



April 21, 2025

CBJ Assembly Finance Committee  
155 Municipal Way  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Members of the CBJ Assembly Finance Committee;

Following are responses to your questions regarding Hope/CBJ Grant funding.

1. Are there any Hope/CBJ Grant recipients that are or will be experiencing funding cuts from other sources?

The Community Foundation has let all 2025 Hope/CBJ Social Service Grant applicants know that there might have to be a meeting in June or early July to discuss reductions in federal funding if they materialize. We do not receive the CBJ funds until late July each year, which provides time to readjust grant funding amounts if there is a need to do so. That said, if there is a significant need, there will not be enough funds available to assist many organizations.

Specific responses to the question posed:

**NAMI Juneau:** They are waiting to hear from Alaska Mental Health Trust as to whether they will receive full funding this year. There is more uncertainty than in past years.

**Juneau Housing First Collaborative:** While they have not experienced funding cuts from existing federal grant programs, there is speculation that cuts may be made to the Continuum of Care program that provides rental assistance and staff support totaling about \$96,000.

**St. Vincent de Paul (SVDP):** The only direct cut that affects housing at this time is the ending of Emergency Housing Vouchers, a COVID program that was supposed to provide support through 2030. Rumors have been that Housing and Urban Development personnel will be reduced by 50%, with staffing cuts primarily in the homeless grant programs. At a minimum, grant processing and payments will be slowed. Eliminating vouchers is part of some plans, which would reduce low income housing at SVDP and everywhere else. The continuing resolution passed in March will allow funding levels to remain set through the end of this fiscal year. After that, it is anyone's guess. They expect to see terrible cuts and real pain that may cripple programs for the poor that are grant dependent. SVDP also noted that federal rental assistance is at risk of being cut. If this happens it would result in an estimated 1,200 people in Juneau becoming homeless (National Alliance to End Homelessness data).

**Alaska Legal Services (ALSC):** have received a notice of termination of a \$425,000 federal grant. While this has been reinstated by a court order, it is the subject of ongoing litigation, and its future is uncertain. An increase in funding allows ALSC to serve more individuals with civil legal needs and any decrease in funding reduces the number of people that they can serve. With each additional \$100,000 ALSC can serve 182 households.

**Gastineau Human Services (GHS):** While their operating budget is excluded from federal funding cuts, their capital funding for the new 51-unit long-term recovery housing has been impacted. The Continuum of Care grant they applied for was frozen right before the awards were announced. This would have provided some long-term operating funds for the new housing. If cuts do happen to Medicaid for substance use disorder services, it would hugely impact their operations and services to their clients.

**Several nonprofits** indicated that their staff and boards believe no federally funded program is currently safe. They are monitoring the situation as much as possible with the recent deep firings, department changes, and speculation about cuts to Medicaid, many or even most of these organizations will be adversely affected. Already nonprofits have been experiencing long delays in receiving payments from grants and Medicaid reimbursements.

## 2. What services would fall away or be provided with the additional funding, if granted?

We have received several requests for funding that goes beyond what we have available. Below are some of the ideas of what might be funded as we do not have enough funds to meet all these needs. These requests and others would be considered for additional funding through the thorough and inclusive process that we have established for the Juneau Hope Endowment/CBJ Social Service Grant Process.

**Juneau Housing First Collaborative dba The Glory Hall** responded that no additional services will be provided if the funding is granted. Only with the additional funding can the Glory Hall shelter be able to continue delivering their day services from 7:00am -9:30pm, and their meal program, which provides breakfast, lunch, and dinner, along with a place for other service providers to connect with people in need, in a warm and relatively safe place. The day program and food program are unsustainable without the additional funding.

**SVDP** is already feeling stress of benefit delays and increased need. They are just now getting an accurate picture of how much homelessness and need has increased in the past three years. St. Vincent de Paul depends less on federal grant funding than most agencies but would be faced with cutting aid programs and having to make difficult decisions about eviction prevention programs and changing housing program standards. At a minimum, they would experience greater housing turnover and longer vacancy times with foreseeable staffing cuts.

**JAMHI Health & Wellness** could update their data systems with additional funding, to reduce provider time spent inputting data and increase the amount of time each has to meet clients.

**Catholic Community Services** could receive additional funding for senior programs, including congregate and home delivered meals.

**United Human Services** could increase security and the safety of personnel working at or visiting the Teal Street Center and have staffing at the front desk.

**NAMI Juneau** could provide school-based mental health services to Juneau students to better address youth mental health issues.

## 3. Is the Foundation increasing their contributions as well? And, can you provide additional information regarding the \$200,000 about Feeding Juneau Kids program and is it new?

For the past several years the Foundation has increased our contributions to Juneau health and social service nonprofit organizations and agencies beyond the funding available from the Juneau Hope Endowment. Most recently, in 2024, the Foundation funds provided \$540,000 in additional health and

social service grants to direct service nonprofits in Juneau. These grant funds come from our donors, Donor Advised Funds, Agency Funds, and three Field of Interest Funds where the Foundation board makes all grant recommendations. The following grants from our field of interest funds were provided in 2024: Juneau Nonprofit Housing Development Council Fund (\$140,000), Feeding Juneau Kids Fund (\$195,000), and Health & Social Service Endowment and Project Funds (\$110,000).

We use the Hope/CBJ grant process to identify other projects and programs that need funding support and work to try and meet those needs using our funds, developing new funds, and reaching out to other foundations for support. It was from this process that we began the Feeding Juneau Kids Fund, as it became clear that there was a growing gap in the funds available and the funds needed for Juneau kids. Some of the grant areas where we have supported with additional funding are outlined below.

**Hospice:** We have provided grants to the hospice program that include funding from the Juneau Hospice Endowment and the Foundation for End of Life Care Endowment (\$100,000 in 2024) And anticipate providing a similar amount in 2025 in conjunction with funding from the Foundation for End of Life Care.

**Feeding Juneau Kids Fund:** The Feeding Juneau Kids Fund was started in 2023. After a Listen & Learn session with several agencies, church members, and individuals addressing food insecurity in Juneau, it became clear that there was a gap in funding for food for children in Juneau. The Foundation board agreed and for the past three years the Foundation has raised the approximately \$200,000 a year needed to support the food needs of Juneau children. We anticipate providing a minimum of \$200,000 from this fund to support food for kids in Juneau. The programs we support with this Fund include:

*Weekend Food Bag Program* (approximately \$100,000/year) has provided food for students on the weekend during the school year. This program, run by Douglas Community United Methodist Church, delivered from 600-700 weekend bags of food for students to each school weekly during the school year for over ten years. Beginning with the 25/26 school year, this program is moving to Gastineau Human Services. We anticipate first year costs to be between \$80,000-\$100,000.

*Vacation Food Program* (approximately \$75,000/year) has provided food for students for the 2 week winter break, 1 week spring break, and 2 weeks when school ends and before summer meal programs begin. This program, currently run by volunteers under the direction of a school counselor (also a volunteer for this program), delivered 600-750 vacation bags of food for children to each household before each school break.

*Food for School Counselors* (approximately \$55,000/year) has provided food to school counselors for them to provide to hungry students as they see fit. A school counselor runs the program by asking each school counselor what food they anticipate needing for students. Food is purchased and distributed to the school counselors twice a year.

*Universal School Breakfast Program* (approximately \$20,000/year). These funds supplement the cost of the school district providing a universal free breakfast for students. When first identified as a need the cost was \$15,000/year. The current gap between the cost of providing a universal breakfast and funding received (federal and paid) has grown to over \$200,000/year. This program has been lauded by educators

as instrumental in ensuring all students are not hungry at the start of the school day, leading to better attention spans, and less classroom disruption.

**Mental Health Support and Suicide Prevention Endowment** (approximately \$2,000/year). These funds primarily support the work of NAMI Juneau and the Juneau Suicide Prevention Coalition.

**Health & Social Service Fund and Endowment** (approximately \$165,000/year). These two funds and sub funds provide both program funding and, through the Juneau Nonprofit Housing Development sub-fund, capital funding. They have been used to support Housing First Phase 3, Gastineau Human Services Sober Living 51 units, and St. Vincent de Paul housing; along with Spruce Root Kin Support Program and the Southeast Alaska Food Bank Warehouse Project.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide more information about our request for funding in support of over 20 direct service nonprofits in Juneau.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amy Skilbred". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Amy" being more prominent than the last name "Skilbred".

Amy Skilbred  
Executive Director