

MH: Assistive Technology

FY2022 Request: \$500,000
Reference No: 54250

AP/AL: Appropriation
Category: Health/Human Services
Location: Statewide
Impact House District: Statewide (HD 1-40)
Estimated Project Dates: 07/01/2021 - 06/30/2026

Project Type: Life / Health / Safety
House District: Statewide (HD 1-40)
Contact: Amy Burke
Contact Phone: (907)465-1624

Brief Summary and Statement of Need:

This capital program will provide funding for high-technology and low-technology assistive devices for Alaskans experiencing disabilities.

Funding:	FY2022	FY2023	FY2024	FY2025	FY2026	FY2027	Total
1268 MH Tr Res	\$500,000	\$500,000					\$1,000,000
Total:	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,000,000

<input type="checkbox"/> State Match Required	<input type="checkbox"/> One-Time Project	<input type="checkbox"/> Phased - new	<input type="checkbox"/> Phased - underway	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ongoing
0% = Minimum State Match % Required		<input type="checkbox"/> Amendment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mental Health Bill	

Operating & Maintenance Costs:

	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Staff</u>
Project Development:	0	0
Ongoing Operating:	0	0
One-Time Startup:	0	
Totals:	0	0

Prior Funding History / Additional Information:

Sec4 Ch2 SLA2020 P11 L10 HB206 \$500,000
Sec7 Ch1 SLA2019 P14 L10 SB2002 \$500,000
Sec5 Ch16 SLA2012 P13 L14 HB285 \$125,000

Project Description/Justification:

Individuals with disabilities often require assistive technology devices in order to live independently, perform well in school, and maintain employment. They are also more likely to live in poverty and lack resources to investigate and purchase outright these sorts of devices.

Assistive Technology of Alaska (ATLA) reports that 90% of children and adolescents use computers as part of their education process, and over half of employed people use computers in their work. Access to specialized equipment is important to educational and employment success for people experiencing disabilities. Assistive technology is also very important to individuals seeking to achieve the highest level of independence possible.

Assistive technology devices include but are not limited to:

- augmented and alternative devices, like picture charts, book, and specialized computers;
- computer software and devices to assist with education, employment, or environment needs; and
- appliances and tools to aid daily living, ranging from simple devices to control lighting to

complex systems like chin controls and controls governed by eye movements.

ATLA is the primary provider of assistive technology consultations, counseling, and products.

Mission:

To promote and protect the health and well-being of Alaskans.

End Result:

The mental health of Alaskans is optimized. Vulnerable Alaskans have a safe living environment.

Use of budget fund code 1268 directs expenditure of money held in reserve in the Mental Health Trust Settlement Income Account in excess of the amount directed for use by the Trust through annual recommendations (state accounting system fund 3321). Per AS 37.14.041(b) money in excess of the amount needed to meet the necessary expenses of the state's integrated comprehensive mental health program shall be transferred to the general fund and used for any public purpose. To ensure these monies are expended to the benefit of the state's mental health program and not swept to the general fund, a portion of the reserves are being utilized to fund various mental health programs and Trust recommendations with the intent of drawing reserves down over a period of five years.