

# City & Borough of Juneau Community Funding Request

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## Basic Information

Name of Requesting Group or Organization	Coastal Alaska Avalanche Center
Summary of request (sentence or phrase)	Requesting funds to help establish our free backcountry avalanche forecast program.
Amount of request	\$30,000
Assemblymember Sponsor	Greg Smith
Is this a request for a one-time event, purchase or grant match?	One-time event
Does this request provide monetary support for the group's ongoing or operating expenses?	Yes
Primary contact individual for this group	Sam Steensland
Primary contact's phone number	(907) 419-1335
Primary contact's email	sam.steensland@coastalakavalanche.org

1. Funding Request (Project) Title (Suggested heading): Juneau's Backcountry Avalanche Forecast

2. Project description and benefit. Describe the project (in half a page or less), including specific aspects of the funding request and project. Explain how the project will benefit the community. What sector(s) of the community will this project benefit and/or serve? This project  
 will provide a twice weekly backcountry avalanche forecast to the mountains surrounding the Juneau area. The forecast will lay out the specific danger that day on a scale from 1-5 and list exactly where people may trigger or encounter avalanches. This will benefit backcountry skiers, snowmobilers, cross country skiers, winter hikers, hunters, and anyone else who enjoys recreating outside in the snow by providing them with the information they need to make informed decisions. This will also benefit CBJ's Emergency Management Dept, Eaglecrest, AK DOT, AEL&P, and Alaska Powder Descents by providing their respective avalanche programs with a reliable and professional level forecast to cross reference. Search and rescue personnel from CCFR, Alaska State Troopers, and Juneau Mountain Rescue will benefit by knowing the avalanche danger prior to entering avalanche terrain when responding to backcountry emergencies. Improved avalanche forecasting increases safety and should reduce the number of costly rescue operations.

3. Plans and progress. Describe (in one or two paragraphs) what has been accomplished so far (if anything) toward this project's or funding's goal. This may include studies, designs, grant application status, fundraising activity, and total funds raised to date. The Coastal

Alaska Avalanche Center (CAAC) is proud to announce that after 5 years of groundwork and fundraising, we hired 2 part time professional forecasters and published forecasts since January of this year. We have secured all of the necessary insurance, developed the website, hired two excellent local employees, and developed our forecasting program from the ground up. All of the work is complete and we've proved it to be very successful. Each forecast has been read by over 1,000 people. We're asking for a grant to ensure our forecast program is financially stable while we continue to improve our fundraising effectiveness. The CAAC has significantly increased fundraising activity within the past year.

4. Project support. Is the project supported in CBJ or other community plans (List where the project is mentioned or supports concepts in planning documents such as the Assembly Goals, Legislative Priorities, CIP Plan, etc.

Juneau Economic Development Plan: "Build on Our Strengths" Initiative, Objective 1: Increase independent visitor travel to Juneau

5. Goal of project. In one sentence or less, state the goal of the project. For example "economic development" or "improve non-motorized transportation routes."

Improve the safety of backcountry winter recreationalists, which should increase participation by both residents and visitors.

6. Total cost:

A. TOTAL COST (including funds already secured) = \$25,000 per year\_\_\_\_\_

B. AMOUNT SECURED (include funding source) = \$15,035 from over 137 different donors in the last year alone.

7. Timeline: Indicate when you hope to complete the project.

This funding will secure the future of the backcountry avalanche forecast program through the end of 2028.

8. Physical Location. Please provide the address or physical description of where the project is located.

The forecast area includes the mountains immediately accessible from the Juneau road system. Much of this land is owned by CBJ.