

NEWS RELEASE

Contact:
Carley Lawrence
Chief Communications Officer
907-334-2531 or carley.lawrence@alaska.gov

Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority grants over \$800,000 to community partners

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (September 10, 2015)—The Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority granted \$834,400, to improve the lives of Alaskans with mental illness, developmental disabilities, substance abuse disorders and other mental health conditions. The Trust board voted to grant the funds during its August 26 meeting, and the money will be distributed to projects and programs around the state.

“Every day, Alaskans work together to help each other and make this state a better place,” said Jeff Jessee, Trust CEO. “Our grant recipients have proposed innovative ideas and valuable improvements to existing programs. Together, we’re building a stronger mental healthcare system for Alaska and ensuring that our beneficiaries have access to the services they need.”

Some of the money will go toward direct services such as mental health counseling and substance abuse treatment programs. The Trust is also contributing to domestic violence shelter improvements, helping Beans Café update their kitchen for the Children’s Lunchbox, and funding a social services specialist in the Bethel public defenders office to assist Trust beneficiaries in the court system and connect them with available services.

The grants range from small one-time projects to larger strategic initiatives.

- Alaska Christian College: \$ 45,000
- Alaska Community Foundation, Domestic Violence Shelter Improvement Project: \$ 100,000
- Alaska Legal Services Corporation: \$67,500
- Alzheimer's Resource of Alaska: \$ 150,000
- Bean’s Café, Inc.: \$ 100,000
- Central Peninsula Health Centers: \$10,000
- Central Peninsula Hospital, : \$ 75,000
- Homer Council On The Arts: \$10,000
- Native Village of Unalakleet: \$10,000
- Programs for Infants and Children, Inc.: \$10,000
- SeaView Community Services: \$6,900
- Senior & Disabilities Services: \$ 175,000
- Southeast Alaska Independent Living: \$ 75,000

For more information on a specific grant, please contact Carley Lawrence at 907-334-2531.

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About the Trust

The Alaska Mental Health Trust is a perpetual trust founded to improve the lives of Alaskans with mental illness, development disabilities, substance abuse disorders, traumatic brain injuries, and Alzheimer's disease and related dementia. Through management and development of its resources, the Trust works to ensure that Alaska has a comprehensive integrated mental health program to serve Trust beneficiaries. Focus areas include disability justice, substance abuse treatment and prevention, beneficiary employment, workforce development and housing and long-term services. To learn more, visit mhtrust.org.