

Business Enterprise Program: Facility Development and Equipment Replacement **FY2024 Request: \$1,339,750**
Reference No: 39067

AP/AL: Appropriation **Project Type:** Renewal and Replacement
Category: General Government **Recipient:** Projects as Approved
Location: Statewide **House District:** Statewide (HD 1 - 40)
Impact House District: Statewide (HD 1 - 40) **Contact:** Dan DeBartolo
Estimated Project Dates: 07/01/2023 - 06/30/2028 **Contact Phone:** (907)465-5984

Brief Summary and Statement of Need:

The Business Enterprise Program (AS 23.15.100) provides employment opportunities for blind individuals through the establishment and operation of vending facilities on federal and state properties. This appropriation will pay for construction of new vending facilities, replacement or repair of existing facility equipment, and further development of Business Enterprise Program assets.

Funding:	FY2024	FY2025	FY2026	FY2027	FY2028	FY2029	Total
1004 Gen Fund	\$1,339,750						\$1,339,750
Total:	\$1,339,750	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,339,750

☐ State Match Required
 ☐ One-Time Project
 ☐ Phased - new
 ☐ Phased - underway
 ☒ Ongoing
 0% = Minimum State Match % Required
 ☐ Amendment
 ☐ Mental Health Bill

Operating & Maintenance Costs:

	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Staff</u>
Project Development:	967,250	0
Ongoing Operating:	0	0
One-Time Startup:	372,500	
Totals:	1,339,750	0

Prior Funding History / Additional Information:

Project Description/Justification:

The Business Enterprise Program (BEP) provides employment opportunities for blind and significantly disabled individuals through the establishment and operation of vending facilities on state and federal properties. This capital appropriation will allow for the refurbishment of antiquated sites; replacement of irreparable and outdated equipment; modernizing facilities; and improve current operations.

Replacing aged equipment with energy-efficient products will reduce costs to state and federal government facilities that house BEP operations. Ensuring equipment is functional and modernized will ensure that BEP revenues and revenues to BEP partnerships are sustainable and will help generate additional revenue to the vendors and to the program. Upgraded equipment and facilities will generate increased foot traffic and increased profits in the long term, which will invigorate the program and strengthen blind and disabled vendors' ability to be self-employed and self-supporting.

Ongoing operating costs for the equipment will come from the Business Enterprise Program Revolving Fund, which is funded by receipts and chargebacks from businesses and existing operating appropriations from vending operations managed through the program.