



# KENAI

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Paul Ostrander  
City Manager

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## **City of Kenai uses CARES Act funds for mental health counseling services**

The City of Kenai has signed an agreement with Peninsula Community Health Services (PCHS) so that city residents in need of counseling services due to the COVID-19 public health emergency can receive assistance without worrying about insurance coverage, deductibles and co-pays.

The City Council on Oct. 7 approved spending up to \$50,000 in CARES Act funds to cover the cost of counseling services through an agreement with PCHS. Residents will be eligible to receive up to six sessions with a behavioral health care professional through the end of the year, regardless of any insurance coverage or their ability to pay.

“With all the job losses, cuts to income, household financial uncertainty and health uncertainty due by the virus, the City wanted to step up and ensure that no Kenai resident who needs help goes without because of the cost,” said City Manager Paul Ostrander. “The federal CARES Act money is intended to help communities get past the public health emergency, and that includes mental health, too.”

Anyone feeling stress or anxiety, or who just wants to talk about the problems and changes brought on by the virus and its impacts on everyday life is encouraged to contact PCHS to set up an appointment. All information will be kept confidential. The agreement prohibits PCHS from sharing any information with the City.

There is no City application. “People should just call 268-5973 or stop by PCHS at 805 Frontage Road in Kenai and talk with professionals there,” Ostrander said.

The counseling service program will run through Dec. 30.

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News reporters: For more information about the program, contact City Project Lead Larry Persily at [lpersily@kenai.city](mailto:lpersily@kenai.city), or call (907) 283-8226.