

Grant Approval Memo



Request Amount: \$150,000
Project Title: No Wrong Door: Connections to Care Contract
Contract Term: 7/1/2026 to 6/30/2027
Trust Staff: Kelda Barstad

REQUESTED MOTION:

The board of trustees approve an amount not to exceed \$150,000 for the “No Wrong Door: Connections to Care” contract. This contract will be awarded using the State of Alaska procurement process and the funds will be allocated from the Trust Focus Area Strategy Implementation line of the FY27 budget.

Staff Analysis:

- What does this project do?
Trust funding will support a contracted planning effort to design and coordinate a No Wrong Door pilot model that improves how individuals with mental health conditions or substance use disorders access long-term services and supports. The contract will help shape a statewide approach for enhanced options counseling, application assistance, and structured follow-up at a minimum of four ADRC/DDRC sites. The aim is to build a more responsive and consistent front-door experience for Trust beneficiaries who often require sustained, cross-system navigation
- Who is receiving the funds?
Funds will be used to procure a contractor through the State of Alaska’s competitive process. SDS, DBH, DPA, the Trust, and ADRC/DDRC sites will all be key partners, but the funding itself is awarded through a contract rather than to a single grantee entity, and will be procured and managed by the Trust.
- Why is staff recommending this project?
This effort will create the structure to pilot a process for provision of enhanced, targeted options counseling, Medicaid and other application support, and regular follow-up for individuals with mental health conditions or addictions with at least four ADRC/DDRC sites representing the differing populations and resources throughout the state. Trust beneficiaries with short or long term disabilities occurring from mental health conditions or long-term addiction as well as those who have co-occurring conditions have few resources currently available to understand how to plan for their long term care outside of treatment. This population often has complex care needs that span public and private resources across the state and require frequent and coordinated support. However, Alaska’s current long term service and support (LTSS) system lacks sufficient capacity and expertise to appropriately understand the needs of these individuals, provide referrals for appropriate services, and follow-up to ensure services and supports are in place.

The larger project is intended to be a multi-year project, with this one-time contract dedicated to planning and coordination with key partners, including the Trust, Senior and Disabilities Services (SDS), Division of Public Assistance (DPA), Division of Behavioral Health (DBH), Crisis

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Now, and the pilot ADRC/DDRC sites. Given the availability of Rural Health Transformation Project (RHTP) funds, implementation and ongoing operation of the project is anticipated to be funded under RHTP. Trust funding is not anticipated to be necessary after the planning period if RHTP funding is obtained.

- Will this be a multi-year project?
Although the broader system effort is envisioned as multi-year, the Trust's request is for a one-time contract to support planning and partner coordination activities. Future implementation is expected to be funded through other sources.

Comp Plan Identification

Area of Focus	Objective	Comments
Area of Focus 4: Substance Use Disorder Prevention	4.3 Improve treatment and recovery support services to promote wellness and reduce the impact of mental health and substance use disorders	Also 7.2

Trust Focus Area Connection

Budget Area	Strategy	Comments
Mental Health & Addiction Intervention	MHAI - Improve Treatment & Recovery Support Services	

Project Description

Alaska faces a profound and interconnected crisis of homelessness, mental health conditions and addiction. The HUD Point-In-Time Count conducted in Alaska January 2024, over 2,600 individuals experienced homelessness statewide, while roughly 134,801 adults (18+) live with any mental illness, including 37,401 with serious mental illness, and 19.6% of the population (approximately 109,848 adults 18+) grapple with substance use disorders. This population often has complex care needs that span public and private resources across the state and require frequent and coordinated support. However, Alaska's current long term service and support (LTSS) system lacks sufficient capacity and expertise to appropriately understand the needs of these individuals, provide referrals for appropriate services, and follow-up to ensure services and supports are in place.

Alaska's statewide Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRCs) and Developmental Disability Resource Connections (DDRCs), administered by the Division of Senior and Disabilities Services (SDS), provide critical supports in their communities that allow individuals to understand and access LTSS. These supports include person-centered options counseling, screening for Medicaid funded and other services, and short-term assistance in accessing these resources. The ADRCs/DDRCs are a logical front door for individuals with mental health conditions or addictions, however, the increasing demand for publicly funded resources means that the ADRCs are already required to do more with less and will require additional resources to serve a new population. Additionally, while ADRCs/DDRCs are

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well aligned with services and supports offered through SDS, there has historically been less understanding and connection with the resources available through the Division of Behavioral Health (DBH).

This project will solicit a contractor to work with ADRC/DDRC sites, SDS, DBH, DPA, and other community partners, such as Crisis Now, to strengthen coordination and connect beneficiaries with mental health conditions or addiction needs to the most appropriate supports. This effort will pilot a process to provide enhanced, targeted options counseling, Medicaid and other application support, and regular follow-up for beneficiaries with mental health conditions or an addiction with at least four ADRC/DDRC sites representing the differing populations and resources throughout the state. Additionally, ADRC/DDRC staff will build expertise in supporting these beneficiary groups through training and resources provided by State and community partners to develop a sustainable model beyond the pilot period.

The goal of this pilot is to develop sustainable infrastructure within the ADRCs/DDRCs and their relationships with the partners so that this support can be embedded within ADRC/DDRC model ongoing. Much of the ongoing work performed by the ADRCs/DDRCs will be eligible for Medicaid Administrative Claiming (MAC), which will be a sustainable source of funding.

The pilot will be operated by at least four ADRC sites, though more sites may choose to apply for RHTP funds and will be part of a coordinated effort managed by HCBS Strategies to support, track, and monitor pilot participants. The goal for pilot site recruitment will be to include entities that represent the diverse demographic and geographical service and support networks through Alaska. This is anticipated to include at least one tribal-based ADRC/DDRC and up to three non-tribal ADRCs/DDRCs. While the RHTP applications are developed, submitted, and processed, project partners will work to further refine key expectations for pilot.

Key deliverables of the contract will be: project management of the inclusion of Trust beneficiaries with a mental health condition or addiction served through ADRCs/DDRCs, RHTP application support to the ADRCs/DDRCs, data tracking and report development, resource directory development, and pilot project training.

Contract Scope

This effort will pilot a process to provide enhanced, targeted options counseling, Medicaid and other application support, and regular follow-up for individuals with MH/SUD conditions with at least four ADRC/DDRC sites representing the differing populations and resources throughout the state. All pilot data will be captured in the ADRC/DDRCs' existing statewide case management system, GetCare, which is overseen by SDS. Additionally, contact outcomes, notes, referrals, unmet needs, and project outcome measures will be hosted within GetCare.

Project Budget

Other Costs	\$150,000.00
Other Costs (Other Sources)	\$0.00

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Other Costs Narrative	The funds will be used to create a contract following the State of Alaska procurement guidelines, procured and managed by the Trust.
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