

Grant Approval Memo



Grantee: University of Alaska Anchorage
Request Amount: \$148,000.00
Project Title: Replication of Trust Beneficiaries in Alaska's Department of Corrections
Grant Term: 7/1/2026 to 6/30/2027
Trust Staff: Heather Phelps

Staff Analysis:

- **What does this project do?**

Trust funds will support the completion of the update to the Trust Beneficiaries in Alaska's Department of Corrections (DOC) Study. The project addresses delays experienced under the FY26 funding and will finalize the analysis, reporting, and briefings needed to produce an updated prevalence and needs assessment of beneficiaries within DOC custody.

For context, the last time the study was conducted was 2014. Recognizing the need to update the study, the Board of Trustees approved FY 26 funding to DOC. Unfortunately, several unanticipated, complicated circumstances involving data-sharing agreements and the disbursement of funds between DOC and the Alaska Justice Information Center (AJiC) resulted in both agencies needing more time to complete the study. As MHTAAR funds are determined at least a year in advance, there was no easy mechanism for the Trust to revise the FY 27 MHTAAR budget. Trust staff determined that the best course of action to complete the DOC study with the least lag in funding would be for AJiC to request funds through an authority grant and to go before the board. We recognize this is an unusual request, but since data-informed investments are part of the new strategic plan, we request that the board consider funding the project through completion.

- **Who is receiving the funds?**

The Alaska Justice Information Center at the University of Alaska (Anchorage) will receive the funds. AJiC's mission is to provide independent, transparent analysis that transforms justice data into actionable information. By empowering Alaskans with evidence-based research, AJiC strives to strengthen public safety, promote accountability within the justice system, and reduce recidivism.

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

Based on the last Trust Beneficiaries in Alaska's Department of Corrections study from 2014, Trust Beneficiaries account for more than 40% the incarcerations each year, 70.1% has substance related issues, and 65% of the ADOC population in a correctional facility on June 30, 2012, was a Trust Beneficiary. A special emphasis on beneficiaries with intellectual/developmental disabilities, brain-based disorders (Dementia, traumatic acquired brain injury, etc.), and suicide, and recommendations for these populations will be included in the updated study.

An updated study will not only capture the current prevalence of Trust beneficiaries in DOC but will also inform funding, policy, and advocacy efforts to reduce recidivism and improve beneficiary outcomes.

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

No. This is a one-year request which will complete the Trust Beneficiary in the Alaska Department of Corrections study.

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Trust Five Year Funding History

The University of Alaska Anchorage has been the recipient of numerous MHTAAR grants over the past 5 years.

Comp Plan - Area of Focus	Strategic Priority Area
Area of Focus 10: Data	Not Affiliated with a Strategic Priority Area

Project Description (from grant application)

This project supports completion of the FY26 Trust Beneficiaries study conducted in partnership with the Alaska Department of Corrections (ADOC). Due to delays associated with project coordination and related scope clarification activities, additional time and support are needed to complete the remaining project activities and finalize reporting.

The project focuses on Alaska Mental Health Trust beneficiary populations involved in the correctional system, including individuals experiencing mental illness, substance use disorders, intellectual and developmental disabilities, traumatic brain injuries, and Alzheimer's disease or related dementias.

Remaining project activities include review of operational and service-related information relevant to Trust beneficiary populations within ADOC custody. Activities are intended to support completion of the overall project report and provide additional context regarding coordination, continuity of care, workflow, and service delivery considerations associated with beneficiary populations.

The project serves a statewide geographic area through coordination with ADOC and review of statewide correctional and behavioral health information relevant to Trust beneficiary populations.

Expected outcomes include completion of the final project report and related briefing materials summarizing operational considerations relevant to Trust beneficiary populations within ADOC custody. The project is also expected to provide information relevant to planning, coordination, continuity of care, and service delivery associated with beneficiary populations and related behavioral health needs.

The project is supported through ongoing coordination between the Alaska Justice Information Center (AJiC) and ADOC and represents continuation and completion of the original FY26 project activities.

Grantee Proposed Evaluation Measures (from grant application)

How much did the project do?

Completion of planned project review and coordination activities
Completion of final report and briefing materials
Completion of project activities within the project period

How well did the project do?

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Delivery of final report summarizing operational and service-related considerations
Delivery of at least two project briefings or presentations

Is anyone better off as a result of the project?

Improved availability of information related to Trust beneficiary populations within ADOC
Information to support future planning, coordination, continuity-of-care discussions, and service-related activities involving Trust beneficiary populations

Proposed Project Performance Measures (developed by the Trust)

Provide a narrative describing the timeline, activities, successes, and challenges of the Trust Beneficiaries in the Alaska Department of Corrections Study. Be sure to include details about the following:

- a. Completion of planned project review and coordination of activities.
- b. Completion of the final report and associated briefing materials.
- c. Delivery of final report, summarizing operational and service-related considerations.

Sustainability (from grant application)

This project is intended to support completion of the original FY26 Trust Beneficiaries study and related reporting activities. Trust funding will support remaining project coordination, review, and reporting activities necessary to finalize the project.

The project is not intended to establish an ongoing program requiring continued Trust funding. Information developed through the project may continue to inform future planning, coordination, continuity-of-care discussions, and service-related activities involving Trust beneficiary populations within the Alaska Department of Corrections.

Who We Serve (from grant application)

This project focuses on Alaska Mental Health Trust beneficiary populations involved in the Alaska Department of Corrections (ADOC), including incarcerated individuals experiencing mental illness, substance use disorders, intellectual and developmental disabilities, traumatic brain injuries, and Alzheimer's disease or related dementias.

The project supports completion of the original FY26 Trust Beneficiaries study and focuses on operational and service-related considerations associated with Trust beneficiary populations within ADOC custody. Project activities are intended to support completion of the final project report and related briefing materials associated with the study.

The project is expected to provide information relevant to continuity of care, coordination, service delivery, and behavioral health needs affecting Trust beneficiary populations involved in the correctional system. The completed project report is also intended to support future planning, coordination, and operational discussions involving behavioral health and correctional systems within Alaska.

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Estimated Numbers of Beneficiaries Served Experiencing (from grant application)

Mental Illness:	0
Developmental Disabilities:	0
Alzheimer's Disease & Related Dementias:	0
Substance Abuse	0
Traumatic Brain Injuries:	0
Secondary Beneficiaries (family members or caregivers providing support to primary beneficiaries):	0

*This is not a direct service project.

Project Budget (from grant application)

Personnel Services Costs	\$97,400.00
Personnel Services Costs (Other Sources)	\$0.00
Personnel Services Narrative	2.09 mos. per year for the PI at \$10,935/monthly to oversee project coordination, interview activities, review of project materials, reporting, and project briefings is requested to support completion of the project. A 15.8% leave reserve is included. 0.09 mos. per year for the faculty researcher at \$10,427/monthly to assist with review and organization of interview materials, operational summaries, and interpretation of project information is requested to support completion of the project is requested to perform the proposed research. A 15.8% leave reserve is included. Support is budgeted for a research professional for 1040 hours at \$26.57 hourly to coordinate interviews, organize project materials, assist with review activities, and support preparation of reports and presentation materials. A leave reserve of 22.0% is included. Benefits: Benefits are applied according to the University of Alaska's fixed fringe benefit rates for FY26. Rates are 35.3% for faculty and 59.5% for non-exempt staff. A copy of the rate agreement is available at: http://www.alaska.edu/cost-analysis/negotiation-agreements/

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Other Costs	\$50,600.00
Other Costs (Other Sources)	\$0.00
Other Costs Narrative	Qualitative coding support: \$10,000: Contractual support for review and organization of project materials and related coding activities. Graphic design services: \$3,000: Graphic design and formatting support for final project materials and reporting products. Printing and final report production: \$5,000: Printing, formatting, and production costs associated with the final project report and briefing materials. Postage: \$3,000: Postage and related mailing costs associated with project coordination and distribution of project materials. Facilities and Administrative (F&A) Costs: \$29,600: Indirect costs calculated consistent with the University of Alaska's negotiated State of Alaska sponsored research agreement (25.0%).

Other Funding Sources (from grant application)

Total Leveraged Funds	\$0.00
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