

Grant Approval Memo



Grantee: Valley Charities, Inc.
Request Amount: \$100,000.00
Project Title: Mat-Su Reentry Coalition Housing Project FY27
Grant Term: 7/1/2026 to 6/30/2027
Trust Staff: Heather Phelps

Staff Analysis:

- **What does this project do?**
Trust funding will provide short-term housing and utility assistance for Trust beneficiaries returning to the Mat-Su community after incarceration. Support is available for up to three months- or longer when justified- until participants can reliably sustain their own housing. To qualify for this housing assistance, participants must be a Trust Beneficiary and have been incarcerated at least once in the preceding three years. The project may provide emergency short-term/transitional housing (hotel) to some participants before securing long-term housing. Approximately 50 beneficiaries are expected to be served. The majority of the funding will directly offset housing and utility costs, with minimal administrative overhead. The project aims to stabilize individuals during the critical post-release period, improving quality of life, supporting employment and treatment engagement, and reducing recidivism.
- **Who is receiving the funds?**
The Mat-Su Reentry Coalition, through its fiscal agent, Valley Charities, is receiving the funds. The Mat-Su Reentry Coalition is a collaboration of individuals, community stakeholders, public and non-profit agencies, faith-based services, and business partners who are united and committed to reducing recidivism and returning citizens to the Mat-Su community.
- **Why is staff recommending this project?**
Staff recommend this project because stable housing is one of the strongest predictors of whether individuals reentering the community can safety and successfully rebuild their lives. Beneficiaries served by the Coalition frequently experience substance use disorders, mental illness, traumatic brain injuries, or developmental disabilities—conditions that amplify the challenges of securing and maintaining housing. This project will provide housing assistance to help Trust beneficiaries obtain transitional or permanent housing and provide support for successful community reintegration.

Past performance demonstrates the model's impact: in FY25, 61 Trust beneficiaries were served and only four recidivated (6.5 percent), significantly lower than typical reentry outcomes. Continued Trust investment will maintain housing placements, support case management, and promote successful transitions into independent living. The project fills a persistent gap for individuals who are not eligible for other reentry case management programs but still need structured support to avoid homelessness or re-incarceration. Valley Charities currently has a grant awarded for fiscal year 2026. Data for this award is not available at this time.

- **Will this be a multi-year project?**
This is a one year funding request for 7/1/2026 to 6/30/2028.

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Trust Five Year Funding History

Fiscal Year	Project Title	Amount	Status	Final Expended
2026	DME Lending Program: Handicap Doors	\$9,004	Active	Grant ends 6/30/2026
2026	Alaska Prisoner Reentry Initiative: Reentry Coalition Capacity Development - Mat-Su (FY26)	\$120,000	Open	Grant ends 6/30/2026
2026	Mat-Su Reentry Coalition Housing Project (FY26)	\$80,000	Open	Grant ends 8/31/2026
2025	Alaska Prisoner Reentry Initiative: Reentry Coalition Capacity Development - Mat-Su (FY25)	\$120,000	Closed	\$101,939
2025	Durable Medical Equipment Lending Program New Location (FY25)	\$49,945	Closed	\$48,188
2025	Mat-Su Reentry Coalition Housing Project (FY25)	\$80,000	Closed	\$80,000
2024	Alaska Prisoner Reentry Initiative: Reentry Coalition Capacity Development - Mat-Su (FY24)	\$120,000	Closed	\$119,936
2024	Mat-Su Reentry Housing Project (FY24)	\$80,000	Closed	\$80,000
2024	2023 Mat-Su Reentry Summit (FY24)	\$15,000	Closed	\$13,688
2023	Alaska Prisoner Reentry Initiative: Reentry Coalition Capacity Development - Mat-Su (FY23)	\$100,000	Closed	\$99,847
2023	Medical Equipment Lending Program (FY23)	\$15,500	Closed	\$15,500
2023	Mat-Su Reentry Housing Project (FY23)	\$50,000	Closed	\$49,999
2022	Alaska Prisoner Reentry Initiative: Reentry Coalition Capacity Development - Mat-Su (FY22)	\$100,000	Closed	\$92,758
2022	2022 Mat-Su Virtual Reentry Summit (FY22)	\$10,000	Closed	\$10,000
2022	Mat-Su Reentry Housing Project (FY22)	\$50,000	Closed	\$50,000

Comp Plan Identification

Area of Focus	Objective	Comments
Area of Focus 8: Services in Institutional Settings	8.4 Ensure Alaskans who are transitioning out of institutional settings have essential supports	

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Trust Focus Area Connection

Budget Area	Strategy	Comments
Disability Justice	DJ - Re-entry	

Project Description (from grant application)

We see individuals being released from prison every day who fall through the cracks in obtaining short term emergency housing and long term permanent housing. Especially individuals who did not qualify for Reentry Case Management, are living in the encampments, have been in treatment. Housing assistance impacts everything including accessing employment, mental health services, outpatient treatment and staying alive during the winter months.

The Mat-Su Reentry Coalition Housing Project allows the Mat-Su Reentry Coalition, through it's Fiscal Agent, to provide rent for up to three months or on a case by case basis until sustainable, and funds to support utilities to meet same timelines as rent. To qualify for this housing assistance participants must be a Trust Beneficiary and have been incarcerated at least once in the preceding three years. The project may provide emergency short term/transitional housing (hotel) for some participants prior to securing long term housing.

A Mat-Su Reentry Case Manager assists them with completing the lease and understanding the landlord's requirements. We also work with our community partners (resources) to help make participants self-sufficient.

Continued funding will be contingent upon the participant showing the initiative towards securing employment within 30 days and saving money so that they can assume rent payments at the conclusion of the project. We may exit participants from the project by increasing their rent payment participation based on their ability to pay.

The expected outcomes of this project is that the participants would have a better chance at a successful reentry and this would help to decrease recidivism. The Mat-Su Reentry Coalition consists of a collaboration of individuals, community stakeholders, public and non-profit agencies, faith-based and business partners who are united and committed to supporting projects that help to reduce recidivism among returning citizens to the Mat-Su community.

Grantee Proposed Evaluation Measures (from grant application)

Qualified participants will be tracked until they complete the program. Participants do not have to be under the supervision of a Reentry Case Manager or Field PO to receive housing assistance.

The evaluation-performance measurement we will utilize to evaluate this program is a pre and post survey that will be given to all participants in the program to assist in measuring participants improved quality of life with the main outcome being what % of the participants were able to remain in housing and become self-sufficient.

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Proposed Project Performance Measures (developed by the Trust)

How much did you do?

- a. Number (#) of unduplicated Trust beneficiaries served during the reporting period, broken down by Trust beneficiary category.
- b. Dollar (\$) amount spent per beneficiary while enrolled in the program during the reporting period.

How well did you do it?

- a. Provide a narrative that describes the timeline, activities, successes, challenges, and any lessons learned during the reporting period.
- b. Number (#) and percentage (%) of participants who felt the services they received were rendered in a non-judgmental, respectful, and comfortable manner.

Is anyone better off?

- a. Number (#) and percentage (%) of participants who were able to sustain their housing situation for > 6 months post-release.
- b. Number (#) and percentage (%) of participants who recidivated during the reporting period. Provide a comparison to how this number compares to the recidivism rate in Alaska as a whole.
- c. Number (#) and percentage (%) of participants who reported an increase in their quality of life during the reporting period.
- d. Two or more statements from participants describing (in their own words) how their quality of life has improved since participating in the project.

Sustainability (from grant application)

The Reentry Housing Project will continue after the Trust's funding ends through other grants and community support.

Who We Serve (from grant application)

The Trust Beneficiary groups that will be the focus of this project is of beneficiaries experiencing chronic alcoholism or substance abuse, mental illness, traumatic brain injury, and those experiencing developmental disabilities and have been incarcerated at least 7 days in the preceding year.

The Housing Reentry Project, would allow the Mat-Su Reentry Coalition, through it Fiscal Agent, to provide rent for up to three months or on a case by case basis until sustainable, and funds to support utilities to meet same timelines as rent.

Housing assistance impacts everything including accessing employment, mental health services, outpatient treatment and staying alive during the winter months.

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Estimated Numbers of Beneficiaries Served Experiencing (from grant application)

Developmental Disabilities:	5
Substance Abuse	40
Traumatic Brain Injuries:	5

Project Budget (from grant application)

Personnel Services Costs	\$6,000.00
Personnel Services Costs (Other Sources)	\$0.00
Personnel Services Narrative	220 hours of Reentry Case Manager wages (Case manager spends time reviewing applications, going over rental agreements with participants, discussing housing options, etc.)

Supplies Costs	\$84,000.00
Supplies Costs (Other Sources)	\$84,000.00
Supplies Narrative	Housing and Utilities for participants in the Mat-Su Reentry Coalition Housing Program.

Other Costs	\$10,000.00
Other Costs (Other Sources)	\$0.00
Other Costs Narrative	Administrative Fee

Other Funding Sources (from grant application)

n/a	\$0.00
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