



Community Economic
Development Strategy

CEDS



2011 Five Year CEDS Regional Project - Action Initiative Template

Title or Name of the Project:

Southeast Alaska Senior Care Services System Enhancements

Motivation:

Alaska has a long tradition of providing family-centered care for our seniors. The values underlying this tradition include keeping families in close proximity while at the same time providing for the basic needs of the individual. The current system of senior care services, while providing exceptional care at private, tribal and pioneer centers, does not support the basic values of locally based care in small and rural communities. Seniors often need to move from their communities in order to receive the services they require. The lack of local resources negatively impacts the individual, their family and their community. There is also a concern that the number of available rooms/beds in senior care facilities limits the system's ability to quickly respond to the demand for placement.

Objective:

The primary objective is to enhance the existing system of services to provide for additional in-home and locally-based community services for seniors. An additional goal is to provide an enhanced continuum of services that would better screen individuals so that an appropriate medical plan can be developed. This will help the system anticipate the demand for services. An enhanced system will provide the region with a better understanding of the need for services. This will be the result especially in small and rural communities. The system would train and employ local senior care providers to provide services in communities that do not have senior centers. The system would also assure that ongoing training and consultation is available region-wide.

Obstacles:

Enhancing the current system of services will require developing innovative strategies for delivering and funding senior services. Expertise will need to be developed to provide and support locally based services. Our telemedicine network will need to be enhanced and expanded to include remote real-time consultation from medical professionals.

Outcomes/ Results:

Senior services will become more efficient, effective and responsive to the needs and wishes of seniors and their families. Seniors and families will have a continuum of services from which to create the most appropriate care for their family. Information and support will be available to assist individuals and families in creating a effective and efficient senior care plans. The



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enhanced system of senior services will create local employment opportunities in small and rural communities.

Leadership:

Southeast Conference

Action Plan and Implantation:

1. Commission a study of senior service delivery systems.
2. Develop Legislative support.
3. Engage private, state and tribal health care agencies.
4. Create a task force to develop system enhancement options.
5. Seek funding for the project.

What does it promote:

The Southeast Alaska Senior Care Services System Enhancements will create jobs by creating a locally based health industry in small and rural communities. The system enhancements will create capacity for small and rural communities to provide needed locally based senior care services. Having locally based senior care options is a fundamental foundation for developing effective communities.

Performance Measures:

To be determined.

Funding:

The enhanced system of services should have a positive impact on the overall expenditures for senior services as a more efficient and effective system will result. It is anticipated that funding will be needing to create the system, upgrade technology and to train staff.