

AP/AL: Appropriation

Project Type: Construction

Category: Health/Human Services

Location: Statewide

Contact: Larry Streuber

House District: Statewide (HD 1-40)

Contact Phone: (907)465-1870

Estimated Project Dates: 07/01/2001 - 06/30/2006

Brief Summary and Statement of Need:

The suicide rate in Alaska is alarming - more than twice the national average. We need to act immediately to support the regions in most distress and begin a process leading to a comprehensive suicide prevention plan for all Alaska.

Funding:	FY2002	FY2003	FY2004	FY2005	FY2006	FY2007	Total
GF/MH	\$600,000						\$600,000
Total:	\$600,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$600,000

<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amendment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mental Health Bill	

Operating & Maintenance Costs:

	Amount	Staff
Project Development:	0	0
Ongoing Operating:	0	0
One-Time Startup:	0	0
Totals:	0	0

Additional Information / Prior Funding History:

Project Description/Justification:

Alaska has a very serious problem with suicide. The suicide rate in Alaska is more than twice the national average. This project will provide some solutions to help remedy the suicide problem, including provide funds to build a new Mental Health Center in Galena, and other activities as listed below.

\$600,000 capital funds for the mental health portion of a new health/mental health facility in Galena, which serves the Yukon-Koyukuk sub-region. The City of Galena is requesting \$600,000 to replace its old, dilapidated mental health center. The Yukon-Koyukuk Mental Health Program is located in an old trailer, which was barged into Galena in the early 1960's and was used for educational purposes before it was brought to its current location. This building has been through three major spring floods. Most of the insulation is gone, the plumbing freezes repeatedly throughout the winter, the pilings are rotting out, and there is no soundproofing between the offices and the client waiting area. The building is a fire hazard because of the electrical wiring, and the roof leaks. The staff use electric heaters as an additional source of heat to keep warm in the winter. The building does not have a ramp to allow for handicap access. Clients are reluctant to avail themselves of services because of the overcrowded conditions and the lack of privacy. The trailer building continues to deteriorate, which has increased the cost to operate it. The Council has determined that replacing the building is more fiscally responsible than trying to repair and refurbish this building.

The new mental health center will be 4,200 square feet. It will be built onto the existing health center, and these funds will only be used to fund construction of the mental health center. The mental health center has been designed and engineered, and the project is ready to go to construction once funding is obtained.