

MH: AHFC Beneficiary and Special Needs Housing

FY2022 Request: \$200,000
Reference No: 6360

AP/AL: Appropriation

Project Type: Life / Health / Safety

Category: Health/Human Services

Location: Statewide

House District: Statewide (HD 1-40)

Impact House District: Statewide (HD 1-40)

Contact: James Wiedle

Estimated Project Dates: 07/01/2021 - 06/30/2026

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Brief Summary and Statement of Need:

The purpose of this authorization is to provide funds for Alaskan nonprofit service providers and housing developers to increase housing opportunities to Alaska Mental Health Trust beneficiaries and other special needs populations throughout Alaska. This program has developed 307 units since FY2000.

Funding:	<u>FY2022</u>	<u>FY2023</u>	<u>FY2024</u>	<u>FY2025</u>	<u>FY2026</u>	<u>FY2027</u>	<u>Total</u>
1037 GF/MH							\$0
1092	\$200,000						\$200,000
MHTAAR							
1268 MH Tr							\$0
Res							
Total:	\$200,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$200,000

<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 L21 HB206 \$1,700,000
 Sec4 Ch2 SLA2019 P11 L19 HB40 \$1,700,000
 Sec7 Ch1 SLA2019 P14 L19 SB2002 \$2,000,000
 Sec4 Ch18 SLA2018 P12 L18 HB285 \$1,700,000
 Sec4 Ch1 SLA2017 P12 L18 HB59 \$1,700,000
 Sec5 Ch1 SLA2016 P16 L18 HB257 \$1,500,000

Project Description/Justification:

This program provides funds to Alaskan nonprofit service providers and housing developers to increase housing opportunities to AMHTA beneficiaries and other special needs populations in Alaska through pre-development and development activities. These funds will continue to assist in developing community-based supportive housing in conjunction with the Homeless Assistance Program.

An analysis of six supportive housing properties funded through this program, several years ago, showed an average daily expense of \$51 a day compared to \$142 in prison and over \$1,100 a day in the Alaska Psychiatric Institute (API).

The demand for special needs housing remains critical. The AMHTA has made housing one of its five focus areas for funding. The Alaska Independent Living Council, and other special needs advocacy groups, has identified supportive housing as a top priority in their statewide planning efforts. The target populations consist of mental health beneficiaries and other special needs groups like severely emotionally disturbed children and the homeless.

To optimize leveraging of these funds with other federal grant and tax credit programs and to expedite the release of funding to nonprofit housing developers, AHFC administer these housing development funds in conjunction with other resources to the greatest extent possible. This enables AHFC to administratively streamline housing development projects, which also may intend to borrow money from AHFC.

Examples of special needs housing includes, but are not limited to:

- Congregate housing for people with mental illness or developmental disabilities;
- Supportive housing for victims of domestic violence;
- Supportive housing, including assisted living, for people with mental illness, developmental disabilities, or multiple disorders;
- Transitional housing with support services for newly recovering alcoholics and addicts; and
- Permanent or transitional housing support for the homeless and AMHTA beneficiaries.

The loss of these funds may increase expenditures by the state to house people who are inappropriately-housed in the Alaska Psychiatric Institute (API) or the correctional system. The cost of providing community-based care is significantly lower than institutional care. Another negative effect is the loss of leveraging opportunities with other federal grant programs.

Funding will continue to serve populations with special housing needs. This program provides funds to Alaskan nonprofit service providers to increase housing opportunities for Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority (AMHTA) beneficiaries and other special needs populations throughout the state. The funds may be used for housing development and/or services designed to achieve long-term residential stability.

The projected outcomes are to:

- Support the operations of 17 congregate housing properties for victims of domestic violence, people with mental illness or developmental disabilities, and chronically homeless Alaskans;
- Reduce recidivism among clients spending time in institutions;
- Provide supportive housing, including assisted living, for people with mental, physical, or developmental disabilities, or multiple disorders; and
- Provide transitional housing with support services for newly recovering alcoholics and addicts.

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.