

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Department Goal

The primary goal of the Department of Health & Human Services for the 2004-2009 Capital Improvement Budget/Program is to replace the current public health facility located at 9th Avenue and L Street to meet the following objectives:

- to make more efficient use of space and to allow centralization of public health programs/services so as to better serve the public, and
- to significantly reduce the amount of operations and maintenance costs currently experienced.

Originally constructed as a community hospital in 1967, the facility is inadequate for its present use. The municipal Department of Facility & Fleet Management has identified approximately \$2.7 million of repair and upgrade projects that address the most immediate code correction and safety concerns associated with the building. However, these projects represent a partial, short-term solution to the current inadequacies of the facility, not a long-term solution.

The 2001 State Legislature provided \$200,000 in the form of a grant to evaluate the feasibility of co-locating municipal and university health programs in a facility located in the University-Medical Center area. Among the deliverables from the evaluation will be a concept design and preliminary cost estimate for a replacement facility that would house the municipal Department of Health and Human Services.

At this time, the estimated cost of a replacement DHHS facility is \$20-30 million, including design and construction. Efforts are underway to identify funding sources for this project.