

FY26 Sponsored Community Requests

Assemblymember Information Needs

Updated 4/24/2025

Association of Education for Young Children - Gap Funding for the Juneau Child Care Apprenticeship Program (Sponsor: Kelly)

Adkison: *With consideration of increasing funding to childcare, which programs CBJ already funds are the most effective?*

Staff response (RB): The per child and per employee stipend programs are the most important/impactful programs in the community, followed by the HEARTS program that offers retention bonuses to employees in the childcare sector who obtain the required continuing education credits.

Smith: *Has this always been planned as a two-year program? How many apprentices will the funding request train?*

Staff response (RB): The current funding has trained four to five apprentices. The program has always been planned as a two-year program, however AEYC intended to find other funding sources for program continuation, however this has proved challenging.

Organization response: The Juneau Child Care Apprenticeship Program was technically developed as a two-year pilot because that was the funding we were offered. Its success has exceeded our expectations, and we need to continue with a new cohort.

The four apprentices completing the program in May are among Juneau's most qualified child care workers. They all plan to stay in the field, in our community, and continue their education at UAA.

While CBJ provides robust funding to sustain current child care businesses and support new ones to open, the area of professional development for child care workers is not yet well supported.

All Juneau child care center owners report struggling to maintain complete enrollment due to a lack of qualified staff.

We cannot grow child care capacity without investing in quality early educators.

Steininger: *The funding request states that the total funding need is \$400,000, but only \$250,000 is being requested from CBJ. Is AEYC planning to secure the additional \$150,000 from partners referenced in the application, or what is the plan for funding the full program amount?*

FY26 Sponsored Community Requests

Assemblymember Information Needs

Updated 4/24/2025

Organization response: AEYC plans to continue its search for matching funds, but the state and federal government uncertainty is distressing. The original program design had AEYC as the sole payer/employer. Now that the apprenticeship program is federally registered, we have been able to enroll local child care programs as employers. So, when the apprentices do their on-the-job learning at a child care program, the child care business will pay part of their wages. This change in design will significantly reduce the overall cost of supporting the apprentices. If the Assembly grants AEYC the \$250K and AEYC does not find matching funds, we will still have the capacity to start another 5-6 person cohort.

American Legion Auke Bay Post 25 - CBJ Veterans Support for Centennial Hall Rental for Alaska National Guard Day (July 30) and Veterans Day (November 11) (Sponsor: Adkison)

Smith: What is the rate for non-profits; how many apply each year? How much is CBJ currently giving towards this program, and what would be the impact if we applied this to all non-profits who apply?

Staff response (RB): Centennial Hall has two rates, one for general public and one for non-profit organizations. CBJ currently funds the gap between the regular rate and the discounted rate provided to non-profits.

Hughes-Skandijs: What is the rest of the American Legion's financial picture? What is the size of their budget, what is it used for?

Organization response: See enclosed balance sheet from American Legion Auke Bay Post 25.

Coastal Alaska Avalanche Center - Juneau's Backcountry Avalanche Forecast (Sponsor: Smith)

Adkison: How does this fit in with what the City already does with avalanche forecasting? What need is being met that the City isn't meeting?

Staff response (RB): CBJ focuses on urban area avalanche forecasting, this request would focus on backcountry avalanche forecasting.

Hughes-Skandijs: Is the organization able to increase their level of secured (non-CBJ) funding in out years?

FY26 Sponsored Community Requests

Assemblymember Information Needs

Updated 4/24/2025

Organization response:

Absolutely. Coastal Alaska Avalanche Center is a young organization and just started fundraising in earnest this year. In that time we successfully secured approximately \$15,000 from over 130 different community members and businesses. We plan to increase and improve our fundraising efforts in the years to come. The CBJ grant is so important to us because it would provide us the financial stability to continue to offer our professional backcountry avalanche forecast program for the next three years while the board works to increase our funding from other sources.

We are proud to have hired two local avalanche forecasters this year who produced Juneau's first ever backcountry avalanche forecast. The forecasts are free to the public and released twice a week. Not only do they increase backcountry safety, but they also financially benefit CBJ by increasing winter tourism, increasing resident retention, and hopefully reducing the costs associated with a backcountry rescue. Despite this being a low snow year and our first season of forecasting, our last forecast was read by over 600 community members. Our user group includes snowmachiners, skiers, snowboarders, Eaglecrest ski patrollers, hunters, and dog walkers who are seeking a safer way to recreate in the winter.

Hall:

It seems that backcountry avalanche forecasting should already be being performed; is there overlap with another agency?

Organization response:

We wholeheartedly agree that backcountry avalanche forecasting should already be performed in Juneau as it is a standard program in any town with a winter recreation economy. In Alaska alone, there is a free backcountry avalanche forecast for the mountains surrounding Anchorage, Kenai, Palmer, Wasilla, Valdez, and Haines. Each location is run by its own independent avalanche center with their own sources of funding. Coastal Alaska Avalanche Center is the only organization providing backcountry avalanche information in the Juneau area. Avalanche conditions change quickly and vary greatly from one location to the next. Therefore avalanche forecasts must be produced locally by forecasters who are in those specific mountains monitoring the conditions.

FY26 Sponsored Community Requests

Assemblymember Information Needs

Updated 4/24/2025

Downtown Business Association - Family-Friendly Capital City (Sponsor: Bryson)

Hughes-Skandijs: *Would like clarification regarding the \$25,000 request for Light Up Juneau. Light Up Juneau seems to be listed on DBA's request each year. Is the recurring cost associated with bulb replacements, electricity, or maintenance? It is unclear why this high of a cost is recurring for this purpose.*

Organization response: See enclosed letter from the Downtown Business Association.

Smith: *Is this \$75,000 request in addition to the \$40,000 for DBA included in the budget?*

Staff response (AW/RB): \$40,000 was included in the FY25 budget as one-time funding for DBA. The FY25 passenger fee funding of \$90,000 was also one-time. No funding is included in the FY26 budget for DBA.

Smith: *What is DBA's revenue generating picture?*

Organization response: See enclosed letter from the Downtown Business Association.

Friends of the Marie Drake Planetarium - Planetarium Upgrade with Auxiliary Portable (Sponsor: Kelly)

Smith: *It looks like the request is for the full cost. Has the organization pursued other funding sources like grants, JSD, etc.?*

Organization response: See enclosed letter from the Friends of the Marie Drake Planetarium.

Hughes-Skandijs: *Is JSD contributing to this request? What is the backstory of Friends of the Marie Drake Planetarium and its funding levels?*

Organization response: See enclosed letter from the Friends of the Marie Drake Planetarium.

FY26 Sponsored Community Requests

Assemblymember Information Needs

Updated 4/24/2025

Juneau Arts and Humanities Council Additional JAHC Funding - Major Grants & Inflationary Increase (Sponsor: Adkison/Bryson)

Smith:

Who were the recipients of last year's grants? Was the intent of last year's funding to assist JSD?

Organization response:

Below is a roster of all of the awardees/applicants from last cycle. The intent of the increased funding last year was to create bandwidth for increased collaboration with JSD and create more opportunity for students in light of art programs being cut amid the budget crisis. These organizations were directed to use funds in part to do just that. Many of the organizations were able to incorporate appropriate increased programming, which is highlighted in the activity reports submitted to CBJ Finance.

A couple of the smaller orgs (I think it may have just been Ghost Light Theatre) are on enough of a shoestring budget that it was still difficult to incorporate increased collaboration with JSD in the past (then current) funding cycle. With consistent increased funding though, they are optimistic that they'll be able to strategically grow programs in this direction.

1. Alaska Youth Choir
2. Alaska Independent Musicians Initiative (now MusicAlaska)
3. Juneau Dance Theatre
4. Climate Action for Alaska
5. Sealaska Heritage Institute
6. Theater Alaska
7. Thrush Hill Music
8. Juneau Community Bands
9. Juneau Lyric Opera
10. Juneau Ghost Light Theatre
11. Juneau Jazz & Classics
12. Orpheus Project
13. Juneau Alaska Music Matters
14. Juneau Symphony
15. Alaska Folk Festival
16. KTOO
17. Juneau Big Band
18. Perseverance Theatre

Please also note that this is the most applicants the JAHC has ever received, with the highest combined funding request total to date at \$295,500.

FY26 Sponsored Community Requests

Assemblymember Information Needs

Updated 4/24/2025

Juneau Community Foundation - Increased Funding for the Juneau Hope Endowment/CBJ Social Service Grant Program
(Sponsor: Hall)

Hughes-Skandijs:

Are there any JCF grant recipients that are experiencing funding cuts from other sources?

Sponsor response: This request is more to address the staff turnover and increased demand for services.

Organization response: See enclosed letter from the Juneau Community Foundation.

Smith: *What services would fall away or be provided with additional funding, if granted? Is the Foundation increasing their contributions, as well? Can you provide additional information regarding the \$200,000 for Feed Juneau Kids? What is this program and is it new?*

Organization response: See enclosed letter from the Juneau Community Foundation.

The League of Women Voters Juneau - Capital Students - Capitol Visits (Sponsor: Smith)

Hughes-Skandijs: *Has the organization asked Rotary groups, JSD, or the Alaska Committee for funding, or have they fundraised for the transition of this program?*

Organization response: See enclosed letter from The League of Women Voters Juneau.

REACH, Inc. - Group Home Heat Pump Installations and 7-Passenger Van Purchase - Reducing Carbon Emissions, Increasing Transportation Accessibility, and Promoting Independence and Well-Being for Individuals with Disabilities in the Juneau Community

Smith: *Are there other programs, such as Alaska Heat Smart, that could help with these costs? Where else have they looked for funding?*

FY26 Sponsored Community Requests

Assemblymember Information Needs

Updated 4/24/2025

Organization response:

Firstly, REACH, Inc. received Phase 1 approval and was identified as a priority for a building energy audit and retrofit through the NORTHH Program in January 2025. However, this funding is now frozen indefinitely within the federal Department of Energy. Additionally, should this funding become available, the NORTHH Program will only cover the costs for one (1) of REACH's five (5) group homes. REACH, Inc. has prioritized the group home that houses medically compromised individuals.

Funding for energy retrofits such as those REACH, Inc. is seeking can be difficult to find and obtain. Federal funding is geared towards large initiatives led by energy-based nonprofits or local governments (for example, the funding utilized to support the Alaska HeatSmart program). As stated above, REACH, Inc. has made efforts to utilize the State option, and capital projects are typically ineligible for support from local organizations such as the Juneau Community Foundation.

REACH, Inc. has submitted applications to private foundations for funding in hopes of receiving small incremental grants which could combine to reach the full amount, but has been unsuccessful in these attempts.

Assembly-Member Smith made a great point when stating that "the City can't be everything for everyone." REACH understands this and the sentiments behind Mr. Smith's statement. The installation of heat-pumps in each of our group homes, while also contributing to the Juneau Climate Action Plan to reduce community-wide carbon emissions by 25%, will lead to cost-savings for the organization that can then be repurposed for future projects.

Similarly, vehicle purchases are considered capital-projects by many local and foundation-based programs which often render this request ineligible for funding. As a contributor to the Juneau Coordinated Community Transportation Coalition and its Human Services Transportation Plan, REACH, Inc. could potentially submit its request to the coalition for consideration of being named a Priority Project for 2027 against the other Human Services agencies later in the year. If selected as the Priority Project over Juneau's other Human Services agencies, REACH would then be permitted to submit an application for the Alaska Community Transit Human Services Transportation Grant. REACH, Inc. is in no way opposed to participating in this process, but recognizes that it will include two highly-competitive rounds of potential elimination and -- if selected -- would likely be one year before funding would be made available for a vehicle purchase. The potential of receiving this funding is also based on the assumption that these funds, which are derived from federal Department of Transportation funding, will remain available in the coming years.

FY26 Sponsored Community Requests

Assemblymember Information Needs

Updated 4/24/2025

REACH currently relies on staff vehicles to fill gaps in transportation needs and would love to remedy this with a fully-functional fleet as soon as possible. REACH, Inc. will assume responsibility for all maintenance and insurance costs, taking care to maximize the life of the vehicle so transportation services no longer impact REACH's ability to provide the best services possible to promote the health, happiness, independence, and well-being of the individuals it serves.

Smith: *Is this something that could go through the Juneau Community Foundation Social Service Program?*

Woll response: Because this request is capital in nature, it is ineligible under the JCF granting process.

Southeast Alaska Food Bank - Strengthening Food Security Through Program Expansion and Collaboration (Sponsor: Adkison/Bryson)

Smith: *Why isn't this request going through the JCF Social Service Grants process?*

Sponsor response: There was an original application submitted to JCF but it was later pulled. There was uncertainty by the organization whether JCF would fund this request with other competing applications.

Smith: *Did they apply to JCF and were told no? Would like more information regarding these circumstances. Also, what is the revenue picture for the Food Bank over the last few years?*

Staff response (RB): This program is eligible for the JCF Social Service Grants program, but the Professional Advisory Committee's advice to JCF was that they should consider funding the food portion but consider asking for more detail and clarification on the operational side of their request.

Organization response: See enclosed letter from the Southeast Alaska Food Bank.

Woll: *Requests that SEAFB provides a reason for why the Assembly should consider this request instead of it going through the JCF grant process.*

Organization response: See enclosed letter from the Southeast Alaska Food Bank.

Trail Mix, Inc. - Eaglecrest Biking and Hiking Trail Construction and Improvements (Sponsor: Steininger)

There were no Assemblymember information needs for this request.

FY26 Sponsored Community Requests
Assemblymember Information Needs

Updated 4/24/2025

United Way of Southeast Alaska - Working Together to Prepare for and Recover from Disasters (Sponsor: Hughes-Skandijs)

Hall: *How does this request overlap with what Red Cross would be doing in this area?*

Organization response: See enclosed letter from United Way of Southeast Alaska.

Woll: *Is this something that United Way is commonly organizing in other locations?*

Organization response: See enclosed letter from United Way of Southeast Alaska.