

Alaska Department of Education CATEGORIES OF GRANTS

AS 14.11.013(a)(1) - The department shall verify that each proposed project meets the criteria established under AS 14.11.014(b) and qualifies as a project required to accomplish one of the following. Projects can combine work in the different categories with majority of work establishing the project's type. For the purpose of review and evaluation, projects, which include significant work elements from categories other than the project's primary category, will be evaluated as mixed scope projects.

A. "Avert imminent danger or correct life threatening situations." This category is generally referred to as, "Health and Life Safety." A project classified under "A" must be documented as having unsafe conditions that threaten the physical welfare of the occupants. Examples might be that seismic design of structure is inadequate; that required fire alarm and/or suppressant systems are non-existent or inoperative; or that the structure and materials are deteriorated or damaged seriously to the extent that they pose a health/life-safety risk. The district must document what actions it has taken to temporarily mitigate a life-threatening situation.

B. "House students who would otherwise be unhoused." This category is referred to as "Unhoused Students." A project to be classified under "B" must have inadequate space to carry out the educational program required for the present and projected student population or the existing facility must qualify for replacement-in-lieu-of-renewal. Projects will be considered for replacement-in-lieu-of-renewal when project costs exceed 70% of the current replacement cost of the existing facility, based on a twenty-year life cycle cost analysis, which includes disposition costs of the existing facility. Documentation should be based on the current Department of Education Space Guidelines. (Refer to AAC 31.020)

C. "Protection of the structure of existing school facilities." This category is intended to include projects that will protect the structure, enclosure, foundations and systems of a facility from deterioration and ensure continued use as an educational facility. Work on individual facility systems may be combined into one project. However, the work on each system must be able to be independently justified and exceed \$25,000. The category is for major projects, which are not a result of inadequate preventive, routine and/or custodial maintenance. An example could be a twenty-year-old roof that has been routinely patched and flood coated, but is presently cracking and leaking in numerous locations. A seven-year-old roof that has numerous leaks would normally only require preventive maintenance and would not qualify. In addition, no new space for unhoused students is permitted in this category, limiting its ability to be combined with other project types.

D. "Correct building code deficiencies that require major repair or rehabilitation in order for the facility to continue to be used for the educational program." This category, Building Code Deficiencies, was previously referred to as "Code Upgrade." The key words are "major repair." A "D" project corrects major building, fire, mechanical, electrical, environmental, disability (ADA) and other conditions required by codes. Work on individual facility systems may be combined into one project. However, the work on each system must be able to be independently justified and exceed \$25,000. An example could be making all corridors one hour rated. Making one or two toilet stalls accessible would not fit this category. In addition, no new space for unhoused students is permitted in this category, limiting its ability to be combined with other project types.

E. "Achieve an operating cost saving." This category is intended to improve the efficiency of a facility and therefore, save money. Examples that might qualify are increasing insulation, improving doors and windows, and modifying boilers and heat exchange units for more energy efficiency. The district must document a cost benefit ratio less than 1, considering both capital and operating dollars.

F. "Modify or rehabilitate facilities for purpose of improving the instructional unit."

Category "F", Improve Instructional Program, was previously referred to as "Functional Upgrade." This category is limited to changes or improvements within an existing facility such as, modifications for science programs, computer installation, conversion of space for special education classes, or increase of resource areas.

G. "Meet an educational need not specified in (A)-(F) of this paragraph, identified by the department." Any situation not covered by the above categories and mandated by the Department of Education. (Currently, there are no such mandates.)