

Location: Wrangell, Alaska

Intended Recipient: Wrangell Medical Center (WMC)

Purpose: Design and construct replacement hospital and nursing home in Wrangell, Alaska. The new hospital will allow WMC to continue to expand much needed health care services, maximizing the community's resources through savings in time, reduced cost, and improved quality of life. Currently, between financing and reserves, Wrangell Medical Center contributes 80% of the cost of this project and is seeking the remaining 20% from state and federal sources to be shovel ready and provide numerous jobs to the community through payroll and support services.

Project Name: Replace community health center in Anchorage

Amount: \$1,800,000

Location: Anchorage, Alaska

Intended Recipient: Anchorage Neighborhood Health Center (ANHC)

Purpose: ANHC is requesting help to purchase the necessary equipment to complete the new health center and provide a modern facility and room for growth.

Project Name: Pathways to Sobriety

Amount: \$6,260,000

Location: Anchorage, Alaska

Intended Recipient: Municipality of Anchorage

Purpose: This is a public safety project responding to the City's estimated 250 chronic homeless public inebriates. Funds are to be used for case management services for the chronic public inebriate population to attain sobriety and self sufficiency, and reduce usage on emergency services. The Pathways project incorporates case management for public inebriates and initiates intervention on site to bridge clients to detoxification and treatment services, and subsequently to housing and employment.

Project Name: Creating Rural Jobs for Alaskan's through Pre-Apprenticeships/Academies and Obtainment of Industry and Nationally Recognized Certifications

Amount: \$1,200,000

Location: Southwest Alaska

Intended Recipient: Southwest Alaska Vocational & Education Center

Purpose: Provide outreach services to high schools (youth and adults) in the form of instructors (salaries), instruction, supplies, and equipment to provide courses/programs in high demand/wage career fields in Southwest Alaska. This new program is designed to encourage youth and adults with limited or no work history, dislocated workers, minorities, and low-income individuals to enter a variety of high demand/wage jobs in Southwest Alaska.

Project Name: Staffing Package for the Bethel Hospital

Amount: \$3,660,000

Location: Bethel, Alaska

Intended Recipient: Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation (YKHC)

Purpose: With increased staff, YKHC will be able to reduce wait times for appointments. More importantly, we will be better positioned to address our region's health disparities—increased screens for breast and colon cancers, reduced unintentional injuries and improved alcohol and tobacco cessation programs. Although Congress funded construction of the hospital and appropriated the staffing package in 1980 through Indian Health Services, the staffing package was never funded to the Yukon Kuskokwim Delta Regional Hospital.

Project Name: Build up to 38 units of affordable apartment-style housing for vocational students and corresponding workforce

Amount: \$800,000

Location: Anchorage, Alaska

Intended Recipient: Cook Inlet Housing Authority (CIHA)

Purpose: CIHA seeks federal appropriation to leverage its funds to develop and construct up to thirty-eight units of affordable housing, which will consist of one, two-and three-bedroom apartments within a larger development, including critical on-site services and amenities. This affordable housing will be available to both students enrolled in vocational programs and individuals who have recently completed training and are ready to seek work.

Project Name: Construct Long Term Care Facility for the Bering Strait Region

Amount: \$6,000,000

Location: Nome, Alaska

Intended Recipient: Norton Sound Health Corporation

Purpose: The requested funds will be used to construct a new 13,000 square feet (18 - 20 bed) long term care facility at the new Nome Hospital site. Construction includes the foundation, structural frame and exterior enclosure for the wing which would be constructed in summer of 2011. The Indian Health Service (IHS) has determined the existing hospital facility is beyond its useful life and in need of replacement.

Project Name: Complete the construction of the Maniilaq Elder Care Addition

Amount: \$10,200,000

Location: Kotzebue, Alaska

Intended Recipient: Maniilaq Association

Purpose: This project will complete the construction of an 18 bed long term nursing care wing is being co-located with the Maniilaq Health Center in Kotzebue, Alaska and provide care to elders in a region geographically isolated from the rest of Alaska.

Project Name: Obesity Prevention and Control

Amount: \$750,000

Location: Anchorage and Wrangell, Alaska

Intended Recipient: State of Alaska

Purpose: The State of Alaska is requesting funding to pilot a comprehensive, evidence-based, community-based approach to obesity prevention. An estimated \$600 million is spent annually on direct medical services related to obesity and \$1.9 billion is lost in productivity.

Project Name: Build new Early Childhood Learning Facility in Toksook Bay

Amount: \$500,000

Location: Toksook Bay, Alaska

Intended Recipient: Rural Alaska Community Action Program, Inc.

Purpose: The new facility will house Head Start, Parents as Teachers and community day care, replacing the existing Head Start center with an early learning center offering services for a growing population of children 0-5 years old. Children with early childhood education show a markedly higher rate of success in school, and grow up to become capable, functioning adults. The need for early learning programs is amplified in rural Alaska, where children continue to be at high risk due to the difficult circumstances of remote geography and lack of economic and educational opportunity.

Project Name: Dental Clinic

Amount: \$6,428,000

Location: Dillingham, Alaska

Intended Recipient: Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation

Purpose: The project will build and equip an already designed, 7,300 square feet dental clinic on the Kakanak Hospital campus. Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation (BBAHC) is responsible for delivering all health care services to Alaska Natives/American Indians in the Bristol Bay Region of Alaska.

Project Name: Yukon Koyukuk Energy Education

Amount: \$1,650,000

Location: Southwest Alaska

Intended Recipient: Yukon Koyukuk School District

Purpose: Increasing high school graduation rates and post-secondary success (especially in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math fields), promoting and providing applicable training in trade skills, improving energy efficiency, boosting alternative energy development and use, and improving the viability and self-reliance of rural communities are high priorities. The intent of this program is to create two centers of education which students will construct using energy-efficient technology and hands-on teaching. This education program will focus on energy-efficient construction, alternative energy, nutrition and vocational education.

Project Name: Enhanced Tuberculosis Control

Amount: \$500,000

Location: Statewide, Alaska

Intended Recipient: State of Alaska

Purpose: This funding will support comprehensive tuberculosis (TB) prevention and control in Alaska. In Alaska, the Native population bears a disproportionate burden of TB cases. Two-thirds of all TB in the state occurs in this population.

Senators Inouye, Cochran, and Harkin

April 16, 2010

Page 6

Project: Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium Medical Center Medical Equipment

Amount: \$1,000,000

Location: Anchorage and Statewide, Alaska

Intended Recipient: Alaska Native Tribe Health Consortium (ANTHC)

Purpose: Replace and upgrade medical equipment to provide patient care in a safe environment for our patients.

Project: Establish Suicide Prevention Strategy for the Northwest Arctic

Amount: \$450,000

Location: Northwest Alaska, Alaska

Intended Recipient: Maniilaq Association

Purpose: To create a sustaining, village based, culturally relevant, suicide prevention team in every community in the Maniilaq service area. The project includes a one week training session in Kotzebue with five participants from each of the communities, preparing community leaders to effectively address the challenges. This training will assist participants to build trust, gain a common understanding of the problem, and start the creation of a network of peer support.

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

If you have any questions, please contact Liz Brinkerhoff-Nottberg of my staff at (202) 224-3004.

Sincerely,



Mark Begich
United States Senator

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 16, 2010

The Honorable Daniel K. Inouye
Chairman
Senate Appropriations Committee
S-131, U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Vice Chairman
Senate Appropriations Committee
S-131, U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tom Harkin
Chairman
Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor,
Health and Human Services, Education,
and Related Agencies
Senate Dirksen Office Building, Room 131
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Ranking Member
Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor,
Health and Human Services, Education,
and Related Agencies
Senate Dirksen Office Building, Room 131
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Inouye, Vice Chairman Cochran, and Chairman Harkin:

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

Sincerely,



Mark Begich
United States Senator