

Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development**Grants to Named Recipients (AS 37.05.316)****Grant Recipient: American Red Cross of Alaska****Federal Tax ID: 92-0022414****Project Title:****Project Type: Other**

American Red Cross of Alaska - Armed Services Outreach

State Funding Requested: \$74,000**House District: Statewide (1-40)**

Future Funding May Be Requested

Brief Project Description:

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| Fund two Station Managers at Ft. Wainwright and Elmendorf AFB and one SAF Associate. Funds communications equipment, supplies and materials for military personnel. |
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Funding Plan:

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|-------------------------------|-------------------|
| Total Project Cost: | \$226,000 |
| Funding Already Secured: | (\$60,000) |
| FY2012 State Funding Request: | <u>(\$74,000)</u> |
| Project Deficit: | \$92,000 |

Funding Details:

The FY 2011 capital budget appropriated \$127,300 for the American Red Cross of Alaska's Armed Services Outreach Program.

Detailed Project Description and Justification:

The \$74,000 appropriation will be used to keep the Service to Armed Forces programs at Fort Wainwright and Elmendorf Air Force Base operating. The programs provide support to servicemen and women.

The appropriation will fund two Station Managers at Ft. Wainwright and Elmendorf Air Force base and one SAF Associate. The revenue is needed to keep the stations open five days a week. The SAF Associate will also work after hours and weekends to provide services to military families.

Infrastructure materials include cell phones and pagers for Station Managers and Associates. Funds will also be used for supplies and materials for deployment briefings, new arrival briefings, comfort kits and family readiness materials.

The Red Cross has already raised \$60,000 to pay for the program and is awaiting final confirmation on \$92,000 in additional funding through corporate contributions and grant proposals. The Red Cross of Alaska applied for a grant through the Department of Defense.

Military Assistance

Service to the Armed Forces helps service members and families cope with emergencies while in Alaska or deployed and includes communicating the birth of a child while the service member is deployed.

Other examples include:

A breakdown in child care arrangements or other family emergency.

Access to financial assistance through military aid societies or other community agencies based on a verified emergency.

Referrals to agencies for information, counseling or other social needs.
 Information for service members applying for humanitarian reassignment or hardship discharge.
 Addresses for locator assistance for family members trying to contact active duty service members.
 Services are also provided to help veterans appeal VA status and provide ARC volunteers to the VA system.
 Members of the National Guard and the Reserve, activated under Title 10, are also eligible for services.
 The demand for all these services increased dramatically when military deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan began. For example, the Emergency Messaging Program experienced a 200% growth in requests for services.
 State funding will only provide about 50 percent of the revenue needed to run the Service to Armed Forces Program. The remainder is raised from individual donors and other public forms of support. When deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan wind down the Red Cross plans to fund the program entirely through private and other public contributions.
 their home base. The services include:
 Emergency communication messages relating to the death or serious illness of a family member.

Project Timeline:

The program is ongoing and operates on a year around basis.

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

American Red Cross of Alaska

Grant Recipient Contact Information:

Name: Michelle Houlihan
 Title: Executive Director
 Address: 235 East 8th Avenue
 Anchorage, Alaska 99501
 Phone Number: (907)646-5414
 Email: houlihanm@usa.redcross.org

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

February 9, 2011

Representative Charisse Millett
State Capital, Room 412
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Representative Millett,

This letter is in support of the capital funding requested submitted by the American Red Cross of Alaska. The request, totaling \$74,000, will provide the support necessary for our Service to Armed Forces programs to further engage with Survivor Outreach Services and Warrior Transition Units as well as assist in the infrastructure for these programs. These programs have seen an unprecedented demand from Alaskan service members over the past several years due to the high number of individuals deployed to overseas theatres that are active and the ever increasing demands placed on family members. Our Emergency Messaging Program, the only federally recognized emergency messaging system for all branches of the military, continues to see increased demand for services and with the pending redeployment of the Striker Brigade at Ft. Wainwright history tells us there will be twice the demand beginning in March 2011.

This program is utilized not only to active duty service members assigned and stationed here in Alaska but by Alaskan National Guard members who have been called upon to serve their country. The emergency messaging allows service members to stay connected to their loved ones while they are gone on deployment. If a family member was to fall ill or a new child was to come into the world, the American Red Cross ensures that the service member and their family are connected to one another. If necessary the Red Cross will also work with the service member to get them home as quickly as possible to be at the bedside of their loved one.

Over the past year, Red Cross has worked to increase individual donors and other public support of the program. However, with the increase in demand on services and expansion of our involvement in other support programs the support of the State of Alaska will be key for us to continue to meet demand. This funding will allow us to keep staff on hand in our local offices during regular work hours and allow for after hours staff to assist service members and their families when the need arises, no matter what time of night or day it may come. .

I look forward to working with you on securing this funding. If you are in need of any additional information for this capital request please do not hesitate to contact me at 646-5414 or email me at houlihanm@usa.redcross.org . Thank you again for your continued support of our programs and most importantly for supporting our military personnel who ensure our freedoms.

Sincerely,

Michelle Houlihan
Chief Executive Officer



American Red Cross

2011 Legislative Request

Service to Armed Forces Total Value: \$74,000

Items:

1 Station Managers and After Hours Associates- \$74,000

a. Funds for two Station Managers, one at Ft. Wainwright and one at Elmendorf Air Force Base Campaign and associated program administrative costs. Funds necessary to keep both stations open 5 days a week. Direct work with Survivor Services and Warrior Transition Units providing direct services to family members and service members of all branches. Emergency messaging, case work, deployment briefings on services available, community disaster education, coordination of service member benefits with other agencies and disaster response services to service members and their families are all provided by these two Station Managers.

b. Funds for one SAF Associate that will work after hours as well as weekends. Emergency messaging needs will be met; assistance with deployment briefing preparation and case work will be taken care of by this Associate.