

MH: Therapeutic Foster Home**FY2006 Request: \$200,000****Reference No: 39864****AP/AL:** Appropriation**Project Type:** Construction**Category:** Health/Human Services**Location:** Statewide**Contact:** Larry J. Streuber**House District:** Statewide (HD 1-40)**Contact Phone:** (907)465-1870**Estimated Project Dates:** 07/01/2005 - 06/30/2010**Brief Summary and Statement of Need:**

This request will provide funding for foster parents that care for foster children that are Severely Emotionally Disturbed (SED) and are at risk of institutionalization. These funds will allow foster parents to make modifications to their home that will allow for them to provide a safe and secure home for these children with special needs.

Funding:	<u>FY2006</u>	<u>FY2007</u>	<u>FY2008</u>	<u>FY2009</u>	<u>FY2010</u>	<u>FY2011</u>	<u>Total</u>
MHTAAR	\$200,000						\$200,000
Total:	\$200,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$200,000

<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 checked="" 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:

This is the first year of the project.

Project Description/Justification:

This request will fund modifications to homes of foster parents that will allow them to provide a safe and secure living environment for foster children with special needs, in particular, children and youth that are Severely Emotionally Disturbed (SED). There is a shortage of foster homes currently available that are able to care for SED foster children and youth due to the additional safety modifications that homes need in order to safely care for these children.

The Department and the stakeholder groups are involved in a collaborative effort to re-structure the children's system of care to address the over-reliance on restrictive residential care, particularly large residential facilities outside of Alaska. The Bring The Kids Home initiative has resulted in collaborative work groups that have developed a number of projects for which the Trust has allocated funding and support. These high needs children may require specialized housing adaptations in order for foster parents to care for them.

The types of modifications primarily include retrofits and signalling devices such as strobe light fire detectors, amplification devices, modifications to restrooms and kitchens to make them more accessible, and adaptations to improve mobility within interior living space.

The project will provide safe, in-state, therapeutic foster homes for children and youth with SED who are ready for transition out of more restrictive residential care or who are at risk of transition into more restrictive residential care due to a lack of safe in-state housing alternatives. This request is needed due to the extreme lack of affordable, appropriate housing options for this highly at risk population.

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The Department's mission statement is: *To promote and protect the health and well being of Alaskans.* The project supports the Department's mission by providing needed housing that is safe and secure for Alaskan youth suffering from severe emotional disturbances.