

# Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority

## Behavioral Health Mini-Grant Funding Guidelines

### **Eligibility Review:**

This grant requires coordination between applicant, NAMI Juneau, providers, and vendors. **The applicant is responsible to gather all documents needed for the grant application.**

Behavioral Health Mini Grants are awarded on a monthly basis throughout the fiscal year. The application deadline for requests is the close of the business day on the 15th of each month. If the deadline falls on a weekend or holiday, the deadline rolls to the next business day.

Beneficiaries are allowed one Mini Grant per fiscal year. The only exceptions are for \$250 grants for dental examinations. (**See below**).

### **Dental:**

**Medicaid Eligible Beneficiaries:** Only requests to fund dentures and partial plates beyond what Medicaid will cover annually are considered for funding. When possible, case managers are encouraged to utilize Medicaid benefits over two fiscal years. The cost of tooth extractions associated with dentures does not count against the beneficiary's **\$1,150** annual benefit. An estimate from a dental office must be provided prior to review of the request.

If the client has not used all of their annual Medicaid benefits, dentures must be billed at the Medicaid rate. Mini-Grant funds can be used to pay for the balance of the Medicaid cost. If all Medicaid benefits have been used, the cost of dentures are subject to the dentist's billing rate.

**Non-Medicaid Eligible Beneficiaries:** Grants of up to **\$ 250** are available for the purpose of obtaining an estimate. These grants are the exception to the one grant per fiscal year guideline. A second request is filed for the dental work when a dental treatment plan has been obtained. Depending on the nature of the dental work required grants may be approved for amounts greater than the \$2,500 limit. Requests for dental work in Anchorage and Fairbanks are referred to the Anchorage and Fairbanks Neighborhood Health Centers.

### **Computers / Laptops:**

Requests for computers and laptops are funded up to **\$1,000** including a printer. The need for a computer must be justified by school or business requirements. In situations where there is readily available access to computers especially in school environments funding may not be approved. Exceptions to the \$1,000 limit are made when there is a need for a more high-end computer such as graphic arts or voice recognition software. Requests must also demonstrate that the beneficiary is in a stable recovery status.

In many cases where web browsing and email will meet their client's computing needs, case managers are encouraged to look into the practicality of requesting a netbook, (reasonably priced alternatives to laptops).

Whenever possible, clients are encouraged to pay for their own Internet connections.

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### **Vehicles:**

Repairs are funded with an estimate from an established repair shop and the extent of repairs requested is balanced against the age and value of the vehicle. Consideration is also given to the importance of the vehicle in the beneficiary's life such as continuing treatment, work and independence in the community. Replacement tires also qualify for funding.

Direct purchases of vehicles are rarely funded due to sustainability issues of maintenance, fuel and insurance. One of the few that were funded involved the replacement of an existing vehicle and public transportation was not an option.

### **Clothing:**

Requests for new clothing are funded up to **\$ 500** with exceptions for specialized work clothing or severe weather outerwear.

### **Beds:**

Requests for beds are approved up to **\$1,000** for standard mattresses. Specialized beds such as Tempur-Pedic mattresses are funded on a case by case basis depending on the condition of the beneficiary and the recommendation of their health care provider.

### **House Furnishings:**

Furniture requests are funded up to **\$1,500** per recipient. Requests for clients that are on waiting lists for housing will not be funded until the client receives their housing voucher. Case managers are encouraged to explore the possibility of purchasing used furniture in order to make the most of grant funding.

### **Equipment/Tools:**

Requests for work equipment and tools are considered for those in a stable recovery status and preferably with a statement from their employer.

### **Education:**

Classes are funded on a case-by-case basis depending on how they tie into the beneficiary's treatment plan and if there is no other funding source available.

### Items Not Funded by Mini-Grants:

1. Direct medical or behavioral health treatment.
2. Most home repairs, beneficiaries are referred to weatherization and energy assistance programs.
3. Requests covered by other funding sources.
4. Good or services that have already been purchased cannot be reimbursed with grant funds.