

# Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly

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## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Brent Johnson, Assembly President  
Members, Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly

**FROM:** Cindy Ecklund, Assembly Member *CE*

**DATE:** November 30, 2023

**SUBJECT:** Resolution 2023-082, Expressing Support for Seward Community Health Center Building a New Clinic Building at 431-501 First Avenue, Seward, Alaska (Ecklund)

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Seward Community Health Center, Inc. (SCHC) was established in 2010 through grass roots effort of the City of Seward and local residents to improve the quality of primary care for the community. The City of Seward and SCHC were recipients of grant funding from the U.S. Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA) through a Co-Applicant Agreement from 2013-2023. SCHC has been operating without direct City of Seward financial support since 2021. The City of Seward and SCHC mutually terminated the Co-Applicant Agreement effective February 1, 2023, since which time SCHC has been operating under HRSA as a standalone entity.

SCHC has outgrown its existing space co-located with Providence Seward Medical Center, which is limiting SCHC's ability to provide healthcare services. In 2017, SCHC purchased a one-acre property at 431-501 First Avenue, Seward, Alaska with the intent of building a new clinic. SCHC has worked with NorthForm Architecture firm to produce a Program of Requirements (Needs Assessment), Conceptual Drawings, and Site Plan for a new clinic. SCHC has worked with Agnew::Beck Consulting to produce a feasibility study showing a 19,437 ft<sup>2</sup> clinic could be profitable within five years. SCHC has secured \$5 million in Congressionally Directed Spending toward the overall estimated project cost of \$20 million. The City of Seward's 2030 Comprehensive Plan Update indicates the City of Seward values effective, accessible, and affordable healthcare.

This Resolution would acknowledge the importance of providing quality primary care for the residents and visitors of the greater Seward area and express support for SCHC to pursue funding for the project.

Your consideration is appreciated.