



Please join the Council in Supporting The Denali Deaf Community Center

GOAL

The inclusion of a Capital Project Funding Request of \$995,045 for the Denali Deaf Community Center in the SFY16 budget is necessary for the completion of this vital project.

WHAT IS IT?

- The center will be an essential cultural hub in connecting Alaskans who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing with the necessary tools and resources in their community.
 - Many states have created Deaf & Hard of Hearing centers to meet the needs of their citizens.
- The Alaska legislature recognized the necessity of such a center in Alaska, previously approving Phase 1 and Phase 2 funding for the research and development for the Alaska Deaf and Hard of Hearing Center – DBA: Denali Deaf Community Center (DDCC).
 - Alternative funding has been pursued and will continue to be sought.
- The DDCC is now ready to enter its third and final phase of funding to become operational.
- This one-time capital project request will fund the purchase of a property on 223 E 5th Avenue in Anchorage and the minimum necessary tenant improvements to create sustainable operations, making the DDCC a reality.
 - The DDCC currently occupies the property on a lease/purchase agreement that secured this site in anticipation of Phase 3 funding to close the acquisition.
- Unlike many other deaf centers whose operations are entirely funded by their state, the DDCC requires only capital start-up funds and will sustain its ongoing operations with an innovative “social enterprise” business model specifically tailored to the Alaskan community.

SERVICES PROVIDED BY DDCC WILL INCLUDE:

- Employment and job skills training services, as well as ASL interpreter referrals
- Training to employers and service providers on needs of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing communities, such as captioning, sign language accommodations, and assistive technology
- Free public access to videophone, caption phone, and TTY
- Outreach and marketing to rural communities by partnering with local agencies

DATA¹:

- Building provides approximately 11,000 sq. feet for services, retail operations, an “ASL café”, meeting rooms, and revenue generation.
- Total DDCC anticipated revenues are \$150,000 per year from:
 - \$18,000/yr storage room rentals
 - \$20,000/yr social events/facilities rental
 - \$7,000/yr Bridges Navigator office rental
 - \$25,000/yr ASL-friendly café/coffee shop
 - \$45,000/yr fundraising
 - \$35,000/yr corporate contributions
 - This will cover yearly operational expenses

WHY IS IT NEEDED?

- To give 25,000 Deaf and Hard of Hearing Alaskans access to basic resources, as are available in other states.
 - To ensure that individuals who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing have access to a supportive and accessible community, reducing the risk of isolation.
 - To ensure that individuals who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing have access to information, technology, and education.
 - To ensure that individuals who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing have access to affordable and sustainable housing in Alaska.
 - The DDCC will also provide community connection and employment services, which many Alaskans who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing are currently unable to access.

Please support a \$995,045 Capital Project Funding Request for the Denali Deaf Community Center's Phase 3 startup costs in the SFY16 budget.

¹ DDCC Phase 3 Budget Narrative – Tenant Improvement & Implementation Plan
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