

Construction of AVTEC Student Housing in Seward

FY2001 Request: \$4,200,000

Reference No: 33714

AP/AL: Appropriation
Category: Development

Project Type: Construction

Location: Seward

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Estimated Project Dates: 07/01/2000 - 06/30/2005

Brief Summary and Statement of Need:

Tentative plans for this revised project include constructing a new dorm for single students and purchasing approximately 15 existing apartments to accommodate students with families.

Funding:	FY2001	FY2002	FY2003	FY2004	FY2005	FY2006	Total
AHFC Bonds	\$4,200,000						\$4,200,000
Total:	\$4,200,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$4,200,000

<input type="checkbox"/> State Match Required	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> One-Time Project	<input type="checkbox"/> Phased - new	<input type="checkbox"/> Phased - underway	<input type="checkbox"/> On-Going
0% = Minimum State Match % Required		<input type="checkbox"/> Amendment	<input type="checkbox"/> Mental Health Bill	

Operating & Maintenance Costs:

	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Staff</u>
Project Development:	0	0
Ongoing Operating:	0	0
One-Time Startup:	0	
Totals:	0	0

Additional Information / Prior Funding History:

The original request to the legislature in 1999 was for \$9.2 million to construct two buildings. During the 2000 Session, \$4.2 million was actually appropriated for the project in HB287.

Project Description/Justification:

This project was originally proposed to the legislature in 1999 at a construction cost of \$9.2 million to construct 116 new units in two locations: 96 beds for single students (12 four-bedroom units with 8 beds each), and 20 apartments for students with families (with a licensed childcare center for 20 children on the premises).

Currently, AVTEC has 121 dormitory beds for single students, but averages over 200 requests for dormitory beds per year. AVTEC also has 4 apartments for students with families, but averages over 30 requests for family housing per year. Over the past five years applications to AVTECH have outstripped enrollments by 55%. The 125 units of student housing are already inadequate to accommodate the approximate 1,400 enrollees each year, and the lack of available and affordable housing in Seward's private rental market has only exacerbated the dilemma. In fact, during the summer tourism season, virtually all private rental units are unavailable to students. Consequently, AVTEC's curricula and schedules have been limited almost entirely to courses of eight months or less.

Beginning in 1997, applications to AVTEC from Welfare-to-Work clients have significantly increased the demand for student housing in general and for family housing and childcare in particular. In order to enroll a larger percent of applicants and offer year-round courses, affordable housing with childcare must be provided.

Because the legislature's appropriation of \$4.2 million is slightly less than half of the original proposal, the scope of the project is undergoing revision. The tentative plan is to purchase approximately 15 existing family-sized apartments, and only newly construct one building for the single students. How to provide the essential childcare center is still uncertain.