



Alaska Reentry Partnership

A statewide coalition of individuals and organizations promoting success for justice-involved Alaskans at all phases of their involvement—pretrial, incarceration, reentry. Members include people with lived experience, family members, reentry coordinators and reentry case managers, community providers, state and local agencies.

2026 Bills & Budget Highlights

HB 26 - Statewide Public and Community Transit Plan, by Rep. Mina. Addresses statewide public transit planning, to include coordination with the public, Tribal, and communities to address the needs of citizens without transportation resources, including people leaving incarceration.

HB 73 / SB 76 - Complex Care Residential Homes (CCRH) Licensure, by Governor Dunleavy. Authorizes the Department of Health to license and regulate “complex care residential homes” to serve the health care needs of Alaskans with complex behavioral, medical, and/or disability-related needs. This new license type will allow for ongoing care in a long-term home-like environment.

HB 138 / SB 196 - Behavioral Health Crisis Surcharge and Fund, by Rep. Mina/ Sen. Kawasaki. Establishes a surcharge on wireless and landline telephone numbers to provide sustainable funding for the state’s capacity to respond to mental health crisis emergencies—such as 988 crisis hotline, stabilization, mobile teams—that decrease reliance on more expensive emergency services—such as law enforcement, emergency rooms, and corrections.

HB 195 / SB 147 Pharmacist Prescription Authority, by Rep. Mina/Sen. Giessel. Modernizes health care delivery by authorizing pharmacists in Alaska to provide direct patient care services in alignment with their education, training, licensure, and clinical expertise. It would enable pharmacists to provide prescriptive authority for opioid use disorder, reducing unnecessary emergency room visits and increase patient access to preventative care for improved health outcomes.

HB 270 - Opioid Overdose Drug Prescription, by Rep. Tomaszewski. Amends existing statute related to issuing prescriptions for opioid overdose drugs when opioids are prescribed in certain quantities and dosage, and when patients have a history of overdose or substance use disorder.

SB 62 - Board of Parole Membership, by Sen. Tobin. Expands the number of seats on the Alaska Parole Board from five to seven and establishes new criteria, including requiring that one member has drug and alcohol rehabilitation support experience, one is a member of a federally-recognized tribe, one is a licensed physician, psychiatrist, or psychologist, and one is a member of a crime victim advocacy group.

SB 83 - Telehealth Reimbursement Rates, by Sen. Claman. Requires that health insurers in Alaska reimburse health care services provided by telehealth at the same rate as in-person services.

SB 126 - Correctional Facilities, Placement, by Sen. Yundt. Creates authority to pursue out-of-state options for housing Alaskan inmates with seven or more years remaining on their sentence, if the cost is less than housing in the state. Also requires Alaskan inmates from being housed with out-of-state inmates to prevent “mixing with more hardened criminals.”

SCR 2 - Support Crisis Care & Medicaid Reform, by Senate Health & Social Services Committee. Supports an all-payer model for crisis continuum of care and Medicaid reform to ensure that all payers support essential crisis services, red tape and inefficiencies are removed, and flexible solutions are prioritized.

FY27 Operating & Mental Health Budget:

Crisis Call/Contact Center (DOH).

\$1 million MHTAAR (adds +\$250,000) for a call-in emergency response for people experiencing and mental health or substance use crisis. Call center staff provide de-escalation, intervention, triage, and referral to services. DOH also requests authority for +\$585,000 federal funds to expand operations to 24 hours/day, 7 days/week, 365 days/year.

Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) and Behavioral Health Training for First Responders (DPS).

\$60,000 MHTAAR (adds +\$10,000) for CIT training for Alaska State Troopers, offering skills in de-escalation, intervention, and diversion for a person experiencing a behavioral health crisis.

Address Co-Occurring Mental Health & Addiction Issues (DOC). Maintains \$151,700 MHTAAR for a nurse at the subacute mental health unit at Goose Creek Correctional Center in Wasilla who administers medication, reviews medical requests, and monitors healthy hygiene habits.

Supported Employment (UA). Maintains \$75,000 MHTAAR for planning, training, coordination, and collaboration with community agencies to ensure access to training and employment resources for a competent workforce.

Trauma Treatment for Incarcerated Women (DOC). Maintains \$150,000 MHTAAR for trauma services for women at Hiland Mountain Correctional Center (HMCC) and Yukon-Kuskokwim Correctional Center (YKCC), including in-person groups, individual counseling, and telehealth services.

Discharge Incentive Grants (DOC). Maintains \$200,000 MHTAAR. Assists with monthly rent and housing support for vulnerable, marginalized, and mentally ill inmates leaving incarceration that includes treatment, housing, and sobriety support.

Peer Support Certification (DOH). Maintains \$50,000 MHTAAR for ongoing training and

certification coordinated by DOH for Peer Support Specialists, with oversight of the Commission for Behavioral Health Certification and Peer Support Statewide Conference. Peer support is a foundational recovery-based strategy highlighted in the state's 1115 Medicaid Behavioral Health Waiver.

Complex Care Program (DFCS). Maintains \$400,000 MHTAAR for admissions, assessments, treatment plan coordination, discharge planning, and identifying gaps to improve care for individuals with complex health needs.

Small Group Home Placements for Stabilized Clients with Complex Needs (DFCS). Maintains \$750,000 GF to serve vulnerable Alaskans who are leaving psychiatric, residential care, corrections to move to group homes, with under three clients. Small group home settings encourage socialization, improved supervision and resident and staff rapport, and typically lead to improved behaviors and outcomes. Alaska Psychiatric Institute's (API) current average per patient daily rate is about \$2,500, or \$912,500 per year. Small group home settings cost below \$1,200 per day, a savings of \$474,500 annually per client served.

Trauma Engaged Schools: Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) (DEED).

\$150,000 MHTAAR (adds +\$20,000) to assist school districts (counselors, social workers, teachers, staff) in developing mental health supports for schools, prioritizing rural and remote districts that do not have adequate mental health resources.

Criminal Justice Mental Health First Aid Train the Trainers (UA).

Adds +\$50,000 MHTAAR for Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) train-the-trainers for up to 16 new professional criminal justice trainers in Alaska. MHFA equips professionals with the skills to recognize, de-escalate, and connect people in crisis to appropriate care.

Alaska Training Cooperative (AKTC) (UA).

\$585,000 MHTAAR. The AKTC, which is part of University of Alaska Anchorage's Center for Human Development (CHD), manages training for direct care staff statewide who work with disability agencies.