

May 14, 2025

To Assembly:

This letter is to request your support for the line item in the FY2026 budget for \$42,800 for the Mountain View Food Services (MVFS) meal program.

The purpose of the program is to encourage socialization of elders and others with qualifying needs. The pandemic took a big hit on our ability to meet in person and returning to our original objective of socializing, we encourage folks to come to our dining room with their friends and family for their meals. A significant and growing population of clients in our community who, due to mobility or transportation limitations, need to have meals delivered. MVFS is the only senior food service in Alaska providing a dinner meal, all others provide lunch. Survey responses from our clients have been positive and they consistently prefer the evening meal.

All meals are prepared from scratch in our kitchen located on the first floor of Elderly Housing. A copy of the May and June 2025 menus are included with this letter. A dietician reviews menus.

Our program relies heavily on federal grants that are passed through the State of Alaska to administrate. More than half our funding is from this grant. A local financial grant from the Borough of Petersburg and capital equipment support rounds out our grant revenue. Petersburg Indian Association supports our primary driver, and the vehicle used to deliver meals. Local contributions from the community and businesses include cash donations, seafood and meat processing and fresh seafood and game. Our clients really appreciate local game and seafood. All donated food items must be commercially processed. The State grant guidelines prevent charging for meals. Three quarters of our meals are provided at no charge to our clients. Our recommended donation for a meal is \$7.00. People who do not qualify as a client are asked to pay \$10.00.

Ongoing challenges include labor and food costs. Due to new state laws which go into effect soon, employees must be provided sick leave. While these benefits are certainly deserved by our staff there will be increased payroll costs. In addition, all food is purchased locally. Due to increased food costs and accompanying shipping costs for groceries continue to grow, just like in our households.

Thank you, members of the Assembly, for your continued support for MVM Food Services.

Board Members:

Duane Bell, President
Sandra Meeks, Vice President
Sharon Wikan, Treasurer
Liz Bacom, Secretary
Jim Rodgers
Arlana Corl
Dorothy Bently
Program Director: Angela Davis

Number of meals served on average per month: 1027

95% of these meals are delivered.

The average price of preparing one meal is \$15.00.