

Grant Approval Memo



Grantee: Alaska Legal Services Corporation
Request Amount: \$299,860.00
Project Title: Alaska Public Benefits Advocacy Project
Grant Term: 7/1/2026 to 6/30/2027
Trust Staff: Samantha Ponts

Staff Analysis:

- **What does this project do?**
Trust funding will support the recruitment, training, and supervision of a new class of Community Justice Worker volunteers to represent Trust beneficiaries in public benefit cases. Funding will directly support a Volunteer Coordinator to recruit and manage volunteers and a part-time staff attorney to represent beneficiaries, statewide, in the full range of public benefit matters. This funding will support other functions at Alaska Legal Services Corporation (ALSC) that are critical to the project's success including policy leadership coordination with key community partners, limited travel for outreach to rural Alaska communities, as well as costs associated with office space, supplies, communications, and case-related legal research.
- **Who is receiving the funds?**
ALSC is a nonprofit law firm founded in 1967. ALSC gives free civil legal help to low-income and disadvantaged people. ALSC has ten offices in Alaska, including Anchorage, Bethel, Dillingham, Fairbanks, Juneau, Kenai, Kodiak, Kotzebue, Mat-Su, and Nome. ALSC is funded by federal, state, and local governments, tribal organizations, foundations, and private donations.
- **Why is staff recommending this project?**
Staff recommend this project because it directly addresses the significant barriers Trust beneficiaries face in accessing and keeping essential public benefits. Persistent delays, systemic errors, and increasing administrative requirements—especially those resulting from recent federal changes—put beneficiaries at high risk of losing food assistance, health coverage, income supports, and other basic-needs programs. ALSC is the state's leading provider of public benefits advocacy and is uniquely positioned to help beneficiaries navigate these challenges. With Trust funding, ALSC will expand its capacity by recruiting and supporting 40 Community Justice Worker volunteers and a part-time attorney to provide statewide assistance. These resources will strengthen ALSC's ability to resolve benefits delays, prevent wrongful denials or terminations, and provide outreach, education, and representation tailored to Trust beneficiaries.
- **Will this be a multi-year project?**
This is a one-year (12-month) funding request.

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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	Holistic Defense Model	\$277,000	Active	Grant ends 6/30/2026
2025	Holistic Defense Model	\$277,000	Closed	\$277,000
2025	Legal Resources for Trust Beneficiaries	\$75,000	Closed	\$75,000
2024	Holistic Defense Model	\$277,000	Closed	\$267,185.23
2024	Legal Resources for Trust Beneficiaries	\$75,000	Closed	\$75,000
2023	Holistic Defense Model	\$180,000	Closed	\$180,000
2023	Legal Resources for Trust Beneficiaries	\$75,000	Closed	\$75,000
2022	Holistic Defense Model	\$180,000	Closed	\$180,000
2022	Legal Resources for Trust Beneficiaries	\$75,000	Closed	\$50,000

Comp Plan Identification

<u>Area of Focus</u>	<u>Objective</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Area of Focus 3: Economic & Social Well-being	3.4 Enhance timely access to basic needs services	

Trust Focus Area Connection

<u>Budget Area</u>	<u>Strategy</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Housing & Home & Community Based Services	NFA - Not associated with a strategy	

Project Description (from grant application)

Through this project, Alaska Legal Services Corporation (ALSC) proposes recruiting, training, and supporting a new class of Community Justice Worker volunteers to represent Trust beneficiaries seeking public benefits. The project will support a new 1 FTE Volunteer Coordinator who will recruit and support volunteers efforts and a 0.40 FTE Staff Attorney who will represent individual Trust beneficiaries in public benefits cases and will provide community outreach, education, and training. The project will also support other ALSC staff who will conduct client intake, assist with communications, and strengthen partnerships and referral networks.

The project's target population is all Trust beneficiaries who are eligible for any state-administered public benefits program and will include those with mental illness, intellectual and developmental

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disabilities, substance use disorders, Alzheimer's disease and related dementia, and traumatic brain injuries. State-administered public benefits programs include SNAP food benefits, Medicaid/Denali Care health coverage, heating subsidies, Adult Public Assistance, Alaska Temporary Assistance, General Relief, and Senior Benefits.

The proposed project advances three objectives in Alaska's Comprehensive Integrated Mental Health Program Plan:

Objective 2.1: Alaskans have access to and receive quality integrated healthcare services.

Objective 3.4: Enhance timely access to basic needs services.

Objective 6.5: Ensure vulnerable Alaskans understand their rights and responsibilities.

The proposed project also advances the fourth priority in the Trust's new strategic plan: Ongoing Support & Wellbeing. Low-income beneficiaries can better achieve stable living conditions and adequate care when they have access to the basic income supports and healthcare services provided by public benefits programs.

PROBLEM ADDRESSED

1. Alaska's public benefits system provides crucial support to low-income Trust beneficiaries.

For many Trust beneficiaries, public benefit programs administered by the Alaska Division of Public Assistance (DPA) provide critical support. Trust beneficiaries rely on SNAP food benefits, Medicaid/Denali Care health coverage, heating subsidies, and basic income support from the Adult Public Assistance, Alaska Temporary Assistance, General Relief, and Senior Benefits programs. DPA manages eligibility determinations for all of these programs that are vitally important to Alaska's most vulnerable residents, but the administration of the programs is often delayed and flawed. Trust beneficiaries who apply for public benefits programs regularly have their applications delayed beyond mandatory deadlines and/or improperly denied.

DPA-administered public benefits programs provide a critical lifeline for low-income Trust beneficiaries. SNAP provides food assistance for households below 130% of the poverty level; approximately 10% of Alaskans receive a benefit that averaged \$323/month in FY2024. Alaska's Adult Public Assistance (APA) program provides cash assistance to approximately 14,000 needy aged, blind, and disabled Alaskans. The average APA benefit is \$300/month. Heating Assistance benefits are paid directly to heating utility vendors and provide heat to those struggling with high energy costs. More than 5000 Alaskans received an average benefit of \$1487 in heating assistance in FY2024. Medicaid serves more than 30% of Alaska's population and provides access to critical healthcare services and also to home- and community-based waiver services that help Trust beneficiaries avoid institutionalization.

In 2022 and 2023, a severe backlog of SNAP applications in Alaska was the subject of widespread media coverage, and 15,000 SNAP households had their benefits delayed for months. Similarly, in April 2023, more than 1700 APA applications were delayed and only 365 applications were processed on time. In May 2024, more than 15,000 Medicaid applications were delayed. DPA's backlog is the subject of three class-action cases (Kamkoff et al. v. Department of Health, (SNAP delays); Edwards v. Department of Health (Adult Public Assistance delays); and Ott v. Department of Health (Medicaid delays)). In 2024, a federal judge began to require DPA to work to eliminate its backlog and to make regular reports to the court.

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In spite of years of litigation, court oversight, and press coverage, Alaska still fails to adequately serve its neediest residents. In July 2025, 30,000 Alaskans were waiting on DPA to process their Medicaid applications. According to a report filed by DPA with the federal court on January 7, 2026, there are still 3307 households with delayed SNAP benefits and 520 individuals with delayed APA benefits. DPA is complying with mandatory SNAP processing deadlines in only 51 percent of cases, with SNAP recertifications at 33 percent. By federal law, SNAP benefits stop periodically unless they are recertified, so when DPA does not process recertification paperwork on time, SNAP recipients do not get their benefits anymore. When only 33% of recertifications are timely processed, 67% of SNAP recipients do not receive their food benefits on time.

When DPA does eventually process benefits applications, it often makes mistakes. In fiscal year 2024, a federal audit found that Alaska's Case & Procedural Error Rate, a measure of mistakes made when denying or terminating SNAP benefits, was 60%. A 2025 legislative audit found an 88% error rate in a sample of SNAP cases and a 37% error rate in Medicaid cases.

2. Beneficiaries often can't resolve their own public benefits problems.

Trust beneficiaries face significant barriers to resolving their own public benefits problems.

DPA has eleven offices around the state, but all offices have limited service hours, and some offices only offer "general information." In offices where beneficiaries are able to access a DPA worker who could fix a problem with their case, they encounter long wait times. No office is open past 4:00 or on a weekend day, presenting an additional barrier for Trust beneficiaries with jobs.

For beneficiaries who live off the road system, access issues are even worse. Unable to travel to a DPA office, they are required to use the phone system to try to resolve problems. DPA has only one published phone number, a statewide toll-free number staffed by out-of-state contractors and DPA employees. Callers report wait times of several hours, and calls are regularly dropped. DPA does not have an accessible mechanism for disabled recipients to request an accommodation when their disabilities make it impossible for them to navigate the phone line.

Trust beneficiaries seeking eligibility interviews with DPA face additional hurdles. DPA must interview SNAP applicants at the time of their initial application and at recertification (usually every 12 months). Interviews are routinely scheduled past the 30 day ordinary SNAP processing deadline, meaning that DPA is certain to violate required SNAP deadlines. Furthermore, interviews are scheduled exclusively using the phone line. Callers are often unable to get through on the phone line on their scheduled interview date, and their benefits applications are denied. Benefits advocates routinely advise recipients to call into the phone line at 7:00 am, regardless of the time of their scheduled interview, so that they can get in the virtual queue when the phones open at 8:00 am.

3. Major changes to public benefits programs create new barriers for Trust beneficiaries.

HR1, the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, imposes new requirements in the Medicaid and SNAP programs, and Trust beneficiaries will face additional administrative hurdles to getting the benefits they are eligible for. Funds from the HR1's Rural Health Transformation Fund will create new opportunities for

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innovation and collaboration, but underlying changes to Medicaid and SNAP will make those benefits harder for Trust beneficiaries to get and keep.

Starting December 31, 2026, Medicaid recipients will have to recertify their eligibility twice a year, instead of annually, potentially doubling the chance that errors will be made in Trust beneficiaries' cases. HR 1 also creates a new work requirement for Medicaid recipients. Recipients between ages 19 and 64 will be required to prove "community engagement," by turning in proof that they have been engaged in a qualified activity (like work, volunteer service, or job training) in an amount that would average to 80 hours per month. Although there are exemptions in the law for individuals with disabilities and caregivers of those with disabilities, recipients will bear the burden of proving their exempt status to DPA. Trust beneficiaries who receive Medicaid will be required to navigate this additional administrative hurdle. DPA may ask to delay implementation of this requirement, or it may proceed with the federal deadline. When the "community engagement" requirement is implemented in Alaska, Trust beneficiaries will be particularly at risk of losing Medicaid benefits, because of the increased administrative burden on recipients to prove eligibility.

HR1 imposes similar work requirements on SNAP recipients. Those were effective November 1, 2025, though DPA obtained a waiver to delay implementation until October 2026. The SNAP program already had a work requirement for many individuals, but some groups were exempt: those living in areas of high unemployment, homeless individuals, veterans, and former foster youth under age 24. Under HR1, those exemptions will no longer exist. Disabled individuals are exempt from the work requirement, but they will bear the burden of proving their exempt status to DPA. The increased administrative hurdles in the SNAP program will make it harder for Trust beneficiaries to get and retain SNAP benefits.

Finally, HR1 requires states to contribute more to the cost of the SNAP program, resulting in a resource strain that will adversely affect Trust beneficiaries. On October 1, 2026, Alaska will have to start paying 75% of the administrative costs for the program (increased from the current 50%). HR1 also requires states to bear a portion of the actual SNAP benefit costs of its residents for the first time, though Alaska is not likely to be required to contribute until 2028 or later. HR1's increased costs for Alaska will create financial pressure to limit eligibility and reduce optional services, to the detriment of Trust beneficiaries trying to navigate the programs they are eligible for.

II. ACTIVITIES (WHAT WE WILL BE DOING)

With this funding, ALSC will focus its existing public benefits advocacy for the benefit of Trust beneficiaries specifically. ALSC screens all applicants during intake to determine whether they may be a Trust beneficiary, and this screening is a required part of our standard intake process. Intake staff use the beneficiary categories and definitions in AS 44.25.290 and apply an internal reference guide developed by ALSC in our intake manual to help staff make consistent determinations. The reference guide reflects the Trust's beneficiary categories, and our Case Management System lists the categories and allows staff to select one or more category for each individual. Intake staff receive training on beneficiary identification during onboarding, and ALSC provides regular refresher training for all staff members to reinforce how beneficiaries are identified and documented. When an applicant's status is unclear, staff can consult with a supervisor before finalizing the documentation. Identifying Trust beneficiaries at intake allows ALSC to track who we are serving, understand legal needs and trends

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among Trust beneficiaries and adjust services, and report accurately on outcomes for Trust beneficiaries across our offices and programs.

Beneficiaries face unique barriers when they are trying to navigate administrative systems, and ALSC's representation can be particularly impactful for Trust beneficiary clients. Funding will allow ALSC to strengthen and expand existing efforts to engage in administrative advocacy, support strategic partnerships, and assist individual Trust beneficiaries. With project funding to support a full-time volunteer coordinator, ALSC will recruit and support 40 community volunteers to represent Trust beneficiaries through our Community Justice Worker Resource Center. Volunteers will provide advice and brief service to individual beneficiaries to help them secure their benefits and will represent beneficiaries in administrative hearings, as appropriate. Project funding will also support .40 FTE of an ALSC attorney based in our Anchorage office, to represent Trust beneficiaries statewide in the full range of public benefits matters. The volunteer coordinator and staff attorney will engage in community outreach, education, and training to support the project. In addition, this funding will support other functions at ALSC that are critical to the project's success: advocacy leadership and coordination with key community partners (.25FTE); communications (.05FTE); intake (.05FTE); and reception (.05FTE).

1. ALSC is Alaska's expert in public benefits advocacy.

ALSC is the only comprehensive, statewide civil legal aid provider in Alaska. Our mission is to provide meaningful access to justice in resolving civil legal problems for low-income clients. We currently provide our services through 10 offices located in Anchorage, Bethel, Dillingham, Fairbanks, Juneau, Kenai, Kodiak, Kotzebue, Palmer, and Nome. We have additional staff embedded in the Alaska Native Medical Center, Providence Alaska Medical Center, and the Mat-Su Health Foundation building. In state fiscal year 2025, ALSC provided assistance to Alaskans in 5,455 cases, serving 211 communities. Our services focus on providing assistance to the most vulnerable Alaskans including victims of domestic violence, seniors, individuals experiencing mental and physical disabilities, and those experiencing food and housing insecurity.

In the last several years, ALSC advocates have responded to our clients' overwhelming demand for help with DPA-administered programs. Public benefits cases have grown from 9% of our caseload in 2020 to 59% of our caseload today. Applications for help with public benefits problems began to balloon at ALSC in September 2022. Since that time, ALSC has represented 8942 clients (546 of whom were Trust beneficiaries) from communities around the state with delayed or improperly denied public benefits cases, benefitting their entire households - a total of 27,533 people. ALSC has secured \$6,256,859 in monthly ongoing benefits (like SNAP, APA, Senior Benefits) and \$17,845,449 in delayed backpay benefits for clients. The vast majority of the benefits secured have been SNAP benefits (\$6,128,911 of \$6,256,859). Since SNAP benefits are certified for at least 12 months, ALSC advocacy has secured more than \$73M in food benefits for clients since the SNAP crisis began in 2022.

ALSC works closely with other service providers who serve our client population, like Alaska 211, Aging and Disability Resources Centers, the Developmental Disabilities Resource Connection program, tribal health and social service organizations, food banks, and shelters, but our role is distinct. ALSC is a law firm, and we help clients pursue legal solutions to their problems. In the context of public benefits programs, community partners often refer clients to us when they are "stuck" in red tape and unable to get their benefits. Likewise, ALSC often refers applicants and clients to community partners to meet

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their non-legal needs, like case management, physical and mental health services, and emergency food and shelter. Through these regular interactions, ALSC has forged strong working partnerships with many other service providers in the state.

ALSC has been at the forefront of the public benefits crisis since it began in 2022. We pivoted our service delivery early and decisively in favor of taking all benefits problems that came our way. We have leveraged critical partnerships to help the community through this crisis. Nearly three years into this crisis, we have only used our existing resources to address this problem, often at the expense of being able to help with other critical legal matters. Our resources are stretched thin and funding is necessary to support our community-based strategy for addressing this problem on a large scale, and to continue to take on individual cases. There is simply no end in sight to the demand for help and it has become a cornerstone of our work in the community.

2. ALSC's Community Justice Worker Program

ALSC's public benefits casehandlers include both attorneys and non-attorney advocates (Community Justice Workers). The Community Justice Worker (CJW) program was born from a 2018 partnership between ALSC, Alaska Pacific University, and the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium to design and launch a distance learning curriculum for non-attorney advocates, modeled on ANTHC's Community Health Aide Program (CHAP). ALSC worked with the Distance Learning Network—the same group that designs CHAP courses—to develop online, asynchronous legal education courses. The curriculum legal areas included: SNAP advocacy, Indian Child Welfare Act advocacy, debt collection defense, wills and estate planning, and domestic violence protective order advocacy, all chosen because they are legal issues that clearly overlap with social determinants of health and because they were issues of high importance to community members. In 2019, the partnership earned international recognition as one of just 5 winners of the World Justice Challenge, honored for advancing effective practices and solutions that help to address everyday legal problems.

ALSC's CJW program partners with individuals who are already living in and familiar with Alaska's many diverse communities, and trains those individuals to be ready to provide specific, targeted interventions for legal issues. Since the launch of the SNAP training program in 2019, 228 individuals spread throughout 41 Alaska communities have completed 386 advocacy courses. Participants in the training come from various sectors: the healthcare community, social service agencies, tribal agencies, student groups and private volunteers. Additionally, ALSC has grown to include seven staff CJW positions in the Nome, Bethel, Fairbanks, Kenai, Palmer, and Kodiak offices.

The CJW program has evolved and grown, so much so that ALSC launched the Community Justice Worker Resource Center (CJWRC) in late 2023. The CJWRC's purpose is to develop training, support community-based CJWs, certify CJWs under Alaska Bar Rule 43.5 (a groundbreaking rule allowing certified CJWs to provide limited scope legal representation, including in court), build a sustainable CJW pipeline, develop community partners, and collect data to support program expansion.

In addition to supporting a .40 FTE staff casehandler, this funding will allow ALSC to recruit and support volunteer CJWs to help Trust beneficiaries with public benefits cases. Volunteer CJWs are often embedded at community organizations that encounter potential clients as part of their day-to-day operations. This funding will allow ALSC to strategically recruit 40 additional volunteer CJWs who are likely to encounter Trust beneficiaries in their work or community interactions. The volunteers will

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be provided training in both ethics and professionalism as well as in public benefits advocacy. They will work directly with a CJW Support Director, who guides them through training and skill building for success as a CJW. Then, the volunteer CJWs will be assigned cases through ALSC's pro bono program, or they can reverse refer Trust beneficiaries and work with them directly. Volunteer CJWs have the full support of the entire ALSC team, and they will have direct access to an attorney mentor for substantive case questions and supervision. Additionally, volunteer CJWs will have the opportunity to provide legal education in their communities.

III. TARGET POPULATION & GEOGRAPHIC AREA SERVED

The project's target population is Trust beneficiaries who are eligible for any DPA-administered public benefit, including SNAP, Medicaid, Adult Public Assistance (APA), Alaska Temporary Assistance Program (ATAP), General Assistance, Senior Benefits, and Heating Assistance. These programs all have income and resource eligibility criteria, so the target population generally is low-income Trust beneficiaries. The project will serve all categories of Trust beneficiaries, including those with mental illness, intellectual and developmental disabilities, substance use disorders, Alzheimer's disease and related dementia, and traumatic brain injuries.

ALSC screens all applicants during intake to determine if they might be a Trust beneficiary. Of the 8942 public benefits clients ALSC has served since September 2022, 546 were Trust beneficiaries. ALSC reviewed data about those cases to inform the development of this proposal. While beneficiaries experiencing a mental illness represented a majority of the Trust beneficiaries that ALSC served, all categories of Trust beneficiaries did access ALSC services to help with a public benefits problem. For that reason, the proposed Project's target population is all categories of Trust beneficiaries.

The Project will serve clients statewide. Project staff will be concentrated in Anchorage, but volunteer CJWs will be recruited statewide, and volunteers and staff will represent Trust beneficiaries statewide. Public benefits advocacy is particularly amenable to remote representation because every step (filing for a benefit, appealing a denial or delay, appearing at a hearing) is done by email, Zoom, or electronic portal.

IV. EXPECTED OUTCOMES

ALSC has extensive experience representing clients with public benefits problems and with tracking outcomes in those cases. While the landscape for DPA-administered programs is evolving, ALSC anticipates helping Trust beneficiaries with benefits at roughly the same rate that it has helped existing ALSC clients with over the last twelve months.

ALSC expects to represent 120 Trust beneficiaries statewide in the yearlong course of the project, helping them access DPA-administered programs like SNAP, Medicaid, ATAP, APA, Heating Assistance, and Senior Benefits.

ALSC expects positive outcomes in 95% of its public benefits cases, either because ALSC was successful in securing a benefit, or because ALSC helped the client overcome an administrative burden to resolving an issue. ALSC expects to successfully help clients obtain some monetary benefit (SNAP,

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Heating Assistance, etc.) in at least 80% of its cases; and a non-monetary benefit (reducing administrative burden, speeding resolution, etc.) in 95% of its cases.

Finally, ALSC expects to recruit and train 40 new CJW volunteers during the year, who will be available to represent their low-income neighbors in the future.

V. COMMUNITY SUPPORT

ALSC's proposed project is supported by multiple partners statewide, including Maniilaq, Tundra Women's Coalition, the Food Bank of Alaska, Tanana Chiefs Conference, and the Association of Village Council Presidents. Letters of support are attached.

Grantee Proposed Evaluation Measures (from grant application)

ALSC expects to report the number of Trust beneficiaries and secondary beneficiaries served by the project, the communities that the beneficiaries live in, the type of public benefits program(s) that beneficiaries received assistance with, and the level of service provided to beneficiaries (counsel & advice, brief service, extended service, and representation at administrative or court hearings). Additionally, ALSC already collects financial outcome data for its public benefits cases and expects to report both the amount of ongoing monthly benefits secured, the amount of any backpay awarded, and any non-financial outcomes (like health insurance secured).

In the past, ALSC has periodically surveyed public benefits clients when their cases closed, gathering valuable data about how benefits delays affect various aspects of clients' lives. Surveys have been most successful when conducted via text message. With this project, ALSC will send text surveys to Trust beneficiary clients at case closure to gather similar information. Survey questions would be focused on how the public benefit problem affected the client's life (i.e., had the client fallen behind in rent or mortgage, had the client been unable to feed themselves or their household members, had the client been forced to borrow money) and how satisfied they were with ALSC's assistance. ALSC anticipates performance measures from these survey results, including how many beneficiaries felt that they understood their benefits program better after ALSC's assistance and felt more confident in identifying and resolving future problems with public benefits programs.

Finally, ALSC expects to report the number of education, outreach, and training activities that project staff engage in throughout the year, along with the number of people attending those events.

Proposed Project Performance Measures (developed by the Trust)

How much did you do?

- a. Number (#) of unduplicated Community Justice Worker (CJW) volunteers trained during the reporting period. Provide a breakdown of the number (#) of CJWs trained, by community (i.e., Anchorage, Sitka, etc.).
- b. Number (#) of unduplicated Trust beneficiaries served during the reporting period, broken down by primary beneficiary category.

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- c. Number (#) of unduplicated secondary (caregivers) Trust beneficiaries served during the reporting period.
- d. Number (#) of rural Alaskan communities visited for outreach purposes during the reporting period. Please provide a list of communities visited and the date(s) of each visit.
- e. Total number (#) of education, outreach, and training activities that project staff engaged in throughout the reporting period. Please provide a list of activities by date and include the approximate number (#) of attendees per activity.

How well did you do it?

- a. Provide a narrative that describes the timeline, activities, successes, challenges, and any lessons learned during the reporting period.
- b. Number (#) and percentage (%) of clients who were satisfied with the services and assistance they received from ALSC.
- c. Number (#) and percentage (%) of clients who would recommend receiving assistance from ALSC regarding public benefits to others.

Is anyone better off?

- a. Number (#) and percentage (%) of clients who reported that they had a better understanding of their benefits program(s) after receiving assistance from ALSC.
- b. Number (#) and percentage (%) of clients who felt more confident in identifying and resolving future issues with public benefits programs after receiving assistance from ALSC.
- c. Provide a brief synopsis of the post-participation client survey.
- d. Provide four statements from participants that describe the project's impact on their quality of life.

Sustainability (from grant application)

ALSC will continue to respond to the overwhelming community demand for help with public benefits cases, even after the conclusion of the proposed project. Public benefits advocacy is not a self-funding activity, but ALSC may identify future funding sources during the program year as it strengthens its partnerships with other organizations that are vested in this work. There is an incredibly strong return on investment in these services. As mentioned above, ALSC's work in public benefits cases for the last three years, has garnered over \$73M in benefits for our community members.

The project's proposed recruitment and support of volunteer CJWs who will be trained to help clients resolve public benefits problems is a sustainable feature of this project. Volunteer CJWs, many likely embedded in other social service agencies that serve Trust beneficiaries, will continue to represent clients after the year ends. Those 40 individuals will: 1) increase ALSC's capacity by being additional volunteer casehandlers for public benefits cases; 2) increase ALSC's reach by connecting clients in their own communities with ALSC's services; and 3) become permanent resources for their communities in identifying and solving public benefits problems, regardless of ALSC's involvement.

Who We Serve (from grant application)

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The project will benefit all categories of low-income Trust beneficiaries by helping them to secure vital public benefits so that they can access food, heat, cash assistance, and health care.

ALSC has estimated the number of beneficiaries by category below by using information about the number and category of Trust beneficiaries ALSC has helped with public benefits problems in the last few years.

Estimated Numbers of Beneficiaries Served Experiencing (from grant application)

Mental Illness:	75
Developmental Disabilities:	12
Alzheimer's Disease & Related Dementias:	12
Substance Abuse	6
Traumatic Brain Injuries:	15
Secondary Beneficiaries (family members or caregivers providing support to primary beneficiaries):	120
Number of people to be trained	40

Project Budget (from grant application)

Personnel Services Costs	\$229,034.00
Personnel Services Costs (Other Sources)	\$0.00
Personnel Services Narrative	<p>Total Salaries: \$171,081.45 Attorney 0.40 FTE, \$105,000 x .4 = \$42,000 Advocacy Director .25 FTE, \$130,322 x .25 = 32,580 Communications & Development Manager .05 FTE, \$63,728 x .05=3,186 Intake Coordinator .05 FTE, \$61,443 x .05=3,072 Office Manager .05 FTE, \$72,928 x .05=\$3,647 Volunteer Support position 1.0 FTE, \$86,596 x 1.0=\$86,596</p> <p>Total Fringe Benefits-\$57,952.90 for the above positions are estimated to be 33.9% of wages, and include FICA 7.65%, Health insurance 21.8%, Workers Compensation .05%, and Retirement 2.5%.</p>

Travel Costs	\$5,000.00
Travel Costs (Other Sources)	\$0.00
Travel Costs Narrative	<p>Funding is provided for the Volunteer Coordinator and the Public Benefits Attorney to each take two outreach trips to rural Alaska during the project's term. Estimated cost for each trip would be \$1250 (airfare \$620, lodging \$300, per diem \$200, ground transportation \$130).</p>

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Space or Facilities Costs	\$22,105.00
Space or Facilities Costs (Other Sources)	\$0.00
Space or Facilities Narrative	Space costs represent a proportional share of the cost of ALSC's Anchorage office, based on current lease rate. The costs are based on the amount of office space utilized by the individuals working on the project, and allocated quarterly based on the % of their time that is spent working on the project to total time worked.

Supplies Costs	\$1,080.00
Supplies Costs (Other Sources)	\$1,080.00
Supplies Narrative	General office supplies include computer supplies and equipment with a purchase price of less than \$5,000, per federal guidelines. Costs per person are estimated to be \$600/yr x 1.8 FTE's.

Other Costs	\$42,640.00
Other Costs (Other Sources)	\$0.00
Other Costs Narrative	<p>Other Direct: \$3528 Communications \$1,008 -Telephone and internet costs, allocated as a % of time the staff work on the project. Professional Liability Insurance \$1,440, \$800/yr x 1.8 FTE's Equipment lease/maintenance \$261-Copier and computer equipment lease and/or maintenance, \$145/yr x 1.8 FTE's. Library Updates \$216 -Updated legal guidance, \$120/yr x 1.8 FTE's Computer Legal Research \$603. Actual direct billing costs for specific case related research.</p> <p>Indirect Costs: \$39,112.22 ALSC uses the federal minimis cost rate of 15% to allocate administrative costs. Direct costs of \$260,748.15 x .15=\$39,112.22</p>

Other Funding Sources (from grant application)

none	\$0.00
Total Leveraged Funds	\$0.00