

LISA MURKOWSKI  
ALASKA

COMMITTEES:

ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
RANKING MEMBER

APPROPRIATIONS

HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR,  
AND PENSIONS

INDIAN AFFAIRS

# United States Senate

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April 16, 2010

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The Honorable Daniel K. Inouye  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Thad Cochran  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tom Harkin  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human  
Services, Education, and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Thad Cochran  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human  
Services, Education, and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Inouye, Ranking Member Cochran, Chairman Harkin, and Ranking Member Cochran:

As you prepare the FY11 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies appropriations bill, I respectfully request that you include funding for the following projects in my state:

**Project:** Denali Commission Health Facilities

**Amount Requested:** \$20,000,000

**Recipient(s)/Location:** Denali Commission; Anchorage, AK (Statewide program)

**Agency, Account:** HHS, HRSA

**Purpose/Justification:** Continued funding is requested for the Denali Commission health facilities program. The Denali Commission supports planning, design, construction, and equipment of health facilities in rural Alaska. The Health Facilities program is a collaborative one involving the partnership of numerous organizations and the assistance of the Alaska Native Regional Health Corporations. The program has expanded to include annual initiatives such as primary care in hospitals, emergency medical services equipment, and hospital design.

**Project:** Alaska Medicare Clinic

**Amount Requested:** \$500,000

**Recipient(s)/Location:** Alaska Medicare Clinic; Anchorage, AK

**Agency, Account:** HHS, HRSA

**Purpose/Justification:** A new clinic model is being developed to address the shortage of physicians who will see Medicare patients. The clinic will see only Medicare patients and a small number of dual enrollees. The clinic is being set up to provide primary care to a population that currently has limited access to primary care physicians. The clinic will see approximately 100 patients per day when it becomes fully operational. The requested funding would pay for facilities and equipment.

**Project:** Anchorage Community Health Center

**Amount Requested:** \$1,000,000

**Recipient(s)/Location:** Anchorage Neighborhood Health Center; Anchorage, AK

**Agency, Account:** HHS, HRSA

**Purpose/Justification:** Limited and inadequate physicians space currently hinders the ability of the Anchorage Neighborhood Health Center (ANHC) to provide primary medical and dental care to the uninsured and under served (including Medicare) residents in Anchorage. The requested funding would be used for facilities and equipment needed for ANHC to continue providing quality care to patients.

**Project:** Alaska Native Aviation Training Program

**Amount Requested:** \$1,000,000

**Recipient(s)/Location:** Association of Village Council Presidents; Bethel, AK

**Agency, Account:** DOL, ETA

**Purpose/Justification:** The requested funding would be used to support the Association of Village Council President's (AVCP) flight and aircraft mechanic training schools. These schools prepare Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta residents for professional positions within air transport industry. Because the region is remote and isolated, air travel is essential to life. All medicine, food, supplies and mail are flown in from outside of the region. Airline businesses are the highest job producers and have chronic worker shortages. Historically, this shortage was met by importing workers who eventually leave. Alaska suffers a double impact: wages are exported out of state and perpetual staffing and training burdens are created. AVCP's two schools aim to change this trend by training local people in predominately native communities to fill local positions.

**Project:** SAVEC: Creating Rural Jobs

**Amount Requested:** \$750,000

**Recipient(s)/Location:** Southwest Alaska Vocational & Education Center; King Salmon, AK

**Agency, Account:** DOL, ETA

**Purpose/Justification:** Funding is requested to support the Southwest Alaska Vocational & Education Center's (SAVEC) effort to expand its workforce development programs in rural Alaska. Specifically, funding will be used for a new pre-apprenticeship program to prepare the region's youth and young adults to enter apprenticeships and/or the workforce as entry level skilled employees. The program is designed to encourage individuals with limited or no work history, dislocated workers, minorities, and low-income individuals to enter a variety of high demand/wage jobs in Southwest Alaska.

**Project:** Maniilaq: Suicide Prevention

**Amount Requested:** \$250,000

**Recipient(s)/Location:** Maniilaq Association; Kotzebue, AK

**Agency, Account:** HHS/SAMHSA

**Purpose/Justification:** Funding is requested for suicide prevention efforts in Northwest Alaska. The goal of the program is to establish village-based, culturally relevant suicide prevention teams throughout the Maniilaq service area, including the native villages of Ambler, Kobuk, Shungnak, Selawik, Noorvik, Kiana, Buckland, Deering, Point Hope, Kivalina and Kotzebue.

**Project:** Providence Health & Services Alaska – Family Medicine Residency

**Amount Requested:** \$500,000

**Recipient(s)/Location:** Providence Health & Services Alaska; Anchorage, AK (Statewide Program)

**Agency, Account:** HHS/HRSA

**Purpose/Justification:** Funding is requested for faculty, staffing, and other necessary infrastructure for the Alaska Family Medicine Residency. The residency was developed in 1997 to address physician shortages and now trains 12 physicians per year to practice across the state. Residents participating in the program have many rural rotations, including a 6 week required rotation in either Bethel or Dillingham and an additional 8 weeks in a rural location of their choice. The rural elements of the Alaska Family Medicine Residency make it one of the most successful programs in the country for placing physicians in rural and underserved practice sites.

**Project:** Avant-Garde Learning Foundation: Skills Alaska Program

**Amount Requested:** \$200,000

**Recipient(s)/Location:** Avant-Garde Learning Foundation; Anchorage, AK (Statewide Program)

**Agency, Account:** Education/FIE

**Purpose/Justification:** Skills Alaska is an education initiative that provides policy makers, administrators, teachers, students and parents in schools and school districts in Alaska with the tools they need, as well as the guidance and expertise, to put the essential elements of standards and accountability in place and realize the goals of the NCLB Act. Skills Alaska is currently used in eight low-performing Alaska school districts, serving 1,627 teachers and 24,000 students. Students who participate in Skills Alaska program have higher academic proficiency than their demographically similar non-participating peers. Funding is requested to improve educational outcomes for children in low-performing school districts.

**Project:** Anchorage Supports Prisoner Re-entry

**Amount Requested:** \$100,000

**Recipient(s)/Location:** Nine Star Education & Employment Services; Anchorage, AK

**Agency, Account:** DOL/ETA

**Purpose/Justification:** Funding is requested for a job training program directed at ex-offenders who are at risk for recidivism. To reduce recidivism, the program combines individual job training plans with ongoing case management and supportive services. The program provides ex-offenders with the skills to move beyond entry-level employment and to employment with prolonged financial security. This project addresses public safety through reduced recidivism.

**Project:** Big Brothers Big Sisters Alaska Mentoring Expansion

**Amount Requested:** \$500,000

**Recipient(s)/Location:** Big Brothers Big Sisters; Fairbanks, AK

**Agency, Account:** Education/FIE

**Purpose/Justification:** This project aims to extend evidence-based, research-proven mentoring solutions to underserved populations at high risk for substance abuse, dropping out of school, and suicide. Mentoring has been shown to improve graduation rates, performance at school, and to reduce the risks for self-destructive behaviors among youth. Impacts for youth include improved attitude, reduced risk for alcohol and substance abuse, reduced risk for violence, and increased self-confidence. Funds requested will assist with expanding the program and sustainability efforts.

**Project:** Copper River Native Association Health Facility

**Amount Requested:** \$1,000,000

**Recipient(s)/Location:** Copper River Native Association; Glenallen, AK

**Agency, Account:** HHS/HRSA

**Purpose/Facilities:** Funding is requested for health facilities and equipment in the Copper River Native Association (CRNA) service area. Currently, there is not an Indian Health Service (IHS) facility in the CRNA service area, an area roughly the size of the State of Ohio with a large Alaska Native population. As such, CRNA logs over 10,000 miles each month transporting tribal members to Palmer and Anchorage for care. Through a Joint Venture agreement with the IHS, the IHS will provide 100 percent of the operating costs of the facility for 20 years once it is constructed.

**Project:** Maniilaq: Elder Care Addition

**Amount Requested:** \$10,200,000

**Recipient(s)/Location:** Maniilaq Association; Kotzebue, AK

**Agency, Account:** HHS/HRSA

**Purpose/Justification:** Funding is requested to complete the construction of an 18 bed long-term nursing care wing that is being co-located with the Maniilaq Health Center in Kotzebue, Alaska. The facility will provide skilled nursing care to elders in a geographically isolated region of the state, allowing elders to remain and receive care close to their families.

**Project:** ANTHC Medical Center Medical Equipment

**Amount Requested:** \$3,000,000

**Recipient(s)/Location:** Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium; Anchorage, AK

**Agency, Account:** HRSA/HHS

**Purpose:** The Alaska Native Medical Center (ANMC), jointly owned and operated by ANTHC and Southcentral Foundation, is the statewide tertiary care center for over 130,000 Indian Health Service beneficiaries in Alaska. Annually, ANMC provides over 370,000 clinic visits; 5,500 inpatient admissions; 1,300 infant deliveries; and 11,000 surgical procedures. The ANMC also has the distinction of being Alaska's only Level II trauma center, a title that certifies its ability to provide quality care to people with traumatic injuries 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Funding is requested to replace and upgrade medical equipment at the facility.

**Project:** Rural Independent Living Outreach Project

**Amount Requested:** \$500,000

**Recipient(s)/Location:** Statewide Independent Living Council; Anchorage, AK (Statewide Program)

**Agency, Account:** HHS/HRSA

**Purpose/Justification:** Funding is requested to continue to expand independent living services to Alaskans with disabilities in rural and remote areas of the state. Specifically, funding will be used for planning and service delivery, including personal assistance services, benefits analysis, home modifications, and other long-term care services. The demand for these services from rural communities continues to grow. Alaskan elders and Alaskans with disabilities want to age or stay in their home communities and need supports in place to allow them to do so.

**Project:** Oral Health Disparities Project

**Amount Requested:** \$2,500,000

**Recipient(s)/Location:** Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium; Anchorage, AK (Statewide Program)

**Agency, Account:** HHS/HRSA

**Purpose:** Funding is requested to train Dental Health Aide Therapists in Alaska. Although dental health aide therapy is authorized in over 40 countries worldwide, including New Zealand, the United Kingdom and Canada, the ANTHC's Dental Health Aide Therapy Training Program is the only training program of its kind in the United States. Upon completion of the training, the dental health aide therapist are be able to provide a range of services, including prevention education, the diagnosis of dental decay using x-rays, the development of plans for the treatment of decay, the provision of local anesthetics, and the restoration and extraction of teeth under the general supervision of a dentist.

**Project:** CITC: Growing Graduates

**Amount Requested:** \$1 million

**Recipient(s)/Location:** Cook Inlet Tribal Council; Anchorage, AK

**Agency, Account:** Education, FIE

**Purpose:** Cook Inlet Tribal Council (CITC) has a 25-year history of providing essential educational services to at-risk Alaska Native and American Indian students in Anchorage schools. Through a unique partnership with the public school system, CITC currently serves approximately 1,000 K-12 Native students and their families across the Anchorage School District. The requested funding would be used to enhance the existing literacy program and expand content services into mathematics. The program will focus on increasing early childhood literacy and math skills for Alaska Native students who are below proficiency in these areas.

I certify that to the best of my knowledge neither I nor my immediate family has a pecuniary interest in any of the congressionally directed spending item(s) that I have requested, consistent with the requirements of paragraph 9 of Rule XLIV of the Standing Rules of the Senate. I further certify that I have posted a description of the items requested on my official website, along with the accompanying justification.

Thank you for your consideration of my requests. I look forward to working with you as the Committee develops this bill. If you have any questions, please contact Elizabeth McDonnell from my staff by phone at (202) 224-9306 (direct) or via email at [elizabeth\\_mcdonnell@murkowski.senate.gov](mailto:elizabeth_mcdonnell@murkowski.senate.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Lisa Murkowski". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "L" and "M".

Lisa Murkowski  
United States Senator