

Grant Approval Memo



Contract: TBD through competitive bid
Request Amount: \$10,000
Project Title: 2027 Leading Practices Academy in Infrastructure Development
Grant Term: 1/1/27-12/31/27
Trust Staff: Kelda Barstad

Staff Analysis

- What does this project do?

This contract supports a team of brain injury leaders in Alaska to participate in the 2027 Learning Practices Academy (LPA) through the National Association of State Head Injury Administrators (NASHIA). LPA participants receive strategic and customized technical assistance to explore, develop, or implement protocols and practices aimed at improving outcomes for systems engaged individuals with brain injury. NASHIA supports goal development, creation of a tailored work plan and logistical efforts related to scheduling and partner outreach. The LPA includes an orientation, three presentations by subject matter experts available only to LPA participants and partners, individual state team/lead team meetings and an end of year summit. The LPA will run the course of the 2027 calendar year. This is a program with an application process, with applications due on November 20th, 2026, for this cycle.

- Who is receiving the funds?

NASHIA is a 501c3 non-profit voluntary membership organization established by state government employees to help one another plan, implement, and administer public programs and services for individuals with brain injury and their support systems. NASHIA is the leading source of information and education for state government programs who support individuals with brain injury. NASHIA shares knowledge on national trends, develops and promotes best practices, and serves as a convener for state and federal agencies, associations, and brain injury partners across the country. NASHIA provides technical assistance to state governments and their partners and supports federal policy change that expands state services available. A volunteer Board of Directors is bi-annually elected to guide NASHIA's work.

- Why is staff recommending this project?

Trust beneficiaries with a brain injury are overrepresented in our systems of care, often go undiagnosed, and are underserved in the areas of treatment and recovery of the brain injury.

Brain injury intersects with many systems and populations including behavioral health, criminal legal, housing, education, aging, veterans and interpersonal violence.

- 71% of participants in a study from the University of Denver reported being homeless and having a significant history of brain injury (Chassman et.al., 2022).

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- A Harvard study found that 75% of women interviewed reported at least one brain injury from their partners with about half reporting more than one (Valera, 2022).
- A meta-analysis found the prevalence of brain injury in the criminal justice population to be around 60% (Shiroma et.al., 2010) and as high as 97% in female offenders (Wall, 2019).
- Abuse-related traumatic brain injuries (TBIs) are a leading cause of death for children in the United States.
- A recent pilot in Iowa provides brain injury screening and supports for parents involved with the child welfare system. Results show that 76% of participating parents screened positive for a lifetime history of brain injury (Iowa Summit for Solutions, August 2024).

The LPA foundation is built on an Infrastructure Development Model. NASHIA provides the infrastructure engine to explore, implement, and sustain change. Alaska agencies and partner organizations who serve beneficiaries with brain injuries are interested in expanding work in this area but cannot move the work forward on their own. Target technical assistance would improve cross system coordination and create a practical workplan to further the work of the State Plan on Brain Injury to improve services and service coordination for Trust beneficiaries with a brain injury. For these reasons, staff recommends funding this contract.

- Will this be a multi-year project?
No, this is a one-time request.

Comp Plan - Area of Focus	Strategic Priority Area
Area of Focus 2: Healthcare	Priority 4: Ongoing Support & Wellbeing

Scope of work

- An all states orientation.
- Three all state academies.
- Individual state team/lead team meetings.
- Evaluation and sustainability support.
- End of year summit.
- Designated time during academy sessions for facilitated discussion with states focused on the same target population.
- NASHIA will support goal development, create a tailored work plan and manage scheduling/outreach associated with team meetings.
- Participants will receive strategic and customized technical assistance to explore, develop, or implement protocol and practices aimed at improving outcomes for systems engaged individuals with brain injury.