



June 16, 2020

Mayor Bryce Ward  
FNSB Assembly Members

Mayor Jim Matherly  
Fairbanks City Council Members

Mayor Michael Welch  
North Pole City Council Members

*Sent electronically*

**Subject: CARES Act Support for Local Public Health**

Dear Greater Fairbanks Government Leaders,

The Greater Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce urges you to work together across all levels of local government to support our local healthcare system by fulfilling Foundation Health Partners' (FHP) aid request with CARES Act funds.

Direct funding support to FHP is the only way to maintain a viable healthcare delivery system in Interior Alaska. When the COVID-19 health emergency began, FHP made a mission-driven decision to support the health of our community at their expense, even though it was not their official role. Without their efforts, our community would have struggled even more to combat the disease and to "flatten the curve" enough to safely begin reopening. Providing financial support in these circumstances supports our community's health and wellbeing.

FHP's request for CARES Act funds is necessary to bridge the revenue shortfall directly caused by State Health Mandate #5. In a major health crisis, labor costs for FHP are not scalable based on revenues the way they would be for other businesses. They did not have the option to reduce staff when revenues fell. Because there is not a public health department or facility in Fairbanks, COVID-19 response required FHP to maintain, reassign, and expand staff in certain areas to prepare for a possible surge of patients.

At its heart, the CARES Act is a pass-through grant to support local COVID-19 response. In Fairbanks, the direct health response came from FHP. In other

## EXECUTIVE PARTNERS

### DIAMOND

Alaska Airlines  
Denali State Bank  
Foundation Health Partners  
Fairbanks Memorial Hospital, TVC Orthopedics &  
Sportsmedicine  
Mt. McKinley Bank  
Vivlamore Companies

### PLATINUM

Alyeska Pipeline Service Co.  
ConocoPhillips  
Doyon, Limited  
Fairbanks Daily News-Miner  
Golden Heart Utilities  
Kinross Fort Knox Mine  
Lockheed Martin  
MAC Federal Credit Union

### GOLD

Alaska Executive Search  
BP Exploration  
Carlson Center  
Design Alaska  
Doyon Utilities LLC  
First National Bank Alaska  
Matson Alaska  
Northern Star Pogo LLC  
TOTE Maritime Alaska  
Usibelli Coal Mine  
WAL-MART Stores, Inc.  
Westmark Fairbanks Hotel &  
Fairbanks Princess Riverside Lodge

### SILVER

Ahna Incorporated  
Alaska USA  
Alaska Railroad  
Ambler Metals  
AT&T  
Costco Wholesale  
Crowley Fuels Alaska  
Everts Air Cargo, Everts Air AK  
Exclusive Paving/University Redi-Mix  
Fairbanks Natural Gas  
Flowline Alaska  
GCI  
Gene's Chrysler, Jeep & Dodge  
Golden Valley Electric Association  
Hale & Associates, Inc.  
Hilcorp Alaska, LLC  
HUB International  
JL Properties, Inc.  
Key Bank  
LifeMed Alaska  
Lynden  
McDonald's of Fairbanks  
Northrim Bank  
Personnel Plus  
Seekins Ford Lincoln  
Sourdough Fuel  
Spirit of Alaska Federal Credit Union  
TDL Staffing  
Tower Hill Mines-Livengood Gold Project  
Trilogy Metals  
University of Alaska Fairbanks  
Verizon Wireless  
Wells Fargo Bank Alaska  
Yukon Title Company



communities, a public health department would have taken responsibility for actions like staffing an information hotline on COVID-19, establishing an alternative care facility in case the hospital becomes overwhelmed, and contract tracing to identify and isolate people at risk. FHP used their stockpile of beds and supplies, along with FHP manpower, to set up the Carlson Center as our community alternate care facility (not a contractor with purchased supplies like the Anchorage Municipality was forced to do at a cost of \$1.2 million). In communities with a public health department, the local government's CARES Act funds could go directly to reimburse these government functions. In Fairbanks, these functions were performed by FHP through the first half 2020. It is highly likely these public health functions will continue to fall to FHP in the months or year ahead given no plans for the state to establish an appropriately sized public health department or facility in the Interior.

Many worthy organizations are requesting assistance at this time, including other Chamber members. We do not intend to downplay their needs. However, in the time of a health crisis, we simply do not have a viable response without a hospital, not to mention the dozens of clinics under the FHP umbrella whose highly trained personnel staffed our community's COVID-19 response.

As our local government representatives, the Fairbanks Chamber urges you to collectively fund the request from FHP in full. A dedicated portion of CARES Act funding provided to our community can and should be used to fund past, present, and future disease response by FHP.

The Greater Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce represents over 650 business members throughout Interior Alaska. We work to advocate for the best business environment, promote economic strength and growth for Interior Alaska, and to develop the resources and networks enterprising people use to share knowledge.

We look forward to working with you as we move forward to economic recovery. Please let us know if we can provide any further information or insight from the Interior business community as you move forward with this process.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marisa Sharrah".

Marisa Sharrah  
President/CEO

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sabrina Binkley".

Sabrina Binkley  
Board Chair