COVID-19 response projects are funded in latest grant awards

Anchorage, AK – A second round of funding from an Alaska healthcare partnership includes two projects specific to the COVID-19 pandemic and others that will improve access to healthcare across Alaska.

A grants committee on April 30 approved 12 grants totaling more than $550,000 that will address needs from the Far North to Southeast Alaska to Kenai Peninsula. Funding comes from the Premera Rural Health Care Fund.

In Utqiaġvik, Arctic Slope Native Association was awarded $25,000 for oxygen bottles in preparation to care for COVID-19 patients. Bartlett Regional Hospital in Juneau will receive $65,316 for a triage tent to help with COVID-19 response. Other communities supported include Hughes in the Interior, which will renovate its health clinic; Maniilaq Association, which is receiving funds for defibrillators for Kotzebue and surrounding communities; and the upper Kuskokwim River community of McGrath, where Southcentral Foundation will install a back-up generator at the health center. Mobile X-ray units were approved for health providers in Naknek and Homer.

Premera Blue Cross Blue Shield of Alaska established the time-limited grant program in late 2019, providing $3 million to improve access to care in Alaska communities. The Premera Rural Health Care Fund is being administered by Rasmuson Foundation and The Alaska Community Foundation.

The awards announced today mark the second round of funding through this program. Applications are accepted year-round. Learn more and apply for funding through The Alaska Community Foundation grant portal.

A complete list of the grants approved is attached. An announcement of first-round awards can be found here.

About Premera Blue Cross

Premera Blue Cross, a not-for-profit, independent licensee of the Blue Cross Blue Shield Association based in Mountlake Terrace, Wash., is a leading health plan in the Pacific Northwest, providing comprehensive health benefits and tailored services to approximately 2 million people, from individuals to Fortune 100 companies.
About Rasmuson Foundation
Through grantmaking and initiatives, Rasmuson Foundation aims to promote a better life for all Alaskans with investments of $25 million to $30 million a year. Main funding areas are the arts, housing, homelessness, education, healthcare and organizational development. The foundation was created in 1955 by Jenny Rasmuson to honor her late husband, E.A. Rasmuson.

About The Alaska Community Foundation
Established in 1995, The Alaska Community Foundation (ACF) cultivates, celebrates, and sustains all forms of philanthropy to strengthen Alaska’s communities forever. ACF also manages the Pick.Click.Give program and the Philanthropy Hub.