

**Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development****Grants to Unincorporated Communities (AS 37.05.317)****Grant Recipient: Venetie****Federal Tax ID: 92-005837****Project Title:****Project Type: New Construction and Land Acquisition**

## Venetie - New Clinic Match

**State Funding Requested: \$200,000****House District: 6 / C**

One-Time Need

**Brief Project Description:**

Provide cash match to meet Denali Commission's 20% match requirement for new clinic project.

**Funding Plan:**

Total Project Cost: \$2,150,000

Funding Already Secured: (\$1,950,000)

FY2013 State Funding Request: (\$200,000)

Project Deficit: \$0

*Funding Details:**FY2010 Legislative CIP - \$150,000**80% pending Denali Commission new clinic funding pending Village Council provision of 20% match.***Detailed Project Description and Justification:**

Venetie Traditional Council is working to finalize its Denali Commission required new clinic business plan and raise its 20% cash match to enable the project to enter the construction phase starting 2013.

Venetie Village Council (VVC) is working with the Denali Commission and the ANTHC to plan for a new 2068 s.f. primary health care which has an estimated total development cost estimate of \$2,150,852. VVC expects to receive 80% funding from the Denali Commission in the amount of \$1,850,000 leaving a 20% balance that VVC must provide. As a result, VVC is requesting a \$150,000 Legislative Capital Improvement Project (CIP) appropriation to provide match funding to obtain a Denali Commission Health Facilities Grant. The planned Venetie Health Care Clinic will provide a "one-stop" primary health care services facility for the residents of Venetie (224 population). The planned new building will be designed to house the following health care services:

- Primary health care clinic
- Behavioral health services program
- Dedicated dental room

The planned Venetie Health Care Clinic will provide useful facility space at the least cost by replacing the existing 20 year old existing log clinic building which is inferior, too small, energy inefficient and has been recommended for replacement by the Denali Commission's "Code and Conditions" survey of it. The planned new health care clinic will provide the following spaces:

Purpose	Room Space	Total Space
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1) 2 each CHAP/Itinerant Exam Rooms	=	290 sq. ft.
2) 1 each Behavioral Health Room	=	188 sq. ft.
2) Clinic Waiting Room	=	163 sq. ft.
3) Clinic Office	=	165 sq. ft.
4) Dental Room	=	155 sq. ft.
5) 2 each Unisex/Handicapped Toilets	=	210 sq. ft.
6) Janitor Closet	=	40 sq. ft.
7) Pharmacy Area	=	55 sq. ft.
8) Mechanical/Electrical	=	70 sq. ft.
9) Itinerant Quarters/kitchen/laundry	=	230 sq. ft.
10) Hallways/Arctic Entry/Morgue	=	502 sq. ft.

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Total Space: 2,068 sq. ft.

### Community Profile

Venetie is located on the north side of the Chandalar River, 45 miles northwest of Fort Yukon. The Chandalar River is ice-free from the end of May through mid-September. Known to early explorers as Old Robert's Village or Chandalar Village, Venetie was founded in 1895 by a man named Old Robert who chose Venetie because of its plentiful fish and game. In 1899, the U.S. Geological Survey noted about 50 Natives living on the Chandalar, some in small settlements of cabins about 7 miles above the mouth of the River, but most in the mountainous part of the country beyond the Yukon Flats. In 1905, Venetie was a settlement of a half a dozen cabins and 25 or 30 residents. In 1943, the Venetie Indian Reservation was established, due to the combined efforts of the residents of Venetie, Arctic Village, Christian Village and Robert's Fish Camp, who worked together to protect their land for subsistence use. At about this same time, a school was established at Venetie, encouraging additional families to settle in the village. Eventually an airstrip, post office and store were built. When the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) was passed in 1971, Venetie and Arctic Village opted for title to the 1.8 million acres of land in the former Reservation, which they own as tenants in common through the Native Village of Venetie Tribal Government.

Venetie Village Council is the sole local governmental unit at Venetie. The population of the community consists of 96.5% Alaska Native or part Native. Venetie is comprised largely of descendants of the Neets'ai Gwich'in, and to a lesser extent the Gwichyaa and Dihaii Gwich'in. Village. Subsistence activities are an important part of the local culture. During the 2000 U.S. Census, total housing units numbered 79. U.S. Census data for Year 2000 showed 44 residents as employed. The unemployment rate at that time was 36.23 percent, although 69.44 percent of all adults were not in the work force. The median household income was \$21,000, per capita income was \$7,314, and 42.79 percent of residents were living below the poverty level.

Water is derived from a well near the Chandalar River, then is treated and stored in a tank. Residents haul water and honey buckets. Currently, 8 homes have functioning plumbing. A flush/haul system is under construction in Venetie; 6 homes are currently served. The Stanley Frank Washeteria and Water Treatment Plant were recently completed. It uses a small solar power system to provide some electricity. Electricity is provided by Venetie Village Electric. There is one school located in the community, attended by 44 students. The Myra Roberts Clinic (907-849-8712) primary local primary health care. Venetie is classified as a distressed community by the Denali Commission.

Venetie is heavily dependent on subsistence. Salmon, whitefish, moose, caribou, bear, waterfowl and small game provide meat sources. Most employment is through the school, clinic, post office, store and Village Council. The National Guard has used Venetie as a cold weather survival training school. BLM employs residents as fire fighters seasonally. The Village is interested in developing a small mill to process local lumber for housing and other projects, and in tourism promotion. Cabins manufactured from local logs could house visitors, developing arts and crafts activities, cultural activities and a museum.

Access to Venetie is almost exclusively by air. The Venetie Tribal Council owns and operates the 4,100' long by 65' wide dirt/gravel airstrip. The Chandalar River provides access by boat from May to October, but there is no barge service, due to shallow water. Motor bikes, 4-wheelers, snowmobiles and dog teams are used for local travel.

#### Needs Statement

Venetie's existing clinic was built in 1988 utilizing locally harvested logs. The clinic has lack of storage space, lack of adequate medical supplies storage, is not an ADA accessible facility and has no trauma room which prevents the staff from providing to the Village an appropriate level of daily and emergency services according the Denali Commission sponsored "Code and Conditions" survey of the facility. This survey also indicated that the existing clinic has marginal insulation in the floors, walls and roof and is energy inefficient. Due to the above deficiencies and others, the "Code and Conditions" survey recommended that the existing clinic be replaced with a 2000 s.f. modern clinic following Denali Commission "clinic prototype" design and criteria. Since then, the Denali Commission has expended \$98,678 to complete a new clinic design.

As discussed above, the general lack of decent, modern clinic facility space in Venetie Village is hindering the performance of primary health care services and as a result, the health and welfare of Village residents is being harmed and threatened.

#### Project Timeline:

20% cash match funding secured fall, 2012  
 New clinic business plan approved fall, 2012  
 Final design completed winter, 2012/2013  
 Construction start summer, 2013  
 Clinic completed spring, 2014  
 Project Period 2012 ----- 2014

A-133 Audit Completed

X

#### Entity Responsible for the Ongoing Operation and Maintenance of this Project:

Venetie Traditional Council

**Grant Recipient Contact Information:**

Name:	Venetie Traditional Council
Title:	P.O. Box 81119
Address:	110 2nd. Street Venetie, Alaska 99781
Phone Number:	(907)849-8212
Email:	vvc_epa@yahoo.com

Has this project been through a public review process at the local level and is it a community priority? ☒ Yes ☐ No

**RESOLUTION NUMBER 2012 - 03**

**A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING FY2013 CIP FUNDING FOR THE  
VENETIE NEW HEALTH CARE CLINIC PROJECT  
- NUMBER ONE COMMUNITY PRIORITY**

**WHEREAS**, it is the Venetie Traditional Council's mission, purpose and vision is to improve the health and welfare of the residents of Venetie, and

**WHEREAS**, the Venetie Traditional Council operates and maintains the village's primary health care clinic and which the existing Venetie clinic is small in size, has only one small exam room and the Denali Commission's "code and conditions survey" for the clinic recommended that it be replaced, and

**WHEREAS**, there is also need to have itinerant quarters at the Venetie clinic to accommodate visiting health care providers, and

**WHEREAS**, the Denali Commission has set aside 80% of the required funding to construct a new health clinic at Venetie and is requiring the Venetie Traditional Council to contribute 20% match (\$350,000), and

**WHEREAS**, the Venetie Traditional Council has previously received Alaska Legislature FY2010 CIP in the amount of \$150,000 for new clinic match but still requires another \$200,000 to fulfill the required match contribution of the Denali Commission.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Venetie Traditional Council hereby certifies that it has received and considered citizen comments and hereby declares that the planned Venetie New Health Care Clinic Project is the village's top community development priority, and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Venetie Traditional Council hereby respectfully requests a Legislative CIP appropriation in the amount of \$200,000 for purposes of meeting the Denali Commission's required 20% match and which will enable the Venetie New Health Care Clinic Project to be constructed during 2012 through 2013.

This resolution was duly adopted by the Venetie Traditional Council at a meeting held at the Village Council's office in Venetie, Alaska on the 4<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2012 by the following vote: Ayes 7, Nays 0, Abstain     .

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First Chief

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Attest

*Will Frank TA*

*Egner D. Enick*

*2-03-2012*