

Rasmuson Foundation

301 West Northern Lights Boulevard, Suite 400, Anchorage, AK 99503

Phone/Fax: 907.297.2700

Email: rasmusonfdh@rasmuson.org Website: www.rasmuson.org

Jenny Rasmuson established Rasmuson Foundation in 1955 to honor her late husband, E.A. Today the organization remains a family foundation with eight family members serving on its 14-member Board of Directors. Rasmuson Foundation is a catalyst to promote a better life for Alaskans. The foundation pursues its mission through responsive grantmaking, proactive initiatives, and public policy engagement. Because there are few private philanthropies in Alaska, the foundation deploys a nimble grantmaking strategy for broad geographic and programmatic reach and impact.

Program Information: Alaska is at the forefront of health care innovation due to the need for services in very remote, high-cost communities with limited access to direct care. The foundation builds strong partnerships with nonprofits and local leaders, and is responsive to evolving needs and innovation. Health grants are made throughout Alaska, and, as a result, the foundation is one of the leading grantmakers to Alaska Native/Native American projects in the country.

► Financial Information:

Total Assets: \$650 million (FY 2014)

Amount Dedicated to Health-Related Grants: \$6.5 million (FY 2014)

► Special Initiatives and/or Representative Health and Human Services Grants:

- **Addressing Alaska's Drinking Problem** – With private and public partners, the foundation has founded Recover Alaska to move the needle on one of the state's top health issues—excessive consumption of alcohol. The initiative has deployed four early strategies: polling and advocacy, social norms campaigns, working with media organizations to raise issue awareness, and improving access to information on prevention and treatment.
- **Increasing Rural Oral Health Access** – Remote areas of the state have historically had little access to regular dental care and, as a result, suffered some of the country's highest rates of decay and disease. The **Alaska Dental Health Aide Therapist** program pioneered the dental therapist workforce model in the United States. Evaluation of the program has found that therapists are providing effective, highest-quality oral health care to 89 Alaska communities.
- **Transforming Health Care Delivery** – By taking ownership of its own health system, the Alaska Native-owned

Southcentral Foundation (Anchorage, AK) has transformed a troubled IHS-run system into a high-performing, patient-led medical home model. With investment from Rasmuson Foundation, this organization is developing a teaching institute in response to international demand for replication and dissemination of its Nuka Primary Care model.

- **Incenting public investment in emergency shelter maintenance** – Alaska's network of 22 domestic violence shelters constantly operates at or above capacity. Deferred maintenance or capital improvements often go unaddressed because of cost or lack of private fundraising opportunity in remote communities, or because communities lack specialized skills to undertake the work, such as repairing electronic security systems. A \$2 million investment of state funds incentivized by a Rasmuson Foundation dollar-for-dollar match will provide repairs and renovations, project management, and oversight.
- **Health Clinic Construction** – Since 2002 the foundation has invested more than \$15 million to jointly fund the construction of more than 30 health clinics that provide direct access to primary care and behavioral health services to rural residents. Additional support from the foundation-supported Pre-Development program provides technical assistance to ensure that facilities are right-sized and sustainable.

Most Pressing Health and Human Services Issues in the Community:

“Leading social change means trying new strategies, investing in innovators, and expecting better outcomes. We employ all of Rasmuson Foundation’s assets—grantmaking, relationships, thought leadership—in pursuit of our mission. Through this all-in approach, disparities in health outcomes that separate Alaska from other states are shrinking.”

Diane Kaplan
President & CEO

