

Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development
Grants to Municipalities (AS 37.05.315)
Grant Recipient: Palmer

Project Title: **Project Type:** New Construction and Land Acquisition

Palmer - Visitors Information Center Restrooms

State Funding Requested: \$163,820
 One-Time Need

House District: 13 / G

Brief Project Description:

The City will construct a 16' x 24' public restroom facilities to be sited adjacent the Visitors Center. This project will bring public facilities into ADA compliance, provide clean and sanitary restrooms for Alaskans and tourists, and provide infrastructure improvements on public lands in a nationally recognized historic district.

Funding Plan:

Total Cost of Project: \$163,820

	<u>Funding Secured</u>		<u>Other Pending Requests</u>		<u>Anticipated Future Need</u>	
	<i>Amount</i>	<i>FY</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>FY</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>FY</i>
Federal Funds			\$163,820	10		
Total			<u>\$163,820</u>			

Detailed Project Description and Justification:

The Palmer Visitors Center is located in the heart of downtown Palmer across the street from the Palmer Townsite Public Use Area and the historic Railroad Depot.

In 2008, over 36,000 tourists visited the Palmer Visitors Center. The Palmer Visitors Center provides services for the independent traveler and tour busses. The Center features historical exhibits provided by the Palmer Museum of History and Art and a beautiful showcase garden throughout the summer.

The public restrooms in the Visitors Center are located in the basement, are difficult to access, do not provide good handicap access, are small and do not meet Fire Marshall requirements. A new, ground-level stand alone facility is required to provide an adequate level of service to visitors throughout the entire year.

In addition to the daily traffic using the Palmer Visitor Center, the Palmer Economic Development Association hosts the weekly Friday Flings Market across the street from the Visitor Center. Up to 14,000 people participate in "Friday Flings" during the summer. Friday Flings are a combination summer produce market, craft fair, and entertainment showcase. There is no public restroom facility available in Palmer which is essential for continued growth of the downtown area. This project is important to the continue economic development within the downtown district in Palmer.

To remedy this problem, the City proposes to construct a 16' x 24' public restroom with separate men and women's facilities to be sited adjacent the Visitor Center. The facility will be connected to the City utilities and heated throughout the year.

Project Timeline:

Construction Summer of 2009.

For use by Co-chair Staff Only:

4:18 PM 4/29/2009

Entity Responsible for the Ongoing Operation and Maintenance of this Project:

City of Palmer

Grant Recipient Contact Information:

Name: B.B. Allen
Address: 231 W Evergreen Ave
Palmer , AK 99645
Phone Number: (907)761-1317
Email: ballen@palmerak.org

Has this project been through a public review process at the local level and is it a community priority? Yes No