

Grant Approval Memo



Grantee: North Star Community Foundation
Request Amount: \$100,000.00
Project Title: Fairbanks Warming Center
Grant Term: 12/1/2026 to 11/30/2027
Trust Staff: Kelda Barstad

Staff Analysis:

- **What does this project do?**

This project funds the reopening and operation of an overnight warming center in Fairbanks to provide emergency, low-barrier shelter during the coldest months of the year. The center will offer a safe, warm place for unsheltered adults—many of whom are Trust beneficiaries—to stay overnight, supported by on-site staffing from Northern Hope Center and augmented services including peer support, case management, patient navigation, shuttle service, community paramedicine, mobile crisis response, and contracted security.

- **Who is receiving the funds?**

The North Star Community Foundation (NSCF) is a fiscal agent for the project. They are a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization based in Fairbanks, Alaska. NSCF improves the quality of life in Interior Alaska through facilitating philanthropy, community development, and public service. NSCF has extensive experience managing community projects and will coordinate with key partners, including the City of Fairbanks, the Fairbanks Housing & Homeless Coalition, Northern Hope Center, Tanana Chiefs Conference, Alaska Behavioral Health, Fairbanks Fire Department, and other local agencies who will deliver on-site operations and supportive services.

- **Why is staff recommending this project?**

The Fairbanks Warming Center provides a warm place for unsheltered single adults in the Fairbanks community to stay overnight during the coldest month of the year. A low-barrier overnight warming shelter is needed in Fairbanks due to a growing number of homeless Trust beneficiaries unable to meet the conditions to enter or stay at the year-round shelter. The previous operator of the warming shelter closed in April of this year. In collaboration with the City of Fairbanks and the Fairbanks Housing & Homeless Coalition, the resurrection of services can at the outset protect a vulnerable population and in the long-term connect this population to sources of safe stabilization and housing security. Northern Hope Center will provide two overnight staff and a program manager on an existing site, augmented by peer support, case management, patient navigation, shuttle service, community paramedicine, mobile crisis services and contracted security services. This warming center will be available to anyone in the Interior Region in need of an emergency warming space overnight. This collaboration will save lives, mitigate pressure on the emergency response system, reduce harm and improve the quality of life for community members who are housing insecure. People experiencing homelessness are often Trust beneficiaries, with the largest beneficiary groups consisting of people with a mental health condition or addiction. An estimated 100 unique individuals will be served.

- **Will this be a multi-year project?**

Grant Approval Memo



It is not known if the community will come forward with a request for future years of funding.

Trust Five Year Funding History

Fiscal Year	Project Title	Amount	Status	Final Expended
2026	Healing thru Music & Dance 2026 - Breathe in the World, Breathe out Music	\$20,000	Active	Final report due 1/31/2027
2026	FY26-NSCF/Fairbanks Reentry Coalition Housing Assistance	\$80,000	Pending final report	Final Report due 9/30/2026
2025	Fairbanks Hopelink Warming Center (FY25)	\$50,000	Closed	\$50,000
2025	NSCF/Fairbanks Reentry Coalition Housing Assistance (FY25)	\$71,500	Closed	\$69,339.35
2024	Fairbanks Reentry Coalition Housing Project (FY24)	\$50,000	Closed	\$49,893.17

Comp Plan - Area of Focus	Strategic Priority Area
Area of Focus 3: Economic & Social Well-being	Priority 2: Crisis Response

Project Description (from grant application)

Of the \$828,460 Fairbanks Warming Center project, North Star Community Foundation requests \$100,000 to create a full-service warming center for Fairbanks to prevent injury and harm to homeless individuals and families, primarily those who experience substance use disorder and mental health disorders, during inclement weather conditions. A warming center that had served this population for three years closed its doors this past April.

In collaboration with the City of Fairbanks and the Fairbanks Housing & Homeless Coalition, the resurrection of services can at the outset protect a vulnerable population and in the long-term connect this population to sources of safe stabilization and housing security. Northern Hope Center will provide two overnight staff and a program manager on an existing site, augmented by peer support, case management, patient navigation, shuttle service, community paramedicine, mobile crisis services and contracted security services. This warming center will be available to anyone in the Interior Region in need of an emergency warming space overnight. This collaboration will save lives, mitigate pressure on the emergency response system, reduce harm and improve the quality of life for community members who are housing insecure.

We intend to provide a warm and safe center for a 12-hour period for 100 unique unsheltered residents in over 8,000 overnight stays that would include case management, resource navigation, and transportation to access health care services. Project staff will administer intakes and assessment updates for accurate

Grant Approval Memo



data on unsheltered individuals to strengthen Alaska Homeless Management Information System (AKHMIS) data input that informs short and long-term policy for Fairbanks Housing and Homeless Coalition member agencies.

Project objectives:

- Increase the number of clients accessing a primary care provider by 30%
- Increase the number of unsheltered clients housed by 15%
- Increase the number of clients assessed for substance use disorder into treatment by 15%
- Increase the number of clients assessed for behavior health disorder into treatment by 15%

This is a true community project--envisioned, planned, and led by multiple agencies. The North Star Community Foundation will be the lead fiscal agent. Northern Hope Center will provide operations and onsite management. Tanana Chiefs Conference will provide transportation and patient navigation for their beneficiaries for TCC services. The Fairbanks Fire Department will provide community paramedics for mobile integrated health care and access to primary and behavioral healthcare. Alaska Behavioral Health's Mobile Crisis Team will be available to support guests in acute crisis. Fairbanks Integrated Community Services will provide case management and wrap-around services. The City of Fairbanks is a co-lead on this project and is committed to convening stakeholders and raising awareness and funds for the project. Fairbanks Housing and Homeless Coalition will be the vehicle for organizing community organizations such as civic groups, churches, etc. for charitable projects to benefit the warming center. Foundation Health Partners is taking the lead on documentation for a care coordination project. Alaska Coalition on Housing & Homelessness will support this project with training and data needs.

Grantee Proposed Evaluation Measures (from grant application)

Community paramedics and case managers can track how many individuals they connect to a primary care provider. Care coordination with the Foundation Health Partners will document access to health care services. This partnership will expand health care referral pathways to meet the 30% goal.

Project staff and partners will report on those who are successfully housed in a more stable environment, reflecting an increase in housed clientele by 15%.

- Increase the number of clients assessed for substance use disorder into treatment by 15%
Community paramedics and case managers can track how many individuals they connect to a substance use treatment provider. Care coordination between agencies will ensure pathways to treatment and discharge from treatment is more streamlined to ensure higher rates of stabilization.
- Increase the number of clients assessed for behavior health disorder into treatment by 15%
Community paramedics and case managers can track how many individuals they connect to a behavioral health services. Care coordination between agencies will ensure pathways to

Grant Approval Memo



behavioral health services are more streamlined and supported in the interim between care to ensure higher rates of stabilization.

Proposed Project Performance Measures (developed by the Trust)

Performance Measure 1:

How much did you do?

- a) Total number (#) of unduplicated Trust beneficiaries served during the project reporting period, broken down by primary Trust beneficiary category.
- b) Number (#) of shelter users, by month.
- c) Total number (#) of nights the shelter was available during the reporting period.

Performance Measure 2:

How well did you do it?

- a) Provide a narrative describing the timeline, activities, successes, challenges, and any lessons learned during the grant reporting period.
- b) Number (#) and percentage (%) of participants who were satisfied with the services they received while receiving shelter at the Warming Center.
- c) Number (#) and percentage (%) of participants who felt they were treated with dignity and respect while receiving shelter at the Warming Center.

Performance Measure 3:

Is anyone better off?

- a) Number (#) and percentage (%) of participants who felt safe during their stay at the Warming Center.
- b) Number (#) and percentage (%) of participants who were connected with other area-wide service agencies (health care, public benefits, etc.) during the grant reporting period.
- c) Two or more statements from participants (in their own words) that describe how the Warming Center positively impacted their quality of life.

Sustainability (from grant application)

Northern Hope Center as the main operator also operates a crisis center with the ability to bill Medicaid for services that will bring a sustainable revenue service to their organization. Along with a percentage of clientele being eligible for a Medicaid-based billing system for treatment, the partners will solicit increased in-kind services, apply to Rasmuson Foundation, explore applications for Rural Health

Grant Approval Memo



Transformation Program (RHTP) funding, and other foundations, connect to more housing resources for the housing insecure, and increase private and corporate donations. In 2026, FHHC member agencies have secured grant funding from Alaska Housing for a total of \$375,000 for rental assistance to house individuals out of the Warming Center. Tanana Chiefs Conference's (TCC) Housing First program has open units as well for chronically homeless individuals, if TCC's staffing needs are met.

Estimated Numbers of Beneficiaries Served Experiencing (from grant application)

Mental Illness:	35
Developmental Disabilities:	5
Alzheimer's Disease & Related Dementias:	3
Substance Abuse	60
Traumatic Brain Injuries:	5
Number of people to be trained	10

Project Budget (from grant application)

Personnel Services Costs	\$87,000.00
Personnel Services Costs (Other Sources)	\$373,665.00
Personnel Services Narrative	Northern Hope Center Program Manager (50% paid from other sources) = \$84,000 Northern Hope Center Overnight warming center staff (2) (paid from other sources) = \$213,600 Tanana Chiefs Conference shuttle staff/patient navigator (62% paid from other sources) = \$116,474 Fairbanks Integrated Community Services (FICS) case management (100% paid from other sources) = \$46,591
Equipment Costs	\$4,000.00
Equipment Costs (Other Sources)	\$36,000.00
Equipment Narrative	The Trust would contribute \$4,000 toward warming supplies, chairs and security features. \$36,000 paid from other sources.
Other Costs	\$9,000.00
Other Costs (Other Sources)	\$155,335.00
Other Costs Narrative	Security contract (100% paid from other sources) = \$98,335 Contractual Consultation (100% paid from other sources) = \$10,000 Indirect administrative (84% paid from other sources) = \$56,000

Other Funding Sources (from grant application)

Grant Approval Memo



Rasmuson Foundation Pending	\$450,000.00
City of Fairbanks Secured	\$25,000.00
Private donations Secured	\$50,000.00
Private donations Pending	\$40,000.00
Total Leveraged Funds	\$565,000.00