

State of Alaska
Legislative Finance Division
PO Box 113200
Juneau, AK 99801

RE: Support for CoF -Capital Funding Legislative Priority -Stabilization Center

The City of Fairbanks is requesting funding for a Crisis Stabilization Center which will serve the Interior Region of Alaska and will lead to timely community-based crisis and suicide care for individuals and families.

The stabilization center would be a facility where any person in crisis in need of behavioral healthcare could be brought to receive the medical and treatment assistance they need. Our community members, many the family and friends of loved ones with serious mental illness, have been advocating for an alternative to an emergency room or correctional facility for years. The crisis stabilization center would be operated on the Crisis Now principle of 'No Wrong Door' to accept 100% of referrals from law enforcement, emergency services, providers, and the public.

A mobile crisis team (MCT) in the City of Fairbanks, funded by the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority, is now being dispatched to residents of the Fairbanks North Star Borough who find themselves in crisis. The MCT goes to wherever individuals are located, and the specialized team of a mental health clinician and peer support specialist intervene with crisis care, a safety plan on site and offer a next day appointment to behavioral health treatment and medication management. The MCT and our public safety agencies need a comprehensive facility where they can take individuals in crisis where they know they will be accessed, monitored, and treated before being discharged back into the community with a robust care plan.

The vision for the stabilization center is that ultimately multiple providers would be able to share space to provide the services they do best for individuals, whether that be stabilization care, addiction medication, screenings and referrals for treatment, outpatient treatment, partial hospitalization, or navigation/care coordination.

Please support this effort by the City of Fairbanks to build capacity for individuals in crisis to be served appropriately in the Interior Region without being sent hundreds or thousands of miles from their home communities and families.

Thank you,