



## What is Health TIE?

Health TIE is a project to create a structure for innovative approaches to challenging health and human service issues.

## How did it start?

Health and human service providers across Alaska are experiencing crisis-level shortages of direct support workers. This struggle fits the definition of a “wicked problem”; no clear solution, entwined with many other complex problems, and many opinions and perspectives on how to address it. The Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority has been supporting solution-oriented processes addressing workforce. At the same time, UAA’s Business Enterprise Institute has been facilitating “Open Innovation” processes focused on using entrepreneurial approaches to address community challenges. Connections were made and Health T.I.E. is the outcome.

## What is the goal?

After events focused on defining the pain points and brainstorming the opportunities, plans have emerged to create an Alaskan-based Innovation Hub focused on creating an ecosystem that encourages start-ups and innovative entrepreneurs to tackle “wicked problems” specific to health and human services. While the current focus is direct support workforce, long-term the accelerator could catalyze a variety of projects in the healthcare realm.

## What support is needed?

- ✓ Endorsement of social entrepreneurship as a promising practice
- ✓ Promotion of a culture of innovation in health and human service systems and programs
- ✓ Visibility to help expand the network of support and engagement

## Information & primary contacts

Visit the [Health TIE](#) website, register for the newsletter, or attend the Open Innovation Thursdays. Jacqueline Summers, UAA Business Enterprise Institute - [Jysummers@alaska.edu](mailto:Jysummers@alaska.edu) | 907.227-9421  
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