

# City & Borough of Juneau Community Funding Request

## Basic Information

Name of Requesting Group or Organization	REACH, Inc.
Summary of request (sentence or phrase)	Funding to support or complete the installation of heat pumps in REACH's five (5) group homes, and the purchase of a 7-passenger Toyota Sienna van to transport individuals to medical appointments, activities, work, etc.
Amount of request	Heat Pumps: Up to \$50,000 Vehicle Purchase: Up to \$50,000
Assemblymember Sponsor	Wade Bryson
Is this a request for a one-time event, purchase or grant match?	One-time event / purchase
Does this request provide monetary support for the group's ongoing or operating expenses?	As a result of receiving funding for this request, REACH's saved utility costs from the installation of heat pumps will be recouped by each individual group home for additional costs and activities.
Primary contact individual for this group	Naomi Studevan
Primary contact's phone number	907-796-7245
Primary contact's email	nstudevan@reachak.org

### 1. Funding Request (Project) Title (Suggested heading):

Reducing Carbon Emissions, Increasing Transportation Accessibility, and Promoting Independence and Well-Being for Individuals with Disabilities in the Juneau Community.

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?

For over 40 years, REACH, Inc. has supported individuals and their families in the Juneau community who experience intellectual or developmental disabilities by providing support services, housing, employment opportunities and employer support services and much more. REACH, Inc. is an integral part of Human Services offerings in Juneau, while also contributing directly to Juneau's economy by working with employers via on-the-job support to hire and develop the skills of individuals with disabilities, promoting independence for these individuals and allowing them to participate within their family, workplace, and community.

REACH, Inc. seeks to install heat pumps in all five of their group homes, beginning with a group home housing individuals with distinct medical needs. This project supports the City and Borough of Juneau's plan for carbon reductions, replacing oil-burning heating systems with efficient and emissions-free air source heat pumps. As well as increasing independence and quality of life for the individuals who live in these homes, energy savings from this project will be reallocated into REACH's budget to fund additional

projects and activities. REACH estimates the cost of this project to be an average of \$10,000 per installation, for a total of \$50,000.

REACH, Inc. is also seeking funding for the purchase of a 7-passenger Toyota Sienna van. REACH, Inc, a contributor to the Juneau Coordinated Human Services Transportation Commission, is responsible for the transportation of individuals living in the group homes to various activities and appointments throughout Juneau, and currently relies on employee vehicles for on-demand transportation needs when REACH's other vehicles are unavailable. This van purchase would be replacing an existing vehicle within the fleet. The purchase of a new 7-passenger Toyota Sienna van is estimated to be ~\$50,000, and REACH will be responsible for all insurance and maintenance costs.

REACH, Inc. will be grateful for the Assembly's support for either or both of these projects, in whatever capacity possible. Thank you so much for your time and consideration.

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.

REACH acquired a Grants Consultant in December of 2023, and has since submitted multiple applications to a variety of entities in an effort to fund these projects. In December of 2024, REACH's Glacier Woods group home was tentatively selected by the NORTHH Selection Committee (through Alaska Heat Smart), and after working with the DOE received Phase 1 approval to begin scheduling an energy audit. However, with the federal funding freeze that occurred after the change in administration in the federal government in January 2025, REACH received notice that work on the NORTHH project has been paused. Despite requests made to the granting organization, no update has been given.

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.

REACH, Inc.'s heat pump project is in support of the Juneau Renewable Energy Strategy passed by the Juneau Assembly in February 2018 with the goal of 80% of Juneau's energy needs being met by renewables by 2025.

REACH, Inc.'s vehicle purchase is in line with Priority Two: Vehicle Upgrades / Procurement Coordination Strategy in Juneau's most recent Coordinated Community Service Transportation Plan (2020), as well as addressing the needs identified in the Needs Assessment for people with disabilities.

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."

Support carbon-reduction efforts in Juneau while promoting the independence and well-being of individuals with disabilities through the installation of heat pumps in group homes.

Increase Juneau's ability to provide necessary transportation services to individuals with disabilities throughout the community.

6. Total cost:

A. TOTAL COST (including funds already secured) = up to \$100,000

B. AMOUNT SECURED (include funding source) = \$10,000 potentially, depending on NORTHH program status

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

The timeline to complete the purchase of a Toyota Sienna Van will depend on the local inventory of Juneau's limited auto dealerships. If awarded funding for the purchase of a new van, REACH will prioritize acquiring the new vehicle and hope to have the vehicle in-hand by no later than September 2025.

The timeline for the installation of heat pumps at all five REACH group homes will also depend on contractor availability and supply availability. However, we hope to have all five group homes retrofitted with heat pumps by June 30, 2026.

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

REACH, Inc. Headquarters (Main Office): 213 3<sup>rd</sup> St., Juneau, AK 99801

Glacier Woods Group Home #1 – 3514 Mendenhall Loop Rd., Juneau AK 99801

Steelhead Group Home #2 – 4934 Steelhead St., Juneau, AK 99801

Mendenhall Woods Group Home #3 – 3510 Mendenhall Loop Rd., Juneau, AK 99801

Mark Alan Group Home #4 – 1814 Mark Alan St., Juneau, AK 99801

Northland Group Home #5 – 9377 Northland St., Juneau, AK 99801