

Grant Approval Memo



Grantee: City and Borough of Juneau - Zach Gordon Youth Center
Request Amount: \$120,000.00
Project Title: Gap Funding for Shéiyi Xaat Hit (Spruce Root House) Youth Shelter and Transitional Living Program
Grant Term: 7/1/2026 to 6/30/2027
Trust Staff: Kelda Barstad

Staff Analysis:

- What does this project do?
Trust funds will serve as gap funding to maintain operations of the Juneau-area youth shelter and transitional living program amid inconsistent federal and local funding. This support represents roughly 17 percent of the program's annual personnel costs and is not anticipated to be a problem in the future.
- Who is receiving the funds?
Shéiyi Xaat Hit Youth Shelter and Transitional Living program is operated by the City and Borough of Juneau (CBJ)'s Zach Gordon Youth Center. The shelter has been in operation for six years. The shelter and youth center are located within the Zach Gordon Youth Services Section of the Parks and Recreation Department of the City and Borough of Juneau.
- Why is staff recommending this project?
Shéiyi Xaat Hit Youth Shelter and Transitional Living program provides four emergency shelter beds for youth 10-17, two transitional living beds for youth 16-17, and four transitional living beds for youth 18-21 in an attached apartment with a separate entrance. This project served 60 youth in 2025. All youth in the transitional living program (100%) and a large majority of shelter youth (83%) are Trust beneficiaries, most commonly those experiencing mental illness, trauma, or co-occurring disabilities including developmental disabilities, substance use disorder, and traumatic brain injury. This project aligns with the Housing & Home and Community Based Services focus area and will enhance housing and homeless services provided to Juneau youth.
- Will this be a multi-year project?
This is a one-time (12-month) request.

Trust Five Year Funding History

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Project Title</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Final Expended</u>
2023	Youth Shelter, Transition, and Rapid Rehousing	\$100,000	Closed	\$100,000

Comp Plan Identification

<u>Area of Focus</u>	<u>Objective</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Area of Focus 3: Economic & Social Well-being	3.1 Alaskans have stable, safe housing with appropriate,	

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	community-based social supports to maintain tenancy	
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Trust Focus Area Connection

Budget Area	Strategy	Comments
Housing & Home & Community Based Services	HHCBS - Beneficiaries have safe, stable housing with tenancy supports	

Project Description (from grant application)

Shéiyi Xaat Hit Youth Shelter and Transitional Living program provides four emergency shelter beds for youth 10-17, two transitional living beds for youth 16-17, and four transitional living beds for youth 18-21 in an attached apartment with a separate entrance. All youth engaged in the program receive an array of services to support them in either successfully transitioning home or into other safe and long-term housing. The vast majority of youth we serve are Mental Health Trust beneficiaries.

Shéiyi Xaat Hit utilizes a trauma informed approach to work with youth. This includes but is not limited to the use of restorative practices to regulate the nervous system, help youth engage in place-based activities, and of course, meeting youth where they are at in every interaction. Motivational Interviewing is also regularly used to support young people in making progress toward their goals, as well as learning to apply new skills, follow rules at home, and more.

The work that takes place at Shéiyi Xaat Hit is individualized and focuses on meeting the youth where they are at, resolve the crisis that led to placement and move them forward in their lives. Youth exiting both TLP and Shelter services report a high degree of satisfaction with 98% stating they would recommend these services to a friend in need.

Project Goals

1. To provide youth who have runaway or left home without permission of parents or guardians, have been forced to leave their home, or youth who are living on the street or experiencing homelessness who might otherwise end up in contact with law enforcement or in the child welfare, mental health, or juvenile justice systems, ages 10-17 with immediate shelter and an array of services to maximize their safety, long-term connections, and community success.
2. To provide youth who are homeless ages 16-21 with transitional housing for up to 2 years, that includes an array of services to maximize their safety, long-term connections, and community success.

Outcomes

At least 80% of youth receiving shelter services will exit shelter to a safe setting.
100% of youth receiving services will receive Rapid Adolescent Prevention Screening (RAAPS). This is a standardized, validated, youth risk screening developed to support professionals in reducing risk factors impacting the health, well-being, and academic success of youth 9-24.

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100% of youth who stay at shelter longer than 24hrs as well as all youth in TLP will work with staff to develop an Individualized Plan of Care that addressed the youth's goals for the future, their strengths and resources, as well as potential referrals and recommendations.

90% of youth receiving services will participate in skill building activities to improve their social and emotional well-being.

100% of youth receiving Transitional Living Services will receive a Casey Life Skills Assessment.

This project has a great deal of support from the community. It is a partnership project with Tlingit Haida Regional Housing Authority who acts as the property manager for the building. We work closely with NAMI Juneau for clinical support on site, Goldbelt Heritage Foundation among others, provide place based activities for our youth. We also partner with the Juneau Police Department as well as OCS to make sure runaway and homeless youth are gaining access to the shelter. Additionally, we have enjoyed a great deal of support from the community at large. Folks regularly drop off food, clothing, and hygiene products and volunteer to support the project however they can.

This project served 60 youth in 2025. 100% of the youth served in the Transitional Living apartment were trust beneficiaries and 83% of youth served in the shelter were Trust beneficiaries. The majority of the youth we serve have experienced trauma and have associated mental health disorders. We also see youth with developmental disabilities, substance abuse disorders, and brain injury.

Grantee Proposed Evaluation Measures (from grant application)

50 Beneficiaries will be served with this project

80% of participants will exit to safe and stable housing

70% of participants will demonstrate improved quality of life upon program exit as indicated in exit interview

Proposed Project Performance Measures (developed by the Trust)

How much did you do?

- a. Total number (#) of unduplicated youth served during the grant reporting period, broken down by age and bed type (transitional vs. emergency).
- b. Number (#) of Trust beneficiaries served during the grant reporting period, broken down by primary Trust beneficiary category.

How well did you do it?

- a. Provide a narrative describing the timeline, activities, successes, challenges, and any lessons learned during the project.
- b. Number (#) and percentage (%) of participants who felt the services and supports they received were rendered in a non-judgmental, respectful, and safe environment.
- c. Number (#) and percentage (%) of participants who were connected with appropriate services (e.g., behavioral health services).

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Is anyone better off?

- a. Number (#) and percentage (%) of youth participants reporting an increase in their quality of life as a result of participating in the project.
- b. Number (#) and percentage (%) of youth participants exiting services during the grant reporting period to a safe and stable living situation.
- c. Two statements from youth participants or staff describing how the project impacted quality of life.

Sustainability (from grant application)

This City and Borough of Juneau has provided significant funding to this project, as seen in the budget. We also receive substantial funding from The Juneau Community Foundation and the Federal Division of Family and Youth Services Borough. This project is entering its sixth year and our ability to secure funding has been excellent so far. While we do have a small gap this year, we do not anticipate this being the norm and we are confident in the ongoing sustainability of this project especially due to vast array of partnerships that help make the project successful.

Who We Serve (from grant application)

This project will focus on serving youth ages 10-21 who are homeless, at immediate risk of homelessness or who have runaway. Youth in this situation experience a high degree of mental health disabilities. While we do see youth with who qualify as beneficiaries in other areas, the primary beneficiary group we serve are those with mental health disabilities.

Estimated Numbers of Beneficiaries Served Experiencing (from grant application)

Mental Illness:	40
Developmental Disabilities:	2
Substance Abuse	10
Traumatic Brain Injuries:	2
Secondary Beneficiaries (family members or caregivers providing support to primary beneficiaries):	35
Number of people to be trained	18

Project Budget (from grant application)

Personnel Services Costs	\$120,000.00
Personnel Services Costs (Other Sources)	\$702,395.00
Personnel Services Narrative	5.95 FTE - Youth Development Leaders : \$479,073 2 FTE - Youth Advocates : \$206,075 1 FTE - Supervisor : \$137,247

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	This grant will cover \$100,000 toward the cost of the Youth Development Leaders and \$20,000 toward the cost of the Youth Advocates.
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Travel Costs	\$0.00
Travel Costs (Other Sources)	\$9,800.00
Travel Costs Narrative	These travel costs are for staff to attend the National Runaway and Homeless Youth Training out of state. This is the one time a year our staff are able to meet with folks from around the country doing similar work and learn from and with their peers.

Space or Facilities Costs	\$0.00
Space or Facilities Costs (Other Sources)	\$37,700.00
Space or Facilities Narrative	\$37,700 Covers the cost of Utilities. \$23,000 - Fuel and Propane \$8,600 - Electricity \$5,500 - Refuse Disposal \$600 - Water Service

Supplies Costs	\$0.00
Supplies Costs (Other Sources)	\$29000
Supplies Narrative	29,000 for program supplies 25,000 - Food 3,000 - Household Supplies \$1,000 - Office Supplies

Other Costs	\$0.00
Other Costs (Other Sources)	\$9,600.00
Other Costs Narrative	\$9,600 for General Liability Insurance

Other Funding Sources (from grant application)

US Department of Health and Social Services, Family and Youth Services Borough - PARTIALLY SECURED	\$250,000.00
Juneau Community Foundation - PENDING	\$250,000.00
City and Borough of Juneau - SECURED	\$278,495.00
Individual Donors - SECURED	\$10,000.00
Total Leveraged Funds	\$788,495.00