



UAA Center for  
Human Development  
UNIVERSITY of ALASKA ANCHORAGE

# Microenterprise Program

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**YOUR JOURNEY. YOUR COMMUNITY. YOUR IMPACT.**

# **Purpose of the Microenterprise Program**

**Expanding access to economic opportunities for  
Trust beneficiaries**

# Microenterprise Program Description

- Funds awarded to Trust beneficiaries for costs associated with:
  - Starting a new business
  - Expanding a current business
  - Acquiring an existing business
- Minimum awards is \$500
- Maximum lifetime award is \$12,000
- Application period occurs 2x annually: Fall and Spring

# UAA CHD Coordination

- UAA CHD administers the program
  - Manages application process
  - Engages in outreach
  - Provides technical assistance to applicants and awardees
  - Ensures appropriate use of funds
  - Evaluates program annually

# Microenterprise Awards

## Potential Use of Funds

- Beneficiaries can use the funds for:
  - Business license
  - Insurance
  - Inventory
  - Equipment
  - Supplies
  - Marketing activities
  - Accounting services
  - Other

## Past Awards

- Artists: painting, drawing, sculpting, beading
- Photographers
- Woodworkers
- Handyman
- Hair and nail technician
- Cleaning and janitorial services

# FY26 Update

- Fall application cycle
  - 7 fully funded
  - 2 partially funded
  - Total awarded = \$60,363.50
- Spring application cycle will close March 11, 2026

# Always Improving...

- Changes coming in FY27 include:
  - Orientation training and meetings for potential applicants
  - Increase amount that can be requested without a business plan
- Will continue to explore ways to make the process accessible while ensuring appropriate oversight

# Recently Highlighted Grantee

## Trust Microenterprise Grant Program

The Trust's Microenterprise program strives to increase access to Microenterprise and self-employment opportunities for Trust Beneficiaries. This grant program's funds may be used for costs associated with starting a new business, expanding a current business or acquiring an existing business. The business must meet the definition of a microenterprise, which is a business with total capital needs no more than \$35,000, and fewer than 5 employees.

### Grantee Highlight

Steven Davis, a Microenterprise program grantee, is an avid artist and small business owner who utilizes his creative talents to sell original artworks, prints, buttons, and stickers. However, living with a dual diagnosis created specific physical barriers to his success – particularly the chronic pain associated with setting up heavy displays at markets.

Through Trust Microenterprise grant, Steven was able to purchase professional display equipment designed for easy setup and teardown. The grant also funded a stock of essential art supplies, directly boosting his creative output. Steven highlights exactly how practical this support has been:

"[The grant] gave me a good way to display a lot of art... it's very easy to set up and easy to take down which has relieved a lot of pain... and it also helped me get a section of art supplies that allowed me to create more artwork that I likely wouldn't have been able to afford on my own which was amazing."

Trust Microenterprise grants are administered through our partners at UAA's Center for Human Development (CHD). Microenterprise grant applications are accepted twice a year; **the next deadline is noon on March 11, 2026**. Application support is available through UAA CHD.

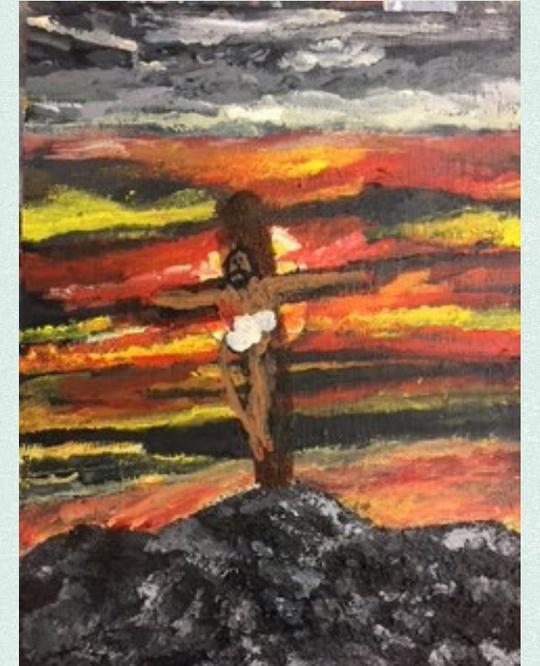


# Corey Gilmore



Meet one of the many successful Microenterprise awardees

# Corey's Art



# Corey's Photos



# Upcoming Application Timeline

- Spring applications are due by March 11<sup>th</sup>
- Visit our website for more information [here](#)
- Call us in Anchorage at 907-264-6279
  - 1-800-243-2199 (toll free)

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