

Submission Date:

Priority: of



# Ted Stevens

United States Senator for Alaska

**Please Note:**

- Fill out one request form for each request
- This form (and any attachments) can be returned via:

Fax - (202) 224-2354  
 Mail - The Honorable Ted Stevens  
 United States Senate  
 522 Hart Senate Office Bldg.  
 Washington, D.C. 20510

**Requests are due by February 15, 2008.**

## FISCAL YEAR 2009 PROJECT REQUEST FORM

Project Name: *Catholic Community Services Hospice and Home Care of Juneau / Durable Medical Equipment Project*  
 Project Location: *414 6th Street Juneau, Alaska 99801*

Project Description (please attach additional pages as required):

*Please see attached pages.*

Related Appropriations Bill: *Labor, Education, Health & Human Services*

List legislation that authorizes this project:

Amount of federal funding requested for FY09: *\$400,000*

Total funding to complete this project: *\$400,000 - \$500,000*

Number of years to fund this project: *one*

Matching funds from the State of Alaska: *0*

Matching funds from local and private entities: *Medicare, Medicaid, 3rd Party Insurance, City of Juneau, Block Grant (reg), local fund raising, CCS Board and possible foundation support*

- Check all that apply:**
- A change in the current law is necessary in order to proceed with the project. (If so, attach language and a list of laws that need to be amended)
  - Bill or report language is needed. (If so, attach requested language)

If this project was funded in prior appropriations bills (within the last five years), list each bill and the amount funded:

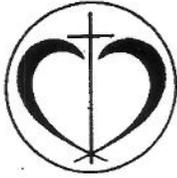
*N/A \$0.00*

Amount included in the President's FY09 Budget: *0*

Amount included in the State of Alaska FY09 Budget: *0*

Check this box if state funding was sought but not provided.

Alaska Contact Information:



# Catholic Community Service

419 Sixth Street  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Child Care & Family Resources

Hospice & Home Care of Juneau

Southeast Senior Services

February 14, 2008

The Honorable Ted Stevens  
United States Senate  
522 Hart Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Stevens:

The Board of Directors and staff of Catholic Community Service are most appreciative of the multi-year support from you for our Family Resource Center and Bridge Adult Day programs over the past several years. We are particularly appreciative for the most recent earmark included in the federal budget recently signed into law by President Bush for the Family Resource Center. It will serve to provide a much needed lifeline for that nationally recognized program, and the families and children served.

We are now coming to you to seek assistance for a CCS Division that is a more recent addition to the CCS organization. About five years ago the Board of Directors of **Hospice and Home Care of Juneau** (then an independently operated 501©(3)) approached the CCS Board to consider a merger of the two non-profit organizations with CCS becoming the surviving non-profit entity. The challenge to HHCJ was that although provision of Hospice and Home Health in Juneau by a non-profit organization was highly valued by the community and consistently identified as an essential community service, given the frequently changing federal and state regulations and reimbursement schedules, they were unable to continue as a stand-alone organization. Following several months of due diligence work by both Boards, the merger was consummated legally. Even though the CCS Board and staff felt that they were moving into "uncharted territory", one of our Board Members, John Greely, commented that "...if CCS did not assume this responsibility, some other entity in the community would have to re-invent the service."

Migrating from a traditional social services operating model to include the complexity of operating a medical model was a very steep learning curve for CCS staff. Each month, as the Board of Directors reviewed the financial statements and dealt with program deficits, they looked optimistically for upward moving "trends", and we all seriously wondered if we had done the right thing. It took about a year and one-half for the program to begin to break even and then CCS began to explore our options for future operations. We began to consider whether going through the process of becoming a Medicare Certified Hospice would be feasible in a community the size of Juneau. I am pleased to relate to you that our staff and Board pursued this very intense CMS process which took about another year and one-half to complete, and we have been



United Way Member Agency

able to bring a bit more stability to the bottom line as well as providing another option for the citizens of Juneau as they face end of life and the full array of palliative care issues related to terminal illness.

Under direction of patient physicians, HHCJ provides skilled nursing, both for home health and palliative care patients. Additionally, HHCJ provides occupational, physical and speech therapy, CNA and personal care, medication management, wound care, social work and Chaplin services, and limited durable medical equipment loans. HHCJ also supports an extensive bereavement program and has attracted over 100 dedicated individuals from throughout the community to become trained Hospice volunteers. Because of the close proximity to Southeast Senior Services programs, we have been able to create a "Continuum of Care" that provides substantial wraparound services for patients and their families and caretakers.

An essential part of our Medicare Certified Hospice certification requires that we continually maintain contracts for hospital respite beds, 24 hour pharmacy and durable medical equipment. To date we have been successful in keeping these essential elements in place, but given our fairly remote geographic location and limited population base this is becoming more of a challenge. Given escalating personnel costs and some uncertainty with respect to the ability to continue some of these contracts in the future, we have decided that it is imperative that we find some start-up funding to assure that durable medical equipment requirements will be protected. This will insure that CCS/HHCJ will be able to continue to provide this important service in Juneau. Because the HHCJ Program Manager is also a licensed pharmacist and has recently purchased the only infusion pharmacy service in the community, we would also consider combining these services if this project is funded. Our research leads us to believe that there is some programmatic and economic merit in bundling the two services.

Advice from Liz Connell in your office in the past few years has caused our staff and Board to further explore what entrepreneurial opportunities we might consider to bring sustainability to many of the essential services provided by CCS. The project as described above will allow CCS/HHCJ to not only be positioned to continue to provide reliable services to Juneau patients and their families as they deal with terminal illness, but also to be able to provide much needed program stability and sustainability for the future of Hospice and Home Care of Juneau. For the reasons noted in this letter, **CCS/HHCJ is requesting one-time-only federal funding support in the amount of \$400,000 for the purpose of establishing or acquiring a durable medical equipment operation with the possibility of bundling it with infusion pharmacy services and associated start-up costs.** As always, whatever amount you are able to consider will be put to efficient use in our program, and wherever possible will be used to leverage other funding. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Executive Director