



January 27, 2025

Mayor and Assembly Finance Committee
City & Borough of Juneau
Via email

Re: Report on the FY25 City & Borough of Juneau Social Service Grant Funds

Dear Mayor Weldon and Finance Committee Members;

Thank you for this opportunity to present information on the FY25 grant funding we received to support health and social service nonprofits in Juneau.

2024 (FY25) marked the ninth year the City & Borough of Juneau (CBJ) social service grant funds were distributed with the Juneau Community Foundation's Juneau Hope Endowment and other Foundation funds. Since 2016, the City has provided almost \$9.9 million in health and social service funds through the Foundation. At the same time the Foundation has provided almost \$9.7 million to support Juneau's health and social service nonprofits. In 2024, CBJ provided \$1,756,400 and the Foundation provided \$1,074,138. These funds were distributed in August 2024, after the Foundation received the funding from CBJ. A spreadsheet of all grants provided each year to each agency from 2016 to 2024 accompanies this letter as a separate attachment – listing CBJ and Foundation funds separately.

Juneau social service organizations received grants in the following areas: accessing health care, delivering adult education, increasing income stability, tackling homelessness, preventing suicide, addressing substance abuse, supporting mental health, providing relief for victims of violence, and ensuring hospice services.

The grant program for Hope/CBJ Social Service funding begins in December each year. We alert the community generally as to the availability of these grants and contact grant recipients to see if there are any questions about their grant and remind them of the reporting requirements and upcoming application process. Interim Reports, continuing applications, and letters of interest are required by early January.

Early each year, we hold Listen & Learn session in each of the areas where grant funding is provided. Health, social service, and education organizations and agencies are invited, including school district, police and fire departments, and hospital. The purpose of these meetings is to provide an exchange of information, obtain a collective sense of where funds are most needed,

where there are gaps in programs, and overall wellbeing of the community nonprofit organizations. This last is critical because it is these nonprofit organizations that provide most of the community programming in these areas. Without our partner nonprofits, virtually no one would be addressing some of these issues in our community.

We have also received interim reports on the 2024 grants covering the first five months. We use these interim reports to determine how the projects and programs are progressing and as a first view at what programs will continue to be funded at the same level in the next grant round. A sampling of stories taken from the 2024 reports is attached.

We provide level funding for three-years for organizations where the funding supports a position, and the nonprofit maintains the same or similar request for funding and has stable leadership and positive financials.

In January, we completed the Listen & Learns for the upcoming 2025 grant process. In addition, we have received continuing applications and letters of interest totaling over \$4 million for the \$2,738,000 available. What is clear from the Listen & Learns and the funding request is that our social service nonprofits are stretched thin and stressed due to increased costs for everything from food and utilities to insurance and healthcare; critical programs having closed; the increasing impact of substance abuse and mental health issues on clients; and difficulty hiring personnel to take on stressful jobs at wages and benefits similar or less than those provided elsewhere in Juneau.

While we have agreed to continuing our FY25 funding agreement amount from CBJ for FY26, we will also be coming before the Assembly Finance Committee with an additional funding request from Juneau health and social service organizations as we learn more about the critical needs in our community that they are tasked with handling and the service gaps we are experiencing.

Thank you for the funding that supports Juneau's front line social service nonprofit organizations.

Sincerely,



Amy Skilbred
Executive Director

Enclosures:

2024 Hope/CBJ Grants and Utility Waivers
2024 Grant Funding Success Stories

Attached separately in email:

2016-2024 Historical Summary of Hope and CBJ Grants

2024 Grants and Utility Waivers

	City & Borough of Juneau	Juneau Community Foundation		2024 Grant
Organization	Social Service	HOPE	Foundation	Total
Alaska Legal Service		186,055		186,055
Alaskan AIDS Assistance Assoc	12,760			12,760
AWARE		83,016		83,016
Big Brothers Big Sisters	50,000			50,000
Catholic Community Service	110,000			110,000
Disability Law Center	60,000			60,000
Family Promise of Juneau	25,000			25,000
Gastineau Human Services	150,000	110,000		260,000
Gastineau Human Services – Flex funds		113,000		113,000
JAMHI Health & Wellness	410,400			410,400
Juneau Housing First Collaborative/TGH	392,500		47,500	440,000
Juneau School District		155,000		155,000
Kin Support Program - Haa Yiatx'u Saiani	12,044	2,067	25,889	40,000
NAMI - Juneau	131,696		1,804	133,500
Navigator Program (3 agencies)		225,000		225,000
Polaris House	40,000			40,000
SAIL	175,000			175,000
SERRC	70,000			70,000
Sheiyi Xaat Hit Youth Shelter		200,000		200,000
St. Vincent de Paul			25,000	25,000
United Human Services	67,000			67,000
Juneau Community Foundation	50,000			50,000
Total	1,756,400	1,074,138	100,193	2,930,731

2024 CBJ UTILITY WAIVERS	
AGENCY	AWARD
AWARE	\$10,200
Gastineau Human Services	\$8,100
St. Vincent de Paul Society	\$11,000
Glory Hall	\$10,000
Resurrection Lutheran	\$200
JAMHI	\$8,000

2024 Grant Funding Success Stories

Alaska Legal Services

A woman came to ALSC for help with an eviction case. She was behind on her rent and very concerned that her family would be homeless if the eviction went through. She had also experienced several maintenance issues in her unit that her landlord had failed to remedy.

ALSC was able to negotiate a settlement where the woman was credited for 3 months of rent, which brought her current on her rent and cured the deficiency. ALSC's assistance helped the woman and her family stay safely housed, remedied problems in her rental, and enforced her rights as a tenant.

Gastineau Flexible Funding – Assisting People to Stay Housed

One of the families the grant assisted, was a family with a young child, who has a learning disability, and a newborn baby. Shortly after the baby was born, she started having multiple seizures every day. This was a very scary time for the family, they were trying get a diagnosis and find the right medication and treatment for this new baby. The family doctor recommended that the parents take the new baby out of town to see a specialist.

The parents had to use their rent money to pay for their travel and hotel costs, but they knew they needed to get answers and help for their baby. The baby received a diagnosis of epilepsy. They were able to get a treatment plan and medication for the baby, and now she is doing much better, not having multiple seizures daily, and is thriving.

The family came to Gastineau seeking help to get their rent paid so they would not lose their housing. And because of the grant they were able to get their rent paid and keep their housing secure. Many of the families this grant helps end up as a "good story." This grant program is part of an important safety net that every community needs.

AWARE

A mom with an infant was living in AWARE's transitional housing facility. The mom made a request to add her adult child who had lost housing and was soon to be homeless. This mom did not want her newly-adulting child to stay somewhere unsafe. This presented a little problem with the unit; it was small, and the preference is to have one primary renter, so we know who to work with when problems arise, and we don't run into issues with "who gets to stay" if the adults cannot live safely together. However, in this case, there were few options but to include the adult child on her mother's lease.

Eventually, the unit became disorganized and cluttered. The family (each adult blaming the other) took in a stray cat without proper maintenance. The family was letting unauthorized persons into the facility, which is a major safety concern. After months of back-and-forth, we asked this family to exit. This set off more chaos, including multiple calls to other agencies about how unfairly they were treated.

Ultimately, an experienced advocate stepped in and we welcomed one of the agencies to work with us, as a partner, in finding this family a larger, more suitable unit to occupy. After a month

of group meetings, with both agencies providing transportation and advocacy, the family was accepted into a new unit. Both agencies provided support for the move-out, and the family ended up thanking AWARE for not giving up and for working in concert with their other supports.

Big Brothers, Big Sisters

A seven-year-old, in Juneau was matched with a Big Sister in May 2024 and the two spent the summer having some good Alaskan fun. As a result of a CBJ Youth Activities Grant (from the citizens of Juneau through sales tax revenues), the Big Sister was able to acquire a free whale watching tour. The "Little" had never been on a whale watching tour before! He had such a great time that for their next activity the match went halibut fishing on Big Sister's boat. The Little said they caught a couple "baby" halibuts that they had to throw back...but they caught one big one that they got to eat!"

The Little lives with his mom, sister, and several foster siblings, anywhere from two to four additional children have been in their home. Having an additional supportive adult in his life makes a BIG difference! This Big Sister just sent her youngest child off to college and is enjoying spending some of her new free time with her Little Brother.

Family Promise

A mother of two lively boys came to our day center during one of the most challenging seasons of her life. She had recently lost her housing after a string of unforeseen events and was also navigating deep personal grief after the passing of her mother and father. Balancing her emotional struggles while trying to provide for her boys felt overwhelming, but she was determined to rebuild her life.

Each morning, the FPJ van would bring her sons to the day center, where she could help them get ready for the day in a safe and supportive environment. While the boys played quietly or read in the cozy family space, Linda would savor a much-needed cup of coffee—a small comfort in the midst of chaos. She met regularly with a case manager who guided her through housing applications, offering encouragement and practical support. The day center became a haven where the mother could wash clothes, rest, and find a moment of peace to gather her thoughts. Slowly but surely, with the stability and resources the center provided, she began to regain her footing.

Gastineau Human Services Substance Abuse Program

A client worked with their counselor to identify positive means of self-care and relearn coping skills beyond work. This client was able to process losing custody of their children and their divorce while in treatment. The client discharged successfully, strengthened their recovery, maintains their sobriety, and effective January 1st, 2025 now owns the restaurant they began working in when they entered treatment services.

Navigator Program

During this performance period, one impactful case involved a single mother with four children who faced multiple challenges, including previous evictions and financial difficulties. The navigator assisted her in obtaining financial help to clear the debts that were preventing them from securing housing. Additionally, they obtained a voucher to assist with future rent payments.

Despite the significant barriers faced by this family, persistence over the course of nine months paid off. Ultimately, we were able to assist this family with a second chance, and a place to call home.

Another Navigator Program success story involves a single individual who was placed in transitional housing after staying in the shelter. She struggles with her mental health and requires ongoing care. At this point, she is able to remain relatively stable with outpatient services but will likely need a more intensive care facility.

SERRC

A 26-year-old, who grew up in Southeast Alaska and had been working in construction since he dropped out of high school as a junior, was ready for a change. He had set his sights on joining the Army, but first he needed to complete his high school equivalency. With this intention and commitment, he came into The Learning Connection ready to work! He studied tirelessly and passed all four subjects after just 5 weeks of working with us! He came in with flowers for the staff and immediately called to set up an appointment with an Army recruiter.

Spruce Root – Kin Support Program

A six-year-old lost his mom last year and his family struggled. His dad, who had been in recovery, relapsed, and ended up in jail. Luckily his grandmother lives in town and agreed to take him in. While his father was willing to sign a short-term power of attorney, he has feared losing his son. Our kin attorney has helped grandma file for guardianship and connected her to an online support group for relative caregivers just like her. At the same time, we've offered dad help with housing and benefits through a Family Specialist, and access to an independent parent attorney. We hope that this collaborative, transparent process supports family cooperation for the sake of this child who's been through so much.