

Grant Approval Memo



Grantee: Council of Athabascan Tribal Governments
Request Amount: \$55,000.00
Project Title: Open Doors Community Support Facility Improvements for Vulnerable Adults
Grant Term: 7/1/2026 to 6/30/2027
Trust Staff: Eric Boyer

Staff Analysis:

- What does this project do?
These grant funds will support one-time capital improvements and equipment upgrades at The Open Door, a low barrier community support center, managed by the Council of Athabascan Tribal Governments (CATG) in Fort Yukon, Alaska. Improvements include remodeling portions of the shower area, replacing aging appliances, purchasing commercial laundry equipment, upgrading kitchen facilities, and adding furniture and program supplies to enhance the safety, function, and comfort of the space. These upgrades directly support the daily needs of adults experiencing serious mental illness, chronic alcoholism, substance use disorders, cognitive impairments, or other conditions common among Trust beneficiaries.
- Who is receiving the funds?
CATG, a tribally governed consortium serving Gwich'in and Koyukon tribes, will manage the project. CATG operates The Open Door as part of its rural behavioral health and community support network, providing services to vulnerable adults across the Yukon Flats. CATG is dedicated to promoting self-governance and cultural preservation among their tribes of Alaska.
- Why is staff recommending this project?
The Open Door is a low-barrier center that serves vulnerable adults in a remote region with limited behavioral health, housing, and basic-needs infrastructure. Many individuals who access Open Doors are actively engaged in or transitioning into CATG behavioral health services through the Yukon Flats Behavioral Health Center. Others are in early recovery, experiencing housing instability, or seeking a safe and supportive environment to meet basic needs while working toward improved mental health and stability. These services help meet the needs of Trust beneficiaries in the Yukon Flats region and allows them to receive care and remain close to home and natural supports.
- Will this be a multi-year project
This is a one-time (12-month) funding request.

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Trust Five Year Funding History

No grants during this period.

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	

Comp Plan Identification

Budget Area	Strategy	Comments
Mental Health & Addiction Intervention	MHAI - Improve Treatment & Recovery Support Services	

Project Description (from grant application)

The Council of Athabascan Tribal Governments (CATG) requests Trust Partnership funding to support critical facility improvements and one-time purchases at the Open Doors Community Resource Center in Fort Yukon. Open Doors is a low-barrier, community-based program that serves vulnerable adults experiencing mental illness, substance use disorders, and related challenges, many of whom are Alaska Mental Health Trust beneficiaries.

Open Door provides a safe, welcoming space where individuals can meet essential daily needs that directly support mental health stability, recovery, and overall wellbeing. Services include access to showers, laundry facilities, meals, and supportive activities in a culturally respectful and trauma-informed environment. In a remote rural community where housing overcrowding, limited in-home plumbing, poverty, and isolation are common, access to basic hygiene, food, and safe community space is critical.

CATG proposes to use Trust funds for one-time capital improvements, equipment, and program supplies that will strengthen the infrastructure and service capacity of Open Doors. Planned purchases include:

- Replacement of an aging washer and dryer heavily used by clients
- Improvements to the shower facility to ensure safe, reliable access to hygiene services
- Replacement of outdated kitchen appliances used to prepare meals for program participants
- Purchase of tables, couches, and a desk to create a safe and functional community space
- Hygiene kits and supplies to support personal care and dignity
- Food to support regular onsite meal service
- Activity supplies to support structured and informal wellness, engagement, and recovery-oriented activities

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These improvements and supplies will directly benefit Trust beneficiaries by reducing barriers to basic needs, improving comfort and safety, and increasing engagement in supportive services. Access to clean clothing, personal hygiene, nutritious meals, and positive social activities helps reduce stress, supports self-worth, and creates opportunities for connection and healing.

The project will serve vulnerable adults in Fort Yukon and the surrounding Yukon Flats region who rely on Open Doors and related CATG behavioral health programs, including the Addie Shewfelt Community Center. The requested Trust funding will have an immediate and lasting impact by strengthening an existing, proven program without creating new ongoing operating costs.

Grantee Proposed Evaluation Measures (from grant application)

CATG will measure project success using practical, program-appropriate performance measures that reflect the impact of improved facilities, supplies, and supportive services on Alaska Mental Health Trust beneficiaries who access the Open Doors Community Resource Center.

How much did we do?

CATG will track:

- The number of unduplicated individuals accessing Open Doors services during the grant period
- The number of individuals utilizing laundry and shower facilities
- The number of meals prepared and served onsite
- The number of hygiene kits distributed to program participants
- The number of group and individual activities supported through activity supplies

How well did we do?

CATG will assess:

- Consistency and reliability of access to hygiene, laundry, meal, and activity services
- Utilization of improved community space and furniture for meals, meetings, and activities
- Informal client feedback related to comfort, cleanliness, safety, and engagement

Is anyone better off as a result of this project?

Trust beneficiaries are expected to experience:

- Improved access to personal hygiene and clean clothing
 - Increased food security through regular, nutritious meals
 - Greater comfort and sense of safety in a welcoming community space
- Increased engagement in supportive and pro-social activities that promote mental health and recovery

Outcomes will be documented through service logs, distribution records, staff observations, and client feedback collected during routine program operations. These measures will demonstrate the direct benefit of this project to Trust beneficiaries and align with the low-barrier, community-based nature of Open Doors.

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Proposed Project Performance Measures (developed by the Trust)

Provide a narrative describing the activities, timeline, successes, challenges, and lessons learned during The Open Door community support facility improvement and remodeling project. Be sure to include electronic photographs of the purchased equipment and supplies, as well as before-and-after photographs of the renovated areas.

Sustainability (from grant application)

Trust Partnership funding will support one-time capital improvements and equipment purchases. CATG will sustain the project by maintaining the upgraded appliances and facilities using existing operational resources. The Open Doors Community Resource Center is an established CATG program, and ongoing utilities, staffing, and routine maintenance are already supported through CATG's health and behavioral health programs. No additional Trust funding will be required to sustain these improvements after the grant period ends.

Who We Serve (from grant application)

This project directly serves Alaska Mental Health Trust beneficiaries by strengthening access to essential basic needs and supportive services at the Open Doors Community Resource Center in Fort Yukon. Open Doors serves vulnerable adults who are experiencing mental illness, chronic alcoholism or other substance use disorders, and related social and economic challenges that place them at high risk for becoming or remaining Trust beneficiaries.

Many individuals who access Open Doors are actively engaged in or transitioning into CATG behavioral health services through the Yukon Flats Behavioral Health Center and the Addie Shewfelt Community Center. Others are in early recovery, experiencing housing instability, or seeking a safe and supportive environment to meet basic needs while working toward improved mental health and stability.

The proposed project will improve access to laundry, shower facilities, meals, hygiene supplies, and supportive community space. These services directly address barriers that Trust beneficiaries face in maintaining personal hygiene, nutrition, and social connection—factors that significantly impact mental health, recovery, and overall quality of life.

Trust beneficiaries will be better off as a result of this project through improved dignity, reduced stress, increased food security, and greater engagement in supportive and recovery-oriented activities. By strengthening the physical environment and resources available at Open Doors, CATG will enhance its ability to provide consistent, low-barrier support that complements clinical behavioral health services and promotes long-term stability for Trust beneficiaries in a remote rural setting.

Estimated Numbers of Beneficiaries Served Experiencing (from grant application)

Mental Illness:	30
Developmental Disabilities:	15
Substance Abuse	45

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Traumatic Brain Injuries:	1
Secondary Beneficiaries (family members or caregivers providing support to primary beneficiaries):	35

Project Budget (from grant application)

Personnel Services Costs	\$0.00
Personnel Services Costs (Other Sources)	\$86,000.00
Personnel Services Narrative	No personnel costs are in this project. The project will be administered by the Behavior Health Manager, a CATG funded position.

Space or Facilities Costs	\$10,000.00
Space or Facilities Costs (Other Sources)	\$0.00
Space or Facilities Narrative	<p>Trust funds will support minor facility improvements to the shower area at the Open Doors Community Resource Center to ensure safe, reliable access to hygiene services for Trust beneficiaries. Improvements may include repairs or replacements necessary to maintain functional and sanitary shower facilities. These are one-time facility improvements and do not include ongoing maintenance or operating costs.</p> <p>-Plumbing repairs / fixture replacement: \$3,500 -Flooring/wall surface repairs (water-resistant): \$2,500 -Labor (local contractor): \$4,000</p>

Supplies Costs	\$12,500.00
Supplies Costs (Other Sources)	\$0.00
Supplies Narrative	<p>Trust funds will be used for one-time or bulk purchases of program supplies that directly support Trust beneficiaries' basic needs and engagement in supportive activities at the Open Doors Community Resource Center.</p> <p>These supplies directly benefit Trust beneficiaries by reducing barriers to hygiene, food security, and social connection. Supplies will be distributed or used onsite as part of Open Doors programming and are not intended to support ongoing operating expenses beyond the grant period.</p> <p>- Hygiene kits & supplies (Soap, shampoo, toothbrushes, toothpaste, towels, razors, etc.): \$4,000 - Food for onsite meals (Initial bulk purchase to support regular meals): \$6,000</p>

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	- Activity supplies (Wellness, engagement, recovery-oriented activities) : \$2,500
Equipment Costs	\$32,500.00
Equipment Costs (Other Sources)	\$0.00
Equipment Narrative	<p>Trust funds will be used for one-time equipment purchases that directly support Trust beneficiaries accessing services at the Open Doors Community Resource Center. Equipment purchases will strengthen the physical environment and improve the reliability, safety, and dignity of basic services provided to vulnerable adults.</p> <p>Equipment purchases include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -A commercial-grade washer and dryer to replace aging units heavily used by program participants (including freight) : \$10,500 -Kitchen appliances (refrigerator, range, and freezer) used to prepare onsite meals for clients: \$11,000 -Furniture including tables, couches, and a desk to create a safe, functional, and welcoming community space for meals, meetings, and activities: \$11,000 <p>These equipment items are essential to maintaining consistent access to hygiene, nutrition, and supportive community space for Trust beneficiaries experiencing mental illness, substance use disorders, and related challenges. All equipment purchases are one-time costs and will be maintained using existing CATG resources.</p>
Other Costs	\$0.00
Other Costs (Other Sources)	\$0.00
Other Costs Narrative	

Other Funding Sources (from grant application)

CATG	\$86,000
Total Leveraged Funds	\$86,000