

**MH: AHFC Homeless Assistance Program**

**FY2017 Request: \$7,700,000**  
**Reference No: 45390**

**AP/AL:** Appropriation

**Project Type:** Economic Assistance

**Category:** Health/Human Services

**Location:** Statewide

**House District:** Statewide (HD 1-40)

**Impact House District:** Statewide (HD 1-40)

**Contact:** Les Campbell

**Estimated Project Dates:** 07/01/2016 - 06/30/2021

**Contact Phone:** (907)330-8356

**Brief Summary and Statement of Need:**

Funding will be used to provide grants to local communities/agencies to help develop support programs designed to reduce homelessness, provide services that prevent housing displacement and assist the homeless to transition back to permanent housing. Other Alaska Housing Finance Corporation (AHFC) programs may be leveraged with these funds when appropriate. All Homeless Assistance Program funds will be combined and administered as one program by AHFC.

<b>Funding:</b>	FY2017	FY2018	FY2019	FY2020	FY2021	FY2022	Total
1004 Gen Fund	\$1,603,371	\$6,000,000	\$6,000,000	\$6,000,000	\$6,000,000	\$6,000,000	\$31,603,371
1037 GF/MH	\$850,000	\$850,000	\$850,000	\$850,000	\$850,000	\$850,000	\$5,100,000
1092 MHTAAR	\$850,000	\$850,000	\$850,000	\$850,000	\$850,000	\$850,000	\$5,100,000
1139 AHFC Div	\$4,396,629						\$4,396,629
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$7,700,000</b>	<b>\$7,700,000</b>	<b>\$7,700,000</b>	<b>\$7,700,000</b>	<b>\$7,700,000</b>	<b>\$7,700,000</b>	<b>\$46,200,000</b>

<input type="checkbox"/> State Match Required	<input type="checkbox"/> One-Time Project	<input type="checkbox"/> Phased - new	<input type="checkbox"/> Phased - underway	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> On-Going
0% = Minimum State Match % Required		<input type="checkbox"/> Amendment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mental Health Bill	

**Operating & Maintenance Costs:**

	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Staff</u>
Project Development:	0	0
Ongoing Operating:	0	0
One-Time Startup:	0	0
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

**Prior Funding History / Additional Information:**

Sec4 Ch24 SLA2015 P11 L18 HB73 \$7,700,000  
 Sec4 Ch17 SLA2014 P13 L20 HB267 \$8,000,000  
 Sec5 Ch15 SLA2013 P12 L31 HB66 \$8,000,000  
 Sec5 Ch16 SLA2012 P13 L29 HB285 \$8,000,000  
 Sec4 Ch4 SLA2011 P12 L4 HB109 \$10,000,000  
 Sec5 Ch42 SLA2010 P18 L31 HB302 \$10,000,000  
 Sec4 Ch13 SLA2009 P15 L9 HB83 \$8,000,000  
 Sec4 Ch28 SLA2008 P16 L9 HB312 \$8,000,000

**Project Description/Justification:**

The purpose of this project is to support programs that address homelessness by providing assistance to families in imminent danger of becoming homeless or those who are currently homeless.

**The projected outcomes are to:**

- \* Prevent near-homeless individuals and families from becoming homeless;
- \* Provide homeless individuals and families assistance to obtain safe, sanitary shelter.

Established in 1993, this program enables thousands of homeless and/or near homeless families to obtain or retain safe and sanitary shelter each year. Demand for this program has increased steadily over the last five years as annual requests for the prevention and operating components exceed \$8 million per year.

This program has taken on the role of a housing trust and is the coordinated funding for homeless prevention activities in Alaska. In FY2015, \$6.1 million in state funds were awarded for 39 projects (approximately 9,000 households containing 12,800 people).

The Homeless Assistance Program (HAP) provides grants to assist nonprofit organizations, local governments, and regional housing authorities in addressing the emergency needs of homeless and near-homeless Alaskans. During the previous competitive rounds, the total amount of Homeless Assistance Program (HAP) grant requests received by AHFC has exceeded \$8 million; only \$5.9 million of those requests were funded. This program has become increasingly important as homeless assistance funding from municipal and federal sources continues to shrink.

The most recent grantees have utilized HAP funds to expand shelter facilities, develop supportive transitional housing, provide case management and rental assistance services and develop supportive housing for mental health trust beneficiaries and the homeless. All funds will be combined and administered as one program by AHFC. A portion of these funds will be used to support the planning, operation and coordination efforts of the Alaska Coalition on Housing and Homelessness and the operation of the statewide information and referral system, 211.

Inadequate funding will increase the number of homeless families in Alaska and force existing shelters to either exceed capacity or turn away clients. Families in areas where no shelter exists will be forced to live in substandard and/or overcrowded conditions, known to foster higher degrees of domestic violence and substance abuse. Low-wage earning households experiencing a family crisis will also have to contend with the likelihood of homelessness if emergency rental assistance is not available. In some cases, the homeless will cycle into the correctional or mental health system due to lack of adequate housing.