

Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development

Grants to Named Recipients (AS 37.05.316)

Grant Recipient: Ketchikan General Hospital

Project Title:

Ketchikan General Hospital - Replacement Of Outdated Equipment

House District: 1

Funding Amount: \$ 70,000

Brief Summary:

Purchase to replace existing mammography equipment with Digital Mammography for routine and specialty images of the breast.

Funding Plan:

Type of Need: Ongoing Need

Prior Funding to Date:

None

Other Funding Requests:

Seeking funding through a Denali Commission Grant, but have not yet recieved. Requesting half of the amount from the Denali Commission.

Project Description:

Digital Mammography Machine: In fiscal year 2006 over 2,000 mammography procedures were performed at Ketchikan General Hospital (KGH). KGH serves southern Southeast Alaska with a service area population of approximately 20,000. This is especially true for specialized, higher-risk patient population, including breast cancer detection and screening.

Mammography is a standard tool in diagnosis and delivery of care used by both women and men. Advanced software and higher image resolution possible with the proposed new equipment will result in improved diagnosis, faster and more accurate detection, reduced travel costs, decreased patient anxiety and generally improved clinical outcomes for residents of southern Southeast Alaska. In addition, advancements in digital technology now enable instantaneous transmittal of studies to distant radiology specialists at the push of a button - an incredibly important attribute for small relatively remote health care facilities such as KGH. Digital mammography equipment is far superior in its ability to support high-risk patients' cancer screening, a critical patient population already being served by KGH.

The existing mammography equipment utilizes film and requires a processor unit to develop those films. The processor and existing mammography equipment is outdated and will experience significant downtime in the near future. This downtime will have a serious detrimental effect on KGH's ability to deliver continuous, reliable quality diagnostic care. Purchase of a digital mammography unit will make an essential contribution to the quality of life for Alaskans, especially those residing in southern Southeast. Due to geographic limitation and high cost of travel, residents of southern Southeast Alaska rely primarily on KGH to meet their medical needs, especially for specialized, emergent and urgent care. With more advanced equipment these patients will receive state of the art diagnostic care in Ketchikan.

For use by Co-chair Staff Only:

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Grant Recipient Contact Information:

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