

Grant Approval Memo



Contract: TBD through competitive bid
Request Amount: \$350,000-400,000
Project Title: Home and Community Based Services Assessment
Grant Term: RFP expected to be issued by February
Trust Staff: Kelda Barstad

Staff Analysis

- **What does this project do?**

Trust funds will pay for a contracted assessment of Alaska's statewide home and community-based services (HCBS) system. The assessment looks across the entire statewide service network, including Medicaid waiver programs, grant programs, information and referral services, and personal care services and looks at how a redesign will impact Trust beneficiaries.

- **Who is receiving the funds?**

A competitive procurement process will be used to determine the contractor.

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

The current HCBS service system was established in the 1990s with a focus on de-institutionalization. The populations served and structure reflect what was commonly in place at that time. While incremental changes have been made to implement federal requirements and improve practice and a new assessment tool is in process of being implemented, the system needs modernization and redesign to adequately serve Trust beneficiaries. Four out of five Trust beneficiary categories are not categorically eligible for HCBS in Alaska and cannot meet Nursing Facility Level of Care eligibility without a co-occurring condition or significant physical decline that is uncommon for people experiencing a brain injury, Alzheimer's disease or related dementia, chronic mental health condition, or chronic addiction. Trust beneficiaries experiencing Intellectual or Developmental Disability (IDD) are a target group served through Alaska's HCBS system. Over the years, advocates have identified additional services and flexibilities that should be added to the service array to better meet their needs, to end the current waitlist for Medicaid waiver services, and fully implement the Shared Vision. The state manages multiple HCBS Medicaid waivers and grant funded services to meet people's needs. This is a complex system with opportunities for streamlining both the consumer experience as well as administrative oversight.

This work needs to begin with an assessment and mapping of the current set of services supports for Trust beneficiaries to allow them to live at home or in their communities instead of in institutional settings. Alongside an assessment of the current system, a reimaging of what HCBS should look like to support all trust beneficiaries with functional support needs to live in the community needs to be crafted. Important components of this assessment will include service array recommendations, financing options, cost control options, cross system impact, anticipated system outcomes and anticipated beneficiary outcomes. Identified actions steps will identify the feasibility and sustainability of change. This assessment has the potential to impact all Trust beneficiaries and transform our current HCBS system. What if all Trust beneficiaries were eligible for home and community based services?

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

HCBS System Assessment Outline (draft)

A more detailed description of work to be procured will be refined through RFP development. This outline includes the key areas to be included.

- Introduction describing the vision of all Trust beneficiaries having access to home and community-based services.
- Background on the HCBS system and related systems that are filling gaps.
- Current System Assessment (all Trust beneficiaries):
 - Beneficiary/stakeholder input
 - service mapping,
 - need/demand/utilization,
 - current financial structure/payer mix,
 - administrative structure governing service delivery,
 - how acuity needs are met
 - additional process/considerations made for people who meet criteria for two or more Trust beneficiary categories.
- Identification of proposed system constraints to consider (Ex. Using the interRAI assessment tool)
- Proposed System (all Trust beneficiaries):
 - Beneficiary/stakeholder input
 - service mapping,
 - anticipated need/demand,
 - options for financial structure – must include 1915c11 as an option/payer mix,
 - optimal eligibility threshold and cost control levers
 - recommendation for administrative structure governing service delivery,
 - acuity
 - additional process/considerations made for people who meet criteria for two or more Trust beneficiary categories.
- Analysis of systems, current to proposed
 - identified gaps in current system
 - systems impact – cross-system

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- anticipated outcomes – system
 - anticipated outcomes – beneficiary experience
- Overall recommendations
 - summary
 - high level next steps timeline (1-3 years, 4-6 years, 6 years or longer)
 - time to implement (or complete implementation if in process)
 - involved agencies/stakeholders
 - feasibility
 - sustainability
 - necessary regulatory change (high level)