

Grant Approval Memo



Grantee: New Hope Counseling Center
Request Amount: \$50,000.00
Project Title: Parking Lot Expansion and Pavement for New Hope Counseling Center
Grant Term: 6/1/2026 to 5/31/2027
Trust Staff: Eric Boyer

Staff Analysis:

- What does this project do?
Trust funds will support paving and expanding the parking area at New Hope Counseling Center in Soldotna, Alaska, improving safe access for beneficiaries receiving behavioral health services. New Hope Counseling provides mental health and substance misuse counseling to students at Alaska Christian College (ACC) and to the surrounding communities from Cooper Landing and Ninilchik. New Hope's licensed counselors provided services to over 2000 Trust beneficiaries during FY25. The Center has recently expanded the clinic by 1700 square feet and is adding additional clinicians to the team in expanding their services between in-person care and tele-behavioral health.
- Who is receiving the funds?
New Counseling Center is a non-profit counseling center that began in 2006 with federal funding awarded to New Hope through legislative directed funding by Senator Lisa Murkowski. They are located in Soldotna and serve Trust beneficiaries from ACC and the surrounding communities on the Kenai peninsula.
- Why is staff recommending this project?
This project is recommended for funding because safe, accessible parking is essential for beneficiaries seeking outpatient care. New Hope serves individuals with trauma histories, mobility limitations, TBI, substance use disorders, and other mental health needs. With Trust support, New Hope will make it safer and improve access to all beneficiaries seeking services for behavioral health. New Hope recently expanded the clinic so that they can expand their clinical team and serve more beneficiaries. It is important to have easy and safe access for Trust beneficiaries, who are the predominant customers for New Hope treatment and care.
- Will this be a multi-year project?
This grant is a one-time 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>
2023	Neuro Feedback Distance Learning Introductory Course & NF Equipment for Two Clinicians	\$25,000	Closed	\$25,000

Comp Plan Identification

<u>Area of Focus</u>	<u>Objective</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Area of Focus 2: Healthcare	2.1 Alaskans have access to and receive quality integrated healthcare services	

Trust Focus Area Connection

<u>Budget Area</u>	<u>Strategy</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Mental Health & Addiction Intervention	MHAI - Ensure Alaskans have access to comprehensive crisis services and supports	

Project Description (from grant application)

New Hope Counseling Center was able to engage in a building expansion project from 2022-2025 where we were able to expand the counseling center by 1740 square feet and renovate the existing portion of the building that was built in 2009. The building went from 3000 square feet to 4740 square feet and added four new offices, a conference center, a new exit for greater privacy, and the renovation of the old building with new paint, flooring, furniture and fixtures. With the expansion of the NHCC building and projected increased client usage, the current parking lot has become undersized. This project aims to expand the parking lot to accommodate 35 parking spaces (it currently has a dirt and gravel parking area with 12-15 parking spaces), along with a circle drive to improve traffic flow and accessibility. The updated design also includes paving the entire lot and upgrading the ADA-accessible spaces to provide better wheelchair access and overall usability for all clients. The total area of the parking lot is approximately 25,000 square feet.

New Hope Counseling Center is on the campus of Alaska Christian College (ACC) and rents the building from ACC. ACC will provide all preparatory dirt work and excavation in-house, minimizing external costs. The paving cost is estimated at \$4 per square foot, bringing the total projected cost to \$100,000. We would like to ask the Trust to cover the pavement portion which is estimated to be about \$50,000.

In regard to beneficiaries, all of our clients have mental health needs, varying in challenges from trauma related challenges, depression disorders, anxiety disorders, complicated grief, marital discord, eating disorders and substance abuse challenges. We are credentialed with TriWest and serve many Veterans, some who have had TBI's and combat related trauma, other clients have also sought services related to TBI's. We offer a brain training service called Neuro Feedback that has been a wonderful tool

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to assist in stabilizing and re-regulating brain functioning that impacts an array of mental, neurological and health conditions.

While NHCC was planted by ACC in 2003 to provide services to the ACC students, we have been able to grow in offering our services to not only the ACC students and staff, but to our local communities and greater AK through tele-behavioral health. In FY25, we provided about 400 encounters to the Alaska Christian College Community and about 1700 encounters to the communities of the Kenai Peninsula and greater AK. As of 12/31/25 (our FY is 6/1-5/31), we have provided about 175 encounters to the ACC students and about 1200 to the AK communities. As we add 2-3 additional counselors and our MA counselors become licensed, these encounter numbers will continue to grow. With the expansion of the building, the licensure and hire of additional counselors and the subsequent expansion and re-configuration of the parking lot, we hope to increase accessibility to services for beneficiaries in the Kenai Peninsula communities from Cooper Landing to Ninilchik, and Nikiski with the predominant clientele coming from Soldotna and Kenai, AK for in-person services.

Grantee Proposed Evaluation Measures (from grant application)

Since this is a capital improvement project, the project success will be measured by the completion of the renovated parking lot. We will measure the total amount of square footage expansion of the parking lot, number of total parking spaces, and completion with pavement. We hope that all people seeking services, working at New Hope Counseling Center, individuals requiring ADA assistance, and companies delivering goods to New Hope Counseling Center will experience a hassle free easy in and out access to our center.

Proposed Project Performance Measures (developed by the Trust)

Provide a narrative describing the activities, timeline, successes, challenges, and lessons learned during the parking lot expansion and pavement project. Be sure to include electronic photographs that show the parking lot before and after completion.

Sustainability (from grant application)

This project will be completed by the end of the grant funding period. Any residual cost will be funded by Alaska Christian College.

Who We Serve (from grant application)

The primary trust beneficiary group that will be served with this project are beneficiaries with mental health needs. In addition to those with general mental illness and mental health needs, individuals with substance abuse disorders, traumatic brain injuries and those with developmental disorders may also be serviced as a result of this project. Often individuals with mental illness and mental health needs, substance abuse, traumatic brain injuries and developmental disorders experience elevated stress and anxiety when seeking services. This project aims to reduce stress by increasing the accessibility to and from the counseling center so that their treatment experience is not hampered by the inability to find a parking place or enter or leave the parking area with ease.

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Estimated Numbers of Beneficiaries Served Experiencing (from grant application)

Mental Illness:	100
Developmental Disabilities:	10
Substance Abuse	10
Traumatic Brain Injuries:	5
Secondary Beneficiaries (family members or caregivers providing support to primary beneficiaries):	10

Project Budget (from grant application)

Personnel Services Costs	\$0.00
Personnel Services Costs (Other Sources)	\$5,000.00
Personnel Services Narrative	ACC Job supervisor - \$5000

Space or Facilities Costs	\$0.00
Space or Facilities Costs (Other Sources)	\$25,000.00
Space or Facilities Narrative	- ACC will provide all the prep work including grounds preparation, removal of trees, gravel excavation, and dirt and gravel work to securely pack and prepare the parking lot: \$25,000

Supplies Costs	\$50,000.00
Supplies Costs (Other Sources)	\$50,000.00
Supplies Narrative	-The paving cost for 25,00 square feet. Includes D1 gravel and pavement: \$50,000 - AMHTA - Striping on parking lot and 35 cement bumpers: \$7,500n - ACC - Incidental Supplies such as diesel fuel and major equipment rentals: \$2,500 - ACC

Equipment Costs	\$0.00
Equipment Costs (Other Sources)	\$10,000.00
Equipment Narrative	-Major equipment rentals. Excavator and loader: \$10,000

Other Funding Sources (from grant application)

Alaska Christian College	\$50,000.00
Total Leveraged Funds	\$50,000.00