



# Blood Bank of Alaska

[www.bloodbankofalaska.org](http://www.bloodbankofalaska.org)

## Replacement Facility Pre-Design Request

Since moving into the new facility, the Blood Bank of Alaska has increased collections by 292%. Blood usage in Alaska has increased significantly and the Blood Bank of Alaska needs to expand to accommodate the increasing demand. The following points indicate why this expansion is necessary.

- Blood and blood products are critical items needed to keep people alive when needed. There is no substitute for blood, so without the availability people will die.
- Due to our distance from any other blood supplier, and the perishable nature of the product, trying to rely on blood centers in the lower 48 would put a hardship on our hospitals at best, and possibly cost people their lives.
- As a non profit corporation, we pride ourselves on trying to be self reliant. We have asked for and received money from the State twice in the past. In the 70's when we build our current building, in the 90's when we put in our first computer system. Now we are asking for help to expand our facilities to keep up with growing demand.
- We serve all the citizens of the State of Alaska. We provide primary service to 21 of 23 hospitals, and emergency backup to the other two. So we are truly a state wide organization.
- Blood usage has been growing 15% a year, far exceeding the rate of population growth, because more services are being offered in state, where people can be treated close to home, family, and their support systems.
- Usage of single donor platelets has grown 46% in the last two years, due to more advanced and higher risk medical procedures and treatments being offered in Alaska, again keeping people closer to home for treatment.
- Our staffing has grown almost ten times since this building was built; we have staff working in hallways to insure a critical item of life for Alaskans.
- Currently we send all our testing to Washington State, which has its own set of challenges from lost samples to delays in results. By the time this new facility comes on line, we will have grown to the point of being able to save significant money with our own testing lab, while increasing our safety and self reliance.
- If we had a facility that could pass an EU inspection, we could get an additional \$140,000 a year from our recovered plasma, a byproduct of what we do, that could be used to support the blood bank, and help offset or dampen future fee increases to our customer hospitals and ultimately their patients, the residence of Alaska.
- We need to start expanding into more advanced services for our local hospitals that are common in the rest of the United States. Alaskans deserve the same levels of medical care as other Americans.