

Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development**Grants to Named Recipients (AS 37.05.316)****Grant Recipient: The Alaska Community Foundation****Federal Tax ID: 92-0155067****Project Title:****Project Type: Other**

Alaska Community Foundation - Recover Alaska Project Fund

State Funding Requested: \$500,000**House District: Statewide (1-40)**

One-Time Need

Brief Project Description:

Funds for pilot implementation of intensive case management services for Alaskans seeking access to information on prevention and treatment for alcohol addiction.

Funding Plan:

Total Project Cost:	\$1,438,292
Funding Already Secured:	(\$0)
FY2015 State Funding Request:	(\$500,000)
Project Deficit:	\$938,292

Funding Details:

Any state funding secured will be contingent on matching funds. Organizations already committed to matching funds are: Rasmuson Foundation and the Annie E. Casey Foundation. Other potential matching fund organizations are the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority, Mat-Su Health Foundation and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

Detailed Project Description and Justification:

Recover Alaska will support development of referral and case management services for Alaskans seeking access to information on prevention and treatment for alcohol addiction.

There is not a "single point of access or one stop shop" for individuals, family members, providers, the courts, school districts and concerned citizens to obtain information about alcohol and substance abuse prevention, early intervention, treatment and recovery programs and services in Alaska. In addition there is not a single statewide entity that has as its primary mission or responsibility to screen/assess, plan, link (to services), monitor and support those seeking assistance with their alcohol and/or substance abuse problem.

A simple Google search of "alcohol treatment centers in Alaska" brings up a confusing assortment of national treatment referral networks, questionable sales pitches and laundry lists of phone numbers for treatment centers in-state and out of Alaska. For consumers, primary care providers and others, the process of finding help quickly becomes daunting.

Recover Alaska proposes implementation of a virtual center with a robust, easy-to-navigate web portal that will provide Alaskans with basic information about how to assess their level of alcohol use. The online center would utilize Electronic Screening and Brief Intervention (e-SBI)[1] methodology.

The project will pair a virtual portal with a call-in center and connection into regional agencies. Agencies would utilize recovery specialists modeled on patient navigators that have been proven successful in other chronic disease-related care. The specialists would assist in screening/assessing, planning, linking, monitoring and advocating on behalf of individuals and family members seeking assistance on the path to recovery. Others seeking assistance could obtain information about prevention programs in or close to their community, evidence based or best practices being used in Alaska, as well as accessing provider quality ratings and costs (including what the client is expected to pay) for a broad array of substance abuse services.

About Recover Alaska

Rasmuson Foundation, the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority, Mat-Su Health Foundation, State of Alaska-Department of Health and Social Services, and other stakeholders have joined together to build a strategy for reducing the harm caused by excessive alcohol in Alaska. Recover Alaska is focusing on making systems, policy, statutory and practice changes that will lead to long-term improvements.

Results from the Healthy Alaskans 2020[2] survey showed that alcohol use and abuse is the top health issue important to Alaskans, with other substance abuse identified as number four. The monetary impact of alcohol and substance abuse to the Alaska economy are approximately \$1.2 billion.[3] Excessive use of alcohol in Alaska is too complex for any entity to address alone. Excessive alcohol consumption negatively impacts all Alaskans.

Recover Alaska is drawing together wide range of partners for high-level systems work to align concurrent efforts and implement common measures of success. Recover Alaska is working to move the needle on excessive use of alcohol using a variety of strategies aimed at changing how Alaskans think about alcohol and improving access to information about treatment.

1. e-SBI is identified by Healthy Alaskans 2020 as an evidenced based strategy for reducing binge drinking in adults and youth. <http://hss.state.ak.us/ha2020/EBS-15.htm>. Traditional screening and brief intervention (SBI) to reduce excessive alcohol consumption consists of assessing patients' drinking patterns, followed by providing those who screen positive for excessive drinking with face-to-face feedback about its risks, and a short conversation about changing their drinking patterns, including referral to treatment if appropriate. Electronic screening and brief intervention (e-SBI) uses electronic devices (e.g., computers, telephones, or mobile devices) to facilitate the delivery of key elements of traditional SBI.
2. Healthy Alaskans 2020, <http://hss.state.ak.us/dph/ha2020/assets/KeyFindings.pdf>
3. The Economic Costs of Alcohol and Drug Abuse in Alaska 2012, Alaska Mental Health Board & Advisory Board on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse.

The proposed budget:

Feasibility study and business plan	\$95,000
Web portal	\$450,000
Pilot implementation	\$808,292
Evaluation activities	\$85,000
Total	\$1,438,292

Project Timeline:

There will be three phases of the project in FY15-17:

1. A feasibility study of the concept in Alaska; Business planning, which will include methods for evaluation and planned integration within existing systems;
2. Pilot implementation in two project sites, one urban and one rural.
3. Dependent on the outcome of the feasibility study and business plan, development of online portal

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

The Alaska Community Foundation

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