

MEMO

To: Board of Trustees
From: Samantha Ponto, Program Officer
Date: August 27, 2026
Re: Competitive Grant Approval: Peer Run Recovery Oriented Program

REQUESTED MOTION:

The Board of Trustees approve the following 7 Competitive Grant recommendations:

1. Anchorage Community Mental Health Services dba Alaska Behavioral Health (Anchorage), \$426,420.50
2. LINKS Resource Center (Mat-Su) \$343,000
3. Alaska Youth and Family Network (Anchorage), \$300,000
4. Kodiak Area Native Association (Gulf Coast), \$188,416.95
5. Kachemak Bay Recovery Connection (Gulf Coast), \$122,291.60
6. Set Free Alaska (Mat-Su), \$117,647
7. NAMI Juneau (Southeast), \$115,000

These recommended grants, selected through a competitive process as outlined in 20 AAC 40.220, total \$1,612,776.05 in FY27 Authority Grant funds.

Since the early 2000s, the Trust has provided grant funding for peer-based services. Peer support professionals are foundational to designing and running peer-led organizations across Alaska. Research shows that peer-based services improve recovery and reduce negative health events, including recurrent substance use and emergency department visits.

In August 2025, the Board of Trustees directed leadership to explore the current landscape of peer-based services. In response, staff issued a Request for Information (RFI) in December 2025. The Trust received 17 responses demonstrating strong statewide interest in peer-based services. Based on that information, staff developed and issued a competitive Request for Proposals (RFP) for peer-run recovery-oriented programs, which can be viewed [here](#).

The RFP was issued on May 5, 2026. A pre-proposal conference was held on May 13, 2026. Written inquiries were accepted through May 20, 2026, and proposals were due on May 26, 2026. The Trust received 12 proposals. The proposals represented four of nine Alaska 1115 Behavioral Health Demonstration waiver regions and one statewide applicant.

All grants were reviewed by the Program & Planning Committee during their meeting on July 29, 2026 and recommended for Full Board approval.

The Proposal Evaluation Committee reviewed all 12 proposals first for responsiveness, then scored each against the following criteria:

- Understanding of the program goals, anticipated outcomes, and proposed activities
- Ability to enhance or expand existing peer-based services
- Data readiness and evaluation approach
- Budget and project viability
- Qualifications, organizational experience, staffing, management, and administrative capacity

Applicants were also expected to demonstrate a clear pathway toward long-term sustainability, including Medicaid reimbursement or other third-party funding for peer-based services, although applicants were not required to be billing Medicaid at the time of application.

The Proposal Evaluation Committee recommends Trust funding through this RFP for the following seven organizations:

- [Alaska Behavioral Health \(Anchorage\), \\$426,420.50; Link to Full Application](#)
A SAMHSA-certified CCBHC clinic operating a peer-staffed drop-in center. This project expands peer-led engagement, recovery coaching, support groups, and resource navigation for adults with mental illness and substance use disorders. [Full application]
- [LINKS Resource Center \(Mat-Su\), \\$343,000.00; Link to Full Application](#)
The HUMS program offers intensive case management for adults with high emergency department, crisis, or law enforcement use. This project expands peer-based services, including recovery coaching, drop-in services, and peer-led groups to connect clinical care and long-term recovery. [Full application]
- [Alaska Youth and Family Network \(Anchorage and Mat-Su\), \\$300,000.00; Link to Full Application](#)
A peer- and family-run nonprofit providing advocacy, education, navigation, and behavioral health support in Anchorage and Mat-Su. This project expands peer-led recovery services, including one-on-one support, family navigation, groups, outreach, and recovery connection. [Full application]
- [Kodiak Area Native Association \(Gulf Coast\), \\$188,416.95; Link to Full Application](#)
A nonprofit providing behavioral health services in Kodiak. KANA's Peer Support Program offers peer support, client stabilization, and service connections. This project expands peer support in Kodiak and rural villages. [Full application]
- [Kachemak Bay Recovery Connection \(Gulf Coast\), \\$122,291.60; Link to Full Application](#)
A nonprofit Recovery Community Organization in the Southern Kenai Peninsula. KBRC offers peer support, mobile outreach, events, and recovery programs at its community center. This project increases peer support capacity. [Full application]

- [Set Free Alaska \(Mat-Su\), \\$117,647.00; Link to Full Application](#)
A faith-based nonprofit providing behavioral health treatment, peer support, recovery housing, and crisis stabilization. This project expands peer support with a trauma-informed, peer-led recovery community and drop-in model. It adds coaching, groups, outreach, navigation, and telehealth expansion to the Kenai Peninsula. [Full application]
- [NAMI Juneau \(Southeast\), \\$115,000.00; Link to Full Application](#)
A peer-led organization that has provided recovery support services since 1996. This project advances the shift to third-party billing by strengthening administrative capacity and expanding Medicaid-billable peer-led groups and recovery support services. [Full application]

The following requests were not recommended for funding through this RFP:

- Catholic Social Services
- Alaska Mental Health Consumer Web
- NAMI Alaska
- Northern Hope Center
- Polaris House

The following request was received after the application deadline and was not considered for funding through this RFP:

- Trusted Connections

As outlined in the RFP, the recommendations above represent Year 1 funding only. Applicants were required to submit budgets for both the initial grant year and a subsequent year to demonstrate anticipated project costs and support consideration of a potential second year of funding. Continuation beyond Year 1 is at the discretion of the Board of Trustees.