

UPDATE

Trust Behavioral Health & Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities Mini Grant Program

Background:

The Behavioral Health & Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities Mini Grant Program (the Mini Grant program) is a long-standing Trust grant designed to provide resources to Trust beneficiaries across the state. The Trust has offered mini grants since 1999, and they continue to serve as an important resource supporting individual beneficiary needs throughout Alaska. While the program has always been popular, there has been a marked increase in demand for Trust mini grants in recent years.

From time to time, the Mini Grant program is updated to refine how it operates. These updates are informed by feedback from Trust beneficiaries, the community organizations that support them, and other factors that influence program effectiveness. We want to reassure you that the core purpose of the Mini Grant program remains unchanged, and it will continue to be available as a reliable resource.

What to Expect:

On July 1, 2026, the Mini Grant program will enter a planned three-month transition period to implement several improvements. The basic aspects of the program will not be changing, and Information Insights will continue to serve as the program's administrator.

While these updates will result in a more responsive and streamlined program, there will be a temporary pause in accepting new applications as improvements are implemented. Mini grant applications will not be accepted for the July 15, August 15, or September 15 application periods. The Mini Grant program will reopen to new applications on September 16, 2026, with the first collection deadline on **October 15, 2026**.

For FY27, the following updates will go into effect:

- **Overall Mini Grant program funding will increase by approximately \$340,000 for FY27.** This increase will allow more individuals to be served through the Mini Grant program.
- **The maximum request amount will increase from \$2,500 to \$3,000.** The Trust has consistently received feedback requesting this change.
- **Information Insights, the program administrator, will be the primary point of contact for all Mini Grant-related inquiries,** including beneficiary/family member navigation and application related questions. This allows a more streamlined approach.
- **The application system will migrate to a new application portal,** dedicated to the Mini Grant program, hosted by Information Insights.

We understand that the temporary program pause will be a hardship for individuals that use the Mini Grants, and we appreciate your patience as we implement these improvements. These changes are designed to ensure the Mini Grant program remains accessible, equitable, and efficient for all Trust beneficiaries.

These changes are only for the Behavioral Health & Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities Mini Grant Program, and do not impact mini grants for individuals with Alzheimer's Disease or Related Dementias.

If you have any questions about the transition period or the upcoming updates, please feel free to reach out to our team.

Additional information, including opportunities for learning about the updates and application portal will be made available later this summer.