

**Vocational Rehabilitation Business Enterprise Program
Facility Development and Equipment Replacement**

**FY2005 Request: \$500,000
Reference No: 39067**

AP/AL: Appropriation
Category: General Government
Location: Statewide
House District: Statewide (HD 1-40)
Estimated Project Dates: 07/01/2004 - 06/30/2007

Project Type: Renewal and Replacement
Recipient: Projects as Approved
Contact: Mark Dale
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Brief Summary and Statement of Need:

The Business Enterprise Program (AS 23.15.100) provides employment opportunities for blind individuals through the establishment and operation of vending facilities on federal and state properties. This appropriation from the BEP Revolving Fund will pay for construction of a new vending facility at the Atwood Building in Anchorage (300.0) and vending facility equipment replacement in the Juneau Federal Building, Anchorage University Plaza, and Anchorage Court House (200.0).

| Funding: | FY2005 | FY2006 | FY2007 | FY2008 | FY2009 | FY2010 | Total |
|-----------------|------------------|---------------|---------------|------------------|---------------|---------------|--------------------|
| VocSm Bus | \$500,000 | | | \$500,000 | | | \$1,000,000 |
| Total: | \$500,000 | \$0 | \$0 | \$500,000 | \$0 | \$0 | \$1,000,000 |

| | | | | |
|---|---|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> State Match Required | <input type="checkbox"/> One-Time Project | <input type="checkbox"/> Phased - new | <input type="checkbox"/> Phased - underway | <input checked="" 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 | 0 |
| Totals: | 0 | 0 |

Additional Information / Prior Funding History:

This is the first year a capital request has been made for this program. Establishment of vending facilities has previously been funded in the program's operating budget.

Project Description/Justification:

The Division of Vocational Rehabilitation administers the Business Enterprise Program (BEP) under the authority of AS 23.15.100. The BEP provides employment opportunities for blind individuals through the establishment and operation of vending facilities on state and federal properties. Through AS 23.15.135 (b) the division coordinates vendor facility operations with the Committee of Blind Vendors.

In FY05 the BEP is planning to build a new facility in the Atwood Building in Anchorage which will require construction and capital expenditures. The facility will provide employment and economic opportunities to a blind individual. The capital expenditures and ongoing operating costs for the facility will come from the Business Enterprise Program Revolving Fund (AS 23.15.130).

A deferred maintenance plan is being developed to address the equipment replacement needs and upgrades to all vendor facilities.