

FY2011 Recommended Funding Priorities

Priority # 2 – Alaska Autism Resource Center

The Alaska Autism Resource Center (AARC) is a resource to assist families who have a child with an autism spectrum disorder navigate their way through funding and treatment resources in order to best ensure the well-being of their child. Autism is only beginning to gain recognition in the United States as a treatable condition through early intervention practices, and treatment has shown to highly improve the quality of life of a child once he or she becomes an adult. Because of this new recognition of autism, funding sources are often difficult for families to locate, despite the necessity of treatment for a child with autism. More funds are needed to improve the quality of care this resource can provide. **GF/MH funds in the amount of \$100,000 have been recommended.**

Priority # 3 – Special Education Service Agency

The Special Education Service Agency (SESA) provides no-charge services for low-incidence disabilities for 73 school districts in rural and remote locations throughout Alaska. Many of these districts have no method of guidance for assisting individuals with low-incidence disabilities. SESA sends knowledgeable staff members to give consultation to instructors and provides on-going consultation over the phone or in-person (if needed) after the initial service. **A GF/MH recommendation in the amount of \$100,000 will increase SESA's ability to do more outreach.**

Priority # 4 – Disability Program Navigator

The funding for the Disability Program Navigator will be used to help facilitate seamless, comprehensive services to one-stop job center customers with disabilities. In providing this easily understandable service, individuals with disabilities will be able to increase their self-sufficiency and employment opportunities significantly. **GF/MH funds in the amount of \$150,000 have been recommended.**

Priority # 5 - Alaska Transition Training Initiative

This funding will be made available in order to ensure that children who are transitioning from Early Intervention or Infant Learning Programs (EI/ILP) to a preschool environment are able to do so in a safe, swift and simple manner. This will also create accountability for school compliance with the annual federal indicator, as schools will now be required to meet the needs of children who have been in EI/ILPs to keep up with federal law. **GF/MH funds in the amount of \$100,000 have been recommended.**

Priority # 6 – Transportation Operating Funds

Alaska is one of only two states in the US that does not currently have a state-funded community transportation system. Despite more people using community transportation systems, operating costs continue to rise; putting a burden on the local systems due to lack of compensation. **The GF/MH recommendation of \$100,000 will provide funding to better this situation, and will require local communities to contribute with a 10% funding match, an amount that will be capped at \$10,000.**

Priority # 7 – Rural Transition Services

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Rural Transition Services are an opportunity for students with disabilities who live in rural areas to transition from school to an active and efficient adult life. The project linked to this funding regarding the services has two important objectives. First, to spend a week of hands-on training with staff members to prepare them in the kinds of vocational and educational lifestyles that both rural students would seek to lead and that would bring benefit to their community. The second objective is to bring these services to other rural areas of the state, instead of focusing on urban areas that are difficult for their targeted audiences to access. The projected expansion of beneficiaries served by this project is from 400 to 525. **GF/MH funds in the amount of \$50,000 have been recommended.**

Priority # 8 – Traumatic Brain Injury Coordinator – made it in the Governor's budget

This program works to lessen costs by lowering the number of emergency room visits and away-from-home care. It also readies the state for individuals who need vocational rehabilitation or employment. The Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Care Coordinator Program will expand the number of TBI care coordinators with specialized expertise in the state of Alaska from one to two. **GF/MH funds in the amount of \$200,000 have been recommended.**

Capital Recommendations

Deferred Maintenance

This recommendation is to provide much needed grant funding for our network of non-profit service providers to maintain safe and appropriate service facilities. Past grants have funded renovations of heating/ventilation systems and other renovation projects for provider agencies. **A \$2.5 million GF/MH increment is recommended.**

Coordinated Transportation

This recommendation is for vehicle modification, maintenance and replacement to ensure that Trust beneficiaries have access to safe and appropriate publicly funded transportation, whether in urban areas where there is mass transit or in rural areas where coordinated transportation, such as community vans, are available. **\$800,000 GF/MH funds are recommended.**

Assistive Technology

This capital request is for durable goods that promote independence and self-sufficiency for Trust beneficiaries. Included are simple items such as screen enlargers and alternative keyboards, as well as more complex equipment like reading machines and environmental control units. **With \$200,000 new GF/MH, it is expected that at least 440 Trust beneficiaries will be served by this recommendation.**

Essential Program Equipment

This recommendation is for capital funds for equipment purchases that are necessary to deliver services for beneficiaries. Like deferred maintenance, these grants allow non-profit service providers to offer quality services to all categories of beneficiaries. Past grants have provided for snow blowers, kitchen equipment, computer equipment, projectors, security systems, and therapeutic equipment. **\$500,000 of GF/MH is being recommended.**