

FY27 Budget Stakeholder Survey Executive Summary

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A survey was developed and fielded to gather supplemental information to help inform the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority's (Trust) FY27 budget development process.

A 19-item survey was developed to gather feedback about how the Trust is doing, how its efforts align with stakeholders' ideas, whether the Trust is working in relevant and appropriate areas of emphasis, the prioritization of current strategies, the identification of potential new strategies, and the identification of key policy areas, especially in rural communities, the Trust should consider in the FY27 budget cycle. This was a modification from the 27-item survey used in FY26. The average time to complete the survey decreased from approximately 25 minutes in FY26 to 11 minutes in FY27.

The survey was distributed electronically to approximately 3-4,000 estimated people across the state via the Trust email distribution list, Trust program officers, and 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 April 7, 2025, to June 2, 2025.

WHO COMPLETED THE SURVEY

261 surveys, or roughly a 6-8% return rate (based on the distribution of 3-4,000 surveys) were submitted by participants across the state, of which 253 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	95	37.6
State Government	49	19.4
Trust Beneficiary	25	9.9

Members of the Public interested in Trust beneficiary related issues	21	8.3
Friend, Family Member, or Caregiver of a Trust Beneficiary	19	7.5
Community Coalitions Supporting Trust Beneficiaries	15	5.9
Tribal Government, Corporation, or Health Organization	13	5.1
For-profit organizations providing Services/Care Coordination to Trust Beneficiaries	13	5.1
Local Government	3	1.2

25 individuals identified as [Trust beneficiaries](#), and 19 identified as friends, family members, or caregivers of a Trust beneficiary. This was an increase over FY26.

All regions of the state were represented with 66% (171) coming from the three main population centers in Anchorage/Mat-Su, Fairbanks, and Juneau, while a third came from the more rural regions.

Behavioral Health Region	# Of People Responding	% Of People Responding
Anchorage	101	39.2
Kenai Peninsula Borough	26	10.1
City and Borough of Juneau	24	9.3
Fairbanks North Star Borough	24	9.3
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	22	8.5
Southeast Region - South (Ketchikan Gateway Borough, Prince of Wales-Hyder Census Area)	17	6.6
Southeast Region - North (Haines Borough, Hoonah-Angoon Census Area, Petersburg Borough, Sita City & Borough, Skagway Municipality, Wrangel City & Borough, Yakutat City & Borough)	14	5.4
Southwest Region (Aleutians East Borough, Aleutians West Census Area, Bristol Bay Borough, Dillingham Census Area, Kodiak Island Borough, Lake and Peninsula Borough)	10	3.9
Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Region (Bethel Census Area, Kusilvak Census Area)	10	3.9
Northwest Region (Nome Census Area, North Slope Borough, Northwest Borough)	4	1.6
Other Interior Region (Chugach Census Area, Copper River Census Area, Denali Borough, Southeast Fairbanks Census Area, Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area)	2	0.8
Other (Did not identify a Region)	4	1.6

SURVEY RESPONSE HIGHLIGHTS

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

Participants were asked to rate how the Trust is doing in providing leadership in improving the lives of Trust beneficiaries.

- Overall, across six domains of Trust functions: 79% (207) reported on a scale of 1-10 (doing a great job), an average rating of 7.1, a slight decrease from FY26.

Trust strategies to help improve the lives of Trust beneficiaries	Average Response FY26	Average Response FY27
Advocating for relevant policy or programming	7.7	7.2
Planning for beneficiary services and programs*	7.5	7.1
Implementing beneficiary services and programs*	7.4	7.0
Grantmaking to State & Community Partners addressing Trust beneficiary related issues	7.8	7.2
Ensuring the State has a Comprehensive Integrated Mental Health Program Plan	7.2	7.0
Improving systems that serve or support Trust beneficiaries	7.3	7.0
Overall Average Rating	7.5	7.1
*In FY27, wording was changed slightly on these two items to simplify		

Participants were also offered the opportunity to provide thoughts on how the Trust could improve, and whether there were other activities that the Trust could be engaged in to improve beneficiary outcomes. A variety of comments were provided, with generally positive and constructive responses for the Trust to consider. There were also constructive comments that identified opportunities for improved understanding of the Trust, Alaska's system of care, and Trust partners and their priorities.

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

- Overall, 76% 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 (1 Low to 10 High)	
	FY26	FY27	FY26	FY27	FY26	FY27	FY26	FY27
Beneficiary Employment & Engagement	9.5	13.2	76.6	68.9	23.3	23.6	5.7	5.5
Disability Justice	13	16.7	72.1	68.4	23	24.1	5.6	5.5
Early Childhood, Intervention & Prevention	14	12.1	77.5	75	25	30	5.6	5.4
Home & Community-Based Services	9	12.6	79.2	80	29.4	25.1	5.6	5.6
Safe & Affordable Housing	9.1	15	73.2	73.6	26.4	29	5.4	5.5
Mental Health & Addictions Intervention	9	9.8	79.4	79.3	31.3	30	5.6	5.5
Workforce Development	15	17.7	71.2	70.3	25	23.4	5.5	5.4
Overall Average Rating							5.5	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 generally positive and supportive of current efforts and provided potential new ideas for the Trust to consider. Many of the comments reflected activities or interventions that fall within the current focus and priority area categories.

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

- Overall, 81% of the 177 participants responding to the question (with a range of 79.1 - 88.1%) 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	
	FY26	FY27	FY26	FY27
Beneficiary Employment & Engagement	83.4	79.1	41.1	39
Disability Justice	84.4	79.1	41.1	45
Early Childhood, Intervention & Prevention	85.6	84.7	51.5	55
Home & Community-Based Services	90.7	88.1	50.7	55.4
Safe & Affordable Housing	88.9	86.4	52	55.4
Mental Health & Addictions Intervention	90.4	88.1	56.2	60
Workforce Development	86	81.2	48.5	46

Participants were offered the opportunity to offer new or different priorities to focus our efforts. Similar to ratings that affirmed 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 various 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 STRATEGIES	Average Rating (1 Low to 5 High)		% Of Participants rating Strategy Medium to High Priority		% Of Participants rating Strategy as a High Priority	
Strategy:	FY26	FY27	FY26	FY27	FY26	FY27
Utilize ongoing recovery (including peer and family) support services to reduce the impact of mental health and substance use disorders	4.2	4.3	95.4	97.5	53.4	58.02
Beneficiaries increase self-sufficiency	4.0	4.0	92.6	93.3	38.7	41.1
Expand resources that promote successful, long-term employment for Trust beneficiaries	3.9	3.8	92.2	89.6	35.3	36.2

DISABILITY JUSTICE STRATEGIES	Average Rating (1 Low to 5 High)		% Of Participants rating Strategy Medium to High Priority		% Of Participants rating Strategy as High Priority	
Strategy:	FY26	FY27	FY26	FY27	FY26	FY27
Community intervention and diversion	4.2	4.0	96.2	91.2	48.4	43.2
Re-entry	4.2	4.0	92.4	90.5	51.1	43.5
Community prevention	4	3.9	89.4	89	43	37.7
In-facility practices	4	3.7	88.4	85.4	32	36.1
Increased capacity, training, & competencies	4	3.8	90.3	88.3	30.3	33.8
Systems and Policy Development	4	3.7	86.3	85	26.2	32.2

EARLY CHILDHOOD & YOUTH INTERVENTION- PREVENTION STRATEGIES	Average Rating (1 Low to 5 High)		% Of Participants rating Strategy Medium to High Priority		% Of Participants rating Strategy as High Priority	
Strategy:	FY26	FY27	FY26	FY27	FY26	FY27
Reduce instances and impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES)	4.4	4.3	94.8	93.4	64	61.6
Promote practice-informed, universal	4.2	4.3	93	94	55.4	59

screening efforts and early intervention services						
Ensure accurate identification of social-emotional needs of children and their caregivers.	4.2	4.2	94.3	93.4	49.2	54.3

HOUSING & HOME AND COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES STRATEGIES	Average Rating (1 Low to 5 High)		% Of Participants rating Strategy Medium to High Priority		% Of Participants rating Strategy as a High Priority	
Strategy:	FY26	FY27	FY26	FY27	FY26	FY27
Beneficiaries have safe, stable housing with tenancy supports	4.6	4.5	97	98.6	66.7	47.9
Housing and Home & Community-Based Services (HCBS) Policy Coordination and Capacity Development	4.1	4.1	99.7	94	43.4	47.9
Beneficiaries access effective and flexible person-centered HCBS	4.3	4.3	99.5	96	47.2	47.2
Optimize information technology and data analytics	3.4	3.3	76.1	70	23.9	25.8

MENTAL HEALTH & ADDICTION INTERVENTION STRATEGIES	Average Rating (1 Low to 5 High)		% Of Participants rating Strategy Medium to High Priority		% Of Participants rating Strategy as a High Priority	
Strategy:	FY26	FY27	FY26	FY27	FY26	FY27
Expand the continuum of behavioral health interventions, services, and supports for youth and adults	4.5	4.5	97	98	66	63
Ensure Alaskans have access to comprehensive crisis services and supports (Crisis Now)	4.4	4.4	95	97	61	62.6
Improve treatment and recovery support services	4.5	4.4	97.2	95.9	64.1	61

Increase awareness, and improve knowledge to prevent drug and alcohol misuse	3.7	3.7	85	85	31	35
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WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES	Average Rating (1 Low to 5 High)		% Of Participants rating Strategy Medium to High Priority		% Of Participants rating Strategy as a High Priority	
Strategy:	FY26	FY27	FY26	FY27	FY26	FY27
Ensure a stable, sustainable statewide network of healthcare providers is available to serve Alaskans with behavioral health needs	4.5	4.4	97.2	95.3	70.1	67.6
Expand and enhance training and professional development opportunities for all healthcare and healthcare professionals	4.2	4.1	94.3	92.5	51.4	43.5
Support curriculum development and the training of health professionals to ensure they learn, enhance, and update essential knowledge and skills	4.1	4	91.5	92	51	40

COMPREHENSIVE INTEGRATED MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAM (Comp Plan)

Participants were asked to select the Comp Plan Area of Focus (AoF) with the highest priority for the Trust to focus its efforts upon in FY27. Approximately 57.5% (150) of all survey participants responded to the question.

The following are ranked in order of perceived priority.

Comp Plan Goal	% of Responses
<i>AoF 1: Early Childhood & Youth-</i> Programs serving young children and youth will promote resiliency, prevent, and address trauma, and provide access to early intervention services.	28%

AoF 6: Protecting Vulnerable Alaskans - Alaskans are free from abuse, neglect, self-neglect and exploitation.	15.3%
AoF 9: Workforce - The State of Alaska has the workforce capacity in place to support the resources and funding of a Comprehensive Integrated Mental Health Program	11.33%
AoF 7: Services in the Least Restrictive Settings - Trust beneficiaries' behavioral health needs are accurately assessed and met in the least restrictive environment.	10%
AoF 2: Healthcare - Alaskans have access to integrated healthcare options that promote optimal health, wellness, and self-sufficiency.	9.3%
AoF 4: Substance Use Disorder Prevention - Prevention and Treatment for drug and alcohol misuse are provided through collaborative, effective, and informed strategies.	6.7%
AoF 8: Services in Institutional Settings - Trust beneficiaries who are in an institutional setting receive the necessary services and recovery support to return to the community of their choice.	6.7%
AoF 3: Economic and Social Well-Being: Trust beneficiaries have strong economic and social well-being.	6%
AoF 10 Data - The State of Alaska has the data and technology systems in place to support the resources and funding of a Comprehensive Integrated Mental Health Program.	4%
AoF 5: Suicide Prevention: Individuals, families, communities, and governments take ownership to prevent suicides and self-harm in Alaska.	2.7%