

Grant Approval Memo



Grantee: Presbyterian Hospitality House, Inc.
Request Amount: \$160,000.00
Project Title: Alaska Treatment Foster Care & Child Placement Agency Summit
Grant Term: 1/1/2027 to 1/1/2028
Trust Staff: Eric Boyer

Staff Analysis:

- What does this project do?
This project funds Presbyterian Hospitality House (PHH), in partnership with the Department of Family and Community Services (DFCS), to design and operationalize Alaska's newly legislated Treatment Foster Care (TFC) system. Trust funds will support a third-party contractor, Handy Innovative Solutions (HIS), which specializes in developing TFC systems. HIS will lead a statewide planning process, including a two-day TFC Summit and a structured four-phase roadmap that produces stakeholder consensus, unified standards, program design elements, provider capacity strategies, and a final strategic action plan for standing up TFC statewide.
- Who is receiving the funds?
PHH will receive and manage the grant funds. PHH is a long-standing Alaska nonprofit serving youth with behavioral health and complex needs across Fairbanks, Wasilla, Palmer, Anchorage, Kenai, and Juneau. PHH will coordinate logistics for the statewide Summit, manage stakeholder communication, and serve as the administrative partner working with DFCS and HIS to deliver the full project plan.
- Why is staff recommending this project?
Youth in crisis are limited in options for community-based support and an expansion of the foster care system to include TFC is needed. Standard foster care placements lack the specialized support required to serve youth with complex trauma, abuse, mental illness, and substance misuse backgrounds. The recent passage of the TFC legislation is meant to fill this gap and meet the need for children and youth at risk of higher forms of intervention, including out-of-state placements. This project is necessary to ensure the State's new TFC authority results in an effective, unified, and clinically sound system that improves outcomes for Trust beneficiaries and reduces reliance on higher-cost, higher-restriction interventions.
- Will this be a multi-year project?
No. This is a time-limited project designed to complete a four-phase planning and implementation roadmap within the one-year grant period.

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Trust Five Year Funding History

Fiscal Year	Project Title	Amount	Status	Final Expended
2026	"The Extra Mile" Strengthening Alaskan Families	\$75,000	Pending closure	TBD

Comp Plan - Area of Focus	Strategic Priority Area
Area of Focus 1: Early Childhood & Youth	Priority 1: Prevention & Early Intervention

Project Description (from grant application)

Presbyterian Hospitality House (PHH), in partnership with the Alaska Department of Family and Community Services (DFCS), requests grant funding to facilitate a critical statewide planning effort: operationalizing Alaska's newly legislated Treatment Foster Care (TFC) system.

Children and youth in Alaska who have experienced severe trauma, abuse, or family disruption often present with complex behavioral, emotional, and mental health conditions. Standard foster home placements frequently lack the specialized support required to serve these youth, while congregate care (such as institutional or residential facilities) can be unnecessarily restrictive. TFC provides an evidence-based middle ground, delivering intensive, community-based therapeutic care within a family setting.

Following the recent legislative approval of the treatment foster home license in Alaska, the state has the legal foundation to build a TFC network. However, Alaska still lacks unified program design, administrative standards, licensing clarity, and cross-agency alignment. This project funds a statewide strategic summit and a structured four-phase execution roadmap—managed by a specialized third-party contractor—to establish a functional, sustainable TFC framework across Alaska.

Primary Beneficiaries: Children and youth statewide, regardless of custodial status, who require specialized TFC. This includes youth with serious emotional disturbances (SED), mental illness, behavioral health disorders, intellectual and developmental disabilities, substance use disorders, complex medical needs, and traumatic brain injuries (TBI).

Secondary Beneficiaries & Systems: Child Placement Agencies (CPAs), Tribal entities, community healthcare providers, foster parents, biological families, and state regulatory bodies.

Systemic Gap: Due to the absence of unified program standards, Medicaid reimbursement alignment, and coordinated inter-agency protocols, youth with intensive needs experience placement instability, delayed care, or out-of-state residential placements. This project directly addresses these structural gaps to keep Alaskan children safe within home and community settings.

Project Deliverables & Strategic Roadmap

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To ensure efficient execution, the project will engage Handy Innovative Solutions—a third-party contractor with specialized TFC expertise—to manage logistics, facilitate partner consensus, and deliver a comprehensive strategy. The contractor will execute a four-phase plan:

Phase 1: Stakeholder Engagement Plan

Map and recruit key partners, including DFCS, the Alaska Department of Health, CPAs, Tribes, community providers, foster families, and subject matter experts.

Phase 2: Summit Facilitation Plan

Design an interactive, evidence-grounded summit agenda focused on policy translation, Medicaid alignment, and cross-agency coordination.

Phase 3: Provider Innovation Exchange Summaries

Synthesize insights, operational models, and best practices shared during provider and roundtable sessions.

Phase 4: Final Strategic Action Plan

Deliver a comprehensive blueprint establishing unified program standards, licensing pathways, recruitment/retention strategies, and Medicaid integration models.

Project Goals & Intended Impact

Establish Cohesive Standards:

Translate state policy into unified, statewide TFC standards that align licensing, regulatory, and Medicaid funding mechanisms.

Expand Provider Capacity:

Create a clear framework that enables child placement agencies to recruit, train, retain, and support treatment foster parents statewide.

Integrate Tribal Priorities:

Ensure meaningful Tribal consultation and integration, building a culturally responsive framework tailored to Alaska's unique geographic and demographic landscape.

Improve Child Outcomes:

Reduce reliance on out-of-state or institutional care, improve placement stability, shorten time to permanency, and enhance overall well-being for vulnerable youth.

5. Sustainability & Agency Alignment:

Grant funds will directly supplement DFCS's existing administrative resources to retain Handy Innovative Solutions for this initiative, cover costs for Presbyterian Hospitality House (PHH) to facilitate and coordinate between all parties, travel for key stakeholders to attend the summit, and cover the cost of a venue for this 2-day summit in Anchorage, AK. By aligning state leadership, Tribal partners, and private providers during the strategic planning stage, this project ensures Alaska's TFC network is built with lasting buy-in, sustainable funding channels, and direct policy backing.

Grantee Proposed Evaluation Measures (from grant application)

How much did we do?

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Stakeholder Engagement: Number of unduplicated primary beneficiaries (treatment foster youth and families), secondary beneficiaries (caregivers), and professionals (DFCS staff, CPA administrators, tribal leaders, clinicians).

Number of trust beneficiary groups represented (mental illness, behavioral health, substance use, IDD, TBI, Complex needs).

Number of facilitated sessions, workgroups, and design discussions held during the summit.

Number of draft TFC program components produced (e.g., training plan, service model, licensure alignment, Medicaid structure)

How well did we do?

Survey & Interview Volume: Total number of pre-Summit survey responses received, and key stakeholder interviews completed.

Summit Attendance: Total number of registered and actual attendees at the TFC & CPA Summit, categorized by sector (DFCS, child placement agencies, Tribes, foster parents, community providers).

Percent of participants reporting the summit was effective, inclusive, and produced actionable strategies (via post-summit surveys)

Percent of participants who agree that the summit increased shared understanding of program goals and beneficiary needs.

Completion of written summit report summarizing consensus recommendations, proposed program elements, and next-step implementation actions.

Delivery of draft TFC program design elements within the planned project timeline.

Deliverable Completion: Total number of completed project deliverables across all four phases (e.g., Stakeholder Engagement Plan, Summit Facilitation Plan, Provider Innovation Exchange Summaries, and final Strategic Action Report).

Is anyone better off?

Number and percent of participants reporting improved cross-agency alignment, shared vocabulary, and clarity regarding TFC program direction.

Number and percent of agencies expressing readiness to adopt or support the TFC model after the summit.

Documentation demonstrating that the summit produced a unified, evidence-informed TFC program model that improved Alaska's ability to support trust beneficiaries.

Evidence of next-step action commitments (e.g., formation of implementation workgroups, development of policy drafts, identification of pilot sites)

Proposed Project Performance Measures (developed by the Trust)

Performance Measure 1:

How much did you do?

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- a. Number (#) of unduplicated stakeholders who were engaged in the project, broken down by primary beneficiaries (treatment foster youth), secondary beneficiaries (family members and caregivers), and professionals (DFCS staff, child placement agency administrators, tribal leaders, clinicians).
- b. Number (#) of facilitated sessions, workgroups, and design discussions held during the summit.
- c. Number (#) of draft TFC program components produced (e.g., training plan, service model, licensure alignment, Medicaid structure). Please list the program components.
- d. Number (#) of summit attendees, categorized by sector (DFCS, child placement agencies, Tribes, foster parents, community providers).

Performance Measure 2:

How well did you do it?

- a. Provide a narrative describing the activities, timeline, successes, challenges, and any lessons learned during the grant reporting period. Be sure to describe key dates and activities for each of the project's four phases (stakeholder engagement, summit facilitation, provider innovation exchange summaries, and the final strategic action plan). Please include any relevant documents (e.g., the summit agenda, post-summit report (summarizing consensus recommendations, proposed program elements, and next-step implementation actions) and final strategic plan) as electronic attachments.
- b. Number (#) and percentage (%) of participants who felt that the summit was effective, inclusive, and produced actionable strategies (through post-summit surveys)
- c. Number (#) and percentage (%) of participants who agreed that the summit increased shared understanding of program goals and beneficiary needs.
- d. Total number (#) of completed project deliverables across all four phases (e.g., Stakeholder Engagement Plan, Summit Facilitation Plan, Provider Innovation Exchange Summaries, and final Strategic Action Report).

Performance Measure 3:

Is anyone better off?

- a. Number (#) and percentage (%) of participants reporting improved cross-agency alignment, shared vocabulary, and clarity regarding TFC program direction.
- b. Number (#) and percentage (%) of agencies expressing readiness to adopt or support the TFC model after the summit.

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- c. Provide a narrative and documentation that demonstrates that the summit produced a unified, evidence-informed TFC program model that improved Alaska's ability to support Trust beneficiaries.
- d. Provide a narrative that describes next-step action commitments (e.g., formation of implementation workgroups, development of policy drafts, identification of pilot sites).

Sustainability (from grant application)

No, this project would not require funding beyond the projected year requested.

Who We Serve (from grant application)

Convening this statewide summit is essential to co-designing a Treatment Foster Care (TFC) program grounded in evidence-informed practice, cross-agency coordination, and stakeholder alignment. By translating newly passed licensing legislation into an operational system, this initiative establishes the unified standards, Medicaid alignment, and clinical infrastructure needed to ensure Alaskan children receive intensive, trauma-informed care in family-based settings with the intensity and fidelity required to produce lasting positive outcomes for youth and their families. This project directly serves beneficiaries of the Alaska Mental Health Trust who are children, youth, and young adults experiencing severe emotional disturbance (SED), mental illness, complex behavioral health conditions, traumatic brain injuries, and co-occurring developmental disabilities or substance use disorders. It also heavily targets Alaskans who are at risk of becoming Trust beneficiaries due to complex trauma, adverse childhood experiences (ACEs), and placement instability within state custody.

Beneficiaries will be better off because we will be operationalizing Alaska's newly approved treatment foster home licensing framework and designing a unified statewide Treatment Foster Care (TFC) and Child Placement Agency (CPA) system, Trust beneficiaries will experience direct, measurable improvements in care quality, stability, and long-term health outcomes that include decreased institutionalization and out of state placements, increased placement stability and culturally safe and localized care.

Specific expected benefits:

- **Least Restrictive, Community-Based Care:** TFC offers beneficiaries the opportunity to live in a family home, attend community schools, and participate in typical childhood experiences, rather than being placed in congregate or institutional settings.
- **Individualized Treatment Plans:** Each child receives a tailored plan developed by a multidisciplinary team, ensuring that interventions are specific to their mental health, behavioral, or developmental needs.
- **Enhanced Case Management:** TFC provides intensive, flexible case management, with frequent contact and support for both the child and caregivers. This ensures stability, addresses complex behaviors, and facilitates access to needed services.

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- Access to Specialized Behavioral Health Services: Beneficiaries receive a full array of behavioral health supports, including trauma-informed therapy, substance use treatment, and interventions for intellectual and developmental disabilities. TFC parents are trained to implement therapeutic strategies and support the child's participation in school and community activities.
- Family Engagement and Permanency: TFC emphasizes family reunification and permanency, supporting ongoing engagement with biological families and facilitating transitions to permanent placements.
- Improved Outcomes: Rigorous evaluations have demonstrated that TFC leads to positive outcomes in mental health, behavioral functioning, and delinquency, with reduced reliance on institutional care.

Specific Examples:

- Children with mental illness benefit from trauma-informed care and individualized behavioral interventions.
- Youth with substance use disorders receive targeted treatment and support within a stable home environment.
- Those with intellectual and developmental disabilities are provided with adaptive skills training and community integration activities.
- Children with traumatic brain injuries receive coordinated medical and behavioral health services, ensuring holistic support.

Estimated Numbers of Beneficiaries Served Experiencing (from grant application)

Mental Illness:	1,000
Developmental Disabilities:	500
Substance Abuse	500
Traumatic Brain Injuries:	100
Secondary Beneficiaries (family members or caregivers providing support to primary beneficiaries):	6,000
Number of people to be trained	125

Project Budget (from grant application)

Personnel Services Costs	\$150,000.00
Personnel Services Costs (Other Sources)	\$99,999.99
Personnel Services Narrative	This would cover a portion of the cost of hiring Handy Innovation Solutions, LLC as an independent consulting firm. It would also cover the personnel costs for Presbyterian Hospitality House staff to facilitate putting the summit together.

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Travel Costs	\$5,000.00
Travel Costs (Other Sources)	\$0.00
Travel Costs Narrative	This would cover travel costs to bring all key stakeholders statewide to Anchorage to attend the summit and ensure the participation needed to make this a meaningful event.

Space or Facilities Costs	\$5,000.00
Space or Facilities Costs (Other Sources)	\$0.00
Space or Facilities Narrative	This would cover the cost of a venue in Anchorage for up to 125 people over 2 days for the summit.

Other Funding Sources (from grant application)

Alaska Department of Family and Community Services-Pending	\$99,999.99
Total Leveraged Funds	\$99,000.99