



May 14, 2026

Dear Behavioral Health Providers,

Thank you for your continued partnership and for the thoughtful feedback many of you have shared as we work together to improve the long-term stability of our behavioral health system.

After considering provider feedback about system readiness to engage additional changes alongside pending Medicaid rate updates, and the planned development of the crisis continuum, the Division has decided to pause implementation of the following new grant programs: Enhancing Alaska's Behavioral Health Crisis Response Continuum, Alaska Youth Pathways to Behavioral Health, and Treatment Access and Enhancement for Adult Community-Based Behavioral Health Treatment. DBH will continue the existing Comprehensive Behavioral Health Treatment and Recovery (CBHTR) Outpatient and CBHTR Residential grant programs for an additional two years. During this two-year continuation period, DBH will work with behavioral health providers to develop and shape opportunities to ensure these grants are aligned with critical needs.

Providers who applied for FY27 CBHTR Outpatient and/or CBHTR Residentials grants will receive notice through GEMS regarding updated funding amounts. Providers will be requested to revise their budgets reflecting the new award levels and will be submitted as prior to execution deliverables. FY26 CBHTR Outpatient and/or CBHTR Residential grantees who did not apply for FY27 CBHTR grant funding will have an opportunity to apply. A GEMS notification will be issued when the solicitation reopens for both the CBHTR Outpatient and Residential. Providers can expect email notification within the next 1-2 weeks directing them to the GEMS notice. The Grants team is working hard to align awards posting July 1, 2026.

As a reminder, DBH has a responsibility to ensure funding requests are allowable, reasonable, and allocable under 2 CFR Part 200; compliant with the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) requirements related to supplantation and payor-of-last-resort standards; and aligned with State of Alaska regulations under 2 AAC 45. Grantees should review applicable federal guidance to ensure compliance with current SAMSHA requirements.

Changes to FY27 Grants

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Thank you for your continued collaboration and your dedication to serving individuals and families across the state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jennifer Carson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jenn Carson, Director Division of Behavioral Health
State of Alaska Department of Health

