

Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development**Grants to Named Recipients (AS 37.05.316)****Grant Recipient: Southeast Island School District****Federal Tax ID: 92-0057120****Project Title:****Project Type: New Construction and Land Acquisition**

Southeast Island School District - Greenhouse and Wood-Fired Boiler-Produce and Heat for Barry Stewart School-Kasaan

State Funding Requested: \$90,000**House District: 5 / C**

One-Time Need

Brief Project Description:

Construction of a greenhouse to grow produce for the school food program at the Kasaan School and excess fruit and vegetables can be sold as a school fundraiser. A cost-effective wood-fired boiler would provide heat for the school and the greenhouse.

Funding Plan:

Total Project Cost:	\$90,000
Funding Already Secured:	(\$0)
FY2013 State Funding Request:	<u>(\$90,000)</u>
Project Deficit:	\$0

*Funding Details:**new project***Detailed Project Description and Justification:**

Southeast Island School District schools are very rural and have limited access to fresh fruit and vegetables for many reasons. The wet climate, short growing seasons, limited available land for farming, high costs of shipping and constant disruption of freight delivery prevents the District from obtaining and providing fresh fruits and vegetables to our students.

With a greenhouse (\$49,000), the District can provide healthy foods to students and provide a curriculum for all grade levels for instruction and hands on learning in agricultural science, math and business practices. Additionally, local contractors, District employees and students will be used to construct the greenhouse, providing students with training in construction, engineering as well as employment for local community members and students presently and in the future.

Small districts cannot support the travel necessary for sports or educational travel. Fund raising by students puts heavy pressure on the local population. Parents are responsible for much of the cost and often do not allow their students to participate due to the financial burden on the family. Finding ways to raise money by selling something people actually need and would buy anyway, greatly reduces the pressure on our communities where poverty is the norm. Having fresh produce shipped in costs about \$5.00 a pound. Increased variety and affordability make this a huge benefit to the school lunch program and the community. Projects like this help students to learn a trade and business skills rather than running raffles.

The District owns land that the greenhouse would be constructed on. If Kasaan School secures funding for a wood-fired boiler requested with this project, the greenhouse can be efficiently and inexpensively heated by using wood that is plentiful and easy to access in the community.

Funding wood-fired boilers though Alaska Energy Authority requires the most expensive boilers. We are requesting funding as a State funded capital project because we can do the project with 20 percent (\$41,000) of what is required by the Alaska Energy Authority program. These wood-fired boilers are cheaper and easier to operate on a day to day basis and make perfect sense for our small schools.

Project Timeline:

Materials would be purchased as soon as funding is available. Construction time would be relatively short and project could be completed within 2 to 3 months.

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

Southeast Island School District

Grant Recipient Contact Information:

Name: Lauren Burch
Title: Superintendent
Address: 1010 Sandy Beach Road
Thorne Bay, Alaska 99919
Phone Number: (907)828-8254
Email: lburch@sisd.org

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

May 6, 2011

To whom it may concern:

This is a letter of commitment by Robert E. Furney (a self-employed nursery owner for 50 years and a land owner in SE Alaska) to Southeast Island School District for their joint participation in the Department of Education's Lifestyles Project through the Carol White Physical Education Program. I believe a joint effort towards fitness and healthy eating is the perfect way to reduce obesity and to promote a change in lifestyle that will change lives. This is especially important in Southeast, AK due to its unique location and situation.

By teaching kids to grow their own fruits and vegetable by the use of greenhouses we help them improve their diet and change their eating habits. They can also become more independent of volatile produce prices. This project can improve the School District's lunches and we can help change students eating habits at home. PLUS students will be able to sell produce locally where only one of the district's nine communities even has a grocery store. This will be a great life experience for the students.

The district's push into individual sports like kayaking, camping, hiking, bicycling, archery and marksmanship encourage lifelong pursuit of an active lifestyle. It is not enough to just have programs that discourage substance abuse, alcohol and cigarettes. It is critical to offer clear alternatives plus positive healthy food choices, if we are to change the lives of our youth.

- **Robert E. Furney is committed to making an arrangement so that Southeast Island School District will gain ownership of a new, in the package, commercial greenhouse (MX-II 94.5' by 72' Van Wingerden) valued in excess of \$225,000 for the price of \$75,000. He will donate the remaining value of \$150,000 cost to the district.**
- **Robert E. Furney will also offer his expertise on greenhouse operation as the district designs the interior of the greenhouse at a value of \$10,000. He has been in the nursery business for over fifty (50) years.**

The **total value** of the Robert E. Furney's contribution to this worthwhile project is **\$160,000**.

Sincerely,



Robert E. Furney
P O Box 98109
Des Moines, WA 98198
206-265-2359



May 6, 2011

To whom it may concern:

This letter is to serve as proof of commitment of **Community Connections** to Southeast Island School District and their participation in the Department of Education's Lifestyles Project through the Carol White Physical Education Program. We believe a joint effort towards fitness and healthy living is the ideal way to reduce obesity and to promote lifestyle changes that will ultimately result in physically and mentally healthier young people.

SISD plans to increase the skill sets of students by teaching them to grow their own food with the use of greenhouses. This will make the school and community more independent of the staggering costs, improve school lunches and change eating habits across several venues. There will be opportunity for students to sell produce locally which is vital on an island where only one of the district's nine communities even has a grocery store.

It is not enough to just have programs that discourage substance abuse, alcohol and cigarettes. It is critical to offer clear alternatives if we are to change the lives of our youth. Southeast Island School District consistently offers healthy, active alternatives for students. They have invested staff, monies and educational time into developing student skills in individual sports like kayaking, camping, hiking, bicycling, archery and marksmanship which will result in options for lifelong active hobbies.

We provide supports throughout the districts' communities for individuals experiencing emotional and behavioral difficulties who might experience barriers to participation in these activities. Our supportive services enable students to fully be part of all aspects of the curriculum and extracurricular activities provided by the district.

We can provide additional support to the program by incorporating the use of the programming and facilities this grant will provide into our plans for increasing the recreation and healthy choices of the clients we serve within the district.

Total in kind contribution of 860 hours a year of staff time equals a yearly in kind contribution of \$21,500.00.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Abbie Blackshire LPC".

Abbie Blackshire, LPC
Children's Mental Health Program Director

IT IS IN THE SHELTER
OF EACH OTHER THAT
THE PEOPLE LIVE.

IRISH PROVERB

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ORGANIZED VILLAGE OF KASAAN

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Representative Bill Thomas
State Capital Room 505
Juneau, AK 99801

February 27, 2012

Re: Greenhouse & Wood Fired Boiler –Barry Craig Stewart Kasaan School Request

Dear Honorable Representative Thomas,

This letter is in support of Southeast Island School District's (SISD) capital project request for a greenhouse and wood fired boiler for the Barry Craig Stewart Kasaan School

The Organized Village of Kasaan believes that encouraging kids to eat more fruits and vegetables will reduce childhood obesity and promote healthier lifestyles, improving our kids' mentally and physically.

With a greenhouse at the school, the students, parents and entire community of Kasaan will benefit.

By teaching kids to grow their own food in the greenhouse, we make them more independent of staggering costs of importing fruits and vegetables, improve school lunches and teach kids have healthier eating habits at home. Students will be able to sell produce locally where only one of the district's nine communities even has a grocery store.

As part of the curriculum, they will be involved in every aspect of the greenhouse: from construction, planning, planting and cultivating the fruits and vegetables, to learning the financial side of operating a small business. Parents and other community members will work with the children and will be consumers of the products.

The addition of a wood fired boiler would an asset to the school and the proposed greenhouse. Kasaan is abundant with firewood and the boiler would be a very efficient way to heat the greenhouse and school. The money saved by the District in fuel costs would be spent on expanding the curriculum, adding teacher housing and various other projects that are needed but cannot be funded due to SISD's limited budget.

We hope that you will support these requests from SISD and believe that healthier children will evolve into healthier and happier adults.

Sincerely,

Paula Peterson
Tribal Administrator

The Organized Village of Kasaan is committed to promoting, preserving, and protecting indigenous Haida identity and values. For our elders and youth, we look to the future in unity, by developing economic opportunities, promoting education, and utilizing our cultural, natural, and social resources.