Grant Approval Memo

Trust
Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority

Grantee:	Anchorage Community Mental Health Services dba Alaska Behavioral Health
Request Amount:	$750,000.00
Project Title:	Fairbanks Mobile Crisis Team
Grant Term:	1/1/2027 to 12/31/2027
Trust Staff:	Samantha Ponts

Staff Analysis:

- What does this project do?

  Trust funds will support the Alaska Behavioral Health (AKBH) Fairbanks Mobile Crisis Team (MCT). The team pairs a behavioral health clinician with a peer support specialist to provide 24/7 crisis response, assessment, de-escalation, and connection to care.

- Who is receiving the funds?

  Alaska Behavioral Health (AKBH) will receive the funds. AKBH is a statewide nonprofit behavioral health provider offering mental health, substance use, crisis, and recovery services.

- Why is staff recommending this project?

  The Fairbanks MCT helps people receive care in the community and avoid unnecessary emergency department and law enforcement involvement. Since expanding borough-wide in 2022, monthly calls are projected to reach 1,843 in 2026, up 474% from 2022. The Team now provides 24/7 responses across 7,361 square miles. Out of 2,211 MCT encounters in 2025-2026 less than 1% involved law enforcement, with 95% stabilized in community. In five years, Fairbanks MCT went from an alternative response to a core piece of the emergency response system for the Fairbanks North Star Borough.

- Will this be a multi-year project?

  Trust funding will help maintain the program while AKBH strengthens long-term sustainability through Medicaid reimbursement and the Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC) model. ABKH currently receives reimbursement for mobile crisis services under a fee-for-service structure, however reimbursement has covered only a portion of the cost of maintaining a 24/7 response team. Since the beginning of 2026, ABKH reported that, of 1,635 encounters, 699 involved Medicaid beneficiaries, resulting in approximately $148,935 in collectible Medicaid revenue and approximately $74,468 in expected cash reimbursement

  Alaska's CCBHC Demonstration became effective October 1, 2026, and participating CCBHCs are now eligible to receive reimbursement through the prospective payment system (PPS), with claims processing and provider enrollment currently being implemented by the State. AKBH's Fairbanks CCBHC is participating in the Demonstration, which is expected to continue for at least four years.

  The PPS rate is based on reported costs of providing the required CCBHC services. The Fairbanks mobile crisis response encounter rate is approximately $3,400 per qualifying encounter. This enhanced Medicaid reimbursement represents a significant new sustainability mechanism for AKBH's MCT.

However, PPS reimbursement does not eliminate the need for other funding. Mobile crisis services must be available to anyone in the community, while the CCBHC PPS payment is limited to qualifying, in-person encounters with Medicaid beneficiaries. Responses involving individuals who are uninsured, commercially insured, or otherwise do not meet the requirements for a billable encounter may not generate PPS reimbursement. Trust funding will help support the 24/7 availability of the team as AKBH implements CCBHC billing and evaluates the extent to which Medicaid reimbursement can sustain ongoing operations. Nationally, the CCBHC model is widely recognized as the most significant step toward sustaining crisis services, enabling providers to add, stabilize, and expand Mobile Crisis Teams. CCBHCs must deliver nine core service categories, including 24/7 mobile crisis response, making the model a key long-term financing strategy for crisis systems.

Trust Five Year Funding History

Fiscal Year	Project Title	Amount	Status	Final Expended
2026	Fairbanks Mobile Crisis Team (FY26)	$950,000	Active	Final report due 1/31/2027
2025	Fairbanks Mobile Crisis Team (FY25)	$850,000	Closed	$850,000
2024	Fairbanks Mobile Crisis Team (FY24)	$750,000	Closed	$750,000
2023	Fairbanks Mobile Crisis Team (FY23)	$801,039	Closed	$801,039

Comp Plan - Area of Focus	Strategic Priority Area
Area of Focus 5: Suicide Prevention	Priority 2: Crisis Response

Project Description (from grant application)

Individuals experiencing behavioral health crises require timely, appropriate care delivered in the least restrictive setting possible. A comprehensive crisis care continuum includes a crisis call center, a mobile crisis team, and crisis stabilization services that provide multiple intervention opportunities across varying levels of need. This request seeks funding to support the Fairbanks Mobile Crisis Team, a critical component of the regional behavioral health crisis system serving residents throughout the Fairbanks North Star Borough.

The Fairbanks Mobile Crisis Team provides rapid, community-based crisis response services in homes, workplaces, schools, shelters, and other community settings. Mobile crisis staff deliver triage and screening, behavioral health assessments, de-escalation and crisis resolution, peer support, coordination with medical and behavioral health providers, collaboration with families and natural supports, information and referrals, transportation assistance when appropriate, crisis planning, and follow-up services. The team provides trauma-informed, recovery-oriented care with a strong emphasis on suicide prevention and community stabilization.

The primary beneficiaries served by this project include individuals living with serious mental illness, chronic substance use disorders, co-occurring behavioral health conditions, traumatic brain injuries, developmental disabilities, Alzheimer's disease and related dementias, and other Trust beneficiary populations experiencing a behavioral health crisis. Services prioritize individuals whose symptoms place them at risk of hospitalization, incarceration, homelessness, or other adverse outcomes.

By providing immediate, person-centered crisis intervention, the Fairbanks Mobile Crisis Team helps individuals remain safely in their communities whenever possible. Expected outcomes include reduced utilization of emergency departments, reduced involvement with law enforcement and correctional systems, increased connection to ongoing treatment and recovery supports, improved community stabilization, and enhanced quality of life for Trust beneficiaries and their families. The program continues to receive strong support from local hospitals, first responders, behavioral health providers, community organizations, and other stakeholders that rely on mobile crisis services as an essential resource within the regional crisis response system.

Proposed Project Performance Measures (developed by the Trust)

Performance Measure 1:

How much did you do?

a) Total number (#) of unduplicated Trust beneficiaries receiving services from the mobile crisis team during the reporting period.
b) Number (#) of Trust beneficiaries receiving the following services:
   i. Triage and screening for suicidality
   iii. De-escalation/resolution
   iv. Peer support
   v. Coordination with medical and behavioral health services
   vi. Collaboration with families and natural supports
   vii. Information and referrals
   viii. Transportation
   ix. Crisis planning and follow-up.
   x. Secondary beneficiaries.

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 reporting period. Please describe staff roles in the participation with the Crisis Now steering committee.
b) Number (#) and percentage (%) of unduplicated individuals served who received follow-up after 48 hours by a Peer Support Professional.

Performance Measure 3:

Is anyone better off?

a) Number (#) and percentage (%) of individuals who engage in recovery supports, housing, employment, and/or other treatment services.
b) Number (#) and percentage (%) of individuals who are diverted from higher levels of care (including hospitalization) as a result of their participation in the project.
c) Number (#) and percentage (%) of individuals reporting an increase in their quality of life as a result of participating in the project.
d) Statements from peer support professionals, participants and/or family members describing how their (client's/family member's) quality of life has been impacted by the project (personal experienced or observed).

Sustainability (from grant application)

Numerous studies and local program outcomes demonstrate that mobile crisis services effectively divert individuals from unnecessary psychiatric hospitalization, reduce justice system involvement, and increase connection to community-based treatment and recovery supports. Since implementation, the Fairbanks Mobile Crisis Team has consistently maintained community stabilization rates that meet or exceed national benchmarks for mobile crisis services.
While Medicaid and other reimbursement sources provide partial support for crisis intervention services, current reimbursement levels do not fully fund the operational costs associated with maintaining a comprehensive 24/7 mobile crisis response program. The Fairbanks Mobile Crisis Team requires licensed clinicians, peer support professionals, supervision, ongoing training, transportation resources, and administrative infrastructure to ensure around-the-clock availability.
ACMHS/AK Behavioral Health will continue pursuing diversified funding through Medicaid reimbursement, state and federal funding opportunities, local partnerships, and grant support. However, ongoing grant funding remains essential to sustain comprehensive mobile crisis services and ensure continued access to timely community-based crisis response for Trust beneficiaries in the Fairbanks region.

Who We Serve (from grant application)

This project directly serves Alaska Mental Health Trust beneficiaries experiencing behavioral health crises, including individuals living with serious mental illness, chronic substance use disorders, developmental disabilities, traumatic brain injuries, Alzheimer's disease and related dementias, and individuals with co-occurring conditions.
Many individuals served by the Fairbanks Mobile Crisis Team are experiencing acute symptoms that place them at risk of psychiatric hospitalization, incarceration, homelessness, victimization, or significant impairment in daily functioning. Mobile crisis services provide rapid intervention, assessment,

stabilization, and linkage to ongoing care, helping beneficiaries obtain the right care at the right time and in the least restrictive setting possible.
As a result of this project, beneficiaries will experience increased access to crisis intervention services, reduced reliance on emergency departments and law enforcement, improved connection to treatment and recovery supports, greater community stability, and enhanced quality of life. Family members and caregivers will also benefit through education, support, crisis planning assistance, and improved access to resources.

Estimated Numbers of Beneficiaries Served Experiencing (from grant application)

Mental Illness:	600
Developmental Disabilities:	80
Alzheimer's Disease & Related Dementias:	30
Substance Abuse	200
Traumatic Brain Injuries:	35
Secondary Beneficiaries (family members or caregivers providing support to primary beneficiaries):	600
Number of people to be trained	5

Project Budget (from grant application)

Personnel Services Costs	$555,299.00
Personnel Services Costs (Other Sources)	$0.00
Personnel Services Narrative	Maintaining the current level of staffing for the Mobile Crisis Team: Clinical Management - 0.15 FTE Clinician (24/7) - 4.0 FTE Peer Support (24/7) - 4.0 FTE

Travel Costs	$12,460.00
Travel Costs (Other Sources)	$0.00
Travel Costs Narrative	Mileage reimbursement for personal vehicles used, and some travel costs for training received outside of Fairbanks

Space or Facilities Costs	$9,380.00
Space or Facilities Costs (Other Sources)	$0.00
Space or Facilities Narrative	Share of utilities and rent costs for space occupied as the Mobile Crisis Team base.

Supplies Costs	$2,500.00
Supplies Costs (Other Sources)	$2,500.00

Supplies Narrative	Medical and other PPE supplies needed to furnish the vehicles in readiness for call-outs

Other Costs	$170,361.00
Other Costs (Other Sources)	$0.00
Other Costs Narrative	Contract - share of computer software licenses and subscriptions to maintain access to client related information Insurance - share of commercial and property related annual premiums Indirect - overhead and administrative costs applied at 24% as the approved Federally Indirect Cost Negotiated Rate

Other Funding Sources (from grant application)

N/A	$0.00
Total Leveraged Funds	**$0.00**