

Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development**Grants to Named Recipients (AS 37.05.316)****Grant Recipient: Native Village of Diomed****Project Title:****Native Village of Diomed - New Clinic Building**

State Funding Requested: \$ 420,000
One-Time Need

House District: 39 - T

Brief Project Description:

The existing clinic was built in 1986 by Public Health Services and has not been brought up to building code since. The biggest concern is the inadequate space to meet the needs of residents.

Funding Plan:**Total Cost of Project: \$2,500,000**

	<u>Funding Secured</u>		<u>Other Pending Requests</u>		<u>Anticipated Future Need</u>	
	<i>Amount</i>	<i>FY</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>FY</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>FY</i>
Other	\$2,080,000	FY 2008				
Total	\$2,080,000					

Explanation of Other Funds:

The City of Diomed, Norton Sound Health Corporation, and the Denali Commission will fund approximately \$2,080,000. A 20% match is needed for the remainder.

Detailed Project Description and Justification:

This facility is twenty one years old and is in need of expansion and renovation. There have been many times when the patients are treated for life threatening emergencies in the entrance/waiting area because the gurney is too big to fit through the hallway to the exam room. The Community has met a number of times with the Norton Sound Health Corporation, including their capital project engineer, and the Denali Commission to review plans, cost estimates, and site selection. The feasibility study has been completed. They are ready to begin construction in the summer of 2009.

Project Timeline:

Upon approval, they will begin the remainder of the planning and ordering needed to begin construction in the summer of 2009.

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

Native Village of Diomed

Grant Recipient Contact Information:

Contact Name: Carolyn Ahkvaluk
Phone Number: (907)686-2175
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Email:

Total Project Snapshot Report

FY 2009 Capital Budget

TPS Report 49935

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

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February 22, 2008

Senator Donald Olson
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

RE: 2008 Legislative Assistance

Dear Honorable Donald Olson:

Thank you for allowing our community to submit the 2008 Legislative Priorities. Native Village of Diomedes met on January 18, 2007 to discuss a list of priorities that would benefit our health and wellness of our community. Overall these priorities are vital and a necessity we seem to not achieve on our own.

PRIORITY #1: New Clinic Building. Our existing clinic was built in 1986 by Public Health Services. This facility is twenty one (21) years old and has not been brought up to building code. The biggest concern is the small size of our clinic. There have been many times where the patients are treated for life threatening emergencies in the entrance (waiting area) because the gurney is too big to fit through the hallway to the exam room. We are fortunate that the City of Diomedes has set aside funding to renovate our Clinic. To our understanding, our community has been granted by Norton Sound Health Corporation and the Denali Commission for a new Clinic Building Project. The City of Diomedes did meet a number of times in the past with Norton Sound Capital Project's Engineer. During our community meetings we were able to review plans, cost estimates, and site selection. The feasibility plan has been completed. We are requesting a 20% or \$420,000 cash match secured for project construction for the summer of 2009. The total project cost for the Clinic Building proto-type is estimated to be the total of \$2.5 million once completed.

PRIORITY #2: Upgrade our emergency medical equipment and supplies at our clinic. (1) Our clinic has a satellite phone with Iridium provided by the

City of Diomedede. Keeping minutes on the satellite phone for emergencies is a must. Just last year alone we lost long distance three times due to electricity problems and equipment failure. Our health aides will provide information to our office regarding this account. The usual cost to keep the satellite phone filled with prepaid minutes is \$375 for 200 minutes and there is an expiration period that Iridium sets, we will contact and make arrangement. The Clinic also has an Iridium satellite pager available just need to technical set up and funding. (2) Purchase a new the exam table. This exam table was shipped to Diomedede in the 80's. Reviewing quotes from a medical catalog, an exam table cost \$2,500 and shipping not included. (3) Miscellaneous medical supplies and instruments that are in dire need of upgrade: Basic Life Support with Molar EMS Bags, Head Start FRZ and AED with ECG, Blood pressure cuffs for both adult and child sizes, Electronic ear thermometer with disposable probe covers, halogen pen light, new stethoscopes preferable Welch Allen Harvey Elite Double head, currently no traction splint for child size, portable otoscope and a electronic pediatric weight scale to measure babies weights. The total cost is estimated to be \$6,000.

PRIORITY #3: Our current and ongoing solid waste issues. Overall how we continue to handle our solid waste is a major health and environmental concern. Dumping directly into the Bering Sea is contaminating our marine subsistence resources of which we solely depend upon. These subsistence resources includes a variety of sea mammals, birds, clams, and, fish. Not only are we contaminating our local resources but our waste is swept away to other Bering Strait Coastal areas (Russian and Alaskan). This problem is not only a local problem, it is international as well. Due to our waste we no longer fish from the beach for sculpin and snail fish and we have discontinued gathering our seaweeds. Children are at a health risk from exposure to untreated solid waste on our shoreline. Our hunters have harvested unhealthy and damaged seals that have plastic packing bands entangled on the body such as the band are cutting into the hide and blubber. ANTHC has completed a feasibility study regarding our solid waste included an option of installing an incinerator for our honey bucket disposal, I feel this should be the last option considering the honey bucket plants that are working well up north and been in stalled by Summit Consulting out of Anchorage, Alaska. This plant estimated cost is \$900 plus shipping. We are very thankful to the City of Diomedede in applying for a grant for a burn box, this burn box is a success, has made a tremendous difference with our trash.

PRIORITY #4: Global Warming affecting Diomedede. On and in between September 19th 23 of 2007, there was the total of four fairly large boulders roll down from the top of our island, our community was fortunate that the boulder land just above the village. Receding permafrost and warm wet weathers are major factors with loosened rocks rolling and major landslides. Locals are very concerned about how life threatening if a boulder or boulders roll in to our community. Preparing a plan for our clinic staff and volunteers is very important. During an event of a disaster, what funding and services can be available to us now? Is there going to be an emergency plan to prepared? Is it possible to have assistance in completing a disaster plan suited for Diomedede? The first of December 2007 there was absolutely no snow on the ground, very odd and elders here in Diomedede said this is their first experience. The elders strongly believe this the perfect signs of Global Warming. November and December months are when the air and the sea start to cool down instead more rain and warm climate melted all the snow. What we would like to have funded is a geologist or scientist come to Diomedede to do a study on Global Warming and document loosened boulders or soil that are imminent threat. With this documentation or survey completed, it will allow us to apply for emergency assistances with actual cost estimates and purpose for project activities.

PRIORITY #5: Patient Travel another problem we are still facing. Until we receive a year around runway provided by State of Alaska – DOT and Kawerak, DOT we need to figure how to house our patients that are stranded on mainland. What measures would Norton Sound Health Corporation do to assist us with lodging and even meals for long term care patients and patients that are waiting at mainland Wales. With our limited local funding we are unable to set up a program to aid the patient traveling.

PRIORITY #6: Upgrading request for a New Water Catchment Tank. We are aware that this is not included with the ANTHC Water Upgrade Project. They have no intentions of upgrade this Save Tank. The reasons are that ANTHC is not required to implement this during the Water Upgrade Project that will be happening in Diomedede during the next two years. ANTHC is building a new Water Catchment Tank for holding water reserved for winter time. This is very well needed considering we always ration water as early as February of each year. This tank will not disburse untreated water to the community for health regulation issues. A lot of the locals prefer untreated water for cleansing purposes. Why is this Old Water Tank important to our community? It catches water reserved when we experience dry spells. This

allows our community to have water when the water treatment tank is emptied. The water lines connected to this tank has water spigots throughout our community. This Save Water Tank has been here since the early 60's. Ready to collapse and only plastic bands are holding it together. It leaks so much water that it is causing land erosion to the south side of our community. This erosion affects at least two homes of one that was built by Bering Strait Regional Housing Authority last summer. The cost estimated to replace this tank may cost well over a \$100,000 that includes material, freight charges and labor. This does not include abolishing the old tank, which may cost at least \$20,000.

PRIORITY #7: Local Law Enforcement Improvements is always an issue. Our community does not have a VPSO or a VPO. This has put pressure on the City and IRA Tribal Council to act upon in the event of an emergency. We have posted notices in our community to seek interested applicants, but no one has shown interest due to lack of support locally and with the Alaska State Troopers. The only effective Law Improvement efforts that may encourage a local to apply is to have someone from the outside come and stay for a year with one a week break after each quarter ends. As for housing situation, we are will to work with BSSD for the use of the School or make space available in the living quarters. We are focusing on examples to improve our local law enforcement and this seems it may work out for the best.

Our Tribal Government is dedicated by keeping Diomedede safe. We are willing to work with who ever necessary to make certain our ends are met. Hopefully, you feel the same.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact our Tribal Coordinator Frances Ozenna at the IRA Office.

Thank you,


Carolyn Ahkvaluk, President