Cold Climate Housing Research Center to Build Addition
For Expanding Work on Rural Housing

FAIRBANKS, AK – The US Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration (www.eda.gov) has announced a $1.9 million grant to fund a building addition at the Cold Climate Housing Research Center (CCHRC) in Fairbanks. The Wallace Foundation contributed an additional $100,000 toward making the addition possible.

“The addition to Cold Climate Housing Research Center’s (CCHRC) Research and Testing Facility (RTF) will provide a place for collaboration between agency stakeholders, our staff and the diverse peoples of Alaska to create and apply adaptive responses that effectively address the daunting challenges Northern communities face from climate, economic and cultural change,” said Jack Hébert, President and CEO of Cold Climate Housing Research Center.

Named the Sustainable Northern Communities Center, the 7,500-square-foot structure will be an addition to CCHRC’s existing 15,000-square-foot Research and Testing Facility. The building addition will be comprised of office, classroom, design, collaborative, and research space to enable people to work together to address Alaska’s most immediate housing and related infrastructure challenges.

Alan Wilson, President and Owner of Alaska Renovators in Juneau, and CCHRC Board Chair, said, “we are grateful to the EDA and the Wallace Foundation for investing in the Sustainable Northern Communities Center and the vision of forming partnerships to improve sustainability and enhance economic opportunities.”

The Cold Climate Housing Research Center is a non-profit institution founded in 1999 by Alaska homebuilders and continuing to receive major support from Alaska Housing Finance Corporation. CCHRC’s mission is “Promoting and advancing the development of healthy, durable, and sustainable shelter for Alaskans and other circumpolar people.” The CCHRC Research and Testing Facility opened in 2007 and houses two laboratories and administrative office space. More than 1,200 sensors throughout the building allow staff to monitor and analyze the structure’s performance. In August 2010 the RTF was named one of Siemens Corporation’s top four “Smartest Buildings in America.”

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