

**Ginger Blaisdell**

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**From:** Jim Beck [jbeck@accessalaska.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 29, 2008 7:32 PM  
**To:** Sen. Lyda Green  
**Cc:** Ginger Blaisdell  
**Attachments:** FY09 SILC and CILs Capital Request.doc

Dear Senator Green:

I am writing you to let you know that we at Access Alaska - Wasilla support the Statewide Independent Living Council request for \$250,000 for Assistive Technology for Alaska's Centers for Independent Living. I hope you will add this to your capital project list. The Wasilla office will be applying for \$50,000 from this request.

Assistive technology and equipment can mean independence to an Alaskan with a disability. Last year at one of the public testimony opportunities I was struck by the variety of abilities represented in the room. People in wheelchairs and with canes, our aging Pioneers, myself with a spinal cord injury, several people with hearing and vision loss, and individuals with traumatic brain injuries were all represented in that room. This capital will help us improve the quality of life for this growing constituency.

Thanks for your time. As soon as you get home and catch your breath I invite you and your staff to come on by Access Alaska for a tour. We are proud of the work we do and the difference we make in the lives of so many Alaskans.

Sincerely,

Jim

*Jim Beck*  
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3/3/2008

**Alaska Centers for Independent Living/Aging  
and Disability Resource Centers  
FY09 Capital Request  
Assistive Technology  
\$250,000**

**Background and Need:**

Centers for Independent Living (CIL) work with individual persons with disabilities and seniors on helping to identify their assistive technology needs. They help both in finding the appropriate assistive devices and with identifying who can and should pay for the device, including Medicaid, private insurance and in many instances the individuals themselves. Demonstration equipment allows consumers to try first before buying expensive purchases for items such as video magnification devices, voice recognition software, communication boards, power lifts, etc. Most of the CILs already have loan closets of both high and low tech devices and desire to expand the repertoire of devices they can offer to their consumers. Capital funding for this project will help replace heavily used items and purchase items that are of high demand.

**Sources of Funding**

The most appropriate Department for this funding would be the Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation.

The Statewide Independent Living Council, Inc. should be the recipient of the funds and administer subcontracts to the Centers for Independent Living based on specific needs for each of the five regions. The SILC will solicit via a limited RFP from amongst the Centers and shall pay the Centers based on submitted invoices for equipment purchased. All purchases shall adhere to state equipment procurement requirements in terms of solicitation of verbal and written bids. The SILC shall use no more than 10% of funds for administration of the project.

***For more information about this capital request contact:***

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