

FY26 Stakeholder Budget Survey Results Summary

A survey was developed and fielded to gather supplemental information to help inform the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority’s (Trust) FY26 budget development process.

A 27-item survey was used to feedback about how the Trust is doing, how its efforts align with stakeholders’ ideas, and whether the Trust is working in relevant and appropriate areas of emphasis. The survey also examined the prioritization of current Trust strategies, the identification of potential new strategies, and the identification of key policy areas, especially in rural communities, the Trust should consider in the FY26 budget cycle. This FY26 survey was a notable modification from the 15-item survey used in FY25’s budget development. The average time to complete the survey increased from approximately 10 minutes in FY25 to almost 25 minutes in FY26.

The survey was distributed electronically to an estimated 3-4,000 people across the state via the Trust email distribution list, Trust staff networks, and the Trust website and social media accounts. In multiple instances, the survey was reforwarded and distributed by stakeholders to their stakeholder networks. It was primarily distributed to people who have at least a limited awareness of the Trust. However, there were some participants, members of the public, who did not appear to be aware of the Trust.

The survey was open from February 15, 2024, to March 25, 2024.

WHO COMPLETED THE SURVEY

344 surveys, or roughly a 10% return rate (based on the distribution of 3-4,000 surveys) were submitted by participants across the state, of which 328 indicated their sole affiliations listed below. Many provided comments indicating they had multiple affiliations across categories (beneficiary, non-profit, friend/family, etc.).

Affiliation	Number	%
Non-Profit Providing Services/Care Coordination to Trust Beneficiaries	112	33.8
State Government	68	21
Tribal Government, Corporation, or Health Organization	32	9.8
Community Coalitions Supporting Trust Beneficiaries	26	7.9
For-profit organizations providing Services/Care Coordination to Trust Beneficiaries	24	7.3
Members of the Public interested in Trust beneficiary related issues	22	6.7
Friend, Family Member, or Caregiver of a Trust Beneficiary	20	6.1
Trust Beneficiary	18	5.5
Local Government	4	1.2
Trade Organization Representing Professionals Providing Services/Care Coordination to Trust Beneficiaries	3	.91

All regions of the state were represented with 75% coming from the three main population centers in Anchorage/Mat-Su, Fairbanks, and Juneau.

Behavioral Health Region	# of People Responding	% of People Responding
Anchorage	158	46.3
City and Borough of Juneau	37	10.8
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	34	9.9
Fairbanks North Star Borough	31	9.1
Kenai Peninsula Borough	19	5.6
Southeast Region – South (Ketchikan Gateway Borough, Prince of Wales-Hyder Census Area)	15	4.4
Southeast Region – North (Haines Borough, Hoonah-Angoon Census Area, Petersburg Borough, Sita City & Borough, Skagway Municipality, Wrangell City & Borough, Yakutat City & Borough)	13	3.8
Southwest Region (Aleutians East Borough, Aleutians West Census Area, Bristol Bay Borough, Dillingham Census Area, Kodiak Island Borough, Lake and Peninsula Borough)	10	2.9
Northwest Region (Nome Census Area, North Slope Borough, Northwest Borough)	6	1.7
Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Region (Bethel Census Area, Kusilvak Census Area)	5	1.5
Other Interior Region (Chugach Census Area, Copper River Census Area, Denali Borough, Southeast Fairbanks Census Area, Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area)	4	1.2
Other (Did not identify a Region)	9	2.6

HIGHLIGHTS

HOW DO YOU FEEL THE TRUST IS DOING TO PROVIDE LEADERSHIP IN IMPROVING THE LIVES OF BENEFICIARIES?

- Overall, across 6 domains of Trust functions: 75% (261) reported on a scale of 1-10 (doing a great job), an average rating of 7.5.

Trust strategies to help improve the lives of Trust beneficiaries	Average Response
Advocating for relevant policy or programming	7.7
Planning for needed policy or programming	7.5
Implementing policy or programming	7.4
Grantmaking to State & Community Partners addressing Trust beneficiary related issues	7.8
Ensuring the State has a Comprehensive Integrated Mental Health Program Plan	7.2
Improving systems that serve or support Trust beneficiaries	7.3
Overall Average Rating	7.5

Participants were offered the opportunity to provide thoughts on how the Trust could improve our efforts to improve the lives of beneficiaries. A variety of responses were provided with generally positive comments and feedback for the Trust to consider. There were also constructive comments that

identified opportunities for improved understanding of Alaska’s system of care, and Trust partners and their priorities.

HOW WELL DO TRUST FOCUS AREAS & PRIORITY INITIATIVES ALIGN WITH WHAT YOU THINK IS IMPORTANT FOR TRUST BENEFICIARIES?

- Overall, 75% of participants indicated the focus area and priority initiatives aligned with what they thought was important for Trust beneficiaries.

Focus Area & Priority Initiatives Alignment	% Participants Indicating, they were Neutral	% of Participants Indicating Agreement	% of Participants Indicating Perfect Agreement	Average Rating
Beneficiary Employment & Engagement	9.5	76.6	23.3	5.7
Disability Justice	13	72.1	23	5.6
Early Childhood, Intervention & Prevention	14	77.5	25	5.6
Home & Community-Based Services	9	79.2	29.4	5.6
Safe & Affordable Housing	9.1	73.2	26.4	5.4
Mental Health & Addictions Intervention	9	79.4	31.3	5.6
Workforce Development	15	71.2	25	5.5
Overall Average Rating				5.6

Participants were offered the opportunity to provide thoughts on different or new ideas for the Trust to consider in trying to improve the lives of beneficiaries. A variety of comments were provided with generally positive and supportive of current efforts and also provided potential new ideas for the Trust to consider. Many of the comments relate to activities or interventions that fall within the current focus and priority area categories.

WHAT IS YOUR LEVEL OF SUPPORT FOR THE TRUST CONTINUING TO FOCUS EFFORTS AND RESOURCES ON CURRENT FOCUS AREAS AND PRIORITY INITIATIVES?

- Overall, 87% of the 232 participants responding to the question (with a range of 83.4 – 90.7%) affirmed and indicated support for the Trust focus areas and priority initiatives.

Focus Area and Other Priority Initiatives	% of Participants Indicating Support	% of Participants Indicating High Support
Beneficiary Employment & Engagement	83.4	41.1
Disability Justice	84.4	41.1
Early Childhood, Intervention & Prevention	85.6	51.5
Home & Community-Based Services	90.7	50.7
Safe & Affordable Housing	88.9	52
Mental Health & Addictions Intervention	90.4	56.2
Workforce Development	86	48.5
Overall Average	87.1%	48.7%

Participants were offered the opportunity to offer new or different priorities to focus our efforts. Similar to ratings that affirmed and current focus and priority areas, there were positive and supportive comments for current efforts. In the wide range of comments offered, many of the suggestions fell within the existing focus and priority areas, as well as some potential new strategies for us to consider.

TRUST FOCUS AREAS & INITIATIVE STRATEGIES

Participants offered a variety of input on current strategies and policies across the Trust’s different focus areas, areas of emphasis, and initiatives. Much of the content offered by survey respondents was specific to established individual focus areas or priority areas.

The responses to questions about prioritization, strategies, and key policy issues have been organized below alphabetically by focus area and priority initiative. In addition to prioritization ratings, there was a wide range of comments suggesting potential new strategies, policy areas, and strategies and policies for rural communities.

The strategy ratings for each focus and priority initiative follow.

BENEFICIARY EMPLOYMENT & ENGAGEMENT Strategy	Average Rating (1 Low to 5 High)	% Of Participants rating Strategy Medium to High Priority	% Of Participants rating Strategy as a High Priority
Utilize ongoing recovery (including peer and family) support services to reduce the impact of mental health and substance use disorders	4.2	95.4	53.4
Beneficiaries increase self-sufficiency	4.0	92.6	38.7
Expand resources that promote successful, long-term employment for Trust beneficiaries	3.9	92.2	35.3

DISABILITY JUSTICE Strategy	Average Rating (1 Low to 5 High)	% Of Participants rating Strategy Medium to High Priority	% Of Participants rating Strategy as High Priority
Community intervention and diversion	4.2	96.2	48.4
Re-entry	4.2	92.4	51.1
Community prevention	4	89.4	43
Increased capacity, training, & competencies	4	90.3	30.3
In-facility practices	4	88.4	32
Systems and Policy Development	4	86.3	26.2

EARLY CHILDHOOD, INTERVENTION & PREVENTION PRIORITY AREA Strategy	Average Rating (1 Low to 5 High)	% Of Participants rating Strategy Medium to High Priority	% Of Participants rating Strategy as High Priority
Reduce instances and impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES)	4.4	94.8	64
Ensure accurate identification of social-emotional needs of children and their caregivers.	4.2	94.3	49.2
Promote practice-informed, universal screening efforts and early intervention services	4.2	93	55.4

HOUSING & HOME AND COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES FOCUS AREA Strategy	Average Rating (1 Low to 5 High)	% Of Participants rating Strategy Medium to High Priority	% Of Participants rating Strategy as a High Priority
Beneficiaries have safe, stable housing with tenancy supports	4.6	97	66.7
Beneficiaries access effective and flexible person-centered HCBS	4.3	99.5	47.2
Housing and Home & Community-Based Services (HCBS) Policy Coordination and Capacity Development	4.1	99.7	43.4
Optimize information technology and data analytics	3.4	76.1	23.9

MENTAL HEALTH & ADDICTION INTERVENTION FOCUS AREA Strategy	Average Rating (1 Low to 5 High)	% Of Participants rating Strategy Medium to High Priority	% Of Participants rating Strategy as a High Priority
Expand the continuum of behavioral health interventions, services, and supports for youth and adults	4.5	97	66
Improve treatment and recovery support services	4.5	97.2	64.1
Ensure Alaskans have access to comprehensive crisis services and supports (Crisis Now)	4.4	95	61
Increase awareness, and improve knowledge to prevent drug and alcohol misuse	3.7	85	31

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PRIORITY AREA Strategy	Average Rating (1 Low to 5 High)	% Of Participants rating Strategy Medium to High Priority	% Of Participants rating Strategy as a High Priority
Ensure a stable, sustainable statewide network of healthcare providers is available to serve Alaskans with behavioral health needs	4.5	97.2	70.1
Expand and enhance training and professional development opportunities for all healthcare and healthcare professionals	4.2	94.3	51.4
Support curriculum development and the training of health professionals to ensure they learn, enhance, and update essential knowledge and skills	4.1	91.5	51