

Grant Approval Memo



Grantee: Catholic Social Services
Request Amount: \$44,000.00
Project Title: CSS Substance Use Disorder Treatment Start up
Grant Term: 9/1/2026 to 8/31/2027
Trust Staff: Heather Phelps

Staff Analysis:

- What does this project do?
Trust funds will support specialized consulting necessary to design and launch an ASAM Level 3.1 low-intensity residential substance use treatment program on the Brother Francis Shelter campus. The consultation will assist Catholic Social Services follow state Medicaid and behavioral health standards, national best practices standards, and accreditation standards in program delivery and operation.
- Who is receiving the funds?
Catholic Social Services (CSS) provides shelter, meals, employment assistance, and medical care to those experiencing homelessness. They assist children and their families, help immigrants and refugees adjust to life in Alaska, and serve people with disabilities. Their programs help over 10,00 children, families, and individuals each year. The organization is expanding its continuum of care to include residential treatment services for individuals with substance use and co-occurring behavioral health needs.
- Why is staff recommending this project?
Anchorage and the broader state face a persistent shortage of residential SUD treatment beds. CSS is positioned to add new treatment capacity within a high-need homeless-service environment, improving access for Trust beneficiaries experiencing substance use disorders and co-occurring conditions. Using a contract will help ensure the program is established with the necessary clinical, operational, and accreditation frameworks to achieve long-term sustainability and self-sufficiency. The anticipated outcomes include increased access to substance use disorder treatment, as well as an expansion of available SUD treatment capacity within Alaska.
- Will this be a multi-year project?
No. This is a one-time funding request supporting start-up

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Trust Five Year Funding History

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Project Title</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Final Expended</u>
2026	Less than Fair Market Value Lease	\$357,404	Active	Active
2024	Alaska Resettlement Conference	\$1,000	Closed	\$1,000
2024	CSS Behavioral Health	\$200,000	Closed	\$185,658
2022	Complex Care Shelter	\$500,000	Closed	\$499,997

<u>Comp Plan - Area of Focus</u>	<u>Strategic Priority Area</u>
Area of Focus 4: Substance Use Disorder Prevention	Priority 3: Treatment & Recovery

Project Description (from grant application)

Catholic Social Services (CSS) has been awarded \$1 million in Congressionally Designated Funding from Senator Lisa Murkowski to establish an ASAM Level 3.1 low-intensity residential substance use treatment program on the Brother Francis Shelter campus. CSS is currently in the process of developing and launching this new service to address the unique substance use treatment needs of individuals experiencing homelessness or those at risk of homelessness.

To support the successful implementation of this program, CSS is seeking financial assistance to engage a consultant, Farina Brown of Authentic Evolution Consulting. Ms. Brown will provide expert guidance throughout the program development process, including ensuring compliance with ASAM standards and supporting the addition of this treatment modality to CSS's Council on Accreditation (COA) accreditation. Ms. Brown will work closely with our Chief Behavioral Health Officer to stand up this Medicaid compliant program.

While the program will primarily serve individuals in Anchorage, it will also be accessible to residents from other regions across Alaska. This project is designed to reduce barriers to substance use disorder (SUD) treatment for individuals experiencing homelessness or housing instability, who often face significant challenges in accessing care.

The anticipated outcomes include increased access to appropriate levels of care, particularly for individuals in need of step-down treatment services, as well as an expansion of available SUD treatment capacity within Alaska. With a well-documented shortage of treatment beds statewide, this program will play a critical role in strengthening Alaska's continuum of care. By integrating residential treatment services within a shelter setting, CSS aims to improve engagement in care and support individuals in achieving recovery and housing stability.

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Grantee Proposed Evaluation Measures (from grant application)

CSS's treatment program will deliver substance use disorder services tailored to the unique needs of each individual served. The program is designed to support meaningful, positive outcomes while recognizing that progress and success will vary based on each person's circumstances, background, and goals. CSS serves a diverse population and is committed to providing flexible, person-centered care. The following performance measures reflect our current program goals and may be refined as the program evolves:

- 1) We will measure: How many clients were able to get services? How many beds were full?
- 2) We will be able to track how effective our treatment program is by the number of clients who successfully complete treatment (40% is the national average for treatment completion).
- 3) To measure if anyone is better off as a result of this project, we will track of percentages of "agree or strongly agree" on client satisfaction surveys that will be completed up to monthly and at a minimum upon discharge from program.
- 4) Policies and Procedures completed and in place after four months of funding that cross walk accreditation, ASAM and State of Alaska SUD program standards.

Proposed Project Performance Measures (developed by the Trust)

Provide a narrative detailing the contracted strategic and technical assistance services delivered by Authentic Evolution Consulting.

Sustainability (from grant application)

The substance use disorder (SUD) treatment program is intended to become a permanent component of both Catholic Social Services' continuum of care and Alaska's broader homeless response system. As a newly developed program, CSS plans to partner with Farina Brown of Authentic Evolution Consulting to support the successful launch and initial implementation. This partnership will help ensure the program is established with the necessary clinical, operational, and accreditation frameworks to achieve long-term sustainability and self-sufficiency.

Once operational, the program will implement a billing structure that includes Medicaid and private insurance reimbursement. This revenue model is designed to sustain ongoing program operations after the initial start-up funding has been expended. By establishing a financially viable service model, CSS will be able to maintain this critical treatment resource over time, ensuring continued access to care for individuals experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness.

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Who We Serve (from grant application)

The requested funds will be used to support high-level focused project management and expertise for the design and implementation of an ASAM Level 3.1 low intensity residential treatment program. Once up and running, clients in this program would be Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority (AMHTA) beneficiaries who have been diagnosed with a substance use disorder. This project directly supports the Trust's mission to improve the lives of beneficiaries, including Alaskans experiencing mental illness, intellectual and developmental disabilities, Alzheimer's disease and related dementias, traumatic brain injuries, and substance use disorders.

The need for expanded substance use treatment capacity among Trust beneficiaries is critical. Alaska continues to experience disproportionately high rates of substance use disorders, with approximately 20% of adults affected—nearly twice the national average. The consequences of substance misuse are substantial and widespread: alcohol and drug misuse cost Alaska an estimated \$3.5 billion annually, and are closely linked to adverse outcomes across systems, including healthcare, child welfare, and criminal justice involvement. In addition, substance use is a major driver of morbidity and mortality, with overdose deaths rising sharply in recent years and exceeding national averages. [mhstats.org] [https://alaskamentalhealthtrust.org/alaska-mental-health-trust-authority/what-we-do/substance-abuse-prevention-and-treatment/] [wfmh.org]

This program will address these system gaps by expanding access to evidence-based, clinically appropriate residential treatment for beneficiaries. Services will include individual and group counseling, peer support, and case management, with integrated treatment for co-occurring mental health conditions. Given that substance use disorders frequently co-occur with depression, anxiety, and trauma-related conditions, this integrated approach is essential to improving outcomes and supporting recovery.

Estimated Numbers of Beneficiaries Served Experiencing (from grant application)

Mental Illness:	0
Developmental Disabilities:	0
Substance Abuse	0
Traumatic Brain Injuries:	0
Secondary Beneficiaries (family members or caregivers providing support to primary beneficiaries):	0
Number of people to be trained	0

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Project Budget (from grant application)

Personnel Services Costs	\$44,000.00
Personnel Services Costs (Other Sources)	\$0.00
Personnel Services Narrative	Consultant: Farina Brown with Authentic Evolution Consulting. \$44,000 This position would provide strategic and technical assistance. Engagement will support early planning through initial implementation to strengthen program design, operational readiness, and long-term sustainability. The consultant, Farina Brown, brings specialized expertise in behavioral health operations, Medicaid-aligned program development, and system design, providing guidance to support implementation of a sustainable and reimbursement-ready residential treatment model.

Other Funding Sources (from grant application)

Congressionally Designated Spending from Senator Lisa Murkowski: Secured	\$1,000,000.00
Medicaid Billing Revenue – Pending	\$0.00
Total Leveraged Funds	\$1,000,000.00