

# Trust

Alaska Mental Health  
Trust Authority

[alaskamentalhealthtrust.org](http://alaskamentalhealthtrust.org)

## About the Trust

The Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority is a state corporation that administers the Alaska Mental Health Trust, a perpetual trust, to be a catalyst for change in Alaska's mental health continuum of care. The Trust operates much like a private foundation, using its resources to ensure that Alaska has a comprehensive integrated mental health program.

**Trust Governance:** The Trust is overseen by a seven-member board of trustees. Trustees are appointed by the governor and must be confirmed by the legislature for five-year terms. The Trust CEO oversees the Trust Authority and the Trust Land Office, and is hired by and reports to the Trustees.

**Trust Assets:** Trust cash assets are managed by the Alaska Permanent Fund Corporation and the

Department of Revenue Treasury Division, and our 1 million acres of land assets are managed by the Trust Land Office. Land assets have various resource values, including mineral, energy, forestry, and surface and real estate.

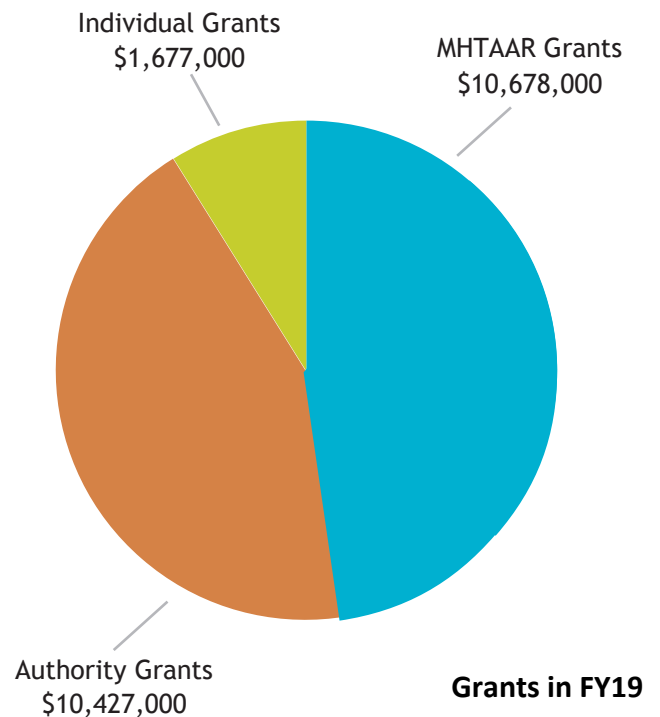
Beneficiaries of the Trust include the following broad groups of Alaskans experiencing:

- mental illness
- developmental disabilities
- chronic alcohol or drug addiction
- Alzheimer's disease and related dementia
- traumatic brain injuries

## The Work of the Trust

The Trust designates a majority of its annual budget for grants to beneficiaries, nonprofits, service providers, tribal entities, governmental agencies and other groups that prioritize goals and initiatives consistent with the Trust's mission. More than \$20 million in grants are provided across the state for community-based projects, statewide efforts and mini grants each year.

The Trust concentrates its efforts in a select number of areas including disability justice, substance abuse prevention and treatment, housing and long-term services and supports, beneficiary employment and engagement, workforce development and early intervention and prevention. In addition to these areas, for the past several years the Trust has also advanced two key initiatives, Medicaid reform and criminal justice reform and reinvestment.



# The Trust and the Legislature

**Funding and Budgets:** Trustees are required by statute to recommend to the governor and Legislature operating and capital budgets for state general funds to support the state's comprehensive integrated mental health program. Only trustees can approve the expenditure of Alaska Mental Health Trust funds; their budget recommendations are determined by September 15 each year, following a rigorous stakeholder driven process including our statutory advisory boards, and are transmitted to the Governor's office. The governor must then propose and the Legislature must pass a separate mental health budget bill; this separate budget consolidates general fund and Trust dollars to ensure funding for Alaska's mental health program.

The legislature must also approve receipt authority for all Mental Health Trust Authority Authorized Receipt funds, or MHTAAR grants, to state agencies.

To ensure stable funding and program continuity, annual trust expenditures are funded by a combination of sources including the annual trust withdrawal (4.25 percent of the four-year average value of financial assets) and spendable income from the Trust Land Office activities.

**Advocacy:** The Trust works to promote understanding of our beneficiaries and the services needed to support them in the community and in the least restrictive environment. The Trust does this through various methods including serving as a statewide voice and advocating for the development and funding of programs and laws that will help Trust beneficiaries. Trust leadership works closely with the administration, legislature and state departments to advise on funding and policies.