

## Behavioral Health Mini Grants

ABOUT THE MINI GRANTS	
<b>WHAT?</b>	<p>The Trust awards mini grants with an annual limit of <b><i>one application</i></b> of up to \$2,500 per beneficiary depending upon need. Mini grants are only awarded to an agency on behalf of the beneficiary. Behavioral Health Mini Grants are awarded on a monthly basis throughout the fiscal year. The application deadline for requests is the close of business on the 15th of each month. (If the deadline falls on a weekend or holiday, the deadline rolls to the next business day.)</p>
<b>WHO?</b>	<p>For the Behavioral Health Mini Grant program, beneficiaries of The Trust include the following broad groups of individuals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• People with mental illness,</li> <li>• People with chronic alcoholism and other substance related disorders, and</li> <li>• People with traumatic head injury resulting in permanent brain injury.</li> </ul>
<b>WHY?</b>	<p>The Mini Grants program provides individuals of The Trust beneficiary groups with a broad range of equipment, supplies and services to improve the quality of life, increase independent functioning, and help them attain and maintain healthy and productive lifestyles.</p>
<b>HOW?</b>	<p>Agencies may apply for the Behavioral Health mini grants on The Trust website at  <a href="http://mhtrust.org/index.cfm?section=trustfunding&amp;page=GrantOpportunities&amp;viewpost=2&amp;ContentId=674">http://mhtrust.org/index.cfm?section=trustfunding&amp;page=GrantOpportunities&amp;viewpost=2&amp;ContentId=674</a></p>

## GENERAL APPLICATION GUIDELINES

<p><b>To be considered, all funding requests MUST:</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clearly identify the specific Trust beneficiary group (or groups) to which the individual qualifies.</li> <li>• Provide a clear and strong connection between the beneficiary being served and how the proposed funding will directly benefit or improve beneficiaries' quality of life. The more background about the beneficiary and their request the better.</li> <li>• Not request items that are able to be purchased or acquired through other funding sources.</li> <li>• Verify that the beneficiary applying for a mini grant, as an individual with a chronic alcohol or other substance related disorder, are actively engaged in a treatment, aftercare, or peer-recovery-based program.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Can a program seek more than one grant?</b></p>	<p>Typically a program will be limited to three (3) mini grant applications per month, for a total of approximately 36 in a fiscal year (July 1 through June 30). Agencies are encouraged to prioritize their requests over the course of the year.</p>
<p><b>If requesting multiple items in one application:</b></p>	<p>Please prioritize the items requested in order from highest need to lowest need.</p>
<p><b>Case Manager Input:</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The mini grants are applied for by agencies on behalf of Trust beneficiaries and approved by the Proposal Evaluation Committee (PEC) based in part on the supporting information supplied by agency staff or case managers.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The more background provided about the beneficiary and their request the better. How will the grant improve the quality of their life? What other services and funding is the client currently receiving? If the item requested involves an on-going expense, how will it be paid for in the future?</li> <li>• If the application is from an agency that does not provide direct behavioral health treatment services, such as a peer recovery organization, please include a letter of support, where possible, from a behavioral health treatment provider that works with the beneficiary.</li> </ul>
<b>Grant Documentation</b>	<p>Agencies must document how the funds were spent within 45 days of the date of the award. Documentation consists of an invoice or a billing statement from a vendor showing the items purchased or service provided and a check copy or other proof of purchase showing payment to the vendor. An extension may be requested in cases where the goods or services cannot be obtained within the 45-day period.</p>

## EXAMPLES OF ALLOWABLE ITEMS

<b>Dental</b>	<p><b>Medicaid Eligible Beneficiaries:</b> Only requests to fund dentures and partial plates beyond what Medicaid covers will be considered for grant funding. Alaska Medicaid Adult Enhanced Dental provides an annual benefit of \$1,150. In cases that require a full set of dentures two years of Medicaid benefits may be utilized so that both dentures may be obtained at the same time. This option should be explored through the beneficiary’s dental office. The cost of tooth extractions associated with dentures does not count against the beneficiary’s \$1,150 annual benefit. An estimate from a dental office must be provided prior to review of the request.</p>	<b>YES</b>
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	<p>The amount of a grant is based on the beneficiary's available Medicaid benefits. If the beneficiary has part or all of their annual Medicaid benefits available grant funds can pay the remaining balance for dentures and partials at the Medicaid rate. If all of the beneficiary's annual Medicaid benefit has been expended grant funds can cover the denture or partial at the dentist's full office rate.</p> <p><b>Non-Medicaid Eligible Beneficiaries:</b> Grants of up to \$250 are available for the purpose of obtaining an estimate. These grants are the exception to the one grant per fiscal year guideline. A second request is filed for the dental work when a dental treatment plan has been obtained. Depending on the nature of the dental work required grants may be approved for amounts greater than the \$2,500 limit. Requests for dental work in Anchorage and Fairbanks are referred to the Anchorage and Fairbanks Neighborhood Health Centers.</p>	
<p><b>Computers/ Laptops</b></p>	<p>Requests for computers and laptops will be funded up to \$1,000 including a printer. The need must be justified by school or business requirements. Where computers are readily available in the beneficiaries school environment funding may not be approved. Exceptions to the \$1,000 limit may be made when there is a need for a more high-end computer such as graphic arts or voice recognition software. A request for software may be considered above the limit; however it must be clearly justified. Requests must demonstrate that the beneficiary is in a stable recovery status.</p> <p>In many cases where web browsing and email will meet their client's computing needs, case managers are encouraged to look into the practicality of requesting a netbooks, (reasonably priced alternatives to laptops).</p> <p>Whenever possible, clients are encouraged to pay for their own Internet connections.</p>	<p><b>YES</b></p>

<p><b>Vehicles</b></p>	<p>Requests for repairs will only be considered with an estimate from an established repair shop and that the extent of repairs requested is balanced against the aged and value of the vehicle. Consideration is given to the importance of the vehicle in the beneficiary's life such as continuing treatment, work and independence in the community, and whether the beneficiary owns the vehicle. Replacement tires qualify for funding.</p> <p>Direct purchases of vehicles are rarely funded due to sustainability issues of maintenance, fuel and insurance.</p>	<p><b>YES</b></p>
<p><b>Education</b></p>	<p>Requests for classes will be considered on a case-by-case basis depending on how they tie into the beneficiary's treatment plan or recovery, and if no other source is available. The request needs to be connected to a treatment, recovery, or vocational rehabilitation plan.</p>	<p><b>YES</b></p>
<p><b>Clothing</b></p>	<p>Requests for new clothing will be funded up to \$500 with exceptions for specialized work clothing or severe weather outerwear.</p>	<p><b>YES</b></p>
<p><b>Beds</b></p>	<p>Requests for beds will be approved up to \$1,000 for standard mattresses. Specialized beds such as Tempur-Pedic mattresses are funded on a case-by-case basis depending upon the condition of the beneficiary and recommendation of their health care provider.</p>	<p><b>YES</b></p>
<p><b>House Furnishings</b></p>	<p>Requests for furniture will be funded up to \$1,500 per beneficiary. Requests for clients on a waiting list for housing will not be funded until the beneficiary receives their housing voucher. The purchase of used furniture is encouraged to make the most of grant funding. Televisions may be requested, however, if approved, there is a \$250 limit on television requests.</p>	<p><b>YES</b></p>

<b>Equipment/Tools</b>	Requests for work equipment and tools will be considered for those in a stable recovery status and preferably with a statement from their employer or their vocational rehabilitation provider.	<b>YES</b>
<b>EXAMPLES OF NON-ALLOWABLE ITEMS</b>		
<b>Home Repairs</b>	In general most home repairs will not be funded under the Mini Grants program. Beneficiaries are referred to weatherization or energy assistance programs as appropriate. However, if requests are submitted an estimate of costs is required. If the estimated value exceeds \$500, please provide a second estimate.	<b>NO</b>
<b>Direct Medical or Behavioral Health Treatment</b>	In general requests will not be considered that fund direct medical or behavioral health treatment.	<b>NO</b>
<b>Gift Cards/ Certificates and Gas Cards</b>	Requests for gift cards, certificates, or gas cards will not be funded because it is not possible to determine whether the money was spent appropriately.	<b>NO</b>
<b>Reimbursements</b>	Requests to reimburse goods or services that have already been purchased will not be funded.	<b>NO</b>
<b>QUESTIONS</b>		
<b>What other funding is available from The Trust?</b>	Complete details and application procedures for all Trust grants can be found under “Grant Opportunities” on The Trust’s website at <a href="http://bit.ly/fm7tT5">http://bit.ly/fm7tT5</a>	
<b>Who can provide additional information?</b>	For information about other Trust grants, call Lucas Lind, Grants Manager, at 907-269-7999 or email <a href="mailto:lucas.lind@alaska.gov">lucas.lind@alaska.gov</a>	

