

Grant Approval Memo



Grantee: Southcentral Foundation
Request Amount: \$200,000.00
Project Title: Traumatic and Acquired Brain Injury (TABi) Phasic Implementation Plan for Identification, Intervention, and Enhanced Community Infrastructure
Grant Term: 7/1/2026 to 6/30/2027
Fund Source: FY26 Trust Focus Area Strategy Implementation
Trust Staff: Kelda Barstad

Requested Motion:

The Program and Planning Committee recommends that the Board of Trustees approve a \$200,000 authority grant to Southcentral Foundation for the Traumatic and Acquired Brain Injury (TABi) Phasic Implementation Plan for Identification, Intervention, and Enhanced Community Infrastructure grant. These funds will come from the Trust Focus Area Strategy Implementation line of the FY26 budget.

Staff Analysis:

- What does this project do?
Trust funds support a systems-change level pilot project operated by Southcentral Foundation that will identify, assess, and treat brain injuries across the lifespan and train staff in the identification, assessment and treatment of traumatic and Acquired Brain Injuries (TABi).
- Who is receiving the funds?
Southcentral Foundation (SCF) is an Alaska Native-owned nonprofit health care organization established in 1982 under the Tribal authority of Cook Inlet Region, Inc. SCF provides a wide range of health and wellness services to more than 70,000 Alaska Native and American Indian people living in Anchorage, the Mat-Su Borough, and surrounding rural villages across southcentral Alaska. Additionally, this project will serve children empaneled with the Tribal Healthcare system statewide.
- Why is staff recommending this project?
This is the fifth and final year of implementing the pilot project: TABi Phasic Implementation Plan for Identification, Intervention, and Continued Assessment of Capacity and Community Infrastructure Building (the project), which will create and implement processes for early identification and intervention services for TABi that require system-level changes. There are three identified phases: 1) Adults empaneled to SCF clinics residing in the Municipality of Anchorage and the Matanuska-Susitna Borough; 2) Adults empaneled to SCF's rural Community Health Centers; 3) Children empaneled to Alaska's Tribal Healthcare System. The intent of this effort is to ensure that individuals with TABIs are identified and provided supportive services at the earliest point in time possible to maximize their quality of life; the long-term goal is to ensure people served by SCF are routinely screened for TABi and, when indicated, assessed, diagnosed, and referred to services as quickly as possible. This project can be replicated in other regions and health systems.

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As of 6/30/25, the project has served 1893 beneficiaries with brain injuries. Additionally, 117 people have been trained through the project, and 6334 secondary beneficiaries have been impacted.

Data from the most recent report:

To support the TABI grant application, updated encounter data has been compiled using the Health Catalyst system, which provides the most reliable data across key encounter classes: Emergency, Home Health, Inpatient, Observation, Outpatient, and Recurring. Encounters classified as "Preadmit" have been excluded to ensure data integrity.

Calendar Year 2024 Data

- 916 active SCF-empaneled customers with a documented TBI diagnosis had a total of 24,868 encounters. Median encounters: 17
- In contrast, 50,937 SCF-empaneled customers without a TBI diagnosis had 647,417 encounters. Median encounters: 7
- Customers diagnosed with TABI/concussion accounted for 3.70% of all SCF/ANMC encounters, despite representing only 1.77% of the empaneled population.

Partial Year: January 1 – July 31, 2025 Data

- 511 active SCF-empaneled customers with a TBI diagnosis had 12,448 encounters. Median encounters: 14
- 48,505 customers without a TBI diagnosis had 484,235 encounters. Median encounters: 6
- During this period, TABI-diagnosed customers represented 1.04% of the population but accounted for 2.51% of all SCF/ANMC encounters.

This data highlights the disproportionate healthcare utilization among individuals with TABI diagnoses, underscoring the need for targeted services and sustained funding to support this population.

- Will this be a multi-year project?

This is the final year of a five-year project. This FY27 funding application replaces the approval of a budget line-item authority grant, formerly identified in the budget.

Trust Five Year Funding History

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Project Title</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Final Expended</u>
2026	Yeshjesh T'uh Launch Project	\$2,955,983	Open	n/a
2026	Traumatic and Acquired Brain Injury (TABI) Phasic Implementation Plan for Identification, Intervention, and Enhanced Community Infrastructure	\$350,000	Open	n/a
2025	Traumatic and Acquired Brain Injury (TABI) Phasic Implementation Plan	\$500,000	Open	Pending final report due 9/30/2025

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	for Identification, Intervention, and Enhanced Community Infrastructure			
2024	Integrated Parenting & Family Support Services	\$265,000	Closed	\$212,368
2024	Traumatic and Acquired Brain Injury (TABI) Phasic Implementation Plan for Identification, Intervention, and Continued Assessment of Capacity and Community Infrastructure Building	\$500,000	Closed	\$500,000
2023	Traumatic and Acquired Brain Injury (TABI) Early Identification and Intervention Services Planning, Design and Capacity Building	\$100,000	Closed	\$100,000

Comp Plan Identification

Area of Focus	Objective	Comments
Area of Focus 2: Healthcare	2.1 Alaskans have access to and receive quality integrated healthcare services	

Trust Focus Area Connection

Budget Area	Strategy	Comments
Housing & Home & Community Based Services	HHCBS - Not associated with a strategy	

Project Description (from grant application)

Southcentral Foundation (SCF) will use the requested grant funds to continue implementing and expanding best practices at the populational health-based level for the early identification and treatment of Traumatic and Acquired Brain Injury (TABI). This effort builds upon the 2022 TABI Early Identification and Intervention Services Planning, Design, and Capacity Building gap analysis project funded by the Alaska Mental Health Trust.

During this project period, SCF will focus on developing and implementing system-level processes that enable early identification and intervention for individuals with TABI. The project aims to ensure that people with TABI are identified and supported as early as possible to maximize quality of life. Efforts will include community networking and partnerships to sustain success on a statewide level.

The TABI Care Pathways begin with the customer owner (patient) and their primary care team. When a customer owner is diagnosed with, or exhibits symptoms consistent with, a TABI, their care is

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tailored to the specific diagnosis and symptoms, though a formal diagnosis is not required to receive services. A customer owner may not need all available services. The care pathway may include:

- Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (PM&R) physician
- TABI Nurse Case Manager
- Testing Psychologist
- Adult and pediatric rehabilitation services (OT, PT, SLP, EP, ABA, etc.)
- Behavioral health specialty services
- Complementary care (traditional healing, music therapy, talking circles, etc.)
- Community Resource Specialist

Internally, this systems work has resulted in increased ad hoc referrals, stronger connections between inpatient and outpatient services, and strong buy-in from ANMC trauma, stroke, and neurosurgery teams. The Rehabilitation Clinical Core Business Group (Rehab CCBG), established 1 year ago, has allowed these groups to gather and discuss care and clinical pathways monthly. This group oversees clinical quality and serves as the governing body for rehabilitation services practices and data across the ANMC campus. It reports through the functional committee structure and contributes to Board Reports.

In FY26, grant funds will focus on:

- Supporting essential personnel to promote sustainability with testing psychology for Adults in the ASU
- Sustaining and expanding adult SLP services based on the gap analysis and implementation plans developed under previous and current grants

The long-term goal is to close the gaps in care for individuals with brain injury by improving system efficiency, reducing silos, and ensuring timely screening and referral for all TABI patients, ultimately improving outcomes and patient experience.

As part of SCF's SLP program development, SCF has purchased equipment for Fiberoptic Endoscopic Evaluation of Swallowing (FEES), an objective swallow study that enhances dysphagia diagnostics and treatment planning. This technology will serve both statewide pediatric populations and adults within the Anchorage Service Unit, enabling SCF to deliver gold-standard dysphagia care for individuals with traumatic and acquired brain injuries.

Performance Measures

How much did you do?

- a. Number (#) of individuals identified as having a history of head injury.
- b. Number (#) of individuals identified as in need of a Functional Assessment.
- c. Total (#) of individuals participating in the project during the grant term.
- d. Number (#) professionals trained during the grant term.

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How well did you do it?

- a. Provide a narrative describing the timeline, activities, successes, challenges, and any lessons learned during the project. Be sure to provide an electronic copy of any outreach materials that were distributed to customer owners. Additionally, please include an electronic copy of any pre/post-participation data collected and subsequent results.
- b. Number (#) and percentage (%) of participants who felt supported, respected, and encouraged while participating in the project.
- c. Number (#) and percentage (%) of participants who were satisfied with the level of information and support received through their participation in the project.
- d. Define and report SLP-specific metrics determined and collected during the grant term.

Is anyone better off?

- a. Number (#) and percentage (%) of participants who had improvement in one or more indicators of quality of life after participating in the program.
- b. Number (#) and percentage (%) of participants who feel their participation in the course has better prepared them for living with a traumatic or acquired brain injury.
- c. Three statements from participants describing how the information and services received through participation in the program helped prepare them to improve their quality of life and independent functioning.

Sustainability (from grant application)

Yes, ANMC is committed to sustaining these services by incorporating them into both system-level and department-level budgets. Updates are currently underway to reflect this in the Performa.

Testing Psychologist works closely with the project leads to establish and coordinate outreach with community partners, resources, and customer owners. The Testing Psychologist will assist with ordering supplies and coordination of meetings, meeting agendas, meeting notes, and training registration.

Outpatient Physical Therapists Provide assessment and treatment of customers with TABI including but not limited to vestibular treatment, balance training, conditioning, strengthening, persistent pain management, and gradual return to activity.

In addition, they are becoming CBIS Trainers to facilitate project sustainability by training SCF's workforce on TABI, as well as that of other organizations in Alaska serving individuals with a TABI.

Who We Serve (from grant application)

SCF's TABI team will be working with Trust beneficiaries defined as having a traumatic or acquired brain injury (TABI) and an established set of metrics to provide them with treatment and services to improve and protect their quality of life. The caregivers for beneficiaries with TABI that have limited mobility or independence will also be supported and educated by the providers involved with this project. The aim of the TABIwork is to improve care coordination between currently siloed specialty services; protect, maximize and improve the quality of life for

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individuals with TABI; and to reduce or eliminate risks of further TABIs through early identification, prevention services and TABI specific treatments. The Katz Index of Independence of Activities of Daily Living and Instrumental Activities of Daily Living will be an important measure for SCF and ANMC to help gauge the quality and impact of services provided. It is important to note that other Trust beneficiaries will likely benefit as well, since co-occurring disorders are common amongst individuals with TABI, such as Alzheimer's, dementia, developmental delays and mental illness. By pulling in individuals at risk of falling, the intent is to prevent TABIs from occurring in the first place or to keep further TABIs from occurring.

Estimated Numbers of Beneficiaries Served Experiencing (from grant application)

Traumatic Brain Injuries:	350
Secondary Beneficiaries (family members or caregivers providing support to primary beneficiaries):	150
Number of people to be trained	25

Project Budget (from grant application)

Personnel Services Costs	\$174,000.00
Personnel Services Costs (Other Sources)	\$43,500.00
Personnel Services Narrative	<p>Testing Psychologist \$174,000 (including fringe of 33.8%) Testing Psychologist at .79 FTE. Works closely with the project leads to establish and coordinate outreach with community partners, resources, and customer owners. The Testing Psychologist will assist with ordering supplies and coordination of meetings, meeting agendas, meeting notes, and training registration.</p> <p>Outpatient Physical Therapists (0.23 FTE match salary of \$43,500; includes fringe of 33.8%)-Provide assessment and treatment of customer with TABI including but not limited to vestibular treatment, balance training, conditioning, strengthening, persistent pain management, and gradual return to activity.</p> <p>In addition, they are becoming CBIS Trainers to facilitate project sustainability by training SCF's workforce on TBI, as well as that of other organizations in Alaska serving individuals with a TABI.</p>
Other Costs	\$26,000.00
Other Costs (Other Sources)	\$6,500.00

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Other Costs Narrative	Other Costs to be Funded by the Trust. Indirect rate is 34.1% rate, but it is capped at 15% trust employee guidance
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Other Funding Sources (from grant application)

Please see attached	\$0.00
Total Leveraged Funds	Please see attached