

By: Finance Department  
Adopted: June 14, 2021  
Yes: Brown, Burney, Harvey, Johnson, Rausa, Velock  
No: None  
Absent: None

**City of Wasilla  
Resolution Serial No. 21-14**

**A Resolution Of The Wasilla City Council Accepting An Alaska Department Of Health And Social Services (DHSS) Grant In The Amount Of \$413,017.11, And Transferring Full Responsibility For The Grant To The Mat-Su Health Foundation (MSHF) In Support Of The CDC Community-Driven COVID-19 Testing And Vaccination Program.**

WHEREAS, the City of Wasilla did not apply for its \$413,017.11, allotment for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) community-driven COVID-19 testing and vaccination program due to resource constraints; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS) will allow the City to transfer full funding and grant responsibility to the Mat-Su Health Foundation (MSHF) where resources can be better deployed; and

WHEREAS, MSHF is willing to accept full funding and grant responsibly in the amount of \$413,017.11, and deploy maximum health and economic benefit to the City of Wasilla; and

WHEREAS, the City of Wasilla would be relieved of all responsibility of the grant and the contractual arrangement for these federal funds would occur between the State and MSHF, and the MSHF would have to meet the same requirements for the funding that the City would have had to meet; and

WHEREAS, the MSHF will deploy these funds in ways that build out our public health infrastructure and organizational capacity in the Mat-Su so that we are better prepared to handle future public health crises, including more testing and vaccinations to end the pandemic and prevent future lockdowns that hurt our businesses and residents.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Wasilla City Council accepts the DHSS grant in the amount of \$413,017.11 and instructs administration to transfer full grant responsibility to the MSHF for the deployment of CDC community-driven COVID-19 testing, vaccination, and public health infrastructure enhancements within the City of Wasilla.

ADOPTED by the Wasilla City Council on June 14, 2021.

  
Glenda D. Ledford, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
Jamie Newman, MMC, City Clerk

[SEAL]

**City of Wasilla  
Legislative Staff Report  
Resolution Serial No. 21-14**

**A Resolution Of The Wasilla City Council Accepting An Alaska Department Of Health And Social Services (DHSS) Grant In The Amount Of \$413,017.11 And Transferring Full Responsibility For The Grant To The Mat-Su Health Foundation (MSHF) In Support Of The CDC Community-Driven COVID-19 Testing And Vaccination Program.**

Originator: Troy Tankersley, Finance Director  
Date: 6/2/2021

Agenda of: 6/14/2021

Route to:	Department Head	Signature	Date
X	Finance Director		6.2.21
X	Deputy Administrator		6/2/21
X	City Clerk		6/3/2021
X	Mayor		6/3/2021

**Fiscal Impact:**  yes or  no

**Funds Available:**  yes or  no

**Account name/number:** n/a

**Attachments:** Resolution Serial No. 21-14 (2 pages)  
Alaska DHSS email correspondence (1 page)  
Alaska DHSS Letter of Support Template (1 page)  
Mat-Su Health Foundation Letter (2 pages)

**Summary Statement:** The City of Wasilla had an opportunity to apply for and accept an Alaska Department of Health and Social Services grant in the amount of \$413,017.11 for deployment of the CDC community-driven testing and vaccination program. The City, like the City of Palmer and Houston elected not to apply for their allotted share due to resource constraints in deployment of the grant requirements.

DHSS is providing an opportunity for the City of Wasilla to transfer the funds and full grant responsibility the MSHF for deployment of the CDC community-driven COVID-19 outreach program to include further testing, vaccinations, and community enhancements to the public health infrastructure in Wasilla to end the pandemic and prevent future lockdowns that hurt our businesses and residents.

MSHF is willing to accept full responsibility of the grant requirements and the contractual arrangement for these federal funds would be between the State and MSHF, and MSHF would have to meet the same requirements for the funding that the cities would have had to meet.

By adoption of Resolution Serial No. 21-14, administration will proceed with the necessary documentation to transfer funding and full responsibility to the MSHF for deployment of the CDC community-driven COVID-19 program.

**Proposed Action:** Adopt Resolution Serial No. 21-14

## Troy Tankersley

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**From:** Caruso, Maria T (HSS) <maria.caruso@alaska.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 14, 2021 10:10 AM  
**To:** Mayor of Wasilla; Troy Tankersley  
**Cc:** Elizabeth Ripley; Jackman, Marie S (HSS); Karen Koenemann; cemon@healthymatsu.org  
**Subject:** Community MOA Letter of Support Template  
**Attachments:** Letter of Support Template.docx

Good morning Mayor Ledford,

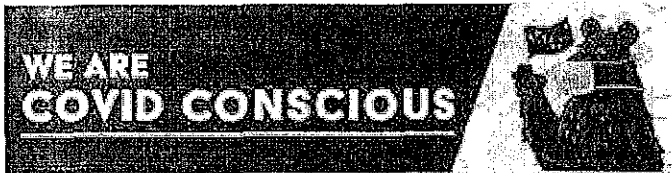
Thank you again so much for taking the time to meet with DHSS and the Mat-Su Health Foundation last week. I have attached a template for letter of support to re-direct the funds dedicated for the City of Wasilla to the Mat-Su Health Foundation on their behalf. If the City of Wasilla is willing to sign this, it will allow us to move forward with granting funds to MSHF.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns, or if there is any additional information the state can provide to you in support of your conversation with the city council.

Thank you so much for your support and collaboration to use these funds most effectively to benefit the residents of Wasilla.

**Maria Caruso**  
Program Coordinator II / COVID-19 EOC  
DHSS | Division of Public Health  
State of Alaska

Phone: 907-310-6092  
Email: [maria.caruso@alaska.gov](mailto:maria.caruso@alaska.gov)



[On Letterhead]

[Your Organization Address]

Heidi Hedberg, Director of Public Health  
Alaska Department of Health and Social Services  
3601 C Street, Suite 756  
Anchorage, AK 99503

May 14, 2021

Dear Ms. Hedberg,

This letter is in support of the provision of CDC Community-Driven COVID-19 funds from the State of Alaska Department of Health and Social Services as a direct grant to Mat-Su Health Foundation (MHSF) on behalf of the communities that would be receiving the services. The City of Wasilla is requesting to divert the allocated funds of \$413,017.11 to the Mat-Su Health Foundation. The local government is in support of this arrangement in recognition of the jurisdictional complexity in the Mat-Su Borough and the desire to execute these funds expeditiously for community benefit.

The Mat-Su Health Foundation will be using these funds at the communities' request and on their behalf. The requirements for the funding as a grant to the Mat-Su Health Foundation would be the same as the requirements would have been of the communities if they were signing on to the funding as a Memorandum of Agreement to the city/borough directly. The period of performance would be through June 30, 2022. The purpose of this grant is to implement community-driven strategies that will increase access to COVID-19 testing in the community, build capacity to increase access to COVID-19 vaccine in the community and implement strategies that decrease health inequities, as well as other COVID-19 related recovery and prevention strategies.

The Mat-Su Health Foundation shares ownership in Mat-Su Regional Medical Center and invests hospital profits back into the Mat-Su community in the form of grants and scholarships to improve the health and wellness of Alaskans living in Mat-Su. The purpose of this grant is aligned with the mission of the MSHF and as a non-profit tax-exempt 501 c3 organization, the Mat-Su Health Foundation provides community benefit for all Mat-Su residents. As needed, the Mat-Su Health Foundation can provide reporting on the distribution of these funds within each locality.

Sincerely,

[Name, Title]



**MAT-SU HEALTH  
FOUNDATION**

777 N. Crusey Street, Suite A201 • Wasilla, AK 99654  
Phone: (907) 352-2863 • Fax (907) 352-2865  
www.healthymatsu.org

May 21, 2021

Mayor Glenda Ledford  
City of Wasilla  
290 E. Herning Avenue  
Wasilla, AK 99654

Dear Mayor Ledford,

As you are aware, the City of Wasilla decided not to apply for the \$413,017.11 in CDC Health Equity grant funding allotted to its jurisdiction. Along with Palmer and Houston, the City of Wasilla hoped that the Mat-Su Borough could apply for and manage the CDC funds for each of these jurisdictions. The Mat-Su Borough determined it did not have the legal authority to apply for and manage these non-areawide designated funds. As a result, this funding has gone unappropriated to all the cities.

To rectify this situation and ensure these funds get deployed for maximum health and economic benefit to these jurisdictions, the State of Alaska Department of Health & Social Services (DHSS) proffered a work-around. In this scenario, the State of AK DHSS would enter into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the Mat-Su Health Foundation (MSHF) to distribute these funds across the various jurisdictions. The contractual arrangement for these federal funds would happen between the State and MSHF, and MSHF would have to meet the same requirements for the funding that the cities would have had to meet. As a recap, the purpose of this CDC Health Equity grant funding is to implement community-driven strategies that will increase access to COVID-19 testing, build capacity to increase access to COVID-19 vaccinations, and implement strategies that decrease health inequities in the community, as well as other COVID-19 related recovery and prevention strategies.

Ideally, MSHF will strategically deploy these funds in ways that build out our public health infrastructure and organizational capacity in Mat-Su so that we are better prepared to handle future public health crises. Much of this provider infrastructure is located within or just outside the city limits of Wasilla. We would like to secure short term and long-term health gains from these investments. These funds will help us to get more people vaccinated and tested to end the pandemic and prevent future lockdowns that hurt our businesses and residents. Once again, most of this retail and business infrastructure is located within or near the City of Wasilla, but it is accessed by residents across the borough. Even gains in vaccination rates outside the city limits will provide greater protection to the economic enterprise within the city limits.

Since literally every jurisdiction in America is facing this challenge, we are learning what has worked in other areas with similar demographics and geography. We are networking with colleagues, AK public health officials, and the Mat-Su Vaccine Coalition to ensure we are coordinating our efforts. We are also making sure that we understand how parallel federal funding to tribes and to our Federally Qualified Health Centers dovetails with this appropriation to maximize wins for Mat-Su. One of these FQHC's is located within the City of Wasilla and one just outside the city limits.

*"Improving the health and wellness of Alaskans living in the Mat-Su!"*



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We are launching preliminary outreach to testing and vaccine providers to understand their needs and the barriers their patients are facing to get vaccinated or tested. We may conduct some localized focus groups and surveys or find other ways to get citizen input. We will aim to engage different sectors in this cause like the business community, chambers of commerce, nonprofit sector, faith community, and even sports and recreation organizations. We envision a different strategy and outreach for each of these sectors designed around trusted messengers, strong science, and local values.

We have already launched a local COVID-19 vaccination information call line through Connect Mat-Su, located in the MSHF building within the city. We will use some of the funds to cover dedicated work hours for Connect Mat-Su and Mat-Su Health Foundation staff working on this project. We estimate less than 15% of the funds would be allocated to address MSHF capacity to disseminate these funds and also for expenses for service provision reimbursable under the grant guidelines. We will track these dollars and provide reports that show what businesses and agencies received the funds, where those entities are located, and what populations were served. We are happy to provide copies of our grant reporting to the State to city officials as well.

Funding will only be awarded in accordance with allowable expenses. No funding will be awarded for non-allowed expenses such as incentives to individuals in exchange for getting a vaccination under this funding; vehicle purchase; indirect costs associated with award; hospital bills or insurance claims; clinical care; large-scale research; food and water for events; or fundraising/lobbying.

This is a huge undertaking with lots of challenges. The Mat-Su has the lowest vaccination rate in the state. The Mat-Su Health Foundation Board of Directors held a special board meeting to deliberate about this undertaking and its ramifications for our staff and other projects. The MSHF Board formally voted on May 20, 2021 to give staff the authority to execute this agreement with the State and to prioritize this work to improve the health of the Mat-Su community. We are happy to answer questions or speak with you further about this opportunity.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Ripley  
President & Chief Executive Officer

*"Improving the health and wellness of Alaskans living in the Mat-Su!"*