

Introduced By:  
Date:  
Public Hearing:  
Action:  
Vote:

City Manager  
November 10, 2021  
December 1, 2021

CITY OF SOLDOTNA  
ORDINANCE 2021-024

AN ORDINANCE INCREASING ESTIMATED REVENUES AND APPROPRIATIONS BY \$51,694.54 IN THE COVID-19 RELIEF SPECIAL REVENUE FUND BY ACCEPTING GRANT FUNDS PROVIDED BY THE STATE OF ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

WHEREAS, the City of Soldotna is eligible for an initial grant allocation of \$25,847.27 from the Healthy & Equitable Communities grant funding through the Alaska Department of Health & Social Services (DHSS); and

WHEREAS, the Kenai Peninsula Borough Mayor has formally requested that a portion of the Borough's allocation be directly awarded from DHSS to the City of Soldotna, bringing the City's anticipated grant award to \$51,694.54; and

WHEREAS, the Healthy and Equitable Communities grant program is intended to support activities and strategies to improve health outcomes for Alaskans, particularly among underserved population groups (including children); and

WHEREAS, eligible activities include increasing or improving access to facilities and community spaces that promote health and physical activity and serve high-risk populations; and

WHEREAS, the Soldotna Parks and Recreation Department has identified grant expenditures that will improve access to year-round programming and recreational facilities; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the City of Soldotna to accept and appropriate funds for the purpose of expanding outdoor recreation opportunities in Soldotna;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOLDOTNA, ALASKA:

Section 1. That the Council authorizes the City Manager to execute a Memorandum of Agreement with the State of Alaska Department of Health and Social Services, to accept the Healthy & Equitable Communities Program award.

Section 2. That estimated revenues and appropriations be increased as follows:

COVID-19 Relief Fund

Increase Estimated Revenues:

State of Alaska DHSS Grant \$51,694.54

Increase Appropriations:

DHSS Healthy & Equitable Communities Grant Expenditures \$51,694.54

Section 3. This ordinance shall become effective immediately upon its enactment.

ENACTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL THIS 1ST DAY OF DECEMBER, 2021.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Paul J. Whitney, Mayor

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Michelle M. Saner, MMC, City Clerk

Yes:  
No:  
Absent:



# SOLDOTNA

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

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## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** STEPHANIE QUEEN, CITY MANAGER  
**FROM:** LAURA RHYNER, ASSISTANT TO THE CITY MANAGER  
**DATE:** WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2021  
**SUBJECT:** HEALTHY & EQUITABLE COMMUNITIES GRANT FUNDING

The Alaska Department of Health and Social Services has announced the availability of \$11.5M in funding to local governments through memorandums of agreement in support of creating healthy and equitable communities around the state. Strategies implemented under this program should aim to build infrastructures that both improve health outcomes for higher risk underserved Alaskans in the current COVID-19 pandemic and set the foundation for future responses. This funding is available for a minimum of three years.

The City of Soldotna is an eligible grant recipient for the initial allocation of \$25,847.27. In addition, the Kenai Peninsula Borough has designated a portion of its allocation (an additional \$25,847.27), to also be awarded to the City of Soldotna, bringing our total for year one to \$51,694.54. Funding amounts for years two and three of the program have not yet been determined.

If approved, the City has proposed to use this grant funding to expand access to healthy outdoor recreational opportunities, through an enhanced Mobile Recreation program (see attached project proposal). This is intended to achieve the grant's stated goals of increasing access to healthy activities, by building on the success of existing Parks & Recreation programs and resources.

The attached ordinance would authorize the City Manager to enter into a Memorandum of Agreement with the State of Alaska to receive the funds, and would appropriate grant funds for their intended purpose.

Thank you for your consideration.

## City of Soldotna – Mobile Recreation Program

Goal: Mobile Recreation Program designed to bring free outdoor recreation opportunities to local parks and underserved communities. The grant funds would be used to purchase an enclosed trailer, outfitted with seasonal recreation equipment that can be deployed to various community events throughout the year. This program would build on the success of existing Soldotna Parks and Recreation programs and resources, and will expand access to healthy activities for the nearly 30,000 residents of the central Kenai Peninsula.

Background: Last year, with Soldotna’s indoor ice rink closed due to COVID, the Parks & Recreation department offered free weekly ‘Family Skate’ events on Saturdays at Arc Lake, a City-owned park where staff maintains a seasonal outdoor ice rink and skating path. The events were very popular, with several hundred members of the community attending each week to participate in a free, community-oriented, outdoor recreation opportunity that provided people with a chance to gather safely, and stay physically active and socially connected. The set-up and tear-down for these events were very time-intensive for City staff because equipment had to be loaded/transferred between the two different venues, and the City does not currently have an efficient way to move and store ‘indoor’ equipment for outdoor use. This presents a potential deterrent to offering this type of activity on an ongoing basis, despite its broad appeal.

Four years ago, Soldotna Parks & Rec implemented a summer recreation program called K@PS – Kids At Play Soldotna – which provided free organized recreation activities for youth at Soldotna Creek Park. These were drop-in activities with the goals of giving families a free “recess” style activity in the summer to provide youth with physical activity and social opportunities. Transportation of recreation supplies was a limiting factor to what activities could be offered.

Proposed Activity: A mobile recreation program will allow the Parks Department more flexibility and make it easier to offer numerous outdoor parks events, regularly throughout the year. This concept is modeled after similar mobile recreation programs at parks departments around the country. Having a fully stocked ice skating trailer during the winter could also allow for a partnership with the local school district, home school community, local youth programs, and local tribes to provide these items for fields trips, PE curriculum, and events. In the summer, this mobile recreation trailer would be fully stocked with summer supplies to bring the K@PS program back to community parks, and allow for similar partnerships with schools and youth programs.



Winter 2020 ‘Family Skate’ event at ARC Lake



*Examples of mobile recreation programs from other communities*

Soldotna’s parks, campgrounds, and outdoor recreational areas are a very important part of our community – both for residents and visitors. With this grant funding, we will be able to bring our programs and highlight amazing outdoor events and activities, to even more residents. Because the City offers these events at no cost, they are very accessible to all area residents – even those without access to their own equipment, or without the ability to pay program fees that exist for other organized sport activities. In addition to improving physical health, this program seeks to offer events that bring our community together in a safe environment, hopefully offering some support for people’s mental health as well.

Please see table below, for our estimated project budget.

120 pairs of ice skates with shipping		\$14,500.00
Ice skate storage racks		\$2,000.00
Skate sharpener		\$2,700.00
Skate aids (10 seals)		\$3,500.00
Ice skate sign		\$300.00
Portable skate/bike ramps		\$6,000.00
Rental helmets		\$1,000.00
Giant outdoor games		\$2,200.00
Enclosed trailer- 20 foot		\$16,495.00
Graphic wrap for trailer		\$3,000.00
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>		<b>\$51,695.00</b>



## Healthy & Equitable Communities Memorandum of Agreement Information

### PURPOSE:

The State of Alaska, Department of Health and Social Services, Division of Public Health will provide funding to Alaskan local governments in support of creating and sustaining healthy and equitable communities around the state.

Funding will be available through June 30, 2024 to support the following activities and strategies to promote and build healthy and equitable communities around the state. All funded activities must have an emphasis on high risk, underserved population groups.

- Ensure a fair and adequate baseline of care is established for populations at higher risk that are underserved and who are disproportionately impacted by COVID-19 by expanding existing or developing new mitigation and prevention resources and services;
- Increase/improve data collection and reporting for populations disproportionately affected by COVID-19 to guide current and future pandemic response;
- Build, leverage or expand infrastructure support for COVID-19 or future pandemic prevention and control among populations that are at higher risk or underserved;
- Mobilize partners to build and promote healthy and equitable communities, improving everyone's opportunities for living a healthy life, particularly those who are disproportionately impacted by COVID-19;
- Improve access to COVID-19 vaccine, as well as other necessary vaccines, for individuals who are higher risk or underserved.

### SCOPE OF FUNDING:

Strategies that are implemented should aim to build infrastructures that both improve health outcomes for higher risk underserved Alaskans in the current COVID-19 pandemic and set the foundation for future responses. This application mentions several eligible activities, but communities are not limited in scope to these examples. There are several resources available for communities to assist them in determining what types of activities may be proposed. The [Alaska Health Equity Index](#) utilizes data from the US Census Bureau and the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Social Vulnerability Index and is an excellent reference to assist communities in identifying target populations\* and areas of need. The Healthy Alaskans team has identified priority health topics for the [Healthy Alaskans 2030 plan](#) including strategies and actionable objectives within each strategy. Both resources highlight the needs of Alaskans, and communities are encouraged to develop plans that incorporate factors from either of these resources.

\*Target populations can include but are not limited to:

- Low income or homeless individuals
- Individuals/families/communities with limited access to technology/internet
- Individuals/families/communities who face food insecurity
- Communities with limited to no transportation access

- Individuals without access to health care
- Populations that do not speak English as their first language
- Rural communities/areas where physical services are not accessible
- Refugee/immigrant communities that face economic, cultural, or linguistic barriers to accessing health care services
- Individuals with disabilities
- Older adults
- Children
- Individuals with mental health or substance-related disorders

Funding is calculated using two factors: population size, and the [Alaska Health Equity Index](#).

#### **ELIGIBILITY:**

Local governments are eligible to apply and may propose plans to engage one or more communities and geographic areas. The definition of communities may also include a group of people who have particular characteristic in common (e.g. share similar cultural beliefs or interests). Please work with your local tribes, borough, or municipality to ensure efforts are coordinated. DHSS allows recipients to act as pass-through entities to provide funding to other recipients, including community-based organizations serving populations who may experience health inequities. **Technical assistance will be provided throughout the funding period to assist with reporting, advancing approved projects, pre-approval of activities and invoice processing.**

If you live in an unincorporated census area or census designated place, are aware of an entity or organization that is interested in implementing this work and unsure about how to access this funding opportunity, please contact or [HEcommunities@alaska.gov](mailto:HEcommunities@alaska.gov) or [maria.caruso@alaska.gov](mailto:maria.caruso@alaska.gov) to discuss potential alternative opportunities. Designated entities must have the capacity to manage funds and implement projects within the scope of the funding. If communities chose to pursue this route for funding, alternative entities must be identified by **October 22, 2021**. The state intends to open up an alternate method of procurement for these entities, and the timeline for funding will be dependent upon the number of non-governmental entities identified across the state for this option. We will make every attempt to accommodate alternative requests. **For entities that chose to pursue this option, please be aware that the funding can take significantly longer to award through alternate procurement methods.**

#### **REPORTING:**

Reporting requirements will be due at the same time as invoices. Payment will not be issued unless necessary reporting is attached. Reporting requirements will be determined during the MOA preparation and will be dependent upon the type of activities selected. Entities are encouraged to collaborate with hospitals, schools and community organizations to improve the outcomes for their population. **See attachment of Healthy and Equitable Communities Memorandum of Agreement fund amounts.**



## PERIOD OF AGREEMENT, DATES AND DEADLINES:

October 29, 2021 – June 30, 2024

### Important dates:

<b>Tuesday, October 5: 4-5pm</b>	Pre award meeting with technical assistance (4pm)
<b>Friday, October 8: 11-12pm</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> Pre award meeting with technical assistance (10am)
<b>Friday, October 29 by 5pm</b>	Funding Requests due to <a href="mailto:HECommunities@alaska.gov">HECommunities@alaska.gov</a>
<b>November 2021</b>	Award funding to Communities via signed MOA
<b>June 31, 2024</b>	Final receipts due to DPH, payments issued to Communities

Submit questions to: [Maria.caruso@alaska.gov](mailto:Maria.caruso@alaska.gov) or [HEcommunities@alaska.gov](mailto:HEcommunities@alaska.gov)

**TERMS OF PAYMENT:** Funds will be reimbursed through invoicing upon approval of MOA.

### PRIOR APPROVAL REQUIRED\*:

- Construction projects
- Vehicles
- Furniture
- Equipment over \$25,000
- Reimbursement of pre-award costs (will only be considered back to June 1, 2021)

\*If you wish to utilize funds for any of the above items, please provide a detailed description of how these items will fit into the overall goal of the project they will support and how they will be used.

### FUNDS CANNOT BE USED FOR:

- Programs or services already funded by another HSS grant, contract or MOA
- Research
- Clinical care
- Publicity or propaganda

If these funds are used to administer COVID-19 testing or vaccine services recipients must:

- Establish/maintain a means to ensure that the results of all COVID testing performed by this entity/sub-recipient/pass through entity is reporting to the State of Alaska Department of Health and Social Services. All testing (all types, all results) is subject to this requirement and must be reported within 24 hours of administration
- Establish/maintain a means to ensure that the COVID-19 vaccine administration performed by this entity/sub-recipient/pass through entity is reporting to the State of Alaska Department of Health and Social Services. All vaccinations must be reported within 24 hours of administration. **Please complete the application in order to develop MOA.**

Submit completed application and W9 to: [HEcommunities@alaska.gov](mailto:HEcommunities@alaska.gov) and cc [maria.caruso@alaska.gov](mailto:maria.caruso@alaska.gov).





## Office of the Borough Mayor

144 N. Binkley Street, Soldotna, Alaska 99669 • (907) 714-2150 • (907) 714-2377

Charlie Pierce  
Mayor

October 22, 2021

Maria Caruso

AK Department of Health & Social Services/Division of Public Health

3601 C Street, Suite 756

Anchorage, AK 99503-5924

*Submitted electronically*

Subject: Healthy Equitable Communities Grant – City Allocations

Dear Ms. Caruso:

The Kenai Peninsula Borough formally requests that a portion of the Borough's allocation is directly awarded from DHSS to the cities of Kenai and Soldotna as follows:

City of Kenai: direct award \$43,298.45 of Borough funds to the city. This amount is in addition to the city's anticipated allocation.

City of Soldotna: direct award \$25,847.27 of Borough funds to the city. This amount is in addition to the city's anticipated allocation.

This request removes a layer of unnecessary processes through the Borough by allowing the state to provide direct oversight between the Division of Health and the cities. We greatly appreciate the cities' efforts to provide services and programs that will have public benefit. Please contact Brenda Ahlberg, Community & Fiscal Projects Manager should you need additional information at 907-714-2153 or [bahlberg@kpb.us](mailto:bahlberg@kpb.us)

Sincerely,

Charlie Pierce,  
Mayor

ba/CP

CC: Brenda Ahlberg, Community & Fiscal Projects Manager  
Paul Ostrander, City of Kenai City Manager  
Stephanie Queen, City of Soldotna City Manager