

Sponsored by: Administration

**CITY OF WHITTIER, ALASKA
RESOLUTION 045 -2021**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WHITTIER,
ALASKA, AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO APPLY FOR A
STATE OF ALASKA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT
TO BENEFIT WHITTIER'S LOW- AND MODERATE-INCOME
POPULATION**

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development has announced an opportunity for local governments to apply for grant funding up to \$850,000, with statewide competitive grant funding of \$3.1 million available; and

WHEREAS, to be eligible to apply for these funds, a community must be identified by census data as being at least 51% low-to-moderate income and Whittier's community score is 59.32%, qualifying for the program; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the grant is to fund activities that benefit low- and moderate-income persons; and

WHEREAS, Whittier lacks basic facilities for families, children, and vulnerable residents to safely engage in indoor or outdoor activities, having no community or recreation facilities and having a unique land ownership problem where more than 50% of the property is owned by the Alaska Railroad and other non-profits, generating no property or sales taxes to support local government programs and facilities; and

WHEREAS, Whittier is literally one of the wettest cities in America, with average annual precipitation of 185 inches and 22 feet of snow per year (1,000 times the national average), with routine winds in excess of 60 mph, making indoor recreation opportunities an important factor in supporting positive mental health and improved physical wellbeing for our residents; and

WHEREAS, Whittier has a population of 277 with most residents residing in a single building, with an inadequate air handling system to address the COVID19 virus, and in desperate need of upgrade; and

WHEREAS, the community has identified a need for both indoor and outdoor playground equipment, a rock-climbing wall, trail improvements and air handling improvements to promote and encourage healthy lifestyles and recreation opportunities, especially given the need for social distancing resulting from the pandemic.

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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Whittier City Council that the City Manager is authorized to apply for a State of Alaska Community Development Block Grant to benefit Whittier's low- and moderate-income population by building connected activities within walking distance of every home.

PASSED AND APPROVED by a duly constituted quorum of the Whittier City Council on this 23rd day of November, 2021.

THE CITY OF WHITTIER, ALASKA



Dave Dickason, Mayor

AYES: Wagner, Blair, McCord, Denmark, Dickason

NAYS:

ABSENT: Shen, Pinguoch

ABSTAIN:

ATTEST:



Jackie C. Wilde

Assistant City Manager/Acting City Clerk