

## Project Abstract

**Project Title:** Prince of Wales Health Network (POWHN)  
**Applicant Name:** SouthEast Alaska Regional Health Consortium (SEARHC)  
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The Prince of Wales Health Network (POWHN) was established in 2008 to address population health improvements, including expanding access to, coordinating, and improving the quality of essential health care services for the residents of Prince of Wales. One of the members of the proposed Network, SouthEast Alaska Regional Health Consortium (SEARHC), will serve as the applicant agency on behalf of the POWHN. Prince of Wales Island is considered a rural or frontier, underserved Alaskan community, as transportation access to the island is limited to airplane or boat. The community is currently served by 6, independently operating health care service agencies: a Tribal health organization operating a medical center and 3 community health centers, a small critical access hospital, a mental health counseling service organization, a public health office, a private pharmacy and a private dental clinic. Through a network of providers, this project proposes to increase access to prevention activities for youth by developing an evidenced-based, peer-driven leadership program to support and prevent youth in adversity and build community resiliency, in culturally appropriate ways. Project goals for the Network include: 1) Establish and integrate youth leadership to lead and cultivate behavioral change relating to suicide, alcohol and substance abuse, and domestic violence; 2) Increase community awareness and support, and build resiliency in youth and families; and 3) Develop programming sustainability through the Network members.

The POWHN is comprised of 5 key healthcare agency stakeholders: SEARHC, a non-profit tribal health consortium; PeaceHealth, a Washington non-profit corporation; Craig Public Health Center, a State of Alaska Department of Health and Social Services Public Health Center; Community Connections, a non-profit social services support organization; and Whale Tail Pharmacy, a for-profit business. The mission of the POWHN is to *collaborate to improve healthcare on Prince of Wales Island*. The vision of the POWHN is *a sustainable and continuing partnership between the healthcare providers and communities of Prince of Wales Island, resulting in improved access to care and optimal health outcomes for the island residents*.

The POWHN activities will focus on the following **Statutory Charge: Strengthen the rural health care system as a whole**. Additionally, the Network planning activities will support the following Rural Health Network Development Goal: *Integrated and coordinated care delivery that improves population health and promotes patient engagement decisions*. **Funding Preference Request:** SEARHC is requesting a funding preference based on Prince of Wales Island qualifications: **#1: Primary Care Health Professionals Shortage Area (HPSA), Mental Health Professional Shortage Area (MHPSA); #2: Medically Underserved Community/Populations (MUC/MUPs); #3: Focus on primary care and wellness and prevention strategies.**