

# ALASKA BEHAVIORAL HEALTH



October 6, 2021

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## SAMHSA Grant Expands Access to Services and Training in Alaska

Funding will serve almost 2000 Alaska children and families

**Alaska Behavioral Health** has begun work under a new grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's *National Child Traumatic Stress Network (NCTSN)*.

AKBH received a Category III service delivery grant to expand access to mental health services through a concentrated outreach effort to reach children and families in Alaska impacted by trauma. The outreach program will work with schools, the [POWER Center](#) youth drop-in program, and the All-Alaska Pediatric Partnership to identify and engage families needing trauma-focused services. Alaska Behavioral Health will provide a variety of evidence-based services to a diverse population, including a high proportion of children involved with the child protection system. Child & Family Clinic Director Kristin Mortenson says, "Alaska has high rates of child abuse and neglect, and we know that we can make a real difference in children's lives by identifying those who need support and giving them the space and skills to heal."

This 5-year, \$2 million grant will serve a total of 1900 children.

The National Child Traumatic Stress Initiative was established by Congress in 2000 to raise awareness about the impact of trauma on children and adolescents as a behavioral health concern and improve the quality of care available for those impacted by trauma. Alaska Behavior Health first joined the network in 2005 with the establishment of the Alaska Child Trauma Center. We are Alaska's only NCTSN Center.

Since 2011, Alaska Behavioral Health has been a regional training hub for the [Complex Trauma Treatment Network](#), a NCTSN trauma training and technical assistance center focused on supporting organizational implementation of trauma practices and multi-agency, regional and statewide trauma initiatives.

Read SAMHSA's press release about the funding here: [SAMHSA awards \\$62.4 million in grants to combat child trauma, with \\$800,000 in American Rescue Plan funds | SAMHSA](#) .

**About Alaska Behavioral Health:** Alaska Behavioral Health, formerly known as Anchorage and Fairbanks Community Mental Health Services, has been providing mental health services to the Anchorage community for more than 45 years and in Fairbanks since 2013. A not-for-profit 501(c)3, Alaska Behavioral Health is nationally accredited by the Council on Accreditation and is licensed by the State of Alaska. Services include individual and group therapy and skill development for children and adults, psychoeducation, psychiatric services, case management, family therapy, and vocational training. ###