



The Alaska Mental Health Trust Mini-Grant Program Overview

October 16, 2024

Trust

Alaska Mental Health
Trust Authority



Overview

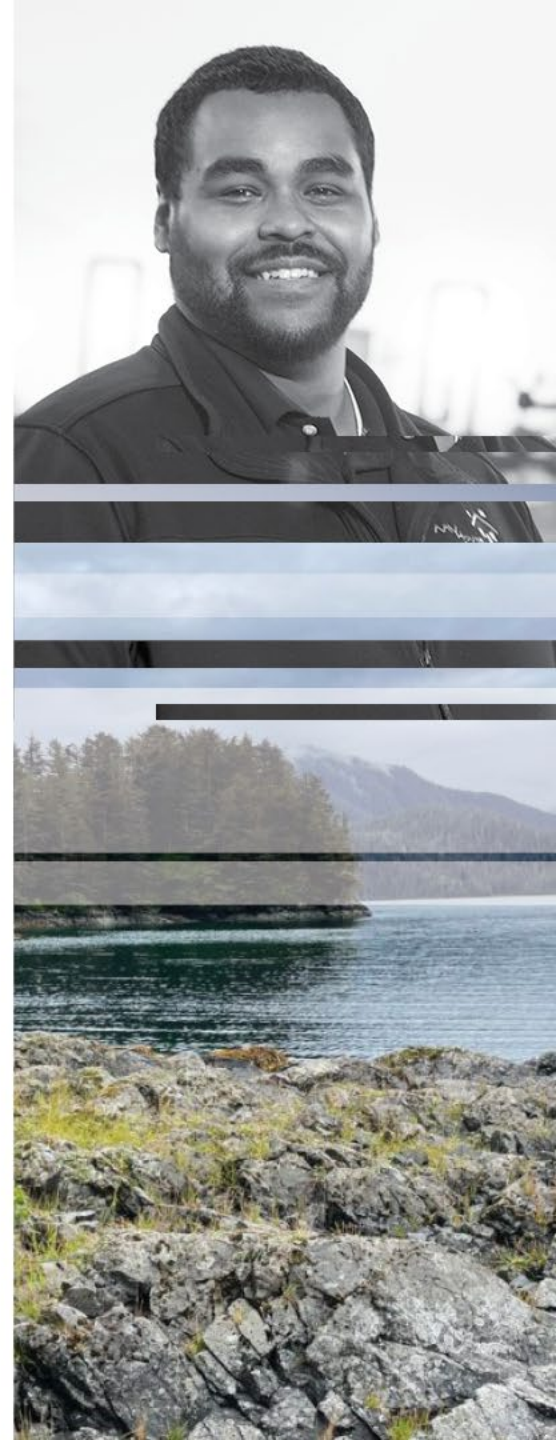
- Background and History
- Structure of Managing the program
- Application Process
- Outcomes
- What works well and room for improvement
- Feedback and ideas for the future

Types of Mini-Grants

DD = Developmental Disability

BH = Behavioral Health

ADRD = Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementia



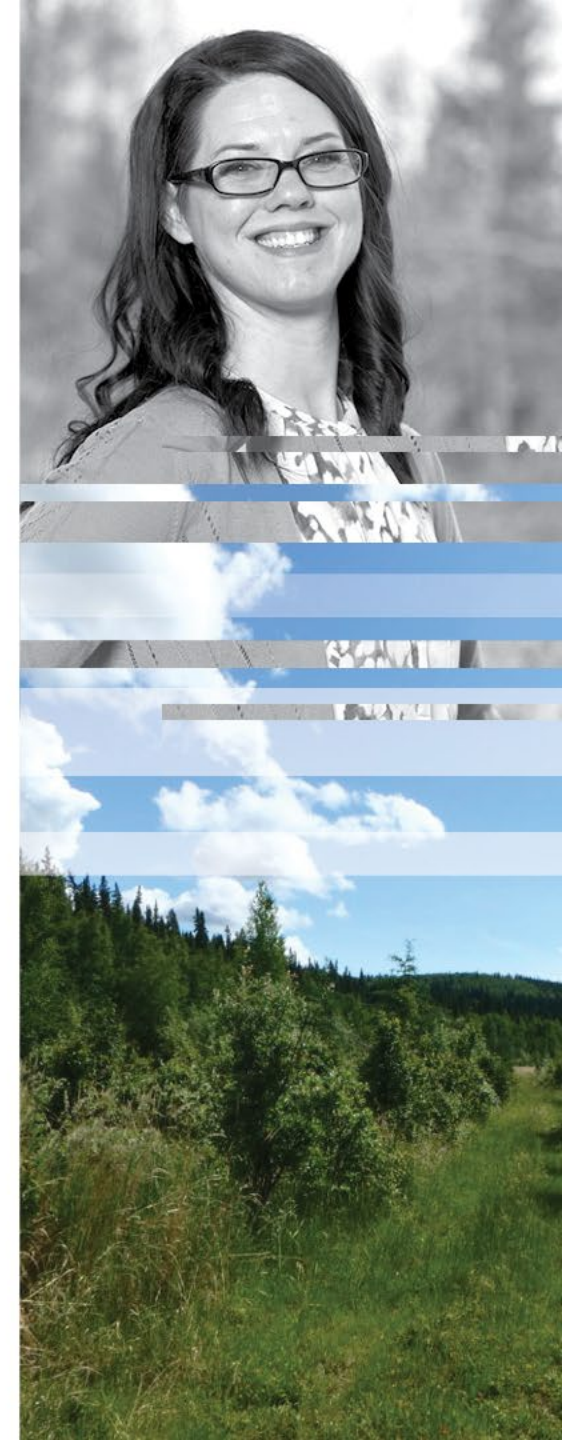


History of the Mini-Grant Program

- The mini-grant program first established in FY 99
- DHSS managed the mini-grants in the beginning
- In FY 08 the Trust took over control of the program
- Contractors were procured to help facilitate ADRD, DD and BH programs, who also manages the financial accounting of the awards
- Alzheimer's Resources of AK managed the ADRD
- All three mini-grant programs utilize Trust and statutory Board staff in reviewing the proposed grants

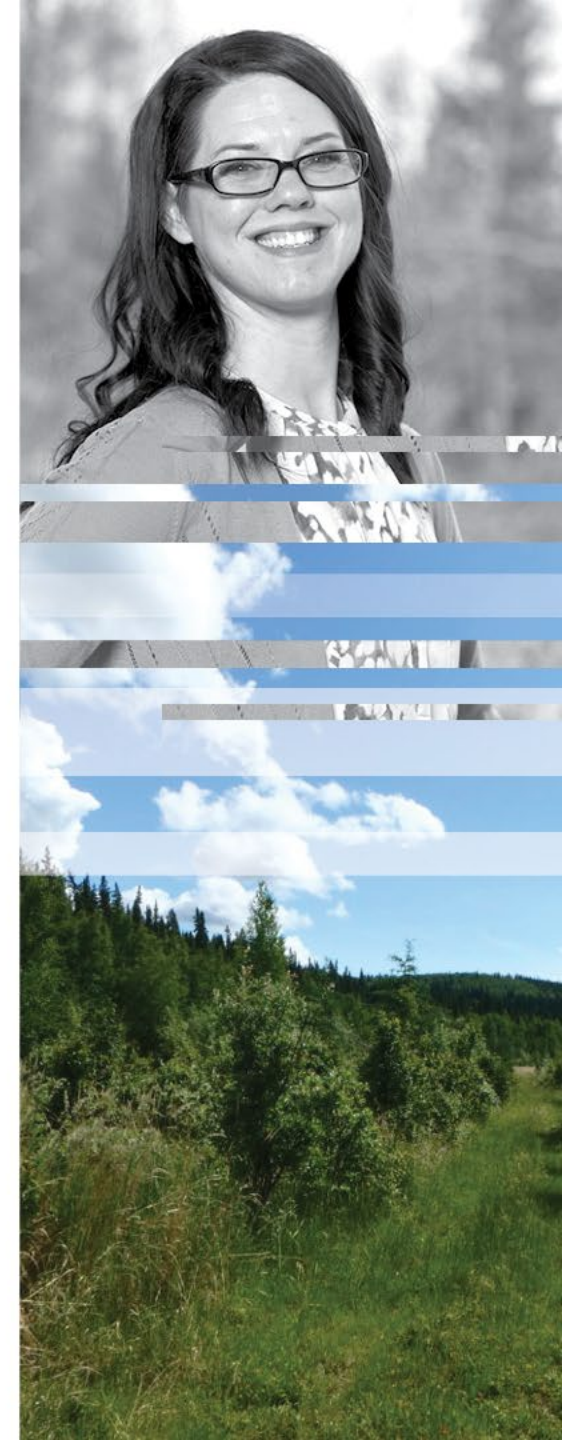
Mini-Grant Structure

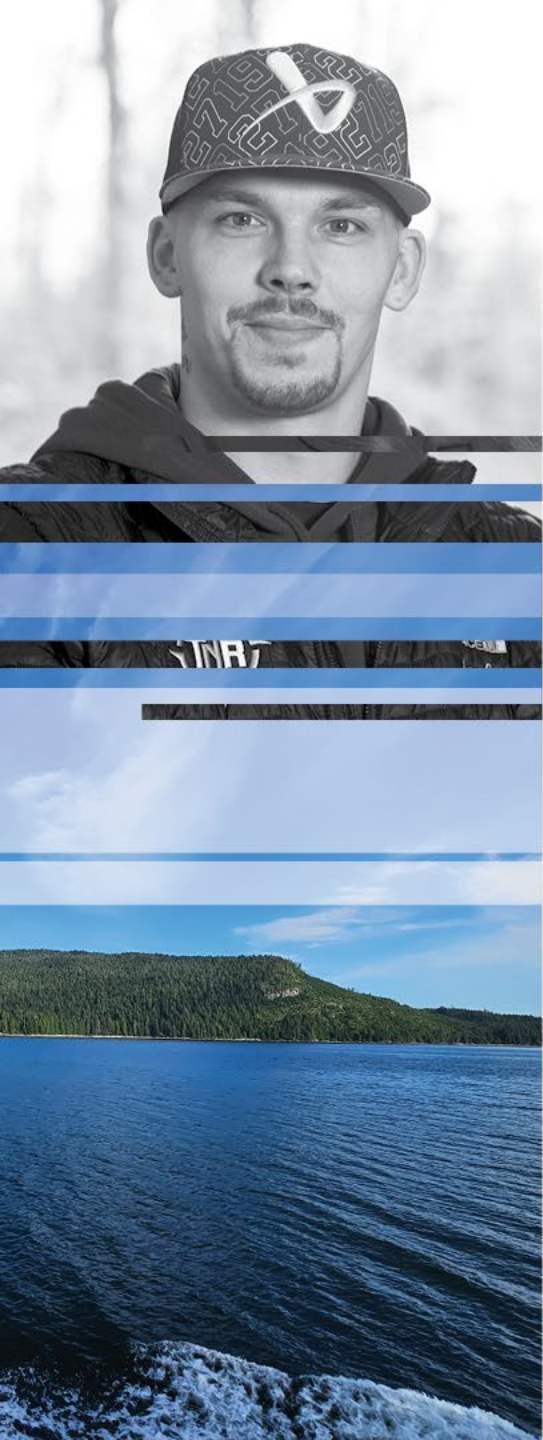
- Mini-grant amounts awarded up to \$2,500
- In FY23, 82% of BH awards and 88% of the DD awards were under \$2,500
- An individual beneficiary is eligible for one grant per FY
- Mini-grant applications must be submitted by a community organization on behalf of an individual beneficiary
- The Trust is prohibited by regulation from awarding grants directly to individuals



Mini-Grant Structure

- There is a monthly committee for each program to review applications
- The Trust contractor executes the agreements
- Grant awards are distributed to the agencies to purchase the items or services
- Following the purchases, receipts are returned to the contractor who verifies they match the items or services awarded
- Following the successful closure of each grant, the community agency receives \$100 to compensate them for their administrative costs





FY 23 Behavioral Health Mini-Grant Application Data:

FY23 Trustee Awarded Amount: \$1,000,000

FY23 Contract for Administration: \$165,600 (16.6%)

FY23 Grants Approved: 522 = \$884,267

FY23 Grants Declined: 184 = \$423,113

Approval Rate: 74% by request (many requests are partially funded)

Total Grants Considered: 706 totaling \$1,248,179

BH Mini-Grant Categories FY 23

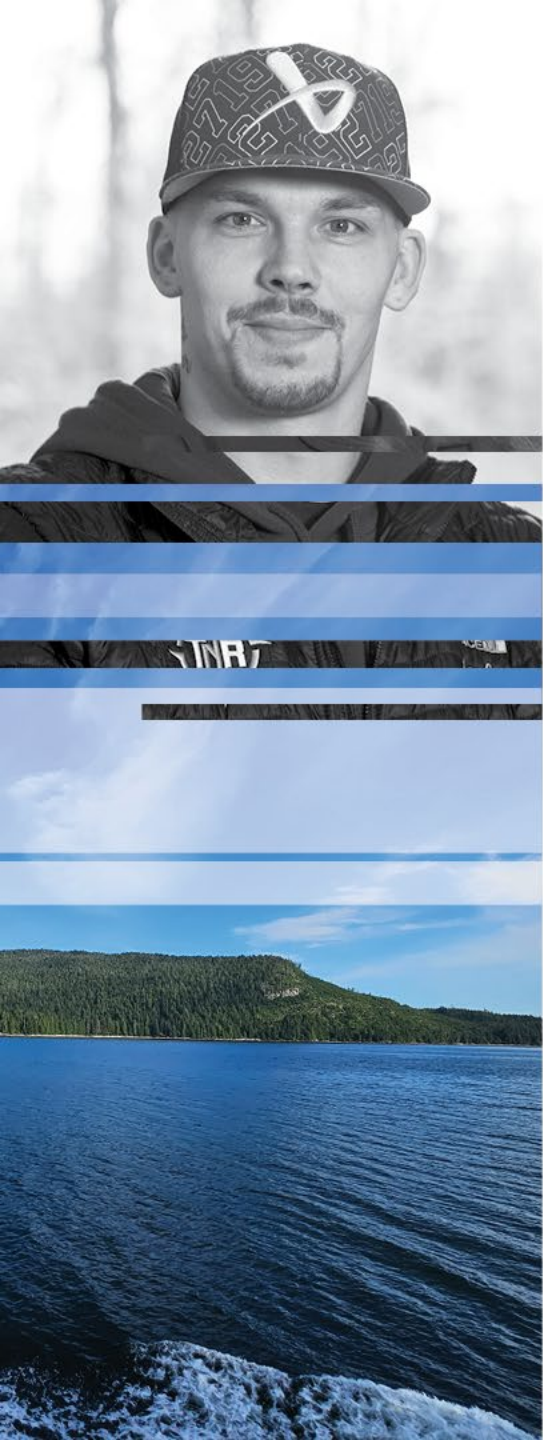
Approved grants by primary request type	Grants	% of Approved Requests	Funding	% of Approved Funding
Beds/Furnishings/Household Items/Computers	299	57.2%	\$461,587	52.2%
Housing Assistance	54	10.3%	\$123,632	14.0%
Vehicle Repairs/Transportation	57	10.9%	\$104,359	11.8%
Dental	23	4.4%	\$63,854	7.2%
Medical/Vision	27	5.7%	\$44,819	5.1%
Health Club Membership	28	5.3%	\$42,804	4.8%
Other	34	6.5%	\$43,221	4.9%





FY 23 Behavioral Health Mini-Grant Geographic Data:

Approved grants by region	Grants	% of Approved Requests	Funding	% of Approved Funding
Anchorage	181	34.7%	\$324,406	36.7%
Southcentral	169	32.4%	\$267,327	30.2%
Southeast	108	20.7%	\$179,410	20.3%
Northern/Interior	53	10.2%	\$89,845	10.2%
Southwest	9	1.7%	\$18,280	2%
Northwest	2	<1%	\$5,000	<1%



FY 23 Developmental Disability Application Data:

FY23 Trustee Awarded Amount: \$450,000

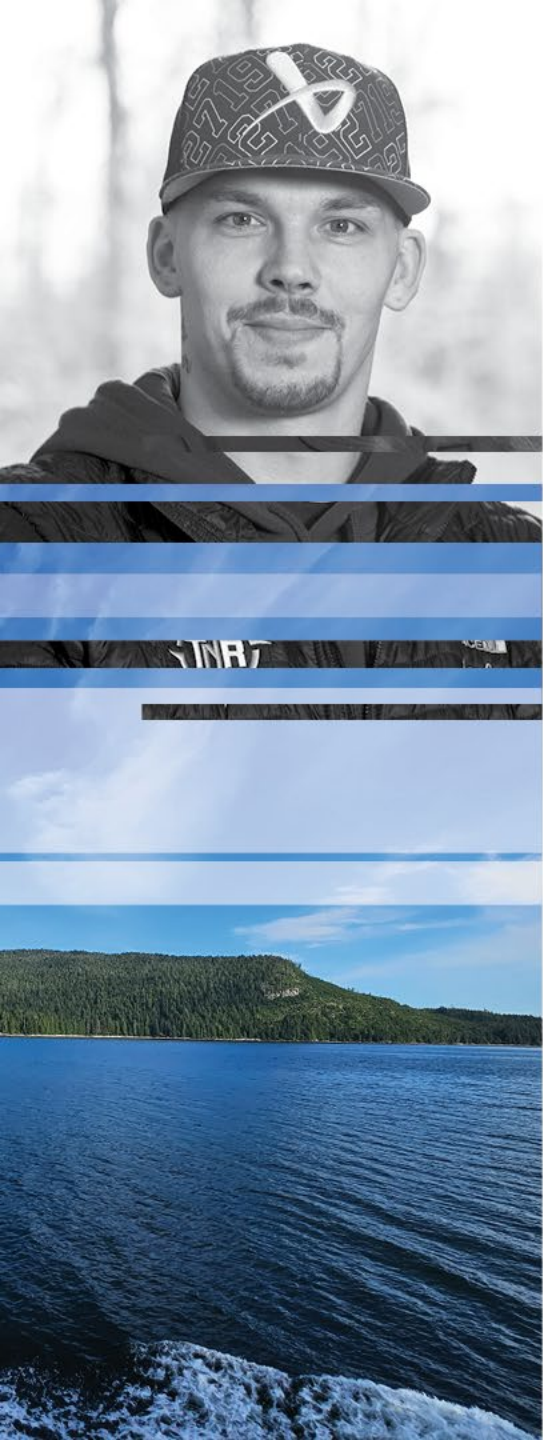
FY23 Contract for Administration: \$58,700 (13%)

FY23 Grants Approved: 271 = \$392,855.67

FY23 Grants Declined: 94 = \$188,678.61

Approval Rate: 74.25% by requests (many requests are partially funded)

Total Grants Considered: 365 totaling \$669,923.44



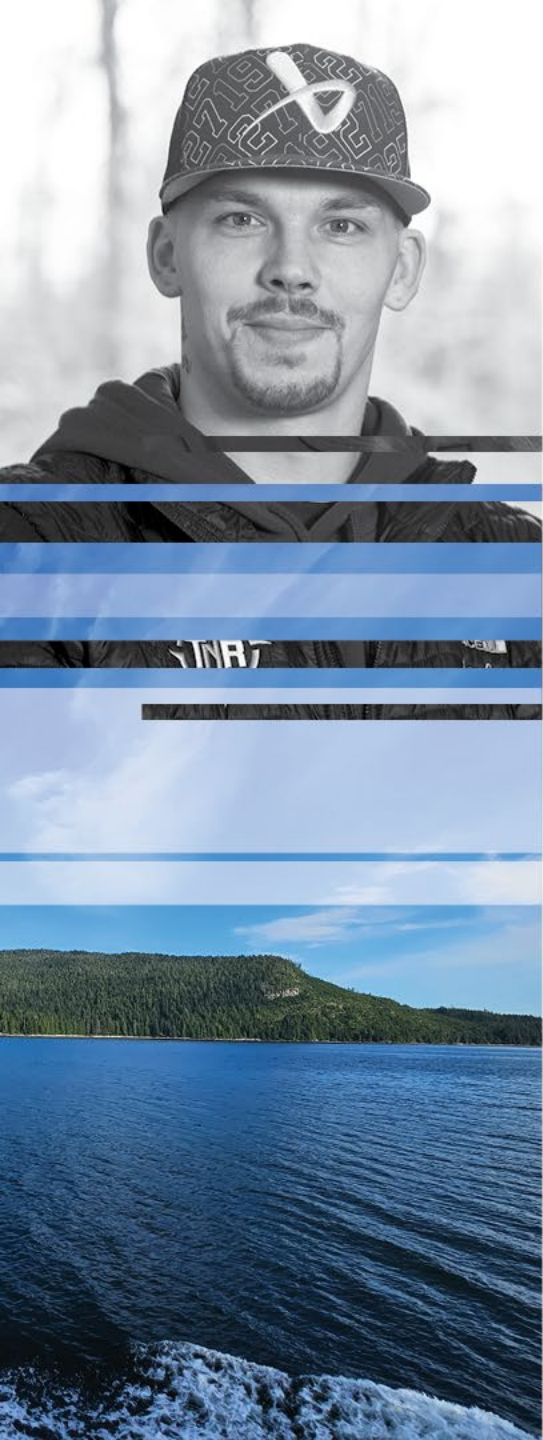
Developmental Disability Mini-Grant Categories FY23

Approved grants by primary request type	Grants	% of Approved Requests	Funding	% of Approved Funding
Medical	62	22.9%	\$91,012	23.2%
Dental	13	4.8%	\$28,461	7.2%
Vision	2	<1%	\$3,375	<1%
Hearing	0	0%	\$0	0%
PT/OT/ST (Therapy)	105	38.7%	\$133,265	33.9%
Home/Env Mods	10	3.7%	\$22,075	5.6%

Developmental Disability Mini-Grant Geographic Data FY 23

Approved grants by region	Grants	% of Approved Requests	Funding	% of Approved Funding
Anchorage	96	35.4%	\$131,388	33.4%
Southcentral	88	32.5%	\$137,602	35%
Southeast	47	17.3%	\$60,700	15.5%
Northern/Interior	27	10%	\$44,949	11.4%
Southwest	10	3.7%	\$16,206	4.1%
Northwest	3	1.1%	\$2,011	<1%
Approved grants by region	Grants	% of Approved Requests	Funding	% of Approved Funding





FY 23 Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementia (ADRD) Mini-Grant Data:

FY24 Trustee Awarded Amount: \$400,000

FY24 Administrative Costs: \$60,000 (15%)

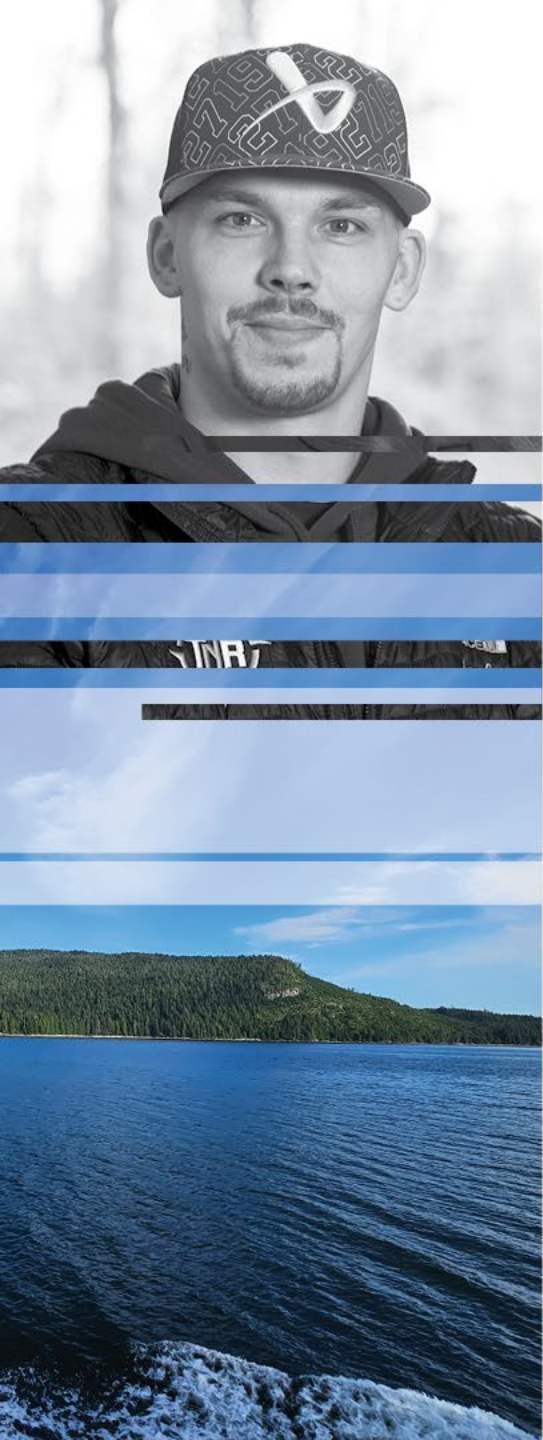
FY24 Grant Total: \$340,000

FY24 Grants Approved: 236 = \$383,349.59

ADRD Mini-Grant Categories FY 23

Item Category	Total Number of Grants Awarded	Total \$ Amount Awarded	Percentage of Funding	Item Category
Accessibility	58	\$88,768.51	23.2%	Accessibility
Adaptive	45	\$52,803.32	13.8%	Adaptive
Dental	11	\$35,623.02	9.3%	Dental
Hearing	1	\$2,500.00	0.7%	Hearing
Medical	2	\$490.00	0.1%	Medical
Other	4	\$9,910.39	2.6%	Other
Respite	62	\$141,881.25	37.0%	Respite





FY 23 ADRD Mini-Grant Geographic Data:

Regions/Service Areas	Total Number of Grants Awarded	Total \$ Amount Awarded	Percentage of Funding
Bethel	5	\$6,117.53	1.6%
Fairbanks	12	\$20,207.18	5.3%
Anchorage	144	\$212,610.97	55.5%
Cordova, Valdez, Kenai Peninsula	12	\$20,115.69	5.2%
Other (Willow, Talkeetna, etc.)	9	\$12,601.31	3.3%
Mat-Su	22	\$40,397.95	10.5%
Juneau	6	\$9,649.96	2.5%
Southeast - Other	26	\$61,648.99	16.1%
TOTAL	236	\$383,349.59	100%

What has worked well....

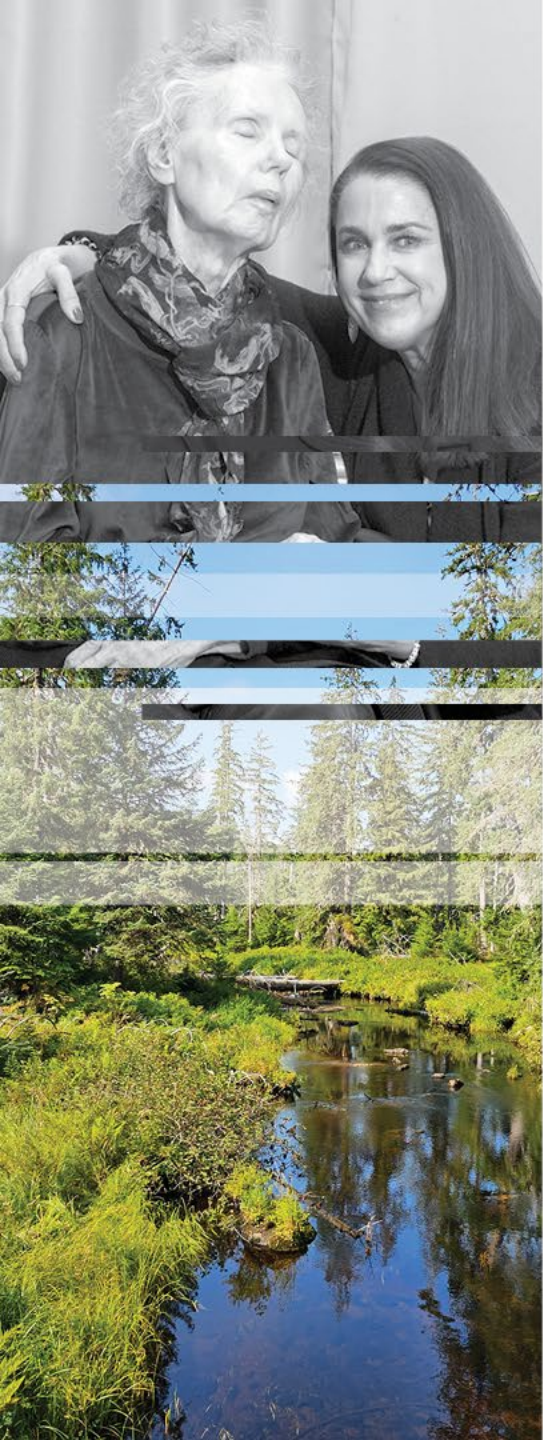
- The Trust has successfully administered the BH and DD mini-grant program with a contractor on a monthly basis
- This equates to over 9,000 grant awards executed through the contractor over this 18-year period
- 9,000 mini-grant awards add up to over \$14.4 million dollars





Mini-Grant systems that could be improved:

- Trust beneficiaries who are not currently engaged with a care coordinator, provider, or clinician have difficulty accessing mini-grants
- Most providers/care coordinators are in larger communities
- Significant staff time is allocated to supporting the review of BH and DD applications
- Are there technological platforms that the Trust could explore to improve the process?
- Calls from beneficiaries and agencies regarding mini-grants and applications are the vast majority of incoming calls to the Trust



Mini-Grant Options Going Forward

- Grants to Statewide or regional organizations (like the ADRD model)
- Bring them in-house and hire additional staff
- Expand the current model to enhance the operations of the contractor to include assistance to beneficiaries and organizations



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Questions and Discussion

