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## **MENTAL HEALTH TRUST AUTHORITY AWARDS OVER \$1.1 MILLION IN GRANTS TO ORGANIZATIONS ACROSS THE STATE**

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (April 16, 2018) - The Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority recently awarded over \$1,145,000 in grants to various organizations in nine communities across the state.

On average, the Trust grants approximately \$18 million annually to various nonprofits, state agencies and projects that promote long-term system change and/or innovative projects that improve the lives and circumstances of Trust beneficiaries. Grants are awarded throughout the year. “These grants demonstrate the Trust’s commitment to supporting a variety of programs and will have a positive impact on beneficiaries across the state,” said Mike Abbott, CEO.

Organizations and grant amounts include:

- Fairbanks Rescue Mission Inc.: \$305,000  
This project will establish a shared multiagency Rapid Re-Housing program that quickly connects families and individuals experiencing homelessness to permanent, private market housing through intensive case management, applicable employment services, and tapering financial support. Fairbanks Rescue Mission was chosen as the lead agency because they have successfully implemented the veteran’s administration rapid rehousing program for the area. Rapid rehousing is a supportive housing service that is not currently available as a coordinated service in the Fairbanks area. It provides housing, case management and landlord support to ensure people who have been homeless maintain their housing and mitigate or stabilize the circumstances that led to the episode of homelessness.

- Alaska Coalition on Housing and Homelessness: \$135,000**  
 The Alaska Coalition on Housing and Homelessness (AKCH2) is Alaska's homeless and affordable housing advocacy body. AKCH2 carries out the day to day management of the Balance of State Continuum of Care program, oversees the contract for the Alaska Homeless Management Information System, and hosts an annual housing & homelessness conference each year. A Rural Housing Planner position will be added by this grant to expand the capacity of rural Alaska to build local coalitions and readiness to apply for funding to meet these needs.
- Alaska Pioneer Homes: \$175,000**  
 This grant will be used for a Pioneer Home staffing analysis to maximize facility utilization. The Alaska Pioneer Homes are the largest assisted living home provider for the Alzheimer's disease and related dementia population in the state. The report will make recommendations on efficient staffing mechanisms to maximize the number of beds and levels of care available to the community and will be issued to the Governor's Office and Legislature to inform the FY20 budget cycle.
- Community Connections, Inc.: \$70,000**  
 This funding will contribute to the cost of a remodeling project for the Community Connections facility located in Craig which serves beneficiaries with intellectual and developmental disabilities and other behavioral health conditions living on the Prince of Wales Island. The renovation will include a "practice apartment" to provide a real-life simulated environment where beneficiaries can learn and practice living skills, provide space for families in need of respite from 24-hour care of their family member and upgrades to the early learning and children's mental health space. These facility improvements will result in better care for beneficiaries and their families and improve overall facility functionality.
- Governor's Council on Disabilities & Special Education: \$25,000**  
 Funds will be used to accomplish the goals and objectives of the Alaska Integrated Employment Initiative; to increase employment outcomes for youth and young adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The Council; will use funds to coordinate travel for staff, self-advocates and Council members to attend the 2018 Key Campaign in Juneau and other travel related to training on Supported Decision-Making, produce professional videos that demonstrate how Supported Decision-making Agreements work, and print copies of the "Alaska Transition Handbook: Pathway to Adulthood & Employment for dissemination statewide.
- Alaska Institute of Justice: \$10,000**  
 The Alaska Institute for Justice Language Interpreter Center will partner with The Arc of Anchorage to develop a Language Access Plan. The Arc is dedicated to serving children and adults who experience developmental

disabilities or mental health issues. A Language Access Plan will help guide The Arc in providing access to their services for limited English-proficient individuals and their families.

Other grants awarded include:

Grantee	Amount	Description
Anchorage Community Mental Health Services	\$93,500	To assist the Seeds of Change program to become more sustainable
City & Borough of Juneau	\$16,425	For a cold weather emergency shelter
Christian Health Associates	\$10,000	For the Cornerstone Recovery Program
RurAL CAP	\$5,763	For leadership staff to attend the Housing First Partners Conference
FOCUS, Inc.	\$5,500	For Behavior Support Training for Families of Trust Beneficiaries
Ptarmigan Pediatrics	\$5,000	For a one-day trauma-informed training for physicians and other health care providers in the Mat-Su Valley
New Hope Counseling Center in Soldotna	\$5,000	For program development and outreach
Alaska Community Foundation	\$35,000	To support the development of the Alaska Comprehensive Healthcare Blueprint
University of Alaska Anchorage	\$10,000	For the 2018 Geriatric Telehealth Series
Alaska Young Family Network	\$5,500	For improving family care through evidence-based assessment and care planning
Association for the Education of Young Children, Southeast Alaska	\$4,500	To support a three-day event for critical caregivers
The Foraker Group	\$41,289	To determine the size, cost and concept of a new independent living center to be located on the Wasilla Area Seniors, Inc. campus

Mat-Su Youth Housing (MY House)	\$50,000	To leverage other funds for an Outreach Coordinator-Mobile Case Manager
The Foraker Group	\$41,289	To determine the size, cost and concept of a new independent living center to be located on the Wasilla Area Seniors, Inc. campus
Fairbanks Resource Agency	\$25,000	To support the first year of Alaska's Key Campaign sustainability project to support beneficiary engagement and self-advocacy efforts related to the campaign
Alaska Center for Collaborative Child Therapy	\$25,000	To provide support for 10 Trust beneficiaries and their families to attend Adam's Camp Alaska
Yakutat Tlingit Tribe	\$20,000	For the Yakutat Community Health Center (YCHC) to enhance staff competence to better screen for and treat drug and alcohol addiction
Alaska Housing Finance Corporation along with the Alaska Coalition on Housing & Homelessness	\$10,000	For housing conference scholarships
Cook Inlet Tribal Council, Inc.	\$5,000	To support the annual Native Youth Olympics
Stone Soup Group	\$5,000	For its annual Parent Conference
Northgate Alaska-Royal Family KIDS Mat-Su	\$5,000	To support two trauma-informed community training conferences
National Indian Child Welfare Association	\$2,500	To sponsor the 36th Annual Protecting our Children National American Indian Conference on Child Abuse & Neglect
Community Connections, Inc.	\$1,000	For training in practical applications for Assistive Technology

*About the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority*

*The Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority is a state corporation that administers the Mental Health Trust, a perpetual trust created to ensure that Alaska has a comprehensive mental health program to serve people with mental illness, developmental disabilities, chronic alcoholism and other substance related disorders, Alzheimer's disease and related dementia, and traumatic brain injury that results in permanent brain injury. The Trust operates much like a private foundation, using its resources to fund system change, demonstration projects, funding partnerships, technical assistance and Trust-initiated projects. The Trust is fully self-funded and is overseen by a seven-member board of trustees.*

