

**Overview**

The goal of the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority Workforce Development Focus Area is to ensure service providers across the state have access to a stable, capable, culturally competent workforce to serve Trust beneficiaries, their families and communities. Trust beneficiaries include people with mental illness, chronic alcoholism and other substance related disorders, developmental disabilities, Alzheimer's disease and related dementia, and traumatic brain injury.

**Problem\***

- Alaska is expected to add 38,749 jobs between 2010 and 2020, an increase of 12 percent.
- Health care and social service jobs will be booming through 2020 as the population of Alaskans age 65 and up is expected to grow by 89 percent.
- Health care and social service jobs, which will benefit from the needs of an aging population, are projected to grow by about 31 percent.
- Ambulatory health care – which includes practitioners, outpatient care centers, and home health services – will gain 5,860 jobs, or 28 percent, and nursing homes and community elder care facilities will also show strong growth.
- The aging population will also boost social services, adding about 2,400 jobs – up 25 percent for the 10-year period.
- Health care and social service jobs will be responsible for one-third of the total jobs added over the projection period.
- These jobs will also become a larger share of the state's employment, growing from 12.8 percent in 2010 to 15 percent in 2020.
- There are extremely high vacancy rates in many critical health occupations.

**Budget priorities for FY14**

- Analyzing the results of the 2012 Vacancy Study, a multi-faceted, detailed review of more than 160 health occupations, and applying the information to planning at the sub-specialty level.
- Supporting a multidisciplinary collaboration among University of Alaska faculty to develop a Graduate Certificate in Marriage and Family Therapy (LMFT) program that will meet curriculum requirements for licensure.
- Completing the 43 Alaska Health Workforce Coalition Action Agenda 2012-2015 strategies and beginning to draft the Action Agenda 2015-2018.
- Working with partners to secure a permanent home within the University of Alaska for non-academic training and professional development for health careers.
- Supporting loan repayment and other incentive strategies for health professionals.
- Supporting increments for University of Alaska health programs, such as the Area Health Education Centers (AHEC), physical therapy and pharmacy.

**For additional information, contact:**

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