



**CITY OF WASILLA**

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WASILLA, ALASKA 99654-7091  
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COUNCIL MEMORANDUM NO. 95-92

From: Mayor Stein  
Date: November 21, 1995  
Subject: CDBG Application Selection

The City has received three proposals for application for up to \$200,000 grant funds to benefit low and moderate income families.

Simeanna, Inc. has asked for \$5,000 to match \$5,000 for a planning grant to develop an AHFC application to construct senior housing.

Recommendation: Reject. Grant request is too small for CDBG process. Fund directly from City administration economic development account.

Mat-Su Services for Children and Adults, Inc. has asked for \$25,000 to fund a position to develop job opportunities for handicapped persons.

Recommendation: Reject. Grant is not available to fund operating salaries.

Chugiak Children's services, Inc. has asked for \$200,000 to fund construction of replacement Headstart program site.

Recommendation: Accept. This grant would provide money to build, remodel or adapt new quarters for Headstart.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
John C. Stein, Mayor

**APPROVED**

DATE: 11-27-95  
BY: [Signature]

**Mat-Su Services for Children and Adults, Inc.**  
**5050 Dunbar Street, Suite A**  
**Wasilla, AK 99654 (907)376-9270**

October 23, 1995

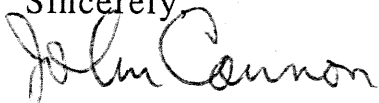
John C. Stein  
Mayor  
City of Wasilla  
290 East Herning St.  
Wasilla, Alaska 99654

Dear Mayor Stein:

The enclosed abstract is our agency's response to the City of Wasilla's public announcement regarding the State of Alaska Community Development Block Grant applications. On behalf of local residents with disabilities, their friends and families we appreciate the opportunity to respond to this request.

Should you have any questions or require further information do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



John Cannon  
Program Director

**Mat-Su Services for Children and Adults, Inc.**  
5050 Dunbar Street, Suite A  
Wasilla, AK 99654 (907)376-9270

**PROJECT ABSTRACT**

Mat-Su services for Children and Adults (MSSCA) is a locally based not-for-profit organization providing a wide range of services for Mat-Su residents experiencing developmental disabilities (many of whom reside in the Wasilla area). MSSCA services include: employment, residential, respite, infant learning, and family support. A developmental disability is: 1.) a severe chronic disability attributable to a mental or physical impairment, 2.) manifested before the person attains age twenty-two, 3.) likely to continue indefinitely (most often lifelong) and 4.) results in substantial functional limitations in major life areas such as self-care, receptive and expressive language, learning, mobility, self-direction, capacity for independent living, and economic self-sufficiency. Developmental disabilities typically include mental retardation, cerebral palsy, autism and epilepsy.

The Mat-Su region has a long history of struggling with unemployment rates that have been significantly higher than the national average and most other areas of Alaska. Recently, the Alaska Department of Labor reported Mat-Su unemployment rates for June and July at 9.2% and 8.5% respectively. These numbers reflect the lowest unemployment rates in years. Unfortunately, positive employment trends have not resulted in jobs for local residents with developmental disabilities. The unemployment rate for these individuals remains at a horrendous 69%. Some contributing factors include:

1. rising local population base including persons with developmental disabilities.
2. a lack of economic diversity at the local level. Many Wasilla area residents commute to jobs outside of the borough (e.g. Anchorage, Prudoe Bay etc.). Commuting to work represents a major barrier for people with developmental disabilities as they are rarely able to obtain drivers licenses.
3. declining oil revenues and a corresponding lack of State of Alaska funding for supported employment services.

Our organization does not have the staff to conduct essential job development activities. We lack the resources needed to work with local employers to identify potential employment opportunities that may exist for local residents with developmental disabilities.

**MSSCA is requesting \$25,500 to fund a Special Economic Development Project.** The time limited funding made available through this grant will be utilized to cover the expenses associated with hiring a .75 FTE job developer position. The amount requested will fund the salary, fringe benefits, travel and facility expense associated with the position. The agency will provide \$4,500 in matching funds to cover additional travel, administrative and facility expenses. This position will be responsible for conducting a wide range of job development activities designed to increase employment opportunities for local persons with developmental disabilities.

The proposed project clearly meets several of the major CDBG goals. Project funds will be used to principally benefit low income persons. All 44 persons with developmental disabilities who will directly benefit from this project have incomes that fall below the federal poverty guideline. Most of these individuals incomes that are limited to SSI, Aid to the Disabled payments and Alaska permanent fund dividends. The project is designed to reduce or eliminate conditions which are detrimental to the health and safety of local residents (homelessness), reduce the cost of essential community services (decreased SSI and Aid to the Disabled payments) and provide capital to assist in the creation and retention of jobs that primarily benefit low income persons.

# CHUGIAK CHILDREN'S SERVICES, inc.

HEAD START • TUITION-BASED PRESCHOOL • CFDC  
 P.O. Box 670233, Chuglak, Alaska 99567  
 Administrative Office • (907) 888-6011 • Fax (907) 688-6013

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) PROGRAM ABSTRACT FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

### BACKGROUND:

Chugiak Children's Services, Inc. (D.b.a.-CCS, Inc.) operates a Head Start program based at the Wasilla City Hall facility. This program is State and Federally funded for low income families in the Mat-Su service area of Wasilla. This site is one of five sites offered by CCS, Inc. The Wasilla Head Start program has been based at the City Hall facility for the past four years. In April of 1995, the City of Wasilla notified CCS, Inc. that due to City Hall's space needs, the facility will not be available effective June 1, 1996. CCS, Inc. has been well aware of these growing needs and has had several dialogue sessions to brainstorm the situation with members of the City Council. Wasilla Head Start program will be relocating by June 1, 1996.

### PURPOSE:

The relocation of our Wasilla Head Start program need not be something we anticipate with regret. Rather, CCS, Inc. is viewing this as an opportunity to meet increased needs of our families and children while building on the concept of "community development".

The purpose in requesting a grant partnership with the City of Wasilla is twofold. First, having been with us for the past four years, who better knows our needs and desires than the City of Wasilla. Secondly, by partnering through this grant, we can begin to build upon the "community family learning center" concept through acquisition of a facility which houses more than a Head Start program. Programs which offer services to our community members who are low income include: medical/ health, educational, social services, literacy, and mental health counseling. These are but a few of the critical needs programs.

Future programming may include transitional job training, child care, family development and socialization programs to assist the family with the transition into the world of work. This concept has been idealized nationwide as a "one stop shopping" facility. CCS, Inc. would rather rethink this concept by introducing our Wasilla community to the concept of a Family Learning Center. A place where all families can come, grow and learn, especially those with diverse needs due to their low income status.

### MISSION STATEMENT:

"Children, families and educators working together as partners to develop healthy self-concepts while learning through experiences within our community."

**CURRENT STATUS:**

The CCS, Inc. Board of Directors have put into action a facilities committee which is currently "shopping" for adequate space for our Head Start program plus the additional space for other programs which share services to families of low income. Thus far, CCS, Inc. is researching two possible facilities and a feasibility study will be conducted by committee members. Each of the facilities visited have tremendous potential but certainly come with renovation needs.

**FUTURE GOALS:**

The mission, goals and objectives of the CDBG "fit" extremely well into the long range strategic direction that CCS, Inc. is headed. The current committee has begun developing a plan of action. With the receipt of grant monies such as this grant, the committee can begin to seek additional program input and membership on the committee. Through the addition of these programs on the planning committee, cohesive, comprehensive planning and action can occur.

Several funding sources will be attempted with achievement as the goal! The CDBG monies we are currently requesting through your sponsorship will be spent on renovation of a facility which meets and exceeds the State and Federal standards. The intention of CCS, Inc. is to provide our community members with a center that is a quality model throughout the State of Alaska.

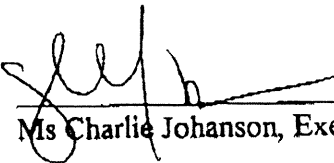
**SUCCESS RATING:**

Over the past five years, CCS, Inc. has expanded their services through the mechanism of grant writing. Over the past four years approximately \$2,292,000.00 has been granted to CCS, Inc. renovation and equipment. This amount is above and beyond the continuation and expansion monies allocated. The Executive Director is an accomplished grant writer and has begun training staff members in the grant writing process. The completion of this CDBG grant will be a joint venture between CCS, Inc. and Wasilla City Hall.

AMOUNT OF FUNDS TO BE REQUESTED: \$200,000.00

*Two options in  
Wasilla  
92 families  
+ 60 wait list*

Respectfully Submitted:

  
Ms Charlie Johanson, Executive Director

11/13/95  
Date

Capital Improvement Planning Grant Proposal  
(Community Development Block Grant)

Simeanna Inc., a private not-for-profit corporation, proposes to construct and to operate a 35 unit assisted living facility for senior citizens in the Mat-Su Valley. The project location is Tract B-1 Winter Trail Subdivision next to the existing Wasilla Senior Center. 25410

Assisted living apartments are for senior citizens who have need of assistance in order to remain out of nursing homes while maintaining a level of independence in their community. The assistance will be given in dressing, food service, toileting, transportation, and activities. These seniors may be at low to moderate income levels.

Preparation in the past 18 months has been in the determination of the need for such a facility in our area, the designing of the program and soliciting support of community service organizations. Those agencies that are serving other elders in the Borough have committed themselves to provide services to an assisted living program in Wasilla.

Simeanna Inc. wishes to request a Capital Improvement Planning Grant from the Community Development Block Grant Program under Section 105 (a)(12). The intent of the planning grant is to collect project data, do a feasibility analysis, address marketing issues, providing for a funding strategy, and to design an implementation action plan.

The Capital Improvement Planning Grant will allow Simeanna Inc. to pursue funding grants from Alaska Housing Finance Corporation, the State Legislature or any other funding source, with a great deal more authority for the project than is the case at the present time. The corporation in and of it's self does not have the expertese to develop a capitol improvement plan that will be of the professional level that is currently required by lenders.

Grant funds requested are \$5,000.00 in cash. This amount must be matched 50-50. Simeanna Inc. will provide \$1,250.00 in cash, and \$3,750.00 of in-kind services to make the total project cost \$10,000.00. These monies will be used for planning purposes only, no dollars from this request will be used for specifice pre-development soft costs (e.g. Architecture & Engineering).

Sincerely,  
*Charles R. Mundorff*  
Charles R. Mundorff  
President Simeanna, Inc.

RECEIVED  
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

NOV 13 1995