

Grant Approval Memo



Grantee: Alaska Network on Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault, Inc.
Request Amount: \$300,000.00
Project Title: Victim Transition Supports
Grant Term: 7/1/2026 to 6/30/2027
Trust Staff: Heather Phelps

Staff Analysis:

- **What does this project do?**
This project will ensure that mental health trust beneficiaries experiencing domestic violence and/or sexual assault have access to flexible housing funds that can help them attain and maintain safe permanent housing. With this assistance, direct service providers across the state serving victims of domestic and sexual violence will be able to pay up to \$4,000 per individual (and their dependents) to assist with deposits, rent, mortgage payments, utilities deposits, assessments, or anything else that has been identified as a barrier to the individual being able to access or maintain housing. Most of the funds will go toward Trust beneficiaries with a smaller percentage going toward indirect costs of administration of the funds.
- **Who is receiving the funds?**
The Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (ANDVSA) will act as the pass-through organization for these funds. ANDVSA serves as the federally funded coalition in the state for both domestic violence and sexual assault providers (DV/SA). DV/SA direct service providers will work with Trust beneficiaries to fill out the application for funding support for allowable needs and ANDVSA will administer the application and reimbursement process and ensure each request is tied to a Trust beneficiary with no other available funding sources. Local DV/SA programs will work directly with landlords or other vendors, and provide documentation to ANDVSA for reimbursement.
- **Why is staff recommending this project?**
ANDVSA's previous Trust-funded program demonstrated strong and immediate impact. In FY26, the organization fully expended its \$200,000 allocation within seven months, allowing 72 Trust beneficiaries and their children to obtain or maintain permanent housing. DV/SA agencies report that approximately 75% of the survivors they serve are Trust beneficiaries, who often face heightened housing barriers due to past homelessness, credit issues, or rental histories that require higher deposits. Given the high rates of DV/SA among Trust beneficiaries and the shortage of affordable housing statewide, flexible funds are among the most effective tools to prevent homelessness and avoid prolonged shelter stays.

This project ensures survivors experiencing behavioral health conditions-including chronic substance use, mental illness, traumatic brain injury, or developmental disabilities-have access to the supports necessary to maintain safety and stability. Staff recommend this project due to its demonstrated demand, strong utilization, geographic reach and direct alignment with Trust goals related to stable housing and safety.
- **Will this be a multi-year project?**
This is a one-year (12-month) funding request for this project.

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Trust Five Year Funding History

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Project Title</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Final Expended</u>
2026	Victim Transition Supports	\$200,000	Active	Grant ends 6/30/2026
2025	Victim Transition Supports	\$200,000	Closed	\$200,000

Comp Plan Identification

Area of Focus	Objective	Comments
Area of Focus 3: Economic & Social Well-being	3.1 Alaskans have stable, safe housing with appropriate, community-based social supports to maintain tenancy	

Trust Focus Area Connection

Budget Area	Strategy	Comments
Non-Focus Area Allocation	NFA - Other	

Project Description (from grant application)

This project will ensure that mental health trust beneficiaries experiencing domestic violence and/or sexual assault have access to flexible housing funds that can help them attain and maintain safe permanent housing. In 2020, the Alaska Victimization Survey found that mental health trust beneficiaries were 2.5 times more likely to experience domestic and sexual violence than non-trust beneficiaries. In addition, oftentimes Trust beneficiaries are facing challenges from previous housing failures that make accessing housing more difficult with higher rental and utility deposits and/or needing to clear up amounts due to public housing from previous failed stays. Direct service programs assisting survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault report an estimated 75% of their participants are trust beneficiaries and these individuals experience greater barriers to accessing housing than non-trust beneficiaries.

With this assistance, direct service providers across the state serving victims of domestic and sexual violence will be able to pay up to \$4,000 per individual (and their dependents) to assist with deposits, rent, mortgage payments, utilities deposits, assessments, or anything else that has been identified as a barrier to the individual being able to access or maintain housing. Each organization accessing housing assistance for an individual will commit to ongoing support as requested by the participant.

Direct Service providers will work with Trust beneficiaries to fill out the application for funding to attain or maintain housing. ANDVSA will approve applications that are Trust beneficiaries, have no other funds available, and have a need for the funds. The direct service provider will work with the landlord, utility, or other vendor to pay the necessary costs directly to the vendor and will submit the receipts to ANDVSA for reimbursement.

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While direct service programs serve all types of Trust beneficiary, the majority of Trust beneficiaries served are impacted by substance abuse or mental health issues but often times have suffered traumatic brain injuries from the abuse they have experienced also.

This assistance will be available to all areas across the state with a priority of locations where no other housing funds are available to support the needs of victims of domestic and sexual violence who identify as Trust beneficiaries and are needing housing assistance.

In FY26, ANDVSA has fully expended all housing funds available to trust beneficiaries by January 31, 2026. In 7 months, these funds were able to assist 72 Trust beneficiaries and their children attain or maintain permanent housing. The need for housing assistance is great and the need for housing assistance that meets the flexibility necessary to ensure Trust beneficiaries can attain and maintain housing is even greater. A recent research paper produced by the Alaska Housing and Homelessness Coalition showed that there are only 36 units for every 100 low-income individuals who are needing housing. With assistance from the trust we have been able to ensure that Trust beneficiaries can attain the very limited housing that is available or maintain the housing unit they are in to avoid becoming homeless.

We expect that due to being able to assist Trust beneficiaries to attain or maintain housing we will be able to assist direct service providers across the state to shorten the length of stay in emergency shelters or avoid a stay in an emergency shelter for Trust beneficiaries.

The project need was originally recognized by the Trust staff as a need after multiple meetings with ANDVSA and the domestic/sexual violence direct service providers across the state. Direct service providers shared the challenges they faced in serving AMHTA beneficiaries and we are extremely grateful for the opportunity to pass these dollars through statewide to ensure all Trust beneficiaries have access to housing.

In our work with social service sectors across the state, we also have heard from each community that they need to be able to access housing for participants. While these funds do not create new housing units, it does enable those being served to access the units that are available.

Grantee Proposed Evaluation Measures (from grant application)

Number of unduplicated Trust beneficiary survivors of DV/SA who attained or maintained housing during the grant reporting period - We will keep a spreadsheet showing all that were helped and what type of Trust beneficiary they are

Number of Trust beneficiary survivors of DV/SA served in underserved areas - We will document which community each participant is applying for.

Number of communities served - We will keep a list of all communities served

Number and overall percentage of Trust beneficiary survivors who felt well supported by the project - this will be asked on the application

We will provide a timeline of activities; successes, challenges and lessons learned. - We will document activities and meet quarterly through the ANDVSA program committee to talk about successes, challenges and lessons learned.

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Number and overall percentage of Trust beneficiary survivors who felt their immediate housing needs were met through the project - This will be asked at the time of housing application
Individual statements from participants that describes how their participation in the project improved their life - This will be collected from participants.

Proposed Project Performance Measures (developed by the Trust)

How much did you do?

- a. Number (#) of unduplicated Trust beneficiary survivors of DV/SA who attained or maintained housing during the grant reporting period.
- b. Number (#) of Trust beneficiary survivors of DV/SA served in underserved areas. Provide a list of the underserved areas and the # of Trust beneficiaries served by area.

How well did you do it?

- a. Provide a narrative describing the timeline, activities, successes, challenges, and any lessons learned during the project. Please include a list of areas served around the state.
- b. Number (#) and percentage (%) of Trust beneficiary survivors who felt well supported by the ANDVSA project.

Is anyone better off?

- a. Number (#) and percentage (%) of Trust beneficiary survivors who felt their immediate housing needs were met through the ANDVSA project.
- b. Two statements from participants that describe how their participation in the ANDVSA project impacted their quality of life.

Sustainability (from grant application)

ANDVSA is acting as the pass-through organization for these funds to ensure that small organizations who have a hard time competing through the housing Continuum of Care process can access housing assistance for their participants. We are working with each individual program to explore ways they can begin accessing other funds to assist with housing prior to these funds ending. One way we are addressing this is working with the Denali Commission and AHFC to get the DV voucher project and the emergency stabilization housing voucher program expanded out to communities that do not currently have access to this project. We are also working with the state of Alaska funders to explore if there are ways to fund housing for survivors through state or federal funds. We will continue finding ways to fund the project. We are also working with the Ak Native Women's Resource Center to explore ways to expand tribal housing funds to victims of domestic and sexual violence.

Who We Serve (from grant application)

This project will focus on Trust beneficiaries who are accessing services from a domestic and sexual assault agency in Alaska. Trust beneficiaries are over-represented in the emergency shelters for domestic and sexual violence victims. Most often times, these agencies are serving Trust beneficiaries

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that are experiencing chronic alcoholism or substance abuse and/or mental illness. In addition, they provide services to individuals who have experienced traumatic brain injury often times as a result of the domestic violence or who have a developmental disability.

Estimated Numbers of Beneficiaries Served Experiencing (from grant application)

Mental Illness:	18
Substance Abuse	50
Traumatic Brain Injuries:	7
Secondary Beneficiaries (family members or caregivers providing support to primary beneficiaries):	50

Project Budget (from grant application)

Other Costs	\$300,000.00
Other Costs (Other Sources)	\$20,000.00
Other Costs Narrative	\$285,000 - Direct assistance to victims for rents, deposits, and other costs necessary to access longer-term housing (will be reimbursed through ANDVSA membership organizations with proper documentation) \$15,000 - Administrative costs - cost of overhead related to processing requests, documentation of expense, and grant reporting

Other Funding Sources (from grant application)

Allstate Foundation - Pending	\$20,000.00 Per the applicant: this is a coalition grant that is based upon how many coalitions apply. They should have a final result by mid May.
Total Leveraged Funds	\$20,000.00