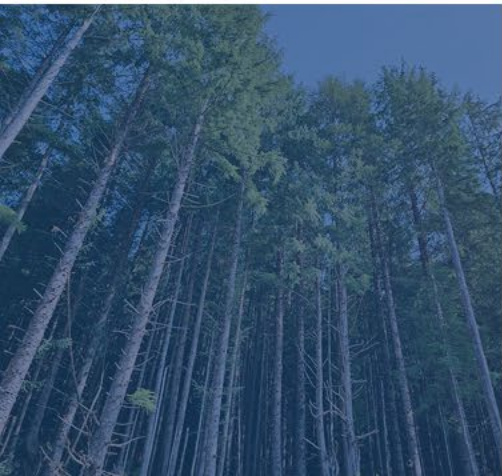




# House Health & Social Services Committee

May 8, 2025



# Today's Presentation

- About the Trust
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Trust Spending
- Trust Grantmaking
- Focus Areas and Priorities
- Behavioral Health Crisis Response Initiative Update
- Comprehensive Mental Health Program Plan

# Trust Beneficiaries

Trust beneficiaries include Alaskans who experience:

- Mental illnesses
- Intellectual and/or developmental disabilities
- Alzheimer's disease and related dementia
- Traumatic brain injuries
- Substance use disorders



Video link: <https://alaskamentalthtrust.org/about/>

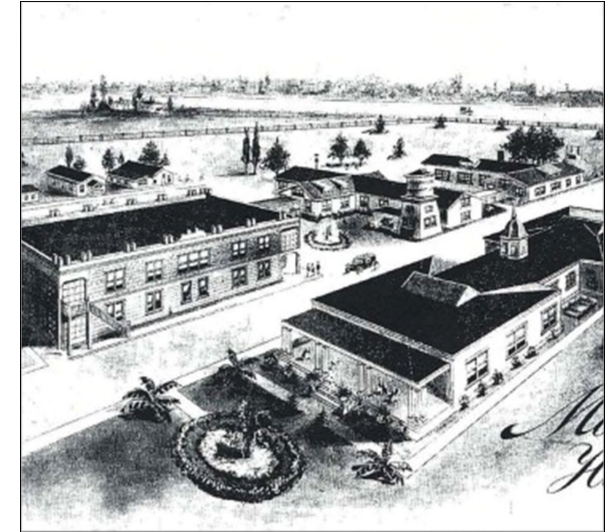


# Creation of the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority

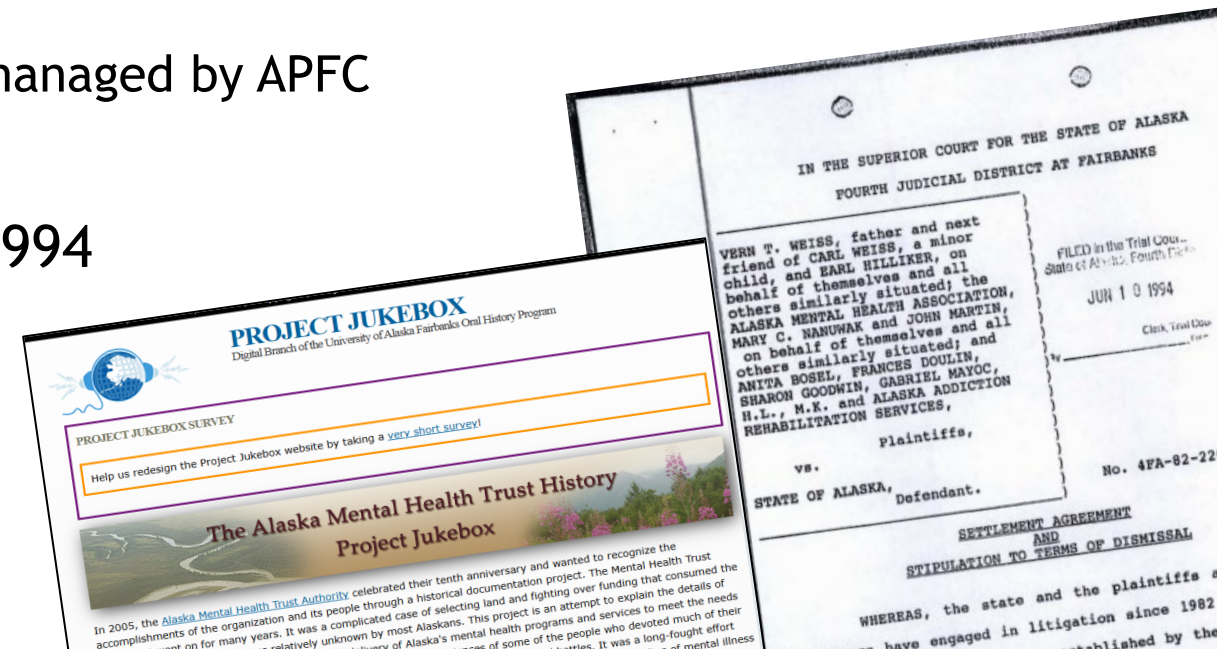
- Prior to statehood, few mental health services available in the territory
- Mental Health Trust Enabling Act, 1956
- Legislature was fiduciary, but mismanaged assets
- Weiss v State of Alaska, 1982
- Final settlement creating the Trust Authority, 1994
  - Trust was reconstituted, resulting in 1M acres of land to be managed by the Trust Land Office
  - \$200M in cash (origin of our corpus), managed by APFC
  - Independent board of trustees
- Trust established in Alaska Statute, 1994

Historical documents and more available on our history webpage

- UAF's Project Jukebox Oral History Project



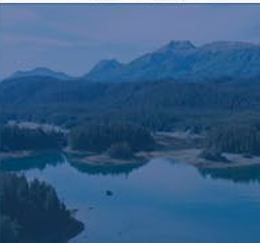
Morningside Hospital, Oregon



# The Trust Today:

- Oversees management of Trust assets and administers the Trust
- Spends Trust income
- Ensures the State has a Comprehensive Integrated Mental Health Program Plan
- Serves as an advocate for beneficiaries and a Change Agent
- Is required to recommend to the Governor and Legislature how the State of Alaska should spend general fund resources (GF/MH) to support a mental health program (AS44.25.270)
- The Alaska Permanent Fund Corporation and the DOR Treasury Division to manage Trust financial assets, and the Trust Land Office within DNR to manage Trust lands.

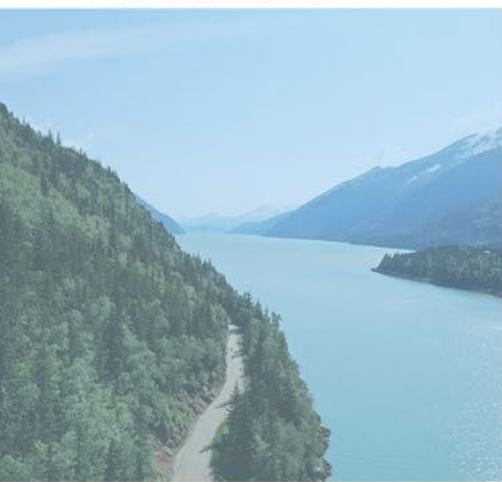
**Mission:** to improve the lives and circumstances of Trust beneficiaries



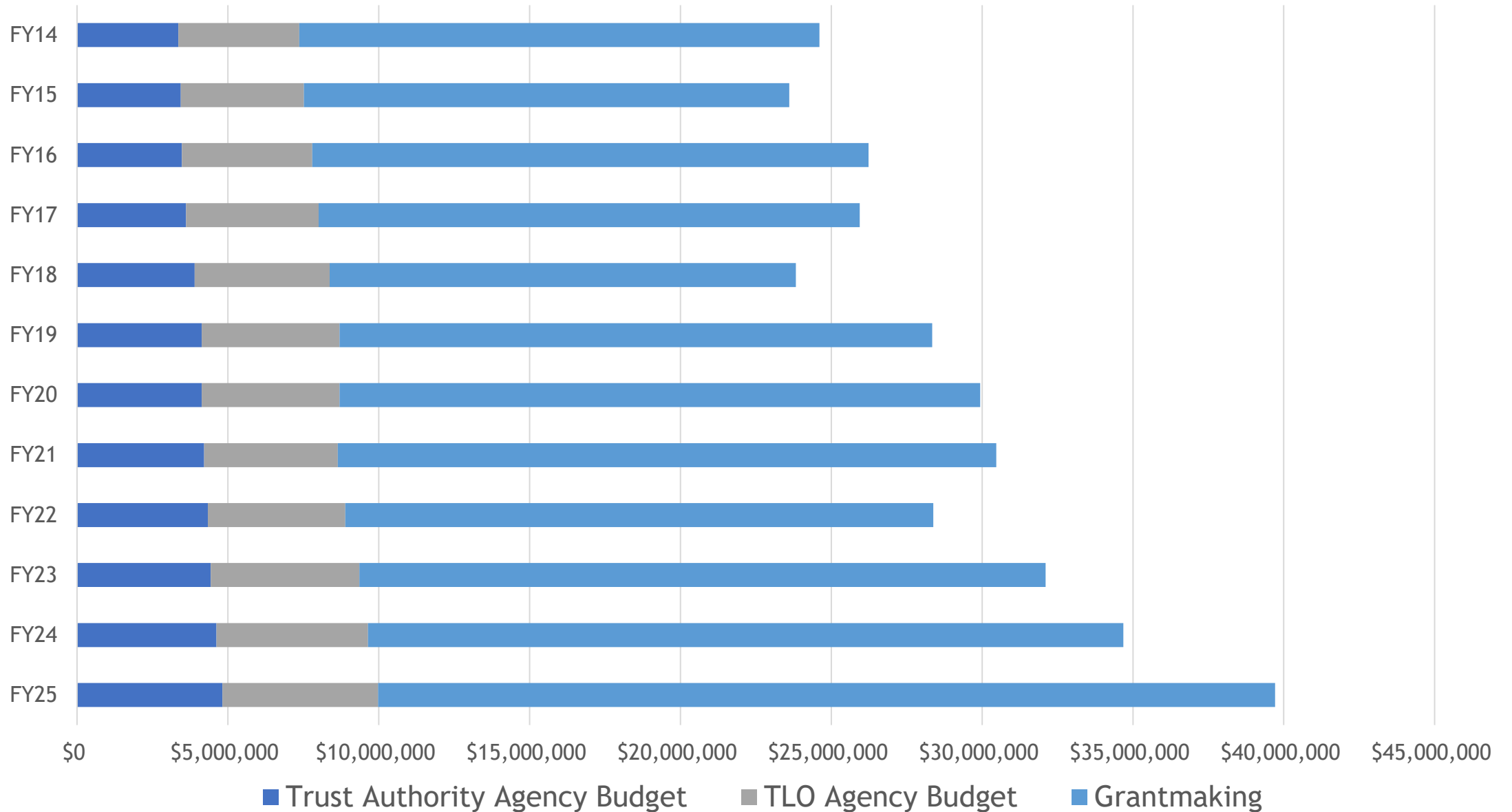


# Trust Authority: *Frequently Asked Questions*

- Is the Trust supposed to fund all public mental health and disability services in Alaska?
- Why doesn't the Trust spend more?
- Why is the Trust asking for general funds (GF/MH)?
- Is the Trust improving mental health in Alaska?



# Trust Spending



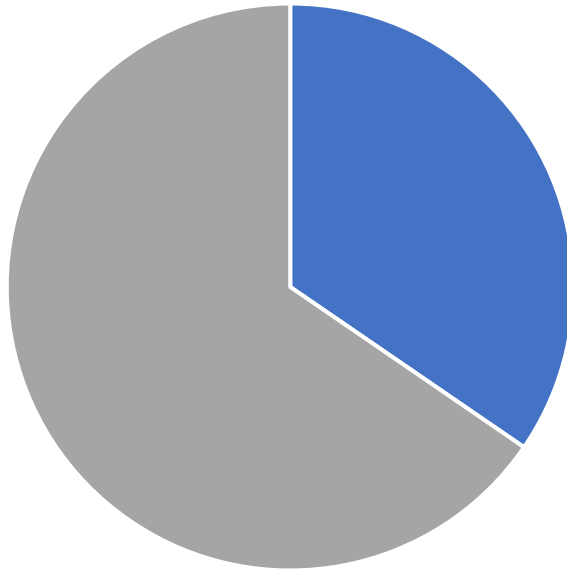
# Trust Grantmaking, FY 26

## Authority Grants

\$19,119.3

Designated grants to community providers, nonprofits, local governments, and Tribal organizations

*Includes \$1.9M in mini-grants*



■ MHTAAR ■ Authority Grants

## MHTAAR Grants

\$10,196.8

Designated grants to state agencies, require receipt authority

## FY26 MHTAAR Grant Detail

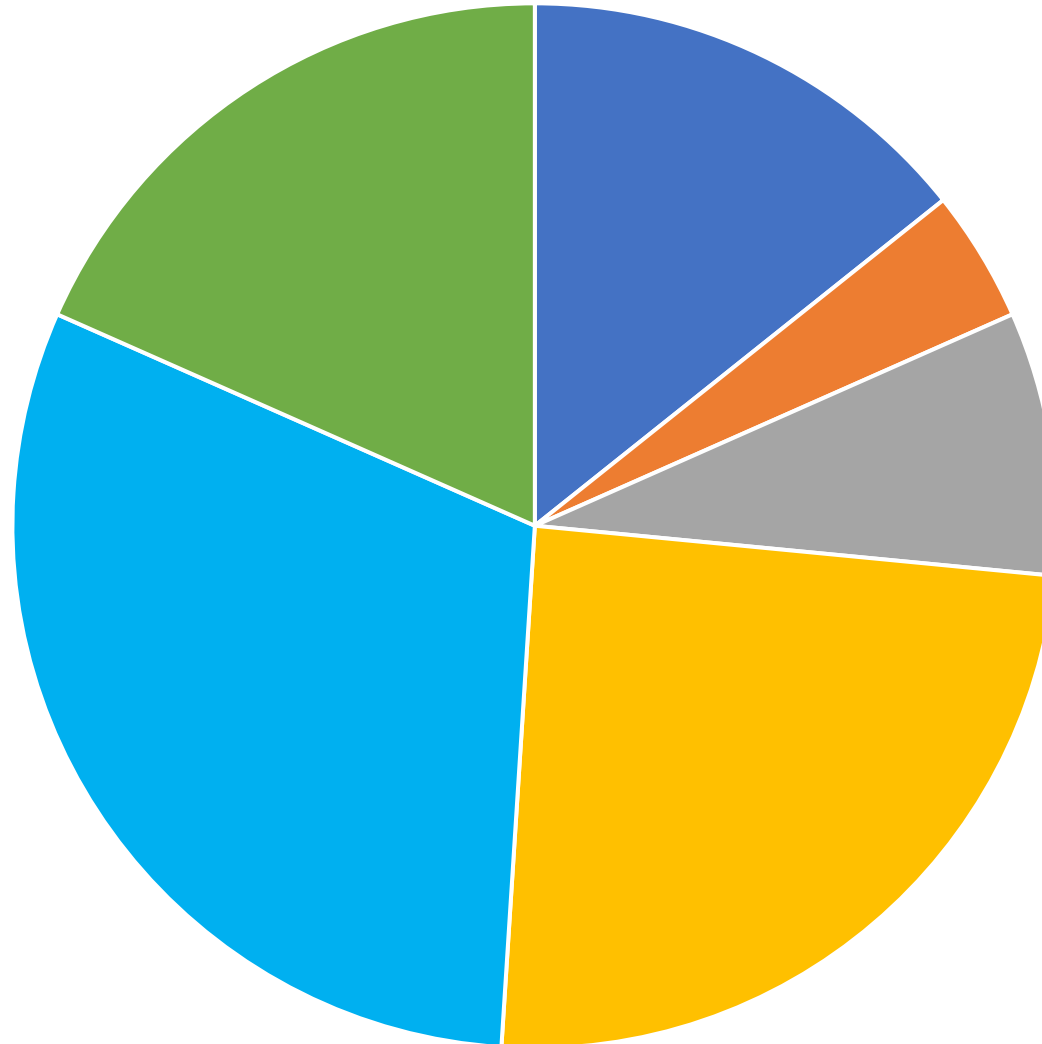
*(53 projects total)*

- Department of Health (\$4,413.9)
- UAA (\$1,870.0)
- AHFC (\$1,485.0)
- Department of Corrections (\$1,041.7)
- Department of Family and Community Services (\$587.0)
- Department of Administration (\$355.9)
- Alaska Court System (\$158.3)
- Department of Public Safety (\$130.0)
- Department of Education and Early Development (\$130.0)
- Department of Labor and Workforce Development (\$25.0)



# Longevity of Trust Grants to SOA Agencies

FY26 MHTAAR Grants (53 projects, totaling \$10.2M)



■ >20 Years ■ 16-20 Years ■ 11-15 Years ■ 6-10 Years ■ 2-5 Years ■ New for FY26





# Trust Focus Areas

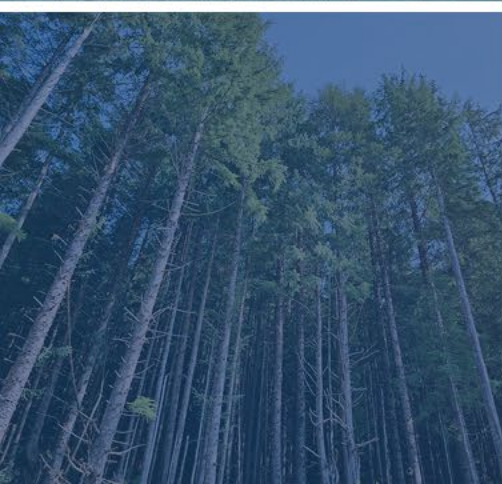
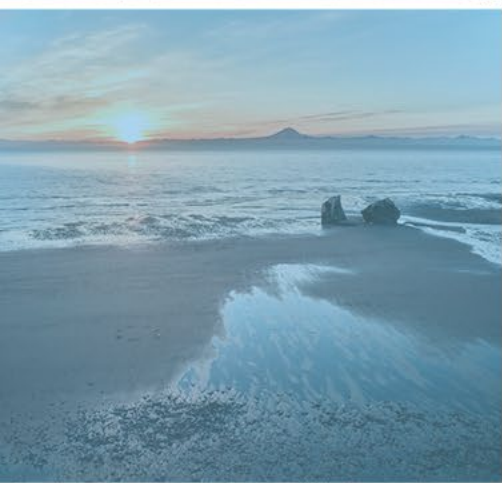
The Trust develops its budget and engages in grantmaking and system improvement efforts around the following areas:

## Established Focus Areas (FY26 Grant Investment)

- Disability Justice (\$3.6M)
- Mental Health & Addiction Intervention (\$7.0M)  
    *-Includes Behavioral Health Crisis Response (\$5.3M)*
- Beneficiary Employment & Engagement (\$1.7M)
- Housing and Home & Community Based Services (\$4.3M)

## Additional Priorities

- Workforce Development (\$2.2M)
- Early Childhood Intervention & Prevention (\$3.3M)



# Disability Justice Focus Area

Disability Justice reduces Trust beneficiary involvement in the criminal justice system by focusing on evidence-based practices, data, strong partnerships, and advocacy for systemic change. It also focuses on reducing Trust beneficiary recidivism rates and enhancing/expanding access to clinical and case management resources for incarcerated Trust beneficiaries.

## Grant Highlight

Project: Mental Health/Therapeutic Courts

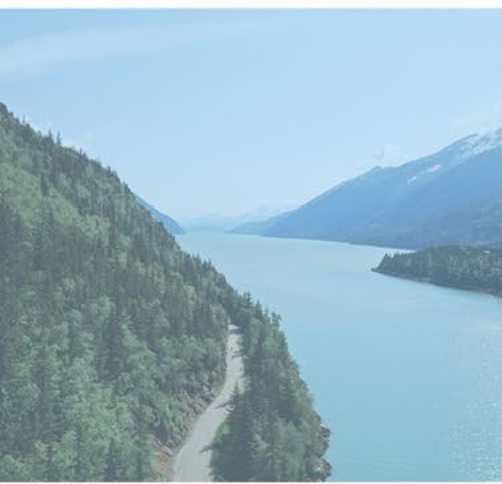
Grantees: Alaska Court System/Partners for Progress





# Mental Health and Addiction Intervention Focus Area

This focus area supports the entire continuum of care, ensuring beneficiaries have access to prevention, early intervention, ongoing community-based care, treatment for mental health and substance use disorders, and recovery support across the various care settings. And on improving the crisis system of care for individuals in acute behavioral health crises.



## Grant Highlight

Project: 3.7 Care at the ARCH Youth Residential Treatment Facility

Grantee: VOA Alaska





# Beneficiary Employment and Engagement Focus Area

This focus area works to improve outcomes and promote recovery for beneficiaries through integrated, competitive employment, and meaningful engagement opportunities.



## Grant Highlight

Project: Microenterprise Grant Program

Grantee: UAA Center for Human Development



# Housing & Home and Community Based Services Focus Area

This focus area concentrates on ensuring beneficiaries have access to housing and a continuum of services and supports that maximize independence in their home and community.

## Grant Highlight

Project: Environmental Modifications Improvement

Grantee: DOH, Senior and Disability Services



# Workforce Development Priority Area

The Trust utilizes workforce development strategies to support engaging, recruiting, training, and retaining healthcare employees across Alaska who provide residential and community-based services to Trust beneficiaries.

Grant Highlight

Project: Peer Support Certification

Grantee: DOH Division of Behavioral Health





# Early Childhood & Youth Priority Area

This Trust priority area funds early screening and detection, intervention, and prevention strategies to connect infants, children, youth, and families to resources. The goal is to promote healthy development, prevent trauma, reduce and mitigate the impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs). It recognizes the importance of prevention across the lifespan for mental health and well-being.

## Grant Highlight

Project: Family Resource Center Expansion

Grantee: Beacon Hill

# Crisis Now Community Implementation 2024/25

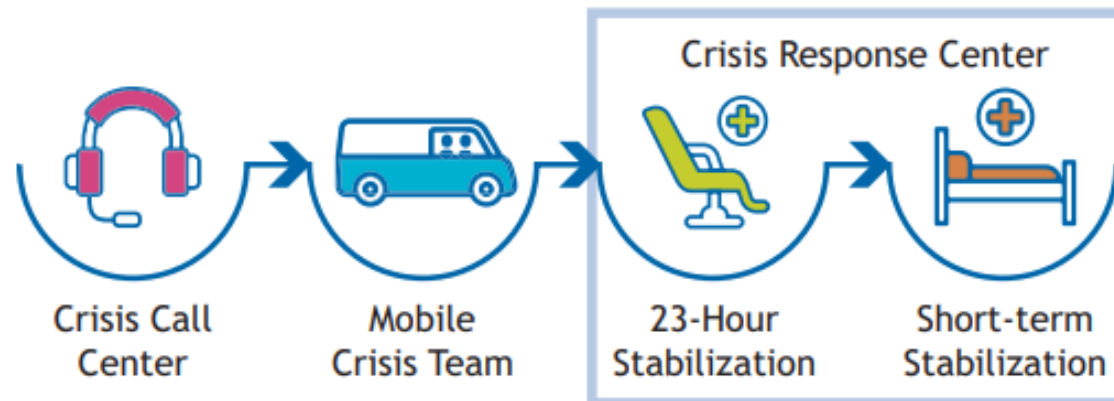
Since the initiative's launch in 2019, the Trust has invested roughly \$20M in planning and grantmaking around psychiatric emergency response.

Crisis planning and implementation is underway in:

Anchorage  
Mat-Su  
Fairbanks  
Juneau  
Ketchikan  
Kenai Peninsula  
Kotzebue  
Copper Basin  
Unalaska



*Someone to Talk to, Someone to Respond and a Place to Go*



# Behavioral Health Crisis Response in Alaska: Voices of Partners and Champions



# HB172 – Mental Health Facilities

- Governor introduction, April 2021
- Passed and signed into law in July 2022
- Established a statutory framework to bring on new crisis facility types and services

GOAL: Design and implement a behavioral health crisis response system analogous to the physical health system

## *Physical* Health Emergency



## *Behavioral* Health Emergency

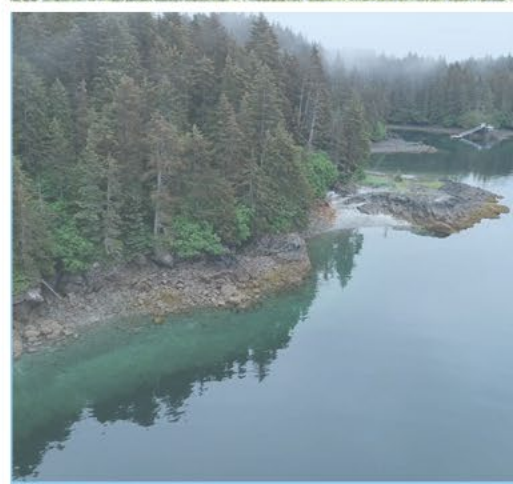


# The Trust and the Comp Plan

Per AS44.25.200, the Trust ensures an integrated comprehensive mental health program

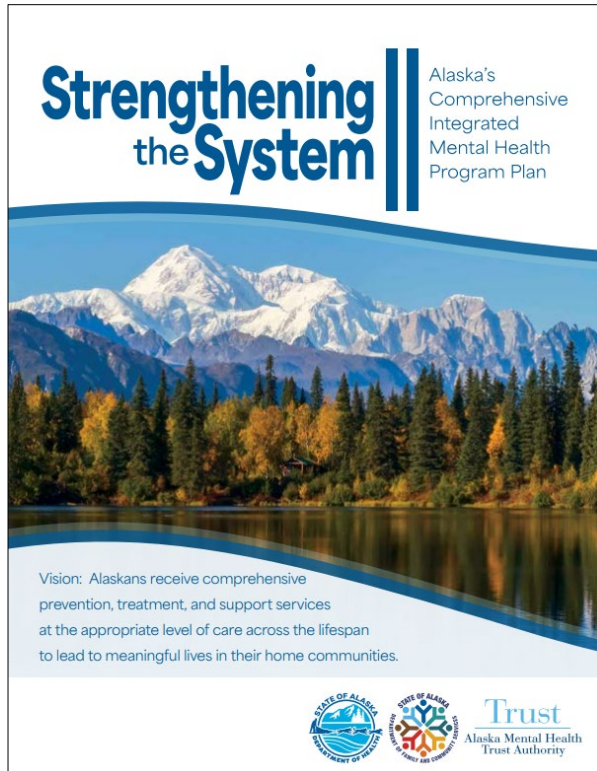
We do this through:

- Supporting DPH/DFCS in the development of the plan
  - Latest 5-year plan was released in 2024
- Shared funding of a Comp Plan Coordinator in DOH
- Coordination on Comp Plan implementation and progress with SOA partners



# How the Trust Uses the Comp Plan

- The Plan and the Associated Scorecard are considered in the development of the annual Trust budget
- All Trust grants are linked to Comp Plan Areas of Focus



## Strengthening the System II Areas of Focus:

- 1: Early Childhood and Youth
- 2: Healthcare
- 3: Economic & Social Well-being
- 4: Substance Use Disorder Prevention
- 5: Suicide Prevention
- 6: Protecting Vulnerable Alaskans
- 7: Services in the Least Restrictive Environment
- 8: Services in Institutional Settings
- 9: Workforce
- 10: Data





# Wrap-up: The Trust Continues to Meet its Mission

The Trust is a unique asset to our state's mental health system, supporting innovation and system-level improvements

- Behavioral health crisis response
- Access to treatment
- Community-based services



The Trust is completely self-funded, and awards grants to State, local, Tribal, provider, nonprofit, and other partners each year

- Since inception the Trust has awarded more than \$465M, supporting more than 5,000 beneficiary-focused projects



The board of trustees prudently manages Trust assets

- Continued growth in invested assets managed by APFC and DOR
- Principal and income earnings generated each year from Trust-owned lands and non-cash assets

# Thank You

## Questions?

# Trust

Alaska Mental Health  
Trust Authority

[alaskamentalhealthtrust.org](http://alaskamentalhealthtrust.org)

