

FY28 Proposed Budget Detail Report

This document provides additional information related to staff recommendations for the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority's FY28 budget. It is intended to serve as a supplemental tool to support the Trustee's consideration and approval of the FY28 spending in support of Trust beneficiaries. Content is organized by budget section and placed in the same order as the content in the draft budget spreadsheet.

The budget is broken out into two sections: Mental Health Trust Authority Authorized Receipts (MHTAAR) grant-funded projects to state agencies, and Authority Grant (AG) funded projects. Within those sections, increments are organized by Trust priority areas identified in the Trust Strategic Plan adopted in late 2025.

This report is organized with the following sections:

- *Cross-Priority Area MHTAAR Funding and GF/MH Recommendations*
- *Priority 1: Prevention and Early Intervention MHTAAR Funding and GF/MH Recommendations*
- *Priority 2: Crisis Services MHTAAR Funding and GF/MH Recommendations*
- *Priority 3: Treatment and Recovery MHTAAR Funding and GF/MH Recommendations*
- *Priority 4: Ongoing Support and Wellbeing MHTAAR Funding and GF/MH Recommendations*
- *Authority Grant Funding*

For each line in the budget, this document details including grant type, funding history, relevance to the Comp Plan and Trust Strategic Plan, a brief project/initiative description, and an analysis that includes project data if available.

FY28 Budget Line Briefs: Cross-Priority Area

MHTAAR Funding and GF/MH Recommendations

Project: AMHB-ABADA Joint Staffing		FY28 Budget Location: Page 2, Line 6
Grantee: Department of Health - Alaska Mental Health Board & Advisory Board on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse		
FY28 Proposed Amount: \$300,000	Years funded: 22 years (FY06-FY27)	
Trust Program Staff: Samantha Ponts		
Comp Plan Area of Focus:	Trust Strategic Priority Area:	
Area of Focus 4 - Substance Use Disorder Prevention	Multiple priority areas	
Project Description		
Trust funds supplement the operating costs of joint staffing for AMHB and ABADA. Funding supports statewide behavioral health planning, data reporting, policy collaboration, public engagement, and advocacy functions aligned with Trust priorities.		
Staff Analysis		
AMHB/ABADA serve as statutory advisory boards providing statewide leadership on behavioral health planning, advocacy, and system improvement. Trust funding enables consistent board operations, coordination with partner boards, legislative monitoring, and stakeholder engagement. In FY26, the Advocacy Committee met regularly during the legislative session, tracked behavioral health legislation, coordinated advocacy activities, and convened quarterly public meetings. Operational challenges due to Executive Order 358 affected some planned activities, underscoring the need for stable Trust support.		
Because of their critical statewide role in behavioral health planning and coordination, continued multi-year support is recommended.		

Project: GCDSE Joint Staffing		FY28 Budget Location: Page 2, Line 7
Grantee: Department of Health - Governor’s Council on Disabilities & Special Education		
FY28 Proposed Amount: \$300,000	Years funded: Since Trust inception	
Trust Program Staff: Tina Voelker-Ross		
Comp Plan Area of Focus:	Trust Strategic Priority Area:	
Area of Focus 10 - Data	Multiple priority areas	
Project Description		
Trust funds support three key Council positions—Research Analyst III, Planner III (Operations Manager), and Program Coordinator—to carry out statutory advisory responsibilities related to data, planning, and advocacy. Funding also supports activities such as legislative engagement, statewide coordination, data reporting, and travel required for Council duties.		
Staff Analysis		
GCDSE provides critical statewide leadership and statutory advisory functions impacting Trust beneficiaries, including individuals with I/DD, children needing early intervention, special education students, and adults receiving community-based supports.		
FY25 accomplishments included 50 legislative visits, national policy engagement, regular congressional updates; data including the annual survey, Program Performance Report, and the development of next strategic plan; strong self-advocacy programming and well-received panels at conferences.		
FY26 mid-year results included meetings with 52 legislators, legislative advocacy training, updated joint advocacy materials; expanded emergency preparedness collaboration at the state level; multiple surveys of stakeholders and data products; and the planning of Fall 2026 statewide self-advocacy summit. Given the ongoing statutory responsibilities, continued Trust funding is essential to maintain coordinated data, planning, and advocacy functions.		

FY28 Budget Line Briefs: Cross-Priority Area MHTAAR Funding and GF/MH Recommendations

Project ACoA Staffing and Support		FY28 Budget Location: Page 2, Line 8
Grantee: Department of Health - Alaska Commission on Aging		
FY28 Proposed Amount: \$200,000	Years funded: 23 years (FY05-FY27)	
Trust Program Staff: Kelda Barstad		
Comp Plan Area of Focus:	Trust Strategic Priority Area:	
Area of Focus 10: Data	Multiple priority areas	
Project Description		
Trust funds support the ACoA Program Coordinator position, which assists the Executive Director in statewide planning, stakeholder engagement, reporting, and collaboration with beneficiary boards. Funds also support listening sessions, data collection, and reporting related to older adult beneficiaries.		
Staff Analysis		
The Program Coordinator is central to ACoA’s statewide capacity and partnership with the Trust and is one of the Trust’s statutory advisors. The position ensures collaborative planning, coordinated advocacy, and data reporting across state agencies and beneficiary boards. Turnover in leadership has increased reliance on this role for organizational continuity and beneficiary-focused work.		
Recent efforts, including development of the 2025 Senior Snapshot, demonstrate renewed emphasis on Trust beneficiary data and alignment with Trust priorities. Continued funding is recommended to sustain ACoA’s role as a statutory advisory board supporting older Alaskans, including Trust beneficiaries.		

Project: Dementia Education & Prevention		FY28 Budget Location: Page 2, Line 9
Grantee: Department of Health – Division of Public Health		
FY28 Proposed Amount: \$130,000	Years funded: 1 year (FY27)	
Trust Program Staff: Kelda Barstad		
Comp Plan Area of Focus:	Trust Strategic Priority Area:	
Area of Focus 7 - Services in the Least Restrictive Environment	Multiple priority areas	
Project Description		
Trust funds support a position or contractor within the Division of Public Health to expand dementia awareness, risk-reduction education, and coordination of the Alaska Dementia Action Collaborative (ADAC). This project also funds publication of an updated Caregiver Guide and advances the Dementia Education & Prevention Program’s statewide outreach aligned with BOLD Act grant requirements.		
Staff Analysis		
Alaska’s rapidly increasing senior population has led to rising prevalence of Alzheimer’s disease and related dementias (ADRD). ADAC provides coordinated statewide leadership, accountability, and system improvement efforts for dementia care, bringing together caregivers, service providers, state staff, and people representing individuals with lived experience. The funded position strengthens ADAC sustainability, supports statewide education on dementia risk reduction, and aligns coalition priorities with DOH and partners.		
As FY27 was the first year of funding, no data or outcomes are yet available. Three years of tapering Trust support will allow DOH to incorporate the position and ADAC facilitation responsibilities into their ongoing budget. The collaborative’s work also secures federal BOLD funding, which DPH manages		

FY28 Budget Line Briefs: Cross-Priority Area MHTAAR Funding and GF/MH Recommendations

Project: Scorecard Update		FY28 Budget Location: Page 2, Line 10
Grantee: Department of Health - Division of Public Health		
FY28 Proposed Amount: \$70,000	Years funded: 14 years (FY14–FY27)	
Trust Program Staff: Eliza Muse		
Comp Plan Area of Focus:	Trust Strategic Priority Area:	
Area of Focus 10: Data	Multiple priority areas	
Project Description		
Trust funds support Division of Public Health (DPH)-Health Analytics & Vital Records to complete the annual update of the Alaska Scorecard. Work includes reviewing and revising indicators and data sources, updating prevalence estimates, collecting current data, producing the updated Scorecard in Adobe InDesign, and coordinating publication of an ADA-accessible PDF with DOH communications and contractors.		
Staff Analysis		
This project ensures Alaska maintains reliable, accessible statewide population health data aligned with Alaska’s Comprehensive Integrated Mental Health Program Plan, Strengthening the System II (Comp Plan) (2025-2029) and is essential to maintaining up-to-date, accurate, and accessible statewide data used to track progress. The Scorecard is a core accountability tool for tracking mental health, substance use, IDD, TBI, AD/DRD, and other beneficiary-related outcomes. Its annual update allows policymakers, providers, and stakeholders to monitor trends, identify system gaps, and support evidence-informed decision-making. The project has a long record of consistent delivery, including modernizing the Scorecard with stable indicators, refined prevalence estimates, and methodological improvements. Collaboration between DPH analysts, Trust staff, and data stewards has strengthened statewide data quality and transparency. No alternative funding source exists for producing the Scorecard; Trust support is essential to maintain annual updates and ADA-accessible publication. As a multiyear planning tool, ongoing annual funding will be required to ensure updated indicators, revised estimates, and accessible public release.		

Project: Brain Injury Council of Alaska Staff		FY28 Budget Location: Page 2, Line 11
Grantee: University of Alaska Anchorage – Center for Human Development		
FY28 Proposed Amount: \$115,000	Years funded: 6 years (FY22–FY27)	
Trust Program Staff: Kelda Barstad		
Comp Plan Area of Focus:	Trust Strategic Priority Area:	
Area of Focus 2 - Healthcare	Multiple priority areas	
Project Description		
This project funds a coordinator position to support operations of the Brain Injury Council of Alaska (BICA), including Council facilitation, communication, data gathering, reporting, planning, stakeholder engagement, recruitment, and coordination with the Trust and beneficiary boards.		
Staff Analysis		
The BICA staff position is a key statewide support to advance the continuum of care for beneficiaries with brain injuries. The coordinator strengthens implementation of state plan priorities, supports advocacy, leads planning with partner agencies, coordinates lived-experience Council participation, and expands public awareness. The Council must consist of at least 50% individuals with lived experience, and this position ensures members are supported to participate meaningfully.		
In FY25, the position implemented Council priorities, strengthened operations, improved member education, increased brain injury awareness, facilitated partnerships, and supported new data goals. The Council		

FY28 Budget Line Briefs: Cross-Priority Area

MHTAAR Funding and GF/MH Recommendations

published the FY26-30 Alaska State Plan for Brain Injury and conducted outreach to 113 individuals and training for 49 people. Trust funding also leveraged federal grant dollars to support plan implementation.

Continued multi-year funding is recommended to maintain and strengthen Alaska's brain injury service system. Trust funding leveraged a federal grant to implement activities related to the Alaska State Plan for Brain Injury.

Project: DOH Comprehensive Program Planning		FY28 Budget Location: Page 2, Line 12	
Grantee: Department of Health - Division of Behavioral Health			
FY28 Proposed Amount: \$75,000		Years funded: 7 years (FY21–FY27)	
Trust Program Staff: Eliza Muse			
Comp Plan Area of Focus:		Trust Strategic Priority Area:	
Area of Focus 9: Workforce		Multiple priority areas	
Project Description			
Trust funds join DOH funds to support a DOH position responsible for coordinating, implementing, evaluating, and monitoring the Comprehensive Integrated Mental Health Program Plan (Comp Plan). Duties include cross-agency alignment, facilitating Comp Plan-related meetings, updating guiding documents, onboarding staff to Comp Plan processes, and collaborating on Alaska Scorecard refinement. Funding covers salary, travel, training, and coordination costs.			
Staff Analysis			
This position serves as the central statewide coordinator for a statutory planning process required under AS 47.30.660, ensuring alignment between DOH, DFCS, advisory boards, and Trust priorities. Over seven years, it has produced major system-level deliverables, including leading development of the Strengthening the System II (FY25-FY29) strategic plan with broad participation from five state departments and more than 200 subject matter experts. The role provides consistency in statewide systems planning, supports evidence-informed decision-making, and maintains momentum during leadership transitions.			
Continued funding is necessary to sustain Comp Plan implementation, support Scorecard refinement, and preserve stable statewide coordination across departments during a multi-year strategic cycle.			

Project: Beneficiary Mental Health Status Data Collection		FY28 Budget Location: Page 2, Line 13
Grantee: Department of Health, Division of Public Health/Health Care Services		
FY28 Proposed Amount: \$75,000	Years funded: 6 years (FY22-FY27)	
Trust Program Staff: Mike Baldwin		
Comp Plan Area of Focus:	Trust Strategic Priority Area:	
Area of Focus 10: Data	Multiple priority areas	
Project Description		
The intent of the Beneficiary Mental Health Status Data Collection project is to ensure there is Alaska-specific data about the mental health status of Trust beneficiaries. The DOH -Division of Public Health, the section of Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion will use these funds to support the administration, outreach, collection, and analysis of Alaskan data through the Behavioral Risk Factors Surveillance System (BRFSS), the Youth Behavioral Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBS), and School Health Profiles. With approval, these funds could also be used to support planning and stakeholder engagement around the surveillance systems.		
Staff Analysis		

FY28 Budget Line Briefs: Cross-Priority Area MHTAAR Funding and GF/MH Recommendations

This is a data capacity building and maintenance project. It supports the Division of Public Health surveillance work that collects behavioral health and beneficiary-related data. Over six years, the project has significantly exceeded data collection targets. An estimated 5,000-7,000 Alaskan's statewide have been surveyed annually through the surveillance systems that have ensured representative samples. Results have been used by the Trust, State, and community partners to support funding and policy decision-making and contributed to the monitoring and evaluation of the Comprehensive Integrated Mental Health Program plan through the Alaska Scorecard. Data has been utilized in presentations to Trustees.

Continued funding is necessary to sustain data collection and analytic capacity to support on-going data needs of the Trust.

Project: Coordinated Community Transportation		FY28 Budget Location: Page 2, Line 14
Grantee: Department of Transportation and Public Facilities - Program Development, Alaska Transit Office		
FY28 Proposed Amount: \$700,000 GF/MH Recommendation	Years funded: n/a	
Trust Program Staff: Kelda Barstad		
Comp Plan Area of Focus:	Trust Strategic Priority Area:	
Area of Focus 3 - Economic & Social Well-being	Multiple priority areas	
Project Description		
The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (AKDOT&PF) Community Transit Office awards these funds, paired with other funding sources, through a competitive application process to non-profit, local government and Tribal entities throughout Alaska for operating assistance, purchase of services, and capital project that enable and enhance the mobility of Trust beneficiaries.		
Staff Analysis		
The Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities (DOT&PF) Community Transit Office (ACT) awards funds through a competitive application process to non-profit agencies and tribes throughout Alaska. This program allows for these funds to be used to purchase or replace accessible vehicles owned by consumer-run and other provider nonprofit corporations for non-coordinated uses where coordination is not feasible. Operating assistance, taxi voucher and vehicles are used to transport Trust Beneficiaries to things such as services, community activities or work; vehicles are also be used to transport staff to consumer homes, and other beneficiary-related transportation. These projects improve/increase the mobility options and services for Trust Beneficiaries. While MHTAAR funding has been phased out, continued advocacy is needed for GF/MH funding to leverage federal resources and continue added flexibility into the program to respond to the unique needs of small Alaskan communities.		

Project: Alaska Justice Information Center		FY28 Budget Location: Page 2, Line 15
Grantee: University of Alaska Anchorage		
FY28 Proposed Amount: \$225,000	Years funded: 12 years (FY16–FY27)	
Trust Program Staff: Heather Phelps		
Comp Plan Area of Focus:	Trust Strategic Priority Area:	
Area of Focus 10 - Data	Multiple priority areas	
Project Description		
Trust funds support the operations of the Alaska Justice Information Center (AJiC). AJiC provides independent, transparent analysis that transforms justice data into actionable information to strengthen public safety, promote accountability within the justice system, and reduce recidivism.		

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Staff Analysis
AJiC assists Alaska justice agencies and organizations with the development, implementation, and evaluation of justice programs and policies by collecting and analyzing Alaska-specific crime and justice statistics. AJiC's assessment of current and future disability justice strategies gives the Trust and the State of Alaska a greater understanding of the criminal justice system and its impacts on Trust beneficiaries. In FY25, AJiC partnered with agencies on projects including technical assistance for therapeutic courts, the 2025 Alaska Victimization Survey, analysis of racial disparities in DOC populations, and pre-work to update the Trust Beneficiaries in DOC study. In FY26, AJiC continued the DOC beneficiary study and launched an evaluation of DOC's MAT/MOUD reentry initiative. Given the ongoing need for criminal justice data analysis and integrated data infrastructure, funding will be requested beyond FY28 to support continued AJiC operations.

Project: Alaska Workforce Profile	FY28 Budget Location: Page 2, Line 16
Grantee: Department of Labor and Workforce Development	
FY28 Proposed Amount: \$50,000	Years funded: 20 years (FY08-FY27)
Trust Program Staff: Mike Baldwin	
Comp Plan Area of Focus:	Trust Strategic Priority Area:
Area of Focus 10: Data	Multiple priority areas
Project Description	
The intent of this project is to support on-going data capacity at the Department of Labor and Workforce Development's (DOLWD) Research and Analysis Section to provide technical and data analytic support and consultation as needed to the Trust. As needed Trust staff will work with DOLWD staff to identify potential discrete analyses that can be conducted either for the Trust directly or with other partners and collaborate on the dissemination of results. This work will also integrate additional information, available from a wide variety of sources, to identify useful conclusions for the healthcare workforce development community (advocacy groups, policymakers, training providers, and career counselors, among others).	
Staff Analysis	
This is a data capacity building and maintenance project. The work has emphasized a broad definition of health care to include behavioral health and home and community-based services occupations. Over the past 20 years this funding has supported statewide data collection of key healthcare and beneficiary-related workforce availability issues that have included workforce vacancy studies, difficult to recruit positions, and stability. This resource has recently supported behavioral health workforce initiatives at the University of Alaska, the Alaska Dementia Action Collaborative, and is currently working with Trust staff to develop population projects for Trust beneficiary-related categories. Continued funding is necessary to have access to data and analytic capacity to support and allow the Trust to forecast and plan for addressing the needs and improving the circumstances of beneficiaries and ensuring beneficiary access to a complete continuum of care.	

FY28 Budget Line Briefs: Prevention and Early Intervention MHTAAR Funding and GF/MH Recommendations

Project: ILP Statewide Equity Project		FY28 Budget Location: Page 2, Line 18
Grantee: Department of Health - Division of Senior & Disabilities Services		
FY28 Proposed Amount: \$300,000	Years funded: 2 years (FY26-FY27)	
Trust Program Staff: Tina Voelker-Ross		
Comp Plan Area of Focus:	Trust Strategic Priority Area:	
Area of Focus 1 - Early Childhood & Youth	Priority 1 - Prevention & Early Intervention	
Project Description		
Trust funds support development of statewide equity strategies to improve access to Early Intervention/Infant Learning Program (EI/ILP) services, particularly in rural communities. Activities include expanding access to low-vision specialists, developing a statewide funding formula for equitable grant distribution, and hiring a part-time temporary position to oversee contracting and implementation.		
Staff Analysis		
This project comes at a critical time for the state ILPs, a time of great potential change due to the recent legislative focus on budgetary needs and ILP eligibility expansion at the state level. Flat funding and provider shortages have led to fragile ILP service delivery, especially in rural Alaska. FY26 was the first year of the project and implementation was slowed by state staffing capacity. However, a survey of all ILP programs was completed to assess the provider service landscape. The FY26 survey findings across 15 ILP programs show high caseloads, limited rural reach, uneven billing capacity, and inconsistent access to specialty services—particularly vision services. Hybrid in-person/telehealth models are common but constrained by travel cost and workforce limitations. Programs identified the most viable statewide equity strategies as regional resource centers, statewide hubs, and centralized contracting. This project represents a five-year effort (FY26-FY30) to establish statewide ILP service and business equity strategies across rural and urban areas. FY28 will be year three of the five-year funding plan.		

Project: Building Bridges Project (Parents as Teachers)		FY28 Budget Location: Page 2, Line 19
Grantee: Department of Health - Division of Public Health		
FY28 Proposed Amount: \$500,000	Years funded: New for FY28	
Trust Program Staff: Tina Voelker-Ross		
Comp Plan Area of Focus:	Trust Strategic Priority Area:	
Area of Focus 1 - Early Childhood & Youth	Priority 1 - Prevention & Early Intervention	
Project Description		
Trust funds support grants to embed Parents as Teachers (PAT) home visiting programs within four Infant Learning Program (ILP)/Part C sites statewide. The project increases access to developmental, social-emotional, and parenting supports for families whose children do not qualify for Part C, or who age out at three without access to preschool or Part B services.		
Staff Analysis		
Embedding PAT within ILP programs ensures continuity of care during critical developmental periods and reduces service drop-off. The project advances multiple Trust and statewide early childhood objectives: practice-informed screening, culturally responsive identification of social-emotional needs, strengthening protective factors, and preventing maltreatment.		
Need for home visiting services is significant:		
• 42,600 families with children under age six could benefit. • 57,800 children meet need criteria statewide. • Current home visiting programs serve only 716 families (approx. 1.7% of need).		

FY28 Budget Line Briefs: Prevention and Early Intervention MHTAAR Funding and GF/MH Recommendations

Existing programs cover only a fraction of eligible families, and Alaska’s geography and workforce limitations widen service gaps. Integrating PAT into ILP sites leverages trusted relationships, allows seamless transitions, and makes Medicaid reimbursement (EPSDT screenings, Targeted Case Management) viable for long-term sustainability. This is planned as a five-year project (FY28-FY32) with sustainability built into program design.

Project: Integrated Multi-Tier Systems of Support in Schools		FY28 Budget Location: Page 2, Line 20
Grantee: Department of Education & Early Development		
FY28 Proposed Amount: \$500,000		Years funded: New for FY28
Trust Program Staff: Tina Voelker-Ross		
Comp Plan Area of Focus:		Trust Strategic Priority Area:
Area of Focus 1 - Early Childhood & Youth		Prevention & Early Intervention
Project Description		
Trust funds support competitive grants to schools/districts to expand PBIS implementation and develop Integrated Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (I-MTSS). Grants support development of Tier 2 targeted supports, Tier 3 individualized interventions, mental health partnerships, and the provision of ongoing professional development training on I-MTSS, data use, interventions and SEL.		
Staff Analysis		
Alaska Youth Risk Behavior Survey data shows 40% of high school students report persistent sadness/hopelessness and 1 in 5 have seriously considered suicide. Rural and remote districts often lack adequate behavioral health supports. Expanding I-MTSS increases early identification and structured intervention for students with behavioral health, developmental disabilities, substance misuse, and cognitive challenges.		
This project builds on DEED’s Trauma-Engaged Schools PBIS work, which currently serves 46 schools in 14 rural districts, and shifts funding decisions to DEED to align with statewide I-MTSS implementation. FY28 is the first year of funding; the project is expected to require at least 4 years (FY28-FY31) to strengthen Tier 2 and Tier 3 services and expand statewide reach.		

Project: Pediatric Mental Health Care Access Program		FY28 Budget Location: Page 2, Line 21
Grantee: Department of Health - Division of Public Health		
FY28 Proposed Amount: \$150,000		Years funded: 3 years (FY25-FY27)
Trust Program Staff: Tina Voelker-Ross		
Comp Plan Area of Focus:		Trust Strategic Priority Area:
Area of Focus 1 - Early Childhood & Youth		Priority 1 - Prevention & Early Intervention
Project Description		
Trust funds provide match funding for the federal Partner Access Line - Pediatric Alaska (PAL-PAK) program. Activities include a psychiatric consultation line, an infant/early childhood mental health consultation line, development and dissemination of Alaska-specific provider resources, and training for primary care providers, school counselors, nurses, and behavioral health professionals statewide.		
Staff Analysis		
This project increases statewide pediatric behavioral health integration and early intervention capacity. PAL-PAK helps providers manage pediatric mental health concerns, reducing escalation to higher levels of care—directly supporting Trust beneficiaries (children/youth with mental health needs, developmental disabilities).		
A PAL-PAK 2025 evaluation found an average call volume 106.4 calls/year (FY20-24), and that calls were primarily from Anchorage pediatric practices and largely medication-related questions. The usage patterns		

FY28 Budget Line Briefs: Prevention and Early Intervention MHTAAR Funding and GF/MH Recommendations

reflected school-year cycles and regional resource availability. Additionally, training and consultation decreased provider isolation and improved skills, especially in rural communities. In FY26, the Alaska Native supplement to the Alaska Care Guide was completed and distribution began. The infant/early childhood consultation pilot launched in 2026 as well.

Trust funds will leverage \$2,225,000 in federal funds over four years, requiring annual match requests through FY31 for a total of \$445,000 in match funding for this project

Project: Trauma Engaged Schools PBIS Coaching		FY28 Budget Location: Page 2, Line 22
Grantee: Department of Education & Early Development		
FY28 Proposed Amount: \$150,000		Years funded: 6 years (FY22-FY27)
Trust Program Staff: Tina Voelker-Ross		
Comp Plan Area of Focus:		Trust Strategic Priority Area:
Area of Focus 1 - Early Childhood & Youth		Prevention & Early Intervention
Project Description		
Trust funds support DEED's behavioral health specialist to provide training and coaching on PBIS, trauma-engaged practice, restorative practices, crisis response assistance, and mental health capacity-building for rural and remote school districts statewide.		
Staff Analysis		
Schools are critical first-line supports for youth experiencing behavioral health challenges. Teachers in small and rural districts report increased need for mental health support; recent legislation also enables Medicaid billing for schools. The PBIS coaching project supports schools with universal and targeted mental health supports, strengthening school climate, and increasing protective factors through multi-tiered systems of support (MTSS).		
In FY25, DEED provided weekly PBIS coaching to 32 rural schools in 11 districts, and by FY26 mid-year, the PBIS coaching project served 46 schools in 14 rural districts. The behavioral health specialist also coordinates monthly behavioral health consultations through Seattle Children's Hospital, supporting rural counselors and social workers, and provides statewide crisis response support.		
Continued Trust funding is recommended through FY31 to broaden implementation across rural communities.		

Project: Early Childhood Intervention: Pyramid Model		FY28 Budget Location: Page 2, Line 23
Grantee: Department of Health - Division of Public Health		
FY28 Proposed Amount: \$151,000		Years funded: 1 year (FY27)
Trust Program Staff: Tina Voelker-Ross		
Comp Plan Area of Focus:		Trust Strategic Priority Area:
Area of Focus 1 - Early Childhood & Youth		Priority 1 - Prevention & Early Intervention
Project Description		
Trust funds support statewide implementation of the evidence-based Pyramid Model in early childhood settings across Alaska. Funding primarily supports a Pyramid Model Coordinator within DPH to support the implementation statewide. The balance of this funding will be allocated to support State Leadership Team (SLT) activities that strengthen statewide implementation capacity, coordination, and sustainability of the Pyramid Model across Alaska.		
Staff Analysis		
The Pyramid Model improves children's social-emotional development and reduces challenging behaviors, while also increasing teacher confidence and retention. This aligns with the Trust's Prevention & Early		

FY28 Budget Line Briefs: Prevention and Early Intervention MHTAAR Funding and GF/MH Recommendations

Intervention priority and supports Objective 1.2 of the Comprehensive Integrated Mental Health Program Plan.

FY27 is the first year of implementation. Research demonstrates positive outcomes in classrooms using the model with fidelity. A 4-5-year phased implementation will allow Alaska to build statewide infrastructure, support high-quality program implementation, and ensure sustainable systems change across early childhood settings.

Project: Family Services Training Center - ICY Conference		FY28 Budget Location: Page 2, Line 24
Grantee: University of Alaska Anchorage - Center for Human Development		
FY28 Proposed Amount: \$100,000		Years funded: 1 year (FY27)
Trust Program Staff: Tina Voelker-Ross		
Comp Plan Area of Focus:		Trust Strategic Priority Area:
Area of Focus 1 - Early Childhood & Youth		Prevention & Early Intervention
Project Description		
Trust funds support the Family Services Training Center (FSTC) to deliver the annual statewide Infant, Childhood & Youth (ICY) Conference, a 2-3-day professional training event that strengthens Alaska's behavioral health workforce serving infants, children, youth, and families. Funding supports planning, coordination, facilitation, training costs, and access to continuing education credits for providers statewide.		
Staff Analysis		
This project builds provider competency and improves statewide service quality for Trust beneficiaries experiencing behavioral health needs. Workforce shortages in Alaska's early childhood and youth behavioral health sectors make accessible, evidence-based training essential.		
Conference outcomes demonstrate strong demand:		
• FY25: 3-day conference; 177 unique learners. • FY26: 2-day conference; 208 participants, with positive evaluations indicating increased knowledge, satisfaction, and a willingness to recommend the event to others.		
Continued annual Trust support is recommended to sustain statewide workforce development and improve intervention quality for beneficiaries.		

Project: Autism Awareness and Response for Families		FY28 Budget Location: Page 2, Line 25
Grantee: University of Alaska Anchorage		
FY28 Proposed Amount: \$150,000		Years funded: 1 year (FY27)
Trust Program Staff: Samantha Ponts		
Comp Plan Area of Focus:		Trust Strategic Priority Area:
Area of Focus 7 - Services in the Least Restrictive Environment		Prevention & Early Intervention
Project Description		
Trust funds support continued development and implementation of autism-specific awareness and response training for individuals with autism, their caregivers, and law enforcement. Activities include co-developed curriculum, scenario-based learning, community engagement events, training delivery, and evaluation.		
Staff Analysis		

FY28 Budget Line Briefs: Prevention and Early Intervention MHTAAR Funding and GF/MH Recommendations

Individuals with autism may experience communication, sensory, or social challenges during law enforcement interactions. The project builds on the FY27 pilot by expanding training to families and caregivers and integrating lessons learned from law enforcement participants. Training aims to reduce escalation, improve officer competency, and increase safety for both officers and autistic individuals.

FY28 advances the pilot but represents the final year of funding; this is not expected to be a multi-year request.

Project: Criminal Justice Mental Health First Aid Train the Trainers		FY28 Budget Location: Page 2, Line 26
Grantee: University of Alaska Anchorage		
FY28 Proposed Amount: \$50,000		Years funded: 1 year (FY27)
Trust Program Staff: Heather Phelps		
Comp Plan Area of Focus:		Trust Strategic Priority Area:
Area of Focus 9 - Workforce		Prevention & Early Intervention
Project Description		
This project supports training up to 16 criminal justice staff to become certified Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) instructors. MHFA is an evidence-based early-intervention program teaching recognition of mental health and substance use challenges, de-escalation techniques, and connection to appropriate care.		
Staff Analysis		
The Departments of Corrections and Public Safety requested MHFA instructor training due to diminishing instructor capacity and high need within the workforce. Increasing the number of trained MHFA instructors strengthens the crisis response continuum statewide, particularly in rural and remote areas where mental health resources are limited. As FY27 is the first year of requested Trust funding, no data or outcomes are yet available. As of July, 11 of the sixteen slots have been filled. Funding is being requested again in FY28 to accommodate additional instructor training cohorts and ensure long-term sustainability of MHFA instruction within the criminal justice field.		

Project: ACEs Data Linkage and Analysis		FY28 Budget Location: Page 2, Line 27
Grantee: Department of Health - Division of Public Health		
FY28 Proposed Amount: \$175,000		Years funded: 6 years (FY22-FY27)
Trust Program Staff: Tina Voelker-Ross		
Comp Plan Area of Focus:		Trust Strategic Priority Area:
Area of Focus 10 - Data		Priority 1 - Prevention & Early Intervention
Project Description		
Trust funds support early childhood data analyses to inform data-driven strategies and policies for early intervention and prevention. This includes data related to Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and protective factors using the ALCANLink data system, linking early childhood datasets (ILP, Head Start, DEED, vaccination data, Medicaid, PRAMS, CUBS, DJJ), analysis of child wellbeing, the development of dashboards, and production of statewide data products. Funding supports the Epidemiology Specialist (ES II) dedicated to child wellbeing and supervisorial Public Health Scientist (PHS).		
Staff Analysis		

FY28 Budget Line Briefs: Prevention and Early Intervention MHTAAR Funding and GF/MH Recommendations

This project is a cornerstone of the Trust's early childhood data strategy. It informs prevention and intervention by identifying links between childhood trauma, protective factors, education outcomes, and later behavioral health needs.

FY25 accomplishments: major improvements to ALCANLink data infrastructure; added vaccination and early learning datasets; initiating analyses connecting early learning participation to academic outcomes; conducted PRTF-related Medicaid analyses; National and local presentations delivered; developed BYU partnership to study ACEs/protective factors and created a new toolkit.

FY26 mid-year accomplishments: Head Start & Early Learning data successfully added to ALCANLink; crosswalk standardized 10+ years of PRAMS data; completed statewide analysis of child sexual abuse incidence; multiple academic partnerships underway, with publications expected.

FY28 Budget Line Briefs: Crisis Services

MHTAAR Funding and GF/MH Recommendations

Project: Crisis Call Center		FY28 Budget Location: Page 2, Line 29
Grantee: Department of Health - Division of Behavioral Health		
FY28 Proposed Amount: \$1,000,000 MHTAAR, \$500.0 GF/MH recommendation		Years funded: 1 year (FY27)
Trust Program Staff: Samantha Ponts		
Comp Plan Area of Focus:		Trust Strategic Priority Area:
Area of Focus 5 - Suicide Prevention		Crisis Response
Project Description		
Trust funds support operation of Alaska's statewide 988 Crisis Call Center, including staffing, clinical supervision, training, quality assurance, technology infrastructure, accreditation, data reporting, public education, and coordination with behavioral health providers, mobile crisis teams, and PSAPs.		
Staff Analysis		
Careline—the statewide 988 crisis call center—provides immediate crisis intervention, safety planning, emotional support, and referral to community-based mental health and substance use services. It is the essential entry point to Alaska's Crisis Now continuum. Services include calls, texts, and chats available 24/7/365. FY27 is the first year of Trust funding, so no outcomes are available yet. However, data shared by DOH indicates that demand for careline continues to rise since the national launch of 988 in 2022. Annual contacts increased from 24,111 in FY23 to 43,769 in FY25, with 36,877 contacts in the first three quarters of FY26. Continued investment is recommended to sustain operations, enhance crisis response capabilities, and ensure compliance with national 988 standards. DBH and policy makers are also engaged in dialogue around sustainability through measures such as a 988 surcharge. Future Trust support should be reassessed annually as sustainability advances.		

Project: Statewide Designation, Evaluation, Stabilization & Treatment (DES/DET) Coordinator		FY28 Budget Location: Page 2, Line 30
Grantee: Department of Family and Community Services		
FY28 Proposed Amount: \$87,000		Years funded: 7 years (FY21-FY27)
Trust Program Staff: Samantha Ponts		
Comp Plan Area of Focus:		Trust Strategic Priority Area:
Area of Focus 5 - Suicide Prevention		Crisis Response
Project Description		
Trust funds support the Statewide DES/DET Coordinator, who manages Alaska's Title 47 civil commitment process for individuals experiencing acute behavioral health crises. The coordinator connects courts, hospitals, DET facilities, the Alaska Psychiatric Institute (API), transportation providers, DOC, and other partners to support timely placement, track patient movement, and maintain statewide electronic Title 47 data systems.		
Staff Analysis		
The DES/DET Coordinator ensures consistent statewide oversight of involuntary evaluation and treatment under Title 47, improving communication, reducing delays, and identifying less restrictive alternatives when possible. This centralized coordination improves patient flow, reduces emergency department and correctional burdens, and strengthens behavioral health crisis response. In FY25, the Coordinator provided statewide tracking for 1,545 Trust beneficiaries, maintained daily oversight of all Title 47 cases, advanced the statewide electronic tracking system, implemented new seven-day statutory requirements, mapped statewide trends in facility capacity and wait times, and provided training and technical assistance to approximately 400 professionals.		

FY28 Budget Line Briefs: Crisis Services

MHTAAR Funding and GF/MH Recommendations

Continued Trust investment is recommended to maintain statewide coordination, ensure compliance with statutory requirements, stabilize the electronic data system, and improve communication across partners in Alaska's civil commitment system

Project: Zero Suicide Initiative		FY28 Budget Location: Page 2, Line 31
Grantee: Department of Health - Division of Behavioral Health		
FY28 Proposed Amount: \$62,500	Years funded: 6 years (FY22–FY27)	
Trust Program Staff: Samantha Ponts		
Comp Plan Area of Focus:	Trust Strategic Priority Area:	
Area of Focus 7 - Services in the Least Restrictive Environment	Crisis Response	
Project Description		
Trust funds support the Zero Suicide Program Coordinator (ZSPC) within DBH to advance statewide implementation of the Zero Suicide framework. Core activities include technical assistance to healthcare organizations, workforce training, data-informed quality improvement, partnership development, and expansion of suicide-specific clinical practices.		
Staff Analysis		
This project strengthens Alaska’s statewide suicide prevention system by equipping healthcare organizations with evidence-based approaches to suicide care. Previous outcomes include training over 220 behavioral health professionals, establishing statewide Communities of Practice, and building partnerships across Tribal health, schools, military, and community providers.		
In FY26, the focus transitioned from statewide readiness to implementation at Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation (YKHC), where the ZSPC provided training, workflow integration, and technical assistance. As additional pilot sites launch, continued Trust support is recommended to scale statewide adoption of Zero Suicide.		

Project: Complex Care Program		FY28 Budget Location: Page 2, Line 32
Grantee: Department of Family and Community Services		
FY28 Proposed Amount: \$400,000	Years funded: 4 years (FY24-FY27)	
Trust Program Staff: Samantha Ponts		
Comp Plan Area of Focus:	Trust Strategic Priority Area:	
Area of Focus 7 - Services in the Least Restrictive Environment	Crisis Response	
Project Description		
Trust funds support Complex Care Coordinators within DFCS to provide statewide coordination for Trust beneficiaries with the most complex behavioral health, developmental disability, and co-occurring conditions. Funding supports interdisciplinary case management, coordination across DFCS, DOH, DOC, hospitals, and other partners, implementation of HIPAA-compliant case-tracking systems, and standardized referral processes.		
Staff Analysis		
This project fills a critical systems gap for high-acuity beneficiaries who require multi-agency coordination to safely transition to less restrictive settings. Trust investment strengthens referral pathways, improves communication between state partners, and ensures cases move efficiently through multidisciplinary review.		

FY28 Budget Line Briefs: Crisis Services

MHTAAR Funding and GF/MH Recommendations

In FY25, 95 Trust beneficiaries were served. Key accomplishments included: implementing a statewide HIPAA-compliant tracking system; completing cross-training in Title 47 processes; finalizing OCS referral procedures; improving joint Case Response Team workflows with DOH; establishing standardized referral forms and weekly referral reviews; strengthening statewide policy collaboration through the Complex Care Committee; and supporting legislation on Complex Care Residential Homes.

Continued Trust funding is recommended to maintain statewide coordination and ensure consistent support for beneficiaries with complex needs.

Project: Crisis Intervention Team/Behavioral Health Training and Programs for First Responders		FY28 Budget Location: Page 2, Line 33
Grantee: Department of Public Safety – Alaska Police Standards Council		
FY28 Proposed Amount: \$80,000	Years funded: 7 years (FY21–FY27)	
Trust Program Staff: Heather Phelps		
Comp Plan Area of Focus:	Trust Strategic Priority Area:	
Area of Focus 9 - Workforce	Crisis Response	
Project Description		
Trust funds support Crisis Intervention Team Training (CIT), Mental Health First Aid, and other trainings that improve officer interactions with Trust beneficiaries for the Alaska Police Standard Council within the Department of Public Safety (DPS).		
Staff Analysis		
CIT is an innovative community-based approach to improving the outcomes of encounters with law enforcement. CIT reduces arrests of people with mental illness while simultaneously increasing the likelihood that individuals will receive mental health services. CIT training is important to support the crisis continuum of care. In FY25, 37 officers/first responders completed training or attended conferences, though one end-of-year class was canceled. FY26 data reflects one officer completing a virtual CIT training due to staffing limitations. While CIT training has produced positive outcomes, several years have seen lapsed funds due to turnover, shortages, and travel constraints. After the election, Trust staff will meet with DPS leadership to reassess continuation.		

Project: Crisis Intervention Team/Behavioral Health Training and Programs for First Responders		FY28 Budget Location: Page 2, Line 34
Grantee: Department of Public Safety – Alaska State Troopers		
FY28 Proposed Amount: \$50,000	Years funded: 7 years (FY21–FY27)	
Trust Program Staff: Heather Phelps		
Comp Plan Area of Focus:	Trust Strategic Priority Area:	
Area of Focus 9 - Workforce	Crisis Response	
Project Description		
Trust funds support Crisis Intervention Team Training (CIT) and behavioral health training for Alaska State Troopers within the Department of Public Safety (DPS).		
Staff Analysis		

FY28 Budget Line Briefs: Crisis Services

MHTAAR Funding and GF/MH Recommendations

CIT is an innovative community-based approach to improving the outcomes of encounters with law enforcement. CIT reduces arrests of people with mental illness while simultaneously increasing the likelihood that individuals will receive mental health services. CIT training is important to support the crisis continuum of care. In FY25, two CIT academies trained 58 professionals, reflecting strong engagement. FY26 updates show three AST personnel completed CIT Train-the-Trainer coursework, expanding internal training capacity. While CIT training has produced positive outcomes, several years have seen lapsed funds due to turnover, shortages, and travel constraints. After the election, Trust staff will meet with DPS leadership to reassess continuation.

FY28 Budget Line Briefs: Treatment and Recovery MHTAAR Funding and GF/MH Recommendations

Project: Chilkat Sensory Room		FY28 Budget Location: Page 3, Line 36
Grantee: Department of Family and Community Services - Alaska Psychiatric Institute		
FY28 Proposed Amount: \$40,000	Years funded: New for FY28	
Trust Program Staff: Tina Voelker-Ross		
Comp Plan Area of Focus:	Trust Strategic Priority Area:	
Area of Focus 8 - Services in Institutional Settings	Priority 2 - Crisis Response	
Project Description		
Trust funds support creation of an on-unit sensory room in API’s Chilkat adolescent unit. Currently, the only available sensory space requires off-unit access and a level of behavioral stability that excludes many patients when they would most benefit from intervention. Funding will modify an existing on-unit space and procure appropriate therapeutic equipment including specialized flooring, sensory furniture, noise-reduction features, a therapeutic swing, and an internal sound system. The room will provide accessible sensory interventions for adolescents experiencing emotional or sensory dysregulation.		
Staff Analysis		
Youth on the Chilkat unit—all Trust beneficiaries—have high acuity needs, with common diagnoses including trauma-related disorders, high rates of substance misuse, mood instability, and suicidal ideation. Additionally, a substantial subset of patients demonstrates neurodevelopmental and executive functioning challenges, including autism spectrum disorder, ADHD, and intellectual disability. Without adequate sensory supports, these adolescents can experience prolonged dysregulation, increased crisis responses, and longer hospital stays. Since reopening in April 2021, Chilkat has served 134 high-acuity adolescents, average age 15, with an average length of stay of 86 days. An on-unit sensory room will support patients with regulation issues across all phases of need (general and prolonged dysregulation states, crisis, etc.), reduce incidents of escalation, improve stabilization, and increase skill acquisition during treatment. This is a one-year capital project.		

Project: Behavioral & Physical Health Care Integration		FY28 Budget Location: Page 3, Line 37
Grantee: Department of Health - Division of Behavioral Health		
FY28 Proposed Amount: \$100,000		Years funded: 2 years (FY26–FY27)
Trust Program Staff: Samantha Ponts		
Comp Plan Area of Focus:		Trust Strategic Priority Area:
Area of Focus 2 - Healthcare		Treatment & Recovery
Project Description		
Trust funds support a dedicated DBH position advancing statewide integration of behavioral health and primary care. The position coordinates statewide efforts, supports CCBHC implementation, improves care coordination pathways, partners with HealthEConnect, and provides technical assistance and training to integrated care providers.		
Staff Analysis		
Alaska was selected as a Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC) Demonstration State in 2026, creating new systemwide needs for readiness, certification, and integration across primary and behavioral health. The funded position leads planning, cross-system partnerships, referral-tracking infrastructure development, provider education, and statewide integration efforts.		
In FY26, the position served as Project Director for CCBHC planning, advanced referral system development with HealthEConnect, supported workforce education, and strengthened statewide collaboration. Continued funding is recommended to maintain integration momentum and support provider readiness as CCBHC certification processes expand statewide.		

FY28 Budget Line Briefs: Treatment and Recovery MHTAAR Funding and GF/MH Recommendations

Project: Centralized Competency Calendar Project		FY28 Budget Location: Page 3, Line 38
Grantee: Alaska Court System		
FY28 Proposed Amount: \$158,300		Years funded: 8 years (FY20–FY27)
Trust Program Staff: Heather Phelps		
Comp Plan Area of Focus:		Trust Strategic Priority Area:
Area of Focus 7: Services in the Least Restrictive Environment		Treatment & Recovery
Project Description		
This project funds two positions to assist with managing, collecting data, and tracking the cases on the Centralized Competency Calendar. These positions are essential to maintaining timely evaluations, identifying bottlenecks, and improving system efficiency.		
Staff Analysis		
The Centralized Competency Calendar streamlines competency proceedings, reducing delays that can prolong incarceration or court involvement for Trust beneficiaries. In FY25, Anchorage processed 206 competency evaluation orders, with evaluation reports completed in an average of 3.7 weeks, and hearings held within 5-6 days after reports were received. In early FY26, statewide competency activity remained similar, with 260 evaluations issued, half handled through Anchorage and 60 through Fairbanks. FY28 is the final year of Trust funding for this project.		

Project: Holistic Defense Social Worker		FY28 Budget Location: Page 3, Line 39
Grantee: Department of Administration, Public Defender Agency		
FY28 Proposed Amount: \$119,200		Years funded: 1 year (FY27)
Trust Program Staff: Heather Phelps		
Comp Plan Area of Focus:		Trust Strategic Priority Area:
Area of Focus 6: Protecting Vulnerable Alaskans		Treatment & Recovery
Project Description		
Trust funds will be used to support a holistic defense social worker, a new position located in Anchorage for the Holistic Defense Project. Holistic defense is a client-centered, legal advocacy model that addresses immediate legal issues and broader social, economic, and personal needs.		
Staff Analysis		
The holistic defense social worker will work directly with Trust beneficiaries involved in child welfare cases, facing involuntary commitment, or forced medication. Approximately 50 Trust beneficiaries will be served by this position annually. As FY27 is the first year of requested Trust funding, there are no data or outcomes to report. The project lead reported that the position control number is in process of being created. Trust Funds are anticipated for approximately 5 years to support the onboarding of the new position that drives systemic change.		

Project: Occupational Therapist in DJJ Youth Facilities		FY28 Budget Location: Page 3, Line 40
Grantee: Department of Family and Community Services – Division of Juvenile Justice		
FY28 Proposed Amount: \$100,000		Years funded: 3 years (FY25–FY27)
Trust Program Staff: Heather Phelps		

FY28 Budget Line Briefs: Treatment and Recovery MHTAAR Funding and GF/MH Recommendations

Comp Plan Area of Focus:	Trust Strategic Priority Area:
Area of Focus 8: Services in Institutional Settings	Treatment & Recovery
Project Description	
This project funds contracted Occupational Therapy (OT) services for youth in the neurobehavioral treatment units at the Fairbanks Youth Facility (FYF) and Bethel Youth Facility (BYF).	
Staff Analysis	
Youth served in FYF and BYF treatment units experience significant cognitive and neurobehavioral challenges, and individualized OT interventions are expected to reduce behavioral incidents, support school attendance, and improve functional skills. DJJ initially could not secure an OT during FY25, but by early 2026, the division hired an eligible provider and began onboarding activities with the selected provider and establishing effective monitoring protocols. Funding is expected for three to four additional years as DJJ fully launches and stabilizes OT service delivery.	

Project: Trauma Treatment for Incarcerated Women		FY28 Budget Location: Page 3, Line 41	
Grantee: Department of Corrections			
FY28 Proposed Amount: \$150,000		Years funded: 4 years (FY24–FY27)	
Trust Program Staff: Heather Phelps			
Comp Plan Area of Focus:		Trust Strategic Priority Area:	
Area of Focus 8: Services in Institutional Settings		Treatment & Recovery	
Project Description			
Trust funds support a pilot project addressing the impact of trauma on women incarcerated at Hiland Mountain Correctional Center (HMCC) and Yukon Kuskokwim Correctional Center (YKCC).			
Staff Analysis			
Incarcerated women frequently experience trauma and co-occurring disorders, and participants reported that the interventions were meaningful and applicable to both trauma and substance use needs. In FY25, 21 inmates participated; in FY26, participation increased to 23, indicating continued engagement in the pilot. The project has helped participants develop healthier coping strategies and reduce harmful behaviors. FY28 is the final year of Trust funding for this pilot as it completes its implementation cycle.			

Project: Addressing Comorbid Health and Addiction Issues Prominent Within Severe and Persistent Mentally Ill Populations		FY28 Budget Location: Page 3, Line 42
Grantee: Department of Corrections		
FY28 Proposed Amount: \$151,700	Years funded: 4 years (FY24–FY27)	
Trust Program Staff: Heather Phelps		
Comp Plan Area of Focus:	Trust Strategic Priority Area:	
Area of Focus 8: Services in Institutional Settings	Treatment & Recovery	
Project Description		
Trust funds support a psychiatric nurse case manager at Goose Creek Correctional Center’s (GCCC) sub-acute mental health unit. The sub-acute mental health unit at GCCC houses up to 108 inmates with mental health and substance use disorders.		
Staff Analysis		

FY28 Budget Line Briefs: Treatment and Recovery

MHTAAR Funding and GF/MH Recommendations

The psychiatric nurse case manager plays a central role in stabilizing beneficiaries with co-occurring mental illness, addiction issues, and complex medical needs. In FY25, 215 Trust beneficiaries were served, with increased medication compliance, earlier detection of refusals, and reduced medication diversion. Mid-FY26 data show 161 beneficiaries served, approximately 75% of the prior year's total, indicating service levels remain strong and on track. FY28 represents the final planned year of Trust funding for this project.

Project: DOC MOUD Medical Case Management Position		FY28 Budget Location: Page 3, Line 43
Grantee: Department of Corrections		
FY28 Proposed Amount: \$163,000		Years funded: New for FY28
Trust Program Staff: Heather Phelps		
Comp Plan Area of Focus:		Trust Strategic Priority Area:
Area of Focus 8: Services in Institutional Settings		Treatment & Recovery
Project Description		
Trust funds will support a registered nurse case manager for a new Medications for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD) pilot program at Wildwood Correctional Complex (WWC). The nurse will screen and evaluate eligible Trust beneficiaries, coordinate medical care and MOUD medication distribution, and manage discharge and community care transitions. WWC houses approximately 450 inmates and processes about 2,000 admissions annually.		
Staff Analysis		
Opioid overdose risk increases sharply following release from correctional facilities, especially within the first two weeks. By coordinating MOUD access and continuity of care, the nurse case manager is expected to reduce overdose risk, lower recidivism, and strengthen community care linkages. As FY28 is the first year of requested Trust funding, no data or outcomes exist yet. If successful, DOC anticipates expanding MOUD to additional facilities. Trust support is expected for three to five years while DOC launches the pilot and secures a permanent position control number.		

Project: DOC Mental Health Training		FY28 Budget Location: Page 3, Line 44
Grantee: Department of Corrections		
FY28 Proposed Amount: \$50,000		Years funded: New for FY28
Trust Program Staff: Heather Phelps		
Comp Plan Area of Focus:		Trust Strategic Priority Area:
Area of Focus 9: Workforce		Treatment & Recovery
Project Description		
Trust funds will support expanded mental health training resources for DOC behavioral health staff serving Trust beneficiaries. The project builds on prior Trust-supported training initiatives and introduces online subscription-based learning, workflow guides, and hybrid in-person and virtual training formats to ensure consistent, accessible, and evidence-based professional development.		
Staff Analysis		
Trust beneficiaries make up a substantial portion of DOC's population, and DOC has experienced an increase in short-term contracted behavioral health providers who need ongoing, on-demand training. Expanding training access will strengthen staff competency in evidence-based treatment, cultural responsiveness, and best practices, ultimately enhancing care quality for beneficiaries. The Trust has supported DOC behavioral health training efforts for 13 years, with the most recent funding in FY26. FY28 is the first year of funding for this expanded training initiative, which is planned as a two-year request (FY28-FY29).		

FY28 Budget Line Briefs: Treatment and Recovery MHTAAR Funding and GF/MH Recommendations

Project: Behavioral Health Administrator Position		FY28 Budget Location: Page 3, Line 45
Grantee: Alaska Court System		
FY28 Proposed Amount: \$170,000		Years funded: 1 year (FY27)
Trust Program Staff: Heather Phelps		
Comp Plan Area of Focus:		Trust Strategic Priority Area:
Area of Focus 7: Services in the Least Restrictive Environment		Treatment & Recovery
Project Description		
Trust funds will be used to fund a behavioral health administrator, a new state position for the Alaska Court System (ACS). The statewide behavioral health administrator will oversee and advise behavioral health-related programs and initiatives at the intersection of the judicial system and behavioral health systems.		
Staff Analysis		
The position will be responsible for analyzing, developing, and implementing actions to better meet the needs of individuals with behavioral health issues involved in the justice system. The statewide behavioral health administrator's duties will help identify system improvements to increase court-involved Trust beneficiaries' access to timely, high-quality, culturally grounded treatment as close to home as possible. As the first year of the Trust funds requested is FY27, there is no data or outcomes to report. ACS is approved to start recruitment for this position in September 2026. Trust funds are anticipated for approximately five years to fully onboard this position.		

Project: The Alaska Training Cooperative		FY28 Budget Location: Page 3, Line 46
Grantee: University of Alaska Anchorage – Center for Human Development		
FY28 Proposed Amount: \$500,000		Years funded: 20 years (FY08–FY27)
Trust Program Staff: Eric Boyer		
Comp Plan Area of Focus:		Trust Strategic Priority Area:
Area of Focus 9 - Workforce		Treatment and Recovery
Project Description		
The Alaska Training Cooperative (AKTC) provides evidence-based, non-academic workforce training and professional development for Alaska's home- and community-based and behavioral health workforce serving Trust beneficiaries. AKTC develops, delivers, and coordinates training statewide, including culturally attuned and rural-adapted content. Program activities include training delivery, coordination, technical assistance, identification of training gaps, documentation of training data, and marketing of training opportunities.		
AKTC collaborates with community partners to blend evidence-based practices with traditional wisdom, increasing access to high-quality, culturally relevant training for direct service workers, supervisors, and professionals across multiple beneficiary-serving fields.		
Staff Analysis		
AKTC is a core statewide workforce resource supporting Trust beneficiaries across behavioral health, developmental disabilities, employment support, corrections, domestic violence, hospitals, primary care, and early childhood systems. In FY25, AKTC trained approximately 2,500 unduplicated staff, with thousands more attending multiple courses. 98% of trainees reported being satisfied or very satisfied, and average trainee motivation to apply new skills scored 4.55 out of 5, demonstrating strong potential for practice change.		

FY28 Budget Line Briefs: Treatment and Recovery

MHTAAR Funding and GF/MH Recommendations

The program's diversified funding structure includes support from UAA, DOH-DBH, DOH-DPH, and participant fees, but Trust funds remain the primary support enabling statewide training access. AKTC directly advances the Comprehensive Integrated Mental Health Program Plan (Strengthening the System II: 2025-2029) by expanding evidence-based, culturally responsive workforce development opportunities critical to beneficiary outcomes.

Given the breadth of providers served and the statewide reliance on AKTC for high-quality training, continued Trust funding is essential to maintain a coordinated, accessible workforce training system serving Trust beneficiaries across Alaska.

Project: Master Psychology Project		FY28 Budget Location: Page 3, Line 47
Grantee: University of Alaska Anchorage		
FY28 Proposed Amount: \$290,000		Years funded: New for FY28
Trust Program Staff: Samantha Ponts		
Comp Plan Area of Focus:		Trust Strategic Priority Area:
Area of Focus 9 - Workforce		Treatment & Recovery
Project Description		
Trust funds will support expansion of UAA's M.S. in Clinical Psychology Program, doubling annual graduates from approximately 12 to 24. Funding supports faculty recruitment, student scholarships, postdoctoral training, supervisor networks, practicum site stipends, student recruitment, and program evaluation.		
Staff Analysis		
Expanding this program directly strengthens Alaska's behavioral health workforce pipeline. Students serve Trust beneficiaries through the Psychological Services Center and community practicum sites and later enter Alaska's licensed behavioral health workforce. FY28 represents the first year of funding; the five-year expansion plan anticipates measurable progress through recruitment, enrollment, practicum expansion, APA accreditation milestones, and long-term sustainability through tuition revenue by FY32.		
Continued Trust funding will be requested through FY31 as part of this phased expansion.		

Project: UAA School Psychology Project COMPASS		FY28 Budget Location: Page 3, Line 48
Grantee: University of Alaska Anchorage		
FY28 Proposed Amount: \$45,000		Years funded: New in FY28
Trust Program Staff: Samantha Ponts		
Comp Plan Area of Focus:		Trust Strategic Priority Area:
Area of Focus 9: Workforce		Treatment & Recovery
Project Description		
Trust funds will support Project COMPASS, which strengthens Alaska's school psychology workforce by expanding the capacity of school psychologists to supervise graduate students in UAA's new School Psychology Program. The project continues a statewide community of practice, provides evidence-based professional development for supervisors, and increases access to distance supervision for students completing practicum and internship placements in rural districts that lack licensed school psychologists.		
Staff Analysis		

FY28 Budget Line Briefs: Treatment and Recovery MHTAAR Funding and GF/MH Recommendations

This project advances the Trust’s workforce development goals by increasing supervisory capacity within Alaska school districts—an essential requirement for preparing and retaining school psychologists. Many rural districts employ no school psychologists who are qualified to supervise students, creating a significant barrier to licensure and limiting the statewide workforce pipeline. Project COMPASS supports both responsive needs (expanding supervisory availability where gaps exist) and Trust-initiated efforts to strengthen a critical behavioral health workforce strategy.

This is a new FY28 request that builds on prior Trust investments, including the FY26 MHTAAR-funded community of practice. The program’s three objectives—continuing the statewide community of practice, enhancing supervisory skills through structured professional development, and increasing distance supervision options for rural districts—are expected to directly improve access to clinical placements, strengthen the workforce pipeline, and expand the availability of school psychologists statewide.

This is a proposed 2-year pilot, with funds also recommended for FY29. Because the purpose is to build capacity and address a specific workforce gap, future funding is not anticipated.

Project: Center for Alcohol and Addiction Studies		FY28 Budget Location: Page 3, Line 49
Grantee: University of Alaska Anchorage		
FY28 Proposed Amount: \$135,000		Years funded: 1 year (FY27)
Trust Program Staff: Samantha Ponts		
Comp Plan Area of Focus:		Trust Strategic Priority Area:
Area of Focus 9 - Workforce		Treatment & Recovery
Project Description		
Trust funds support re-establishment of the Center for Alcohol and Addiction Studies (CAAS) at UAA, including creation of a statewide steering committee, needs assessment, interdisciplinary faculty collaborations, and production of evidence-supported substance use summaries		
Staff Analysis		
Rebuilding CAAS strengthens statewide capacity in addiction research, workforce development, and health education. The Center will serve as a hub for community-driven, interprofessional practice, supporting workforce pipelines and expanding technical assistance and training capacity across Alaska. FY27 served as foundational startup; FY28 builds on that work.		
This is year one of a planned three-year re-establishment effort, and continued Trust support is recommended.		

Project: Peer Support Certification		FY28 Budget Location: Page 3, Line 50
Grantee: Department of Health - Division of Behavioral Health		
FY28 Proposed Amount: \$100,000		Years funded: 8 years (FY20–FY27)
Trust Program Staff: Samantha Ponts		
Comp Plan Area of Focus:		Trust Strategic Priority Area:
Area of Focus 9 - Workforce		Treatment & Recovery
Project Description		
Trust funds support DBH’s contract with the Alaska Commission for Behavioral Health Certification (ACBHC) to operate the statewide Peer Support Professional Certification Program. Funding supports application processing, renewals, certification standards, policy maintenance, and administrative capacity to improve timeliness and operational efficiency.		

FY28 Budget Line Briefs: Treatment and Recovery MHTAAR Funding and GF/MH Recommendations

Staff Analysis

Peer support professionals are a vital part of Alaska's behavioral health workforce, offering lived-experience support to beneficiaries across treatment and recovery settings. A well-functioning certification process strengthens workforce entry, retention, and availability statewide.

In FY26, ACBHC received 30 new peer certification applications and issued 38 certifications, including Tribal Peer Support Specialist credentials. Continued Trust funding is recommended as DBH works to further build certification infrastructure and expand the workforce statewide.

FY28 Budget Line Briefs: Ongoing Support and Wellbeing MHTAAR Funding and GF/MH Recommendations

Project: Direct Support Professional Training / Professional Development		FY28 Budget Location: Page 3, Line 53
Grantee: Department of Health - Division of Senior & Disabilities Services		
FY28 Proposed Amount: \$200,00	Years funded: 3 years (FY25-FY27)	
Trust Program Staff: Samantha Ponts		
Comp Plan Area of Focus:	Trust Strategic Priority Area:	
Area of Focus 9 - Workforce	Ongoing Support & Wellbeing	
Project Description		
Trust funds support NADSP-accredited training and professional certification for Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) through partnerships between SDS, UAA-CHD, and the Alaska Training Cooperative. Training expands workforce capacity, strengthens recruitment and retention, and supports DSPs serving beneficiaries with intellectual and developmental disabilities		
Staff Analysis		
DSPs provide essential daily supports enabling beneficiaries to live safely and independently in their communities. Alaska faces ongoing DSP shortages and high turnover, making workforce development critical. The program demonstrates strong retention: in FY26, 42 of 44 DSPs remained active from 14 participating agencies.		
DSPs completed over 1,200 accredited training hours through 41 virtual and on-demand sessions. A new Pre-Program Training Option enrolled 44 DSPs from 11 agencies, expanding access to accredited coursework before formal cohort entry. Continued Trust support is recommended to address chronic workforce shortages and increasing HCBS demand		

Project: Public Guardian Position		FY28 Budget Location: Page 3, Line 54	
Grantee: Department of Administration, Office of Public Advocacy			
FY28 Proposed Amount: \$138,000		Years funded: 9 years (FY19–FY27)	
Trust Program Staff: Heather Phelps			
Comp Plan Area of Focus:		Trust Strategic Priority Area:	
Area of Focus 6: Protecting Vulnerable Alaskans		Ongoing Support & Wellbeing	
Project Description			
Trust funds are used to support a public guardian position to work directly with Trust beneficiaries in rural areas. The primary goal of this position is to ensure that vulnerable Alaskans can remain safe in their chosen communities whenever possible.			
Staff Analysis			
This project addresses a critical gap for rural Trust beneficiaries who previously lacked regular contact due to geographic barriers. The guardian provides hands-on support across varying levels of need—from nursing home care to assisted living, independent living, and transitions. In FY25, the position served 166 Trust beneficiaries, demonstrating continued growth in caseload and need. FY26 updates indicate extensive travel across remote regions and an added workload following Typhoon Halong. OPA has stated that state budget limitations prevent transitioning this position from Trust funds at this time. As a result, Trust funding will be needed through FY29 to maintain continuity of services for vulnerable rural beneficiaries.			

FY28 Budget Line Briefs: Ongoing Support and Wellbeing MHTAAR Funding and GF/MH Recommendations

Project: Single Transaction Guardianship		FY28 Budget Location: Page 3, Line 55
Grantee: Department of Administration, Office of Public Advocacy		
FY28 Proposed Amount: \$132,000		Years funded: New for FY28
Trust Program Staff: Eric Boyer		
Comp Plan Area of Focus:		Trust Strategic Priority Area:
Area of Focus 6: Protecting Vulnerable Alaskans		Ongoing Support and Wellbeing
Project Description		
Trust funds will support a Public Guardian 1-2 Single Transaction Coordinator within the Office of Public Advocacy (OPA) for a two-year pilot program. OPA is the most appropriate home for this position because it already maintains the statutory authority, infrastructure, and expertise in handling protected people's matters, ensuring immediate capacity to launch the pilot without additional administrative build out. The coordinator will be equipped to work with rural and hard to reach individuals through remote communication tools, ensuring that Alaskans across the state can access single transaction support. In situations where the coordinator cannot complete the transaction directly from Anchorage, they will also serve as a resource to guide family members through the single transaction process in remote communities, ensuring that beneficiaries still receive timely and effective support. This position will also support beneficiaries who have willing and appropriate family members by helping them understand, initiate, and effectively use other least restrictive options, such as SDMAs and POAs to maintain autonomy while ensuring assistance is in place. The coordinator will also work closely with the court systems, with which OPA already has a working relationship.		
Staff Analysis		
This position offers sustainable and urgently needed solutions for Alaska's strained guardianship system. By funding a dedicated coordinator to facilitate single transactions and other least restrictive options, the Trust can support a transformative pilot program that enhances beneficiary autonomy, reduces systemic pressure, and improves outcomes for individuals with TBI, IDD, mental illness, and cognitive impairments. This initiative will strengthen the statewide system of care, align with the Trust's mission, and ensure that vulnerable Alaskans receive appropriate support without unnecessary court intervention or loss of rights. This project is proposed as a two-year pilot, with additional funds recommended for FY29.		

Project: Family Guardianship Support/Navigator		FY28 Budget Location: Page 3, Line 56
Grantee: Department of Administration – Office of Public Advocacy		
FY28 Proposed Amount: \$122,000		Years funded: New in FY28
Trust Program Staff: Eric Boyer		
Comp Plan Area of Focus:		Trust Strategic Priority Area:
Area of Focus 6: Protecting Vulnerable Adults		Ongoing Support and Wellbeing
Project Description		
The Office of Public Advocacy (OPA) will use Trust funds for a Public Guardian 1, Adult Guardianship Navigator for a two-year pilot program. This position will support beneficiaries statewide to the greatest extent possible and will make active efforts to help regardless of geographic location. The Navigator will be able to support rural and hard-to-reach communities through remote communication tools, ensuring access even where in-person visits are not feasible. The Navigator will also serve as a resource to guide families in remote areas through benefits and service processes when direct support cannot be provided from Anchorage. OPA is the most appropriate home for this position due to its statutory authority, existing infrastructure, and long-established expertise in supporting protected individuals. OPA already works closely with the Alaska Court System, which strengthens the feasibility and immediate implementation of this pilot.		
Staff Analysis		

FY28 Budget Line Briefs: Ongoing Support and Wellbeing MHTAAR Funding and GF/MH Recommendations

OPA presents a sustainable and urgently needed response to Alaska’s strained guardianship system. By funding an Adult Guardianship Navigator, the state will strengthen support for family guardians, reduce unnecessary transitions to public guardianship, and provide a centralized resource to help families navigate complex benefit and service systems. With nationwide shortages of professional guardians, Alaska must adopt strategies that keep cases with families whenever possible. This program supports Trust beneficiaries by reinforcing family involvement, strengthening community capacity, and ensuring that vulnerable adults remain connected to their natural supports and cultural values. This is anticipated to be a two-year pilot, with funds also recommended for FY29.

Project: APIC Discharge Planning Model in DOC		FY28 Budget Location: Page 3, Line 57
Grantee: Department of Corrections		
FY28 Proposed Amount: \$100,000		Years funded: 22 years (FY06–FY27)
Trust Program Staff: Heather Phelps		
Comp Plan Area of Focus:		Trust Strategic Priority Area:
Area of Focus 8: Services in Institutional Settings		Ongoing Support & Wellbeing
Project Description		
Trust funds are used to support APIC (Assess, Plan, Identify, Coordinate) Trust beneficiary participants reentering the community, addressing their mental health and housing needs.		
Staff Analysis		
APIC has been a long-standing discharge planning model within DOC, supporting continuity of care for Trust beneficiaries transitioning back into the community. In FY25, 155 beneficiaries were served, although DOC noted this represented a decrease from 517 beneficiaries in FY24 due to significant staff turnover affecting data reliability. FY26 updates did not include new data, again due to turnover. While the model remains beneficial, DOC and the Trust have agreed to phase out funding after FY28, allowing DOC to redirect Trust dollars to new priority projects. FY28 is the final year of Trust funding for this legacy initiative.		

Project: Public Guardian Position – OCS Transition		FY28 Budget Location: Page 3, Line 58
Grantee: Department of Administration, Office of Public Advocacy		
FY28 Proposed Amount: \$91,500		Years funded: 4 years (FY24–FY27)
Trust Program Staff: Heather Phelps		
Comp Plan Area of Focus:		Trust Strategic Priority Area:
Area of Focus 6: Protecting Vulnerable Alaskans		Ongoing Support & Wellbeing
Project Description		
This project funds a Public Guardian position within the Office of Public Advocacy (OPA) to support Trust beneficiaries who are aging out of the Office of Children’s Services (OCS).		
Staff Analysis		
This project supports OCS-transitioning Trust beneficiaries who often lack established benefits or stable support as they enter adulthood. The Public Guardian assists Trust beneficiaries in securing housing, accessing medical and behavioral health care, and engaging with vocational rehabilitation and other essential services. In FY25, 27 clients were served, up from 19 clients in FY24. FY26 updates show continued assistance with living arrangements, healthcare access, and vocational support. As this is a relatively new position and there were early recruitment delays, Trust funds are anticipated to be needed beyond the FY28-FY29 budget cycle.		

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Project: Supported Employment Workforce		FY28 Budget Location: Page 3, Line 59	
Grantee: University of Alaska Anchorage - Center for Human Development			
FY28 Proposed Amount: \$100,000		Years funded: 7 years (FY21-FY27)	
Trust Program Staff: Samantha Potts			
Comp Plan Area of Focus:		Trust Strategic Priority Area:	
Area of Focus 9 - Workforce		Ongoing Support & Wellbeing	
Project Description			
Trust funds support targeted employment services training for supported employment providers, including the National Certificate of Achievement in Employment Services (Basic Level), self-employment training, ACRE membership maintenance, curriculum delivery, and technical assistance to strengthen Alaska’s supported employment workforce.			
Staff Analysis			
This project strengthens the supported employment workforce serving Trust beneficiaries by increasing access to competency-based training and modern employment services practices. Providers receive training aligned with needs identified in the FY20 needs assessment and current provider feedback. In FY26, a trainer was hired, curriculum training completed, ACRE membership maintained, and the program remained on track to deliver one Employment Services Certificate training and one Self-Employment training.			
Continued Trust support is recommended to expand statewide supported employment capacity and improve access to competitive, integrated employment for beneficiaries.			

Project: Beneficiary Employment & Technical Assistance and Planning		FY28 Budget Location: Page 3, Line 60
Grantee: University of Alaska Anchorage – Center for Human Development		
FY28 Proposed Amount: \$90,000	Years funded: 4 years (FY24-FY27)	
Trust Program Staff: Samantha Potts		
Comp Plan Area of Focus:	Trust Strategic Priority Area:	
Area of Focus 7 - Services in the Least Restrictive Environment	Ongoing Support & Wellbeing	
Project Description		
Trust funds support maintenance and expansion of the Alaska Disability Benefits 101 (DB101) website, benefits/ employment education, contract management with the World Institute on Disability, outreach, training, and statewide employment resource development for Trust beneficiaries.		
Staff Analysis		
This project strengthens statewide access to employment and benefits information for Trust beneficiaries. DB101 provides step-by-step guidance on how work affects Social Security, Medicaid, ABLE accounts, work incentives, accommodations, and employment supports. Utilization continues to grow; in FY25 the website served 10,588 unique users, a 52.6% increase, with users from 35 communities. Outreach and education reached 194 participants statewide.		
Continued funding is recommended at maintenance levels to keep DB101 updated, support training and outreach, and help beneficiaries pursue competitive, integrated employment.		

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Project: Special Needs Housing Grant - Capital		FY28 Budget Location: Page 3, Line 61
Grantee: Alaska Housing Finance Corporation (AHFC)		
FY28 Proposed Amount: \$200,000 MHTAAR, \$2,000,000 GF/MH Recommendation	Years funded: 23 years (FY05-FY27)	
Trust Program Staff: Kelda Barstad		
Comp Plan Area of Focus:	Trust Strategic Priority Area:	
Area of Focus 3 - Economic & Social Well-being	Ongoing Support & Wellbeing	
Project Description		
Trust funds contribute to the Special Needs Housing Grant (SNHG) that provides operating funding and residential support services for permanent supportive housing programs serving AMHTA beneficiaries. SNHG grants are awarded competitively in three-year cycles with renewal options. These grants are often paired with federal capital funding to expand supported housing capacity and reduce barriers for high-need, low-income beneficiaries.		
Staff Analysis		
Trust funds support AHFC’s SNHG program, which provides critical operating and support service funds for housing programs serving beneficiaries with disabilities. SNHG supports individuals in recovery, returning citizens, chronically homeless beneficiaries, youth, families, veterans, domestic violence survivors, and single adults. Demand for SNHG consistently exceeds available resources.		
In FY25, 644 Trust beneficiaries were served across all projects and two funded projects in two communities were renewed. SNHG funding is routinely leveraged to secure federal and private funds for both capital and operations. Due to unstable federal support and unsuccessful attempts to transition SNHG to GF/MH funding, continued Trust support is recommended until a sustainable statewide funding source is secured.		

Project: Homeless Assistance Program - Capital		FY28 Budget Location: Page 3, Line 62
Grantee: Alaska Housing Finance Corporation (AHFC)		
FY28 Proposed Amount: \$950,000 MHTAAR, \$3,000,000 GF/MH Recommendation	Years funded: 23 years (FY05-FY27)	
Trust Program Staff: Kelda Barstad		
Comp Plan Area of Focus:	Trust Strategic Priority Area:	
Area of Focus 3 - Economic & Social Well-being	Ongoing Support & Wellbeing	
Project Description		
Trust funds contribute to AHFC’s Homeless Assistance Program (HAP) which provides emergency shelter, transitional housing, rapid rehousing, eviction prevention, and community-based supports for Alaskans experiencing or at risk of homelessness. HAP funds are flexible, allowing communities to respond rapidly to crises and fill service gaps that federal programs do not cover.		
Staff Analysis		
Trust funds support HAP projects across the state, providing essential emergency shelter services, transitional housing, rapid rehousing, and homelessness prevention for populations including youth, families, veterans, individuals with disabilities, and victims of domestic violence or trafficking. Trust beneficiaries experience homelessness at significantly higher rates, making HAP a critical support mechanism.		
In FY25, 7,549 unduplicated individuals received HAP-funded services, including 3,100 Trust beneficiaries, through 29 projects in 15 communities. Despite increasing demand, inflation and rising operating costs have outpaced flat funding levels, resulting in fewer people served and increased percentage of funds to maintain emergency shelters.		

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HAP is a long-standing partnership between AHFC and the Trust, and Trust funding leverages federal and state investment. While the Trust does not typically provide ongoing funding for programs, the partnership with AHFC facilitates the Trust's ability to contribute to the work of many organizations efficiently and effectively across the state. Continued Trust support is recommended until sustainable alternatives are secured. Many of the small agencies receiving this funding do not have ready replacement for these grants, requiring thoughtful transition planning.

Project: Care Coordination Liaison		FY28 Budget Location: Page 3, Line 63
Grantee: Department of Health – Division of Senior and Disabilities Services		
FY28 Proposed Amount: \$95,000	Years funded: 2 years (FY26-FY27)	
Trust Program Staff: Kelda Barstad		
Comp Plan Area of Focus:	Trust Strategic Priority Area:	
Area of Focus 7 - Services in the Least Restrictive Environment	Ongoing Support & Wellbeing	
Project Description		
Trust funds partially support a liaison within Senior and Disabilities Services (SDS) who helps resolve beneficiary-specific care coordination issues, addresses systemic barriers, supports care coordinator recruitment, and assists with Harmony database implementation, training, and quality assurance needs. The position serves as a centralized SDS contact for care coordinators statewide.		
Staff Analysis		
The home and community-based services (HCBS) system is complex, and care coordinators are essential for service access and continuity. Recruitment challenges, administrative burden, and system navigation difficulties have contributed to care coordinator shortages. This liaison position helps stabilize and strengthen the care coordination workforce by providing hands-on support, improving database functionality, identifying systemic issues, and assisting new care coordinators entering the field.		
In FY25, 195 certified care coordinators and 14 new enrollees received training and support (total: 209 professionals). The liaison facilitated office hours, addressed Harmony database challenges, elevated system issues, and supported recruitment.		
Continued Trust funding is recommended through FY29, after which SDS may absorb the position into its operating budget if it is still needed. The program’s success has already resulted in the position being converted from non-permanent to permanent.		

Project: Home Modifications and Upgrades		FY28 Budget Location: Page 3, Line 64
Grantee: Department of Health - Division Senior and Disability Services		
FY28 Proposed Amount: \$1,750,000 GF/MH Recommendation	Years funded: n/a	
Trust Program Staff: Kelda Barstad		
Comp Plan Area of Focus:	Trust Strategic Priority Area:	
Area of Focus 7, Services in the Least Restrictive Environment	Ongoing Support & Wellbeing	
Project Description		
The Home Modifications and Upgrades project provides capital funding to the Department of Health for grants for home modifications for Trust beneficiaries. Home modifications (also called environmental modifications		

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or e-mods) provide environmental improvements to the physical structure of a house or apartment so that the home can be more accessible for beneficiaries with physical disabilities.

Staff Analysis

Home modifications increase the accessibility of current housing so that Trust beneficiaries can move into or remain in their own homes when they acquire a physical disability. Home modifications are available to people wherever they reside, regardless of whether they own or rent and with whom they live. Typical kinds of assistance provided are accessibility modifications or additions (e.g., widening doorways, remodeling bathrooms and/or kitchens, installing entrance ramps, and related equipment.) All funds are awarded through a statewide competitive grant process to qualified organizations. An average of 20-30 people receive home modifications through this grant annually. The Trust no longer supports this grant with MHTAAR funding, as FY23 was the final year of Trust funding after 21 years of support. The project has now transitioned to a GF/MH recommendation that still needs advocacy.

Project: Behavioral Health Administrator Position		FY28 Budget Location: Page 3, Line 65
Grantee: Alaska Court System		
FY28 Proposed Amount: \$150,000		Years funded: 1 year (FY27)
Trust Program Staff: Kelda Barstad		
Comp Plan Area of Focus:		Trust Strategic Priority Area:
Area of Focus 9 - Workforce		Ongoing Support & Wellbeing
Project Description		
This project funds a coordinator position to support operations of the Brain Injury Council of Alaska (BICA), including Council facilitation, communication, data gathering, reporting, planning, stakeholder engagement, recruitment, and coordination with the Trust and beneficiary boards.		
Staff Analysis		
The BICA staff position is a key statewide support to advance the continuum of care for beneficiaries with brain injuries. The coordinator strengthens implementation of state plan priorities, supports advocacy, leads planning with partner agencies, coordinates lived-experience Council participation, and expands public awareness. The Council must consist of at least 50% individuals with lived experience, and this position ensures members are supported to participate meaningfully. In FY25, the position implemented Council priorities, strengthened operations, improved member education, increased brain injury awareness, facilitated partnerships, and supported new data goals. The Council published the FY26-30 Alaska State Plan for Brain Injury and conducted outreach to 113 individuals and training for 49 people. Trust funding also leveraged federal grant dollars to support plan implementation. Continued multi-year funding is recommended to maintain and strengthen Alaska’s brain injury service system. Trust funding leveraged a federal grant to implement activities related to the Alaska State Plan for Brain Injury.		

Project: Environmental Modifications Improvement		FY28 Budget Location: Page 3, Line 66
Grantee: Department of Health – Division of Senior and Disabilities Services		
FY28 Proposed Amount: \$94,000	Years funded: 2 years (FY26-FY27)	
Trust Program Staff: Kelda Barstad		
Comp Plan Area of Focus:		Trust Strategic Priority Area:
Area of Focus 7 - Services in the Least Restrictive Environment		Ongoing Support & Wellbeing

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Project Description
Trust funds partially support a position within SDS to coordinate improvements to multiple Environmental Modification (EMOD) programs. These programs provide home modifications that increase accessibility and allow beneficiaries to remain safely in their homes. The position addresses program inefficiencies, contractor shortages, and administrative barriers across Medicaid waiver services and grant-funded EMOD programs.
Staff Analysis
Many beneficiaries and care coordinators rely on EMOD programs, yet administrative burden and limited provider availability have resulted in very low utilization. For example, out of roughly 3,500 individuals served under the Alaskans Living Independently waiver, fewer than 25 environmental modifications were completed last fiscal year. The funded position will improve systemic issues, update communication materials and regulations, expand contractor participation, and standardize assessment processes to support aging in place. The position is filled and has completed stakeholder interviews, is updating the Home Modification grant RFP, and monitors progress on the EMOD pilot. Continued multi-year funding (up to five years) is recommended to complete system improvements, after which SDS may absorb the position into its operating budget if it is still needed.

Project: “No Wrong Door” Coordinated Access to Services		FY28 Budget Location: Page 3, Line 67
Grantee: Department of Health – Division of Senior and Disabilities Services		
FY28 Proposed Amount: \$300,000 MHTAAR, \$300,000 GF/MH Recommendation	Years funded: 2 years (FY26-FY27)	
Trust Program Staff: Kelda Barstad		
Comp Plan Area of Focus:	Trust Strategic Priority Area:	
Area of Focus 7 - Services in the Least Restrictive Environment	Ongoing Support & Wellbeing	
Project Description		
Trust funds partially support administration, project management, Medicaid Administrative Claiming standardization, and stakeholder engagement for DOH Division of Senior and Disabilities Services (SDS’s) statewide No Wrong Door (NWD) system. The initiative expands the Aging & Disability Resource Center (ADRC) model to create a broader, coordinated network that provides streamlined access to long-term services, person-centered counseling, and objective information regardless of entry point.		
Staff Analysis		
The NWD model improves access to home- and community-based services (HCBS) by reducing complexity, improving communication across agencies, aligning referral practices, and making system navigation easier for beneficiaries. The model is built on four key functions designed to transform access systems for all populations and all payers: State Governance and Administration, Public Outreach and Coordination with Key Referral Sources, Person-Centered Counseling (PCC), and Streamlined Eligibility for Public Programs By December 31, 2025, ADRCs had served 2,133 unique individuals, documenting 3,714 contacts—demonstrating strong demand for coordinated access services. SDS has completed an NWD implementation plan, reached an agreement with DPA for shared database access, and achieved a high Medicaid Administrative Claiming (MAC) rate, which supports future sustainability. NWD is recommended as a five-year project, with SDS contributing the majority of funding. A sustainability plan is an expected deliverable before the project concludes.		

Project: Person Centered Transportation - Capital	FY28 Budget Location: Page 3, Line 68
Grantee: Department of Health – Division of Senior and Disabilities Services	

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FY28 Proposed Amount: \$250,000	Years funded: 2 years (FY26-FY27)
Trust Program Staff: Kelda Barstad	
Comp Plan Area of Focus:	Trust Strategic Priority Area:
Area of Focus 7 - Services in the Least Restrictive Environment	Ongoing Support & Wellbeing
Project Description	
Trust funds support the creation of a new grant program within DOH Division of Senior and Disabilities Services (SDS) to pilot innovative transportation approaches for beneficiaries. SDS will issue an RFP in FY27 and select 2-4 community-based projects that address transportation barriers.	
Staff Analysis	
The NWD model improves access to home- and community-based services (HCBS) by reducing complexity, improving communication across agencies, aligning referral practices, and making system navigation easier for beneficiaries. The model is built on four key functions designed to transform access systems for all populations and all payers: State Governance and Administration, Public Outreach and Coordination with Key Referral Sources, Person-Centered Counseling (PCC), and Streamlined Eligibility for Public Programs By December 31, 2025, ADRCs had served 2,133 unique individuals, documenting 3,714 contacts—demonstrating strong demand for coordinated access services. SDS has completed an NWD implementation plan, reached an agreement with DPA for shared database access, and achieved a high Medicaid Administrative Claiming (MAC) rate, which supports future sustainability. NWD is recommended as a five-year project, with SDS contributing the majority of funding. A sustainability plan is an expected deliverable before the project concludes.	

Project: interRAI	FY28 Budget Location: Page 3, Line 69
Grantee: Department of Health – Division of Senior and Disabilities Services	
FY28 Proposed Amount: \$650,000	Years funded: First year MHTAAR (FY27 Authority Grant: \$640,500)
Trust Program Staff: Kelda Barstad	
Comp Plan Area of Focus:	Trust Strategic Priority Area:
Area of Focus 7 - Services in the Least Restrictive Environment	Ongoing Support & Wellbeing
Project Description	
Trust funds support seven assessor positions, travel for in-person assessments, and needed supplies to implement the interRAI system within Senior and Disabilities Services (SDS). interRAI is an internationally recognized suite of standardized assessment tools used for eligibility, level-of-care determination, and support planning across HCBS programs, including 1915(c) waivers, Community First Choice, and Personal Care Services. This support is part of a larger investment in updating the assessment tool used by Medicaid funded HCBS programs in Alaska.	
Staff Analysis	
Implementing interRAI modernizes Alaska’s assessment system and supports consistent, person-centered, and data-driven determinations of need for beneficiaries receiving home- and community-based services. This initiative will strengthen SDS’ ability to track secondary conditions such as mental illness or brain injury—data not comprehensively captured under current tools. FY27 is the first year of funding, so no outcomes or data are yet available. The project requires multi-year funding (approximately 3-4 years) to complete initial interRAI assessments of all new and existing waiver	

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recipients. After this implementation period, SDS will resume standard assessment cycles and integrate long-term staffing needs into its operating budget.

Project: Trust MicroEnterprise Grant Program		FY28 Budget Location: Page 3, Line 70
Grantee: University of Alaska Anchorage - Center for Human Development		
FY28 Proposed Amount: \$225,000	Years funded: 20 years (FY08-FY27)	
Trust Program Staff: Tina Voelker-Ross		
Comp Plan Area of Focus:	Trust Strategic Priority Area:	
Area of Focus 3 - Economic & Social Well-being	Ongoing Support & Wellbeing	
Project Description		
The MicroEnterprise program supports Trust beneficiaries in starting or maintaining small businesses by providing startup assistance, coaching, business development supports, and limited stabilization resources (e.g., training, mental health or substance use services, unexpected business costs). Trust funds will support orientation sessions to assist applicants and the subsequent grants for beneficiaries.		
Staff Analysis		
Self-employment is an essential alternative employment pathway for beneficiaries with disabilities who may face barriers to traditional workplaces. The program improves independence, quality of life, and economic stability.		
FY25 outcomes: 21 applications, 17 reviewed, 14 awards; beneficiaries included individuals with mental illness (8), developmental disabilities (4), substance misuse (2), and TBI (3), representing six communities; 23 past recipients received continued business coaching; survey data showed high satisfaction and improvements in independence, confidence, and wellbeing.		
FY26 mid-year: 10 new applications, 9 awards; 20 individuals received coaching; application process updated for FY27 to improve accessibility, including required orientation sessions and revised match levels.		
Given consistent outcomes and statewide beneficiary impact, continued Trust support is recommended.		

Project: Project ECHO Series Bundle		FY28 Budget Location: Page 3, Line 71
Grantee: University of Alaska Anchorage		
FY28 Proposed Amount: \$147,000		Years funded: New for FY28
Trust Program Staff: Samantha Ponts		
Comp Plan Area of Focus:		Trust Strategic Priority Area:
Area of Focus 9 - Workforce		Ongoing Support & Wellbeing
Project Description		
Trust funds support development and delivery of two Project ECHO training series in FY28 using evidence-based, case-based virtual learning. Topics may include Dementia Care, Mental Health & Developmental Disabilities (MHDD), Autism, and Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD). Two additional ECHO series are planned for delivery in FY29.		
Staff Analysis		

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Project ECHO expands high-quality virtual training statewide, especially in rural communities. Previous ECHO pilots demonstrate strong participation: Dementia ECHO averaged 92 participants per session; MHDD ECHO averaged 103 participants; FASD sessions averaged 104 participants with diagnosis mini-series averaging 69 participants. This funding increases access to subject-matter experts, Alaska resources, and best practices for providers serving Trust beneficiaries.

This is a two-year implementation request (FY28-FY29). Future funding will depend on workforce needs and resource availability.

Project: Alaska Area Health Education Centers Pathways Support		FY28 Budget Location: Page 3, Line 72	
Grantee: University of Alaska Anchorage			
FY28 Proposed Amount: \$250,00		Years funded: 11 years (FY17-FY27)	
Trust Program Staff: Samantha Ponts			
Comp Plan Area of Focus:		Trust Strategic Priority Area:	
Area of Focus 9 - Workforce		Ongoing Support & Wellbeing	
Project Description			
Trust funds support statewide behavioral health career pathway programming for middle and high school students delivered through six regional AHEC centers and the statewide office. Activities include career exploration camps, Youth and Teen Mental Health First Aid, dual-credit offerings, experiential learning, and rural health workforce development.			
Staff Analysis			
Alaska faces significant behavioral health workforce shortages. AHEC programming exposes students early to behavioral health careers, strengthens workforce identity development, and builds long-term recruitment pathways to meet rural and statewide provider needs.			
In FY26, 11 career intensives served 128 students, with 75% reporting increased interest in a health career and 99% reporting increased knowledge. Youth/Teen MHFA trainings showed strong learning outcomes, and long-term tracking shows 77 former participants enrolled in health/behavioral health training and 14 working in Alaska’s health workforce. Continued funding is recommended to expand access and reach additional communities.			

Project: Alaska Health Occupations Students of America		FY28 Budget Location: Page 3, Line 73	
Grantee: University of Alaska Anchorage			
FY28 Proposed Amount: \$100,000		Years funded: 1 year (FY27)	
Trust Program Staff: Samantha Ponts			
Comp Plan Area of Focus:		Trust Strategic Priority Area:	
Area of Focus 9 - Workforce		Ongoing Support & Wellbeing	
Project Description			
Trust funds support a position within and the statewide expansion of HOSA through the Alaska Area Health Education Centers (AHEC). Funding increases chapter development, advisor support, technical assistance, and student leadership opportunities across communities including Dillingham, Juneau, Sitka, Soldotna, Homer, Seward, Cordova, Nome, Bethel, and the Yukon Koyukuk School District.			
Staff Analysis			

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HOSA builds early behavioral health workforce pathways for Alaska youth, offering health career exploration and hands-on learning that increases interest in behavioral health professions. The program currently supports more than 400 students across 25 chapters statewide; FY28 expansion aims to reach over 500 students with more than 30 statewide chapters.

FY27 was the first year of Trust funding. Continued support is recommended to expand HOSA into additional communities and strengthen long-term behavioral health workforce development.

FY28 Budget Line Briefs

Authority Grant Funding

Project: Trust Strategic Initiatives / Data Collection		FY28 Budget Location: Page 4, Line 3
Grantee: Unallocated funding		
FY28 Proposed Amount: \$7,500,000		Years funded: 1 year (FY27)
Trust Program Staff: Katie Baldwin Johnson		
Comp Plan Area of Focus:		Trust Strategic Priority Area:
Multiple Areas of Focus		Multiple priority areas
Project Description		
This budget line provides flexible strategic resources that enable the Trust to advance board-approved priorities. Funds support initiatives, activities, and grantmaking that strengthen data-informed program development, implementation, and performance monitoring to ensure Trust investments align with long-term beneficiary impact and accountability.		
Staff Analysis		
This funding mechanism is essential for operationalizing the Trust’s strategic plan. It provides the financial capacity for grants and staff-driven initiatives that improve program development, delivery, evaluation, and cross-agency coordination.		
Dedicated resources allow the Trust to build and maintain infrastructure for high-quality data collection and analysis, develop internal dashboards, obtain technical assistance, and support evaluation activities. These efforts strengthen outcome tracking, evidence-based decision-making, and continuous quality improvement across program areas.		
This flexible funding also enables piloting innovative models, addressing emerging needs identified through stakeholder input and performance metrics, and improving strategic alignment across program areas. Overall, the initiative positions the Trust to adapt to future opportunities and challenges while enhancing systemwide integration and effectiveness.		

Project: Development and Facilitation of Trust Strategic Initiatives		FY28 Budget Location: Page 4, Line 4
Grantee: These funds will be awarded through the State of Alaska procurement process		
FY28 Proposed Amount: \$500,000		Years funded: New in FY28
Trust Program Staff: Katie Baldwin Johnson		
Comp Plan Area of Focus:		Trust Strategic Priority Area:
TBD		Multiple priority areas
Project Description		
The Trust will secure contract(s) to provide support to staff in the development and facilitation of the Trust's strategic initiatives.		
Staff Analysis		
This budget line will fund professional services contract(s) to support the Trust’s strategic initiatives through facilitation and analytical expertise. Contractor(s) may:		
• Collaborate closely with staff and stakeholders to assess and clarify key priorities and desired strategies that align with the Trust’s mission and vision. • Assess the feasibility of identified strategies including business-case scenarios, data and evaluation needs, achievability, sustainability and estimated return on investment. • Facilitate work groups and strategic planning sessions for inclusive engagement and consensus-building.		

FY28 Budget Line Briefs

Authority Grant Funding

- Develop SMART goals (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Time-bound) for each initiative.
- Identify and establish performance metrics and outcomes to track progress and impact.

Project: Trust Grant Making		FY28 Budget Location: Page 4, Line 5	
Grantee: Unallocated funding			
FY28 Proposed Amount: \$10,000,000		Years funded: Annual increment	
Trust Program Staff: Katie Baldwin Johnson			
Comp Plan Area of Focus:		Trust Strategic Priority Area:	
Multiple Areas of Focus		Multiple priority areas	
Project Description			
These funds support the Trust’s responsive and directed grantmaking to non-state organizations whose projects directly impact Trust beneficiaries. Funding is used for specific needs or purposes aligned with the Trust’s mission, strategic priorities, desired beneficiary impact, and accountability expectations. Awards may be one-time or multi-year at the discretion of the Board.			
Staff Analysis			
This budget line supports the Trust’s general grantmaking mechanism for both responsive and Trust-initiated (directed) grant projects, enabling quarterly support for beneficiary-serving organizations statewide.			
The Trust regularly receives Letters of Interest outlining proposed projects and anticipated beneficiary-impact. Program staff review submissions for beneficiary relevance, alignment with Trust priorities, and available funding. Projects that meet initial criteria undergo a full programmatic analysis and advance through the Trust’s formal grant approval process, with approval discretion lying with the full board. Each awarded grant includes individualized performance measures and is reviewed for compliance upon completion.			
The Trust also works with organizations that have the capacity and interest to advance projects or programs that support the implementation of specific priority-area strategies.			
This grantmaking structure allows the Trust to respond efficiently to emerging needs, strengthen community-based services, implement strategic initiatives, and support a broad range of beneficiary-impacting projects throughout the fiscal year.			

Project: Programmatic Administration		FY28 Budget Location: Page 4, Line 6	
Grantee: These funds will be awarded through the State of Alaska procurement process			
FY28 Proposed Amount: \$150,000		Years funded: Annual increment	
Trust Program Staff: Katie Baldwin Johnson			
Comp Plan Area of Focus:		Trust Strategic Priority Area:	
Multiple Areas of Focus		Multiple priority areas	
Project Description			
The Programmatic Administration funds will be utilized for small procurements that are associated with the cost of administering work under Trust priority areas. This budget line will fund items including, but not limited to, meeting convening costs, rental fees, audiovisual equipment, printing of meeting materials, catering, focus area-related travel, and occasionally small contracts.			
Staff Analysis			

FY28 Budget Line Briefs

Authority Grant Funding

These funds provide the program team with a mechanism to pay for costs associated with program officer execution of individual priority and cross priority work. In prior years, each Trust focus area had an administrative budget line; funds are now consolidated into one increment.

Project: Mini grants for ADRD		FY28 Budget Location: Page 4, Line 7	
Grantee: Alzheimer’s Resource Alaska			
FY28 Proposed Amount: \$600,000		Years funded: 29 years, FY99 – FY27	
Trust Program Staff: Kelda Barstad			
Comp Plan Area of Focus:		Trust Strategic Priority Area:	
Area of Focus 3: Economic & Social Well-being		Multiple priority areas	
Project Description			
Trust funds support the operation and funding of the mini-grants for Alzheimer’s disease and related dementia (ADRD). Grants can include, but should not be limited to, therapeutic devices, access to medical, vision and dental, and special health care, and other supplies or services that might remove or reduce barriers to an individual’s ability to function in the community and remain in their own home or home community as long as possible. Assistance with basic living needs and well-being not covered by current grants, such as transportation, clothing, and the like, will also be considered. These services will help Trust beneficiaries attain and maintain healthy and productive lifestyles. Applications for the Mini Grants for ADRD are reviewed and awarded monthly.			
Staff Analysis			
Mini-grant projects are long-standing Trust investments to fill small gaps in service or meet other needs that Trust beneficiaries have; to obtain services and items they need to remain in their home and community as long as possible. This project also offers Trust beneficiaries with ADRD the opportunity to improve their day-to-day well-being as most of this beneficiary population has retired and is no longer pursuing employment. Alzheimer’s Resource Alaska (ARA) administers the funds and acts as the fiscal agent for applications. Because ARA is a primary service agency for people with ADRD, they can engage applicants and their families in conversations about additional support services offered in Alaska. Well-versed in the availability and qualifications to obtain Medicaid, Medicaid waiver, Medicare, and senior grant services, ARA ensures that mini-grant funds are used as a last resort when other resources are unavailable or fully expended.			
In FY25, there were 281 ADRD mini grants awarded to 227 unduplicated beneficiaries for a total of \$431,693.93. Of the \$431,693.93, actual grant disbursements for the program were \$405,393.52. The difference between the awarded and expended amount is due to the nature of the ADRD beneficiary group; approved grants are often unable to be spent due to changing circumstances or a beneficiary’s passing. Beneficiaries may apply multiple times in a year, with total costs not to exceed the annual maximum allowance. The cost for the Alzheimer’s Resource of Alaska to administer this grant was \$60,000, or 15% of the total award. All performance measures were met in accordance with the grant agreement.			
FY25 ADRD Mini Grants Awarded by Region			
Regions/Service Areas	Total Number of Grants Awarded (Q1-Q4)	Total \$ Amount Awarded (Q1-4)	Percentage of Funding
Bethel	1	\$2,500	0.58%
Fairbanks	14	\$20,457.73	4.74%
Anchorage	167	\$248,436.31	57.55%

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Cordova, Valdez, Kenai Peninsula	18	\$22,558.69	5.23%
Other (Willow, Talkeetna, etc.)	14	\$26,094.46	6.04%
Mat-Su	36	\$58,443.08	13.54%
Kodiak	5	\$3,328.23	0.77%
Juneau	3	\$5,900	1.37%
Southeast - Other	23	\$43,975.43	10.19%
TOTAL	281	\$431,693.93	100%

FY25 ADRD Grants Awarded by Category			
Item Category	Total Number of Grants Awarded (Q1-Q4)	Total \$ Amount Awarded (Q1-4)	Percentage of Funding
Accessibility	48	\$79,384.86	18.40%
Adaptive	65	\$79,344.64	18.40%
Dental	13	\$38,651.82	8.95%
Hearing	3	\$2,550.00	0.59%
Medical	1	\$480.00	0.11%
Other	4	\$3,800	0.88%
Respite	79	\$169,580.63	39.30%
Supplies	66	\$56,569.98	13.10%
Vision	2	\$1,332.00	0.31%
TOTAL	281	\$431,693.93	100%

Project: Mini grants for IDD/BH	FY28 Budget Location: Page 4, Line 8
Grantee: Awarded through a competitive grant RFP, the current program administrator is Information insights	
FY28 Proposed Amount: \$2,500,000	Years funded: 29 years, FY99 – FY27
Trust Program Staff: Luke Lind and Carrie Predeger	
Comp Plan Area of Focus:	Trust Strategic Priority Area:
Area of Focus 3: Economic & Social Well-being	Multiple priority areas
Project Description	
Trust funds support the operation and funding of the mini-grant program for beneficiaries experiencing mental illness, chronic alcoholism, substance use disorders, traumatic brain injuries, and intellectual and developmental disabilities. The mini-grant program provides Trust beneficiaries with a broad range of equipment and services that are essential to directly improving quality of life and increasing independent functioning. This can include, but should not be limited to, therapeutic devices, access to medical, vision, hearing, dental, and other special health care supplies and services not covered by any other source that might remove or reduce barriers to an individual's ability to function in the community and become as self-sufficient as possible.	
Staff Analysis	

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The mini-grant program is a long-standing Trust investment that fills small gaps in services or meets other needs of Trust beneficiaries with items or services needed to maintain their quality of life and increase independent functioning. Individual mini-grants are awarded to a community organization that applies on behalf of the beneficiary. Applications for mini-grants are reviewed each month by an evaluation committee consisting of representatives from the Trust and the appropriate statutory advisory boards(s). Mini-grants provide a direct service to individual beneficiaries through assistance in securing needed items or services not covered by other funding sources. The primary challenge for the mini-grant program has been the capacity of community organizations to apply for and administer the grants on behalf of the beneficiaries they work with. These organizations provide crucial services but frequently have demands that exceed their capacity.

FY25 Trust Mini Grant Award Information

In FY25, 874 Behavioral Health and Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities mini-grants were awarded, totaling \$1,270,956. Of the \$1,270,956 awarded, the program's actual grant disbursements were \$1,144,720. The difference between the awarded and disbursed amounts is due to approved grants sometimes not being spent because of changing circumstances experienced by individual beneficiaries. For FY25, the administrative costs for the contractor to administer the program were \$233,600, or 15.6% of the total mini-grant program budget line.

- FY25 Program Budget Amount = \$1,500,000
- FY25 Grants Total Approved = 874 = \$1,270,956
- FY25 Grants Declined = 487 = \$1,158,712
- Approval Rate = 64.2% by request (many requests are partially funded)
- FY25 Total Grants Considered = 1,361 = \$2,429,668
- FY25 Mini Grant Admin Fee to Fiscal Agents = \$82,100
- FY25 Mini Grant Program Administration Contract = \$233,600

FY25 Behavioral Health (BH) Mini Grant Award Details

- FY25 BH Grants Approved = 562 = \$842,465
- FY25 BH Grants Declined = 295 = \$727,396
- FY25 BH Approval Rate = 61.9% by request
- FY25 BH Total Grants Considered = 857, totaling \$1,569,861

*Many of the mini-grant approvals receive partial funding for a portion of what they originally requested. The portion of the grant request that was not approved is included in the decline total dollar amount, even though the beneficiary had an approved grant. This is to make sure that the total amount approved and the total amount declined equals the total requested amount.

Approved Grants by Request Type

Request Type	Grants	% of Approved Requests	Funding	% of Approved Funding
Medical	59	10.5%	\$91,952	10.9%
Dental	19	3.4%	\$39,278	4.7%
Vision	4	<1.0%	\$3,760	<1.0%
Hearing	1	<1.0%	\$2,500.00	<1.0%
PT/OT/ST (Therapy)	12	2.1%	\$16,116	1.9%
Home/Env Mods	106	18.9%	\$150,911	17.9%
Equipment/Supplies	8	1.4%	\$10,915	1.3%
Education	0	0%	\$0	0%
Other*	353	62.8%	\$527,033	62.6%

*Beginning in FY26, increased specificity related to request types will be available.

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Approved Grants by Region

Region	Grants	% of Approved Requests	Funding	% of Approved Funding
Anchorage	145	25.8%	\$206,562	24.5%
Southcentral	211	37.5%	\$325,438	38.6%
Southeast	129	23.0%	\$184,945	22.0%
Northern/Interior	70	12.5%	\$115,374	13.7%
Southwest	6	1.1%	\$7,645	<1.0%
Northwest	1	<1.0%	\$2,500.00	<1.0%

Approved Grants by Beneficiary Category

Beneficiary Category	Grants	% of Approved Requests	Funding	% of Approved Funding
Mental Illness*	427	76.0%	\$621,908	73.8%
Substance Abuse	124	22.0%	\$204,224	24.2%
Traumatic Brain Injury	11	2.0%	\$16,332	1.9%

*includes All Beneficiaries grants

FY25 Intellectual and Developmental (IDD) Mini Grant Award Details

- FY25 IDD Grants Approved = 312 = \$428,491
- FY25 IDD Grants Declined = 192 = \$431,316
- FY25 IDD Approval Rate = 61.9% by request
- FY25 IDD Total Grants Considered = 504, totaling \$859,807

*Many of the mini-grant approvals receive partial funding for a portion of what they originally requested. The portion of the grant request that was not approved is included in the decline total dollar amount, even though the beneficiary had an approved grant. This is to make sure that the total amount approved and the total amount declined equals the total requested amount.

Approved Grants by Request Type

Request Type	Grants	% of Approved Requests	Funding	% of Approved Funding
Medical	77	24.7%	\$119,580	27.9%
Dental	17	5.5%	\$33,774	7.9%
Vision	4	1.3%	\$6,505	1.5%
Hearing	0	0%	\$0	0%
PT/OT/ST (Therapy)	174	55.8%	\$206,982	48.3%
Home/Env Mods	9	2.9%	\$11,982	2.8%
Equipment/Supplies	0	0%	\$0	0%
Education	0	0%	\$0	0%
Other	31	9.9%	\$49,668	11.6%

Approved Grants by Region

Region	Grants	% of Approved Requests	Funding	% of Approved Funding
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Anchorage	95	30.5%	\$128,261	29.9%
Southcentral	81	26.0%	\$128,893	30.1%
Southeast	83	26.6%	\$103,428	24.1%
Northern/Interior	39	12.5%	\$52,990	12.4%
Southwest	13	4.2%	\$14,834	3.5%
Northwest	1	<1.0%	\$84.93	<1.0%

Project: Grant-writing technical assistance		FY28 Budget Location: Page 4, Line 9	
Grantee: These funds will be awarded through the State of Alaska procurement process			
FY28 Proposed Amount: \$200,000		Years funded: 20 years (FY07 – FY27)	
Trust Program Staff: Kelda Barstad			
Comp Plan Area of Focus:		Trust Strategic Priority Area:	
Connects to multiple Areas of Focus		Multiple priority areas	
Project Description			
The grant writing technical assistance project funds a contract to assist agencies in identifying potential grants or other funding sources for new or existing programs that serve Trust beneficiaries. The contact includes researching grant opportunities, assisting with proposal planning and development, providing technical assistance to prepare grant proposals, and presenting grant writing training for provider agencies related to the Trust’s mission. A competitive RFP is issued to determine the contractor for the project.			
Staff Analysis			
This contract enhances the capacity of beneficiary serving organizations to identify and respond to available grant resources with a larger goal of improving project funding diversification and agency sustainability. Historically, this contract focused on identifying funding sources relevant to the focus area work and assisted with grant application. A few projects can receive technical assistance for in-depth consultation and grant writing each fiscal year - this is typically for complex grants, often for federal funds, and will be prioritized by system impact and contractor capacity. Recognizing that only a few projects can be supported through the grant writing technical assistance described above, additional services now offered through this contract include twice a year grant-writing trainings and office hours.			
In FY25, two grant applications were completed and submitted but not funded. FY25 had few requests because of a decrease in federal opportunities available to the sector. Grant writing workshops include formal training and office hours. The Spring Training had over 50 participants attending online from all over Alaska. A total of 88 office hours were used to provide short consultations to beneficiary serving agencies for grant writing decision making.			

Project: Technical assistance for beneficiary groups & Trust initiatives		FY28 Budget Location: Page 4, Line 10	
Grantee: These funds will be awarded through the State of Alaska procurement process			
FY28 Proposed Amount: \$500,000		Years funded: 16 years (FY11 – FY27)	
Trust Program Staff: Kelda Barstad			
Comp Plan Area of Focus:		Trust Strategic Priority Area:	
Multiple Areas of Focus		Multiple priority areas	
Project Description			
This project establishes a pool of technical assistance contractors to engage in individualized work with beneficiary serving organizations or projects to help support progress on defined goals and objectives unique			

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to each project. The contractors can also be used by the Program Team to further the work of the Trust or a group of agencies. Technical assistance can be provided in six key areas: planning, governance and operations; monitoring and evaluation, growth, stabilization, and reduction; financial management; technology solutions; and facility-based project planning. A competitive RFP is issued to determine the contractors for the project. Contractors that meet the criteria are added to a pool from which the agency and Program Officer can select based on the presenting need and contractor specialty. Contracts will be utilized on an as-needed basis and there is no guarantee of work. Contractors will be selected for specified projects based on qualifications, expertise, and other considerations including fit with an organization.

Staff Analysis

This contract assists beneficiary serving organizations to improve operations and make key business or programmatic decisions and was developed to respond quickly to the emerging needs of beneficiary-serving organizations. Technical Assistance can also be requested to accompany a grant to set the project up for success, especially for complex projects, or when an organization's project is not quite ready to fund to help prepare the organization for the project or remediate a concern. Strategic planning and business plans are common requests for these situations. Projects are referred by program officers and alignment with priority area initiatives are prioritized. Technical assistance categories were selected through a review of past requests and projects, surveys with contractors and agencies that have used the contract, and meetings with the Program Team.

In FY25, 29 projects were requested, and 19 moved forward with a scope of work. Six projects were in Anchorage, three in Southeast Alaska, one in Kenai, two in Southcentral Alaska, and seven statewide. The average project cost was \$21,844, with a low of \$5,610 and a high of \$50,000. The average length of a project was six and a half months. The most frequent project requests were service sustainability/feasibility (8) and financial review/planning (5). Technical Assistance Contract trends include longer project periods, an increase in no-cost extensions, and an organization needing multiple types of assistance (if the budget allows). This is expected to be an annual funding request, based on project performance and Trustee approval.

Project: Communications		FY28 Budget Location: Page 4, Line 11
Grantee: These funds will be awarded through the State of Alaska procurement process		
FY28 Proposed Amount: \$450,000		Years funded: annual increment
Trust Program Staff: Allison Biastock		
Comp Plan Area of Focus:		Trust Strategic Priority Area:
Connects to multiple Areas of Focus		Multiple priority areas
Project Description		
These funds support the Trust's communications program, including efforts to increase understanding of the needs of and challenges faced by Trust beneficiaries, the Trust's beneficiary and lands-related education and media campaigns, as well as other media and public relations efforts. The budget line also supports day-to-day communication needs such as graphics development and support, annual report production, and website updates and maintenance. These funds are deployed primarily through procured/contractual services.		
Staff Analysis		
The Trust's communication goals and program align with the Trust's mission of improving beneficiary outcomes and providing leadership in advocacy, planning, implementing and funding a Comprehensive Integrated Mental Health Program. Trust communications also often directly support Trust priority areas of work and grantmaking, as well improving the understanding of the use of Trust lands for Trust beneficiaries. Recent metrics analyzing paid media indicate above average engagement and viewership of Trust content, and survey data continues to indicate that public knowledge of the Trust, the Trust Land Office, and the Trust's mission are increasing and improving.		

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Authority Grant Funding

Project: Conferences/Sponsorships		FY28 Budget Location: Page 4, Line 12
Grantee: Sponsorship Contracts/Agreements		
FY28 Proposed Amount: \$30,000	Years funded: 2 years (FY26-27)	
Trust Program Staff: Allison Biastock		
Comp Plan Area of Focus:	Trust Strategic Priority Area:	
Connects to multiple Areas of Focus	Multiple priority areas	
Project Description		
These funds will be administered through sponsorship agreements vs. small grant awards, as has been the practice. Funds are used to support beneficiary-related conferences in Alaska at a sponsorship level not to exceed \$2,500 per event. The CEO will approve, and the Chief Communications Officer will administer these funds as part of the Trust's communications efforts.		
Staff Analysis		
In FY26, the Trust spent \$18,300 supporting 14 events. These events are reported to the board through regular quarterly reporting. Conferences and events supported through these funds focus on Trust beneficiary populations and related topics, and/or the beneficiary workforce. Serving as a conference sponsor is a relatively easy and low-cost way to increase Trust's visibility and positive perception, and to introduce our organization to new potential grantees and partners. Further, conference sponsorship serves as a tool in the Trust's communications strategy. Note: The Trust will, at times, play a larger role in funding and/or helping to plan select partner conferences; those situations will be handled via the trustee grant approval process.		

Project: Rural & Community Outreach		FY28 Budget Location: Page 4, Line 13
Grantee: These funds will be awarded through the State of Alaska procurement process		
FY28 Proposed Amount: \$30,000	Years funded: intermittently since inception	
Trust Program Staff: Allison Biastock		
Comp Plan Area of Focus:	Trust Strategic Priority Area:	
Connects to multiple Areas of Focus	Multiple priority areas	
Project Description		
These funds will support planning, contracts for services, participant transportation and lodging, and other costs associated with the Trust Rural Outreach (RO) efforts. The purpose of Trust RO is to gain a deeper understanding of Alaska’s unique regions, increase understanding of the opportunities and challenges facing Trust beneficiaries and those who serve them in rural Alaska, increase awareness of the resources available to Trust beneficiaries, communities, and organizations in the region, and to foster partnerships. These funds will primarily support trustee and Trust staff outreach efforts.		
Staff Analysis		
In FY26 these funds supported trust staff and trustee visits to Kotzebue, where planned smaller village visits were hindered by weather, and to the Kodiak Island villages of Old Harbor and Port Lions. Trust representatives met with local behavioral health staff and leadership, Tribal representatives, school staff and other community members; valuable information was both shared and gleaned. While immeasurable, we know that participants in Trust RO trips will apply the knowledge gained on these trips to better inform their work on behalf of Trust beneficiaries across the state.		

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Authority Grant Funding

Project: Trust Conference		FY28 Budget Location: Page 4, Line 14
Grantee: These funds will be awarded through the State of Alaska procurement process		
FY28 Proposed Amount: \$20,000	Years funded: intermittently since inception	
Trust Program Staff: Allison Biastock		
Comp Plan Area of Focus:	Trust Strategic Priority Area:	
Connects to multiple Areas of Focus	Multiple priority areas	
Project Description		
The next Trust Improving Lives conference is planned for Fall 2026. As it is a bi-annual event, we anticipate the following conference to be in Fall 2028. Allocating \$20,000 in FY28 allows us to bring on a conference contractor to support planning before July 1, 2028, the start of the fiscal year. The Trust conference has proven to be a successful and well received event where beneficiary serving partners, agency officials, beneficiaries and others can network, share ideas, and learn.		
Staff Analysis		
Both the first Improving Lives Conference in 2022, as well as the latest in 2024 were successes, with each yielding more than 60 presenters, 30+ presentations, and more than 90% of post-event survey respondents expressing a positive and valuable experience. The event grew to 400 attendees in 2024. The next Trust conference is scheduled for fall 2026. For the 2026 conference, we had 80 speaker applications, demonstrating continued interest in the event. In addition to serving as a platform to share information, data and promising practices, the Improving Lives Conference can support meaningful connection and “cross pollination” between partners. Note: staff anticipate recommending funding in FY29 for this event.		

Project: Crisis Now Initiative Project Management		FY28 Budget Location: Page 4, Line 16
Grantee: These funds will be awarded through the State of Alaska procurement process		
FY28 Proposed Amount: \$350,000	Years funded: 4 years (FY24-FY27)	
Trust Program Staff: Eric Boyer		
Comp Plan Area of Focus:	Trust Strategic Priority Area:	
Focus 5: Suicide Prevention	Crisis Response	
Project Description		
Trust funds will support a contract for project management for our statewide Crisis Now Initiative, which is competitively bid and currently held by Agnew Beck. The key goals and objectives of this contract are to ensure the planning, coordination, facilitation, and execution of a strategic work plan to implement recommendations identified through the Alaska Crisis Now Consultation Report, thereby ensuring Alaska has the necessary conditions to support the launch and/or operation of Crisis Now programs. This involves coordination with the Trust to execute work plans with key partners, including State of Alaska departments and divisions, members of the legislature, and tribal and local community partners. This contract also supports community planning for implementing Crisis Now services in Anchorage, Mat-Su, Juneau, Fairbanks, and other identified communities.		
Staff Analysis		
In FY26, Agnew Beck evaluated the current best practices for mobile crisis teams and produced the Mobile Criss Team (MCT) Implementation Guide, which is found on the Trust Crisis Now webpage and has been distributed to our partners. Three new regions are using the MCT guide to plan and develop their own mobile teams. Agnew Beck also produced the Crisis Stabilization Center (CRC) Implementation Guide. Work continues with our partners to open four CRCs in FY27. Funding is expected to continue as long as the contract is needed by the Trust and partners.		

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Authority Grant Funding

Project: Home & Community Based Services Reform Contract		FY28 Budget Location: Page 4, Line 18
Grantee: These funds will be awarded through the State of Alaska procurement process		
FY28 Proposed Amount: \$150,000		Years funded: 7 years (FY20-27)
Trust Program Staff: Kelda Barstad		
Comp Plan Area of Focus:		Trust Strategic Priority Area:
Area of Focus 7: Services in the Least Restrictive Environment		Ongoing Support & Wellbeing
Project Description		
The Home & Community Based Services Reform Contract Provide provides consultation to DOH Senior and Disabilities Services leadership and the Trust to make critical decisions related to Alaska Medicaid waivers, state plan services, grant services, service system design, and other aspects of the home and community-based service (HCBS) delivery system; optimizes the federal financial participation for Medicaid services, administrative claiming, and federal grant opportunities as related to home and community-based services; and provides guidance to ensure home and community-based service system alignment and coordination with other Medicaid, tribal or state funded programs to achieve successful implementation. A competitive RFP is issued to determine the contractor for the project.		
Staff Analysis		
Having ongoing access to national-level expertise on the financing and implementation of HCBS services has benefited the work of the Trust and the work of partner agencies, including the Division of Senior and Disabilities Services and Alaskan nonprofits. Moving an initiative forward, especially HCBS projects with Medicaid financing, can be complex. Contractual support assists with timely implementation of key initiatives or service reforms that benefit the HCBS system and, ultimately, trust beneficiaries. Some past work completed by this contract includes a Medicaid Administrative Claiming plan for the ADRCs, leading to improved sustainability for those programs; an analysis of how to improve the environmental modification programs in Alaska; Medicaid waiver service standardization and compliance with federal rules, recommendations for the personal needs allowance rules in Alaska, and a proposed plan to implement an HIE referral tool for HCBS. This is expected to be an annual funding request, based on project performance and Trustee approval.		

Project: Alaska Psychology Internship Program		FY28 Budget Location: Page 4, Line 20
Grantee: WICHE		
FY28 Proposed Amount: \$150,000		Years funded: 15 years (FY12-FY27)
Trust Program Staff: Eric Boyer		
Comp Plan Area of Focus:		Trust Strategic Priority Area:
Area of Focus 9: Workforce Capacity		Multiple priority areas
Project Description		
WICHE is the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education. The Alaska Psychology Internship Consortium (AK-PIC) serves as a platform for equipping students in the UAA psychology program, as well as doctoral students from other psychology programs who wish to train and work in Alaska, to complete an American Psychological Association (APA)- accredited internship program in Alaska. An APA-accredited internship ensures high training standards for future Alaska psychologists; it is also instrumental in recruiting and retaining clinical psychologists to work in Alaska. This provides more practitioners in Alaska with an emphasis on rural hub villages.		
Staff Analysis		

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Six interns completed the program in FY25, and a total of 139 have finished the program since its inception 15 years ago. 48% of the interns took their first job upon graduation in Alaska, with 86% still working and residing in the state. Trust funds pay WICHE staff to facilitate the program and evaluation necessary to maintain its APA accreditation, as well as support travel and academic instruction in the rural sites. The other significant outcome of this program is the clinical provision hours provided by the interns to beneficiaries in rural Alaska, which range between 500 and 600 per year of their internship. It is anticipated that Trust funding will be required to sustain the program through the next 2-4 years, while our partners work to bring on other funding sources.