



## Alaska Reentry Partnership

*A statewide coalition of individuals and organizations promoting success for justice-involved Alaskans at all phases of their involvement—pretrial, incarceration, reentry. Members include people with lived experience, family members, reentry coordinators and case managers, community providers, state and local agencies.*

## 2025 Legislative Priorities

[HB 35](#) - Use and possession of electronic devices by prisoners (Rep. Himschoot) and [SB 19](#) (Sen. Myers).

Removes a barrier in state law that restricts inmates inside correctional facilities from utilizing certain electronic devices, such as computers or digital tablets. The bill expands the use of approved and secure electronic devices to access rehabilitative programs and activities, education, vocational training, treatment and recovery, reentry, tribal, faith-based, and more.

[HB 2](#) - DUI Diversion Program (Rep. Prax). Establishes a DUI diversion program for individuals charged with driving while under the influence (DUI). Eligible defendants participate in a substance use assessment, treatment program, and an agreement not to use substances while in the program. Failure to complete the program returns the defendant to the original charges and consequent action.

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### FY26 Operating/Mental Health Budgets (HB 53/HB 55)

**Crisis Call Center (DOH).** \$1.5 million (\$750,000 GF/MH; \$750,000 MHTAAR). Funds will support staff and operations crisis call centers across Alaska. Crisis Call Centers will provide a talk line, direct intervention, referrals to supports and services, and more for Alaskans experiencing a behavioral crisis (mental illness, substance use, dementia).

**Youth Court in Fairbanks (DFCS).** \$25,300 GF. Funds will establish a Youth Court in Fairbanks to provide specialized criminal justice support for justice-involved youth.

**Occupational Therapy in Youth Facilities (DFCS).** \$100,000 MHTAAR. Funds will support Occupational Therapy (OT) services for justice-involved youth at the Bethel and Fairbanks youth facilities neurobehavioral treatment units. OT's promote skills and strategies that reduce the likelihood of future involvement with the behavioral health and criminal justice systems.

**Complex Care Program (DFCS).** \$400,000 MHTAAR. Funds supports additional staff to focus on hard-to-place Alaskans with behavioral health disorders and other complex needs—one to focus on the adult population and one to focus on youth.

**Establish Peer Support and Wellness Program Component (DOC).** \$500,000 GF. Funds will support establishing a Peer Support and Wellness Program within the Department of Corrections to provide staff opportunities for confidential counseling and peer support. By supporting staff after critical incidents, the overall health of staff and inmates, is supported.

**Inmate Tablets (DOC).** \$249,000 GF. This one-time funding supports expanded use of digital technology at Hiland Mountain Correctional Center—for access to education and vocational training, treatment and recovery, telehealth, reentry support, and more. Digital tablets provide safe, secure, and monitored access to valuable reformative programs and activities. Tablet programs in other states have shown to increase efficiency and reduce contraband in correctional facilities.

**Vocational Services and Training Expansion Programs (DOC).** \$850,000 GF. Funds will support expanding vocational training within Alaska's prisons—including construction, utilities, transportation, information technology,

carpentry, plumbing, and electrical programs. Funding will also retrofitting space at Goose Creek Correctional Center for digital education. This effort includes partnerships with trade unions, community contractors, local training centers, and universities.

**Trust Beneficiaries in Corrections Study Update (DOC).** \$400,000 MHTAAR. This one-time funding will support updating the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority's study on Trust beneficiaries (people with mental illness, substance use disorder, intellectual-developmental disorders, including fetal alcohol spectrum disorders, dementia, and traumatic brain injuries) in DOC. This updated study, originally released in 2014, will look at updated prevalence rates and recommendations for efficiencies and improvements.

**Holistic Defense (DOA).** \$126,400 MHTAAR. Funds support continuation of Holistic Defense in rural Alaska for defendants with disabilities (mental illness, substance use disorders, FASD, traumatic brain injury, etc.). The effort is a collaboration between the Public Defender Agency and Alaska Legal Service Corporation to address both legal and social needs.

**Discharge Incentive Grants (DOR).** \$200,000 MHTAAR. Funds support maintain housing and wrap-around supports for people exiting Corrections. Supportive housing increases the likelihood of stability, self-sufficiency and success after incarcerations. Maintains MHTAAR funding for FY26, but eliminates the GF/MH funding for FY26.

**Criminal Justice Sequential Intercept Model (UA).** \$150,000 MHTAAR. Funds will support a one-day virtual convening of stakeholders to address the Criminal Justice Sequential Intercept Model (SIM) and public policies that divert people with mental and substance use disorders into appropriate treatment.

**The Alaska Training Cooperative (UA).** \$685,000 MHTAAR and \$200,000 GF/MH. Funds support ongoing operations. The AKTC provides training, technical support, and other resources for behavioral health professionals in both rural and urban settings. Alaska Mental Health Trustees recommended \$300,000 GF/MH (-\$100,000 difference).

## Capital Items in Mental Health Budget (HB 55)

**Special Needs Housing Grants.** Funds support seventeen successful housing programs that serve both the long and short term housing needs of Alaska's most vulnerable citizens. Trustees recommended \$200,000 MHTAAR and \$1.75 million GF/MH, but the FY26 Governor's proposed budget does not include the GF/MH recommendation.

**Homeless Assistance Program (HAP).** HAP provides housing assistance to Alaskans with mental illness, addiction, and other disabilities to help them remain safe and stable in their communities. Trustees recommended \$950,000 MHTAAR and \$2.85 million GF/MH, but the FY26 Governor's proposed budget does not include the GF/MH recommendation.

**Coordinated Transportation and Vehicles.** Funds support efforts to assist Alaskans with disabilities, seniors, and others with transportation challenges. Transportation is consistently identified as a top priority for disability and reentry organizations. Trustees recommended \$1 million GF/MH, but the FY26 Governor's proposed budget only includes \$700,00 GF/MH.

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DOH = Department of Health  
DFCS = Department of Family & Community Services  
DOC = Department of Corrections  
DOA = Department of Administration  
DOR = Department of Revenue  
UA = University of Alaska  
MHTAAR = Mental Health Trust Funds  
GF = General Funds  
GF/MH = General Funds for MH Trust-related items