Grant Approval Memo

Trust
Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority

Grantee:	North Star Community Foundation
Request Amount:	$80,000.00
Project Title:	FY27-NSCF/Fairbanks Reentry Coalition Housing Assistance
Grant Term:	11/19/2026 to 11/18/2027
Trust Staff:	Heather Phelps

Staff Analysis:

- What does this project do?

  Trust funds will provide rent and utilities and associated supplies (union dues, licensing fees, household items) for Trust beneficiaries reentering society after being incarcerated at least once in the three preceding years. It is anticipated that approximately 55 Trust beneficiaries will be served during a twelve-month period. 92% of the budget is dedicated to paying rent, deposit, and/or utilities for moving into an apartment or house, and supplies related to reentering the community successfully. 8% of the budget is for an administrative fee. The expected outcomes for this project are for Trust beneficiaries to report an increase in their quality of life, an increase in successful community reintegration, and a decrease in participant recidivism.

- Who is receiving the funds?

  The Fairbanks Reentry Coalition, through its fiscal agent, North Star Community Foundation, is receiving the funds to use for its Fairbanks Reentry Coalition Housing Assistance Program. The area served is Fairbanks and North Star Borough. The Fairbanks Reentry Coalition creates a community where returning citizens have the keys to achieve their personal goals successfully.

- Why is staff recommending this project?

  This project will support Trust beneficiaries reentering their community after incarceration. The majority of the Trust beneficiaries experience a substance use disorder and mental illness, but some also experience Alzheimer's and related dementia and developmental disabilities. The project will provide housing assistance to help Trust beneficiaries to avoid housing insecurity and provide support for successful community reintegration.

- Will this be a multi-year project?

  While this is a one-time funding request, it should be noted that the Trust has funded this project for fiscal year 2024, 2025, and 2026. The Fairbanks Reentry Coalition is anticipated to request funds for the next fiscal year and will require the board of trustee approval each year of funding.

Grant Approval Memo

Trust
Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority

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 7: Services in the Least Restrictive Environment	Priority 4: Ongoing Support & Wellbeing

Project Description (from grant application)

The Trust Beneficiary groups that will be the focus of this continued project are those experiencing chronic alcoholism or substance abuse, mental illness, or developmental disabilities and who have also been incarcerated at least once in the presiding three years. The geographic area served by this project is the Fairbanks North Star Borough.

The Fairbanks Reentry Coalition consists of a collaboration of individuals, community stakeholders, public and non-profit agencies, faith-based and business partners who are united and committed to supporting projects that help to reduce recidivism among returning citizens to the Fairbanks community.

The biggest challenge we continue to face is the amount of affordable housing that is available in Fairbanks. We have seen more housing coming available through AKFHC, but the wait-list is long for HUD and Returning Home housing. There continues to be a barrier for success if a client has to go into the Rescue Mission or Northstar Transitional Housing due to being exposed to substances being used by other clients.

The Fairbanks Reentry Coalition Housing Assistance program would allow the Fairbanks Reentry Coalition and partners, through its Fiscal Agent, North Star Community Foundation, to continue to provide rent or deposits and/or funds to support turning on utilities (electricity or fuel oil) for qualified applicants. This was a ground-breaking project that began in FY24 and as a result of the Fairbanks Reentry Coalition receiving these funds that past two fiscal years, we have served over 100 justice-involved beneficiaries. That include housing (rent or deposits), Cold-Weather gear for work up north, Utilities, Union Dues, D/L,

Insurance, Business Licenses, Glasses, and other miscellaneous items to ensure employment so individuals could maintain permanent housing. We met our goal of serving 45 individuals in under three months and actually housed 60 individuals.

For FY27, the Coordinator will continue working in tandem with Fairbanks Probation Officers and AK Community Mental Health (to include Electronic Monitor and Pre-Trial) that will be available to identify recipients and assist them with completing the lease and understanding the landlord's requirements. The Coordinator will also collaborate with our community partners (such as employment and job training services, mental and substance abuse treatment providers, etc.) to help make certain the Trust beneficiaries participating in this program have services wrapped around them to become self-sufficient through comprehensive referrals and coalition partnerships.

The expected outcome of this project is that Trust beneficiaries would have a better chance at remaining out of a correctional facility, applicants would be able to internalize the belief that the community does support their return, and applicants may want to join the Coalitions to help others.

Grantee Proposed Evaluation Measures (from grant application)

We collect data related to purchases, rentals, and deposits through the Blackbaud portal as well as an Excel sheet that is directly tied to a beneficiary. We also maintain contact with Beneficiaries through email, phone, and text as well as checking with PO's to ensure the client is still engaged and needs are being met.

Proposed Project Performance Measures (developed by the Trust)

Performance Measure 1:

How much did you do?

(a) Number (#) of unduplicated Trust beneficiaries served during the reporting period, broken down by Trust beneficiary category.
(b) Dollar ($) amount spent per beneficiary while enrolled in the program during the reporting period.

Performance Measure 2:

How well did you do it?

(a) Provide a narrative that describes the timeline, activities, successes, challenges, and any lessons learned during the reporting period.

(b) Number (#) and percentage (%) of participants who felt the services they received were rendered in a non-judgement, respectful, and comfortable manner.

Performance Measure 3:

Is anyone better off?

(a) Number (#) and percentage (%) of participants who were able to sustain their housing situation for > 6 months post-release.
(b) Number (#) and percentage (%) of participants who recidivated during the reporting period. Provide a comparison to how this number compares to the recidivism rate in Alaska as a whole.
(c) Number (#) and percentage (%) of participants who reported an increase in their quality of life during the reporting period.
(d) Two or more statements from participants describing (in their own words) how their quality of life has been impacted since participating in the project.

Sustainability (from grant application)

Yes the project will continue. Funds to sustain the Housing project will be allocated through AFHC through Discharge Incentive Grant (DIG).

Who We Serve (from grant application)

The Trust Beneficiary groups that will be the focus of this project are those experiencing chronic alcoholism and/or substance abuse, mental illness, TBI's, or developmental disabilities, who have also been incarcerated at least once in the presiding three years. The geographic area served by this project is the Fairbanks North Star Borough. The Fairbanks Reentry Coalition consists of a collaboration of individuals, community stakeholders, public and non-profit agencies, faith-based and business partners who are united and committed to supporting projects that help to reduce recidivism among returning citizens to the Fairbanks community.

When working with identified Beneficiaries, we often discover co-factors and are able to refer to other supportive agencies to address needs and barriers to success. In doing so, the Beneficiary has a higher chance of reintegration and connection in the community.

Fairbanks continues to see individuals being released from jail and prison every day who fall through the cracks in obtaining short-term emergency housing and long-term permanent housing. Especially individuals who did not qualify for Reentry
Case Management, Electronic Monitoring, are living in the encampments, or have been in treatment that does not have Sober Living step down program. Housing assistance impacts everything including

accessing employment, physical/mental health services, outpatient treatment, and staying alive during the winter months.

The need for housing and housing assistance continues to be one of the bigger barriers in the North Star Borough. The funding will allow us to continue assisting the Trust beneficiaries that are currently releasing or are already released and in housing limbo. This funding will allow us to assist a minimum of 55 Trust beneficiaries over a one year period.

Estimated Numbers of Beneficiaries Served Experiencing (from grant application)

Mental Illness:	10
Developmental Disabilities:	5
Alzheimer's Disease & Related Dementias:	1
Substance Abuse	20
Traumatic Brain Injuries:	10
Secondary Beneficiaries (family members or caregivers providing support to primary beneficiaries):	10
Number of people to be trained	1

Project Budget (from grant application)

Space or Facilities Costs	$50,000.00
Space or Facilities Costs (Other Sources)	$37,500.00
Space or Facilities Narrative	Facilities costs will include Rent, Deposit, and/or Utilities for moving into an apartment or house. We work directly with landlords to supply the funding to have clients placed to avoid housing insecurity. Those costs would not exceed $50,000.

Supplies Costs	$24,000.00
Supplies Costs (Other Sources)	$24,000.00
Supplies Narrative	Supplies covers licensing fees, union dues, training fees, securing a state driver's license or state identification cards. It also includes vehicle insurance, and other household supplies, up to $24,000.

Other Costs	$6,000.00
Other Costs (Other Sources)	$0.00
Other Costs Narrative	Other costs are the 8% indirect admin fee for grant management, activity reports and infrastructure support for internet and social media presence, up to $6,000.

Other Funding Sources (from grant application)

FY-27 AHFC (pending)	$37,500.00
Total Leveraged Funds	**$37,500.00**