



# GCDSE: Acronyms and Definitions



Below are common acronyms relating to individuals with disabilities and services they receive.

Organization	Acronym	Description
Administration on Community Living	ACL	Federal agency that oversees programs for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, seniors and independent living centers.
Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities	AIDD	The federal agency responsible for overseeing activities of the DD Councils under the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act. Located in the Administration for Community Living in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.
Adults Public Assistance Program	APA	A cash benefit for individuals who are blind, low income seniors or disabled who are also receiving Supplemental Security Income benefits.
Aging and Disability Resource Center	ADRC	An information and referral system sponsored by the Alaska Department of Senior and Disabilities Services that connects seniors, people with disabilities, and caregivers with long-term services and supports of their choice.
Alaska Association on Developmental Disabilities	AADD	DD provider association that advocates for services for people who experience developmental disabilities.
Alaska Brain Injury Network	ABIN	An agency whose mission is to educate, plan, coordinate, and advocate for services for individuals with brain injuries.
Alaska Coalition on Housing and Homelessness	AKCH2	Statewide organization working to develop strategies to increase the availability of affordable housing and eliminate homelessness in our great state.
Alaska Health and Disability Program	AHDP	A program to increase the health of individuals with disabilities and their emergency preparedness funded through a grant from the Center for Disease Control (CDC).
Alaska Housing Finance Corporation	AHFC	A state program that provides affordable housing loans, public housing programs, energy efficiency and weatherization programs, senior and disability housing programs.
Alaska Infant Learning Provider Association	AILPA	Provider association for agencies that provide services to infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families.
Alaska Integrated Employment Initiative	AIEI	A five year federal grant from AIDD to increase the employment of youth with intellectual and developmental disabilities



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Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority	The Trust	A state corporation that administers a perpetual trust on behalf of Trust beneficiaries. The Trust operates much like a private foundation, using its resources to ensure that Alaska has a comprehensive integrated mental health program to serve Trust beneficiaries (individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, mental illness, chronic substance abuse, and seniors with dementia).
Alaska Psychiatric Institute	API	Alaska Psychiatric Institute is a psychiatric hospital in Anchorage that serves individuals with mental illness.
Alaska Psychiatric Institute	API	Psychiatric hospital in Anchorage with 80 beds.
Alaska Safety Planning Empowerment Network	ASPEN	A Council project to bring system change to coordinate services between provider agencies and the domestic violence and sexual assault communities around services for individuals with developmental disabilities.
Alaska Statewide Special Education Conference	ASSEC	The statewide conference for special education professionals.
Alaska Work Ready Regulation	AWR	
American Association on Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities	AAIDD	An interdisciplinary association of professional and concerned individuals in the field of intellectual and developmental disabilities.
Americans with Disabilities Act	ADA	A federal law providing comprehensive civil rights protections for individuals with disabilities. It guarantees equal opportunity for individuals with disabilities in employment, public accommodations, transportation, state and local government services and telecommunications.
Applied Behavior Analysis	ABA	A professional field that uses principles of learning to increase performance of socially desirable behaviors. It always relies upon the collection of objective data to measure performance and the effectiveness of an intervention.



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Organization	Acronym	Description
ARC of Anchorage	ARCA	A statewide non-profit advocacy organization dedicated to the welfare of children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities, family members, educators, professionals, and the public.
Assessments and Accountability Technical Advisory Committee	TAC	
Assistive Technology	AT	Special items or equipment used to increase, maintain or improve the functioning abilities of an individual with a disability.
Assistive Technology of Alaska	ATLA	The statewide provider of AT services under the Assistive Technology Act.
Association for People Supporting Employment First	APSE	A national association dedicated to the integrated employment of individuals with disabilities.
Association of Programs for Rural Independent Living	APRIL	National network of rural independent living centers, other programs, and individuals concerned with the unique aspects of rural independent living
Autism Spectrum Disorder	ASD	Term for a group of complex disorders of brain development including autism, Rett syndrome, childhood disintegrative disorder, pervasive developmental disorder-not otherwise specified (PDD-NOS) and Asperger syndrome.
Beneficiary Employment and Engagement (Trust Initiative)	BEE	The Trust committee that is focused on improving employment opportunities for individuals who have disabilities.
Center for Human Development	CHD	A UAA program that is a University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities in Education, Research, and Service (UCEDDs) authorized by the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000. They provide education to providers, community training and technical assistance, research and information dissemination regarding individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.



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Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services	CMS	The federal agency responsible for Social Security and Medicaid located in the Department of Health and Human Services.
Client Assistance Program	CAP	helps individuals who experience problems when applying for or receiving vocational rehabilitation or independent living services.
Community Parent Resource Company	CPRC	Serves communities located within the Matanuska Susitna Borough, including outreach to remote areas and villages. They provide support and training, information and referral and parent-to-parent connections. These services are provided through one-on-one assistance from LINKS Advocates and individualized workshops for small or large groups.
Community Rehabilitation Provider	CRP	An individual who is approved to provide supported employment services to an individual with a disability who is a client of the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation.
Community Work Incentives Coordinator	CWIC	An individual certified to provide information on how wages will affect an individual who is receiving Social Security benefits.
Complex Behavior Collaborative	CBC	A state program that provides intensive support and intervention to individuals at risk of being removed from their community and sent to an institution. The CBC provides services to individuals experiencing behaviors that present a high risk of danger to themselves and/or others. The Division of Behavioral Health identified experts knowledgeable in behavior intervention for individuals with developmental disabilities, mental health diagnosis, brain injuries and seniors with dementia. These experts provide individualized training and consultation to local providers and families, increasing their knowledge of behavior management.
Council for Exceptional Children	CEC	A national organization including professionals and parents who work to improve the quality of education for exceptional children.
Denali KidCare	DKC	A state program to provide health insurance to children who live in poverty.
Department of Education and Early Development	DEED	The state department responsible for education of Alaska's children.



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Organization	Acronym	Description
Department of Health and Human Services	DHHS	The federal department that oversees services that improve the health, safety and well-being of individuals.
Department of Health and Social Services	DHSS	The state department that oversees services for Pioneer Homes, behavioral health, health care services, juvenile justice, office of children's services, public assistance, public health, and senior and disability services.
Developmental Disabilities Registration and Review (waitlist)	DDRR	The process the Division of Senior and Disability Services uses to determine eligibility for their services.
Developmental Disability	DD	See definition under I/DD
Developmentally Disabled Assistance and Bill of Rights Act	DD Act	A federal law that creates DD Councils and describes home and community based services. It also provides protections against abuse and neglect of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.
Disability Law Center of Alaska	DLCA	Alaska's protection and advocacy agency that provides legal advocacy for individuals with disabilities.
Division of Behavioral Health	BH	The state agency that provides services to individuals with mental illness.
Division of Behavioral Health	DBH	State office that provides services to individuals with mental illness.
Division of Public Assistance (welfare)	DPA	The state agency responsible for administering public benefits (i.e. food stamps, public assistance checks, heating assistance).
Division of Vocational Rehabilitation	DVR	State agency responsible for assisting individuals with disabilities to obtain and maintain employment.
Durable Medical Equipment	DME	A term used by Medicare and Medicaid to describe equipment needed to assist an individual with a disability (i.e. wheelchair, hospital bed, bathroom chairs)
Early & Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment	EPSDT	A component of Medicaid that requires states to provide screening, diagnosis and treatment of low income children.



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Organization	Acronym	Description
Early Intervention Committee	EIC	Council committee that makes recommendations regarding services for children (birth to age 8) who have disabilities. Alaska's Interagency Coordinating Council for Infants and Toddlers with disabilities.
Early Intervention/Infant Learning Program State Office	EI/ILP	A state agency responsible for early intervention services to infants and toddlers (under the age of 3) with disabilities and their families.
Education Committee	EC	Day to day operations of SEAP which is GCDSE.
Evaluation Summary and Eligibility Report	ESER	A report that summarizes the evaluation done to determine if a student is eligible for special education services under the IDEA. An ESER, also call a re-evaluation or triennial review, must be conducted every three years to assess if a student continues to qualify for special education services.
Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act	FERPA	A federal law that protects the privacy of students receiving special education services.
Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder	FASD	A term which describes a continuum of permanent brain damage and other birth defects caused by maternal consumption of alcohol or drugs during pregnancy.
Free and Appropriate Public Education	FAPE	A provision under the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA) that states all children have the right to a free and appropriate education.
Functional Behavioral Assessment	FBA	An assessment to determine why an individual is demonstrating inappropriate behaviors.
General Fund/Mental Health funding	GF/MH	State funding for the mental health services system which includes services for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.
Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education	GCDSE	Alaska's Council on Developmental Disabilities, Special Education Service Agency, Interagency Coordinating Council on Infants and Toddlers with disabilities, governing board for the Special Education Service Agency, and beneficiary board for the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority.



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Organization	Acronym	Description
Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act	HIPAA	A federal law that prohibits the sharing of personal information and/or medical information.
Home and Community Based Services	HCBS	Services provided to individuals with disabilities in the community often on a waiver from the division of Senior and Disability Services.
Housing and Urban Development	HUD	The federal agency responsible for programs concerned with housing and community development, fair housing opportunities, and improving programs to help families become homeowners, rental subsidies for lower income families and programs that aid neighborhood revitalization and preservation of urban centers.
Impairment Related Work Expense	IRWE	A Social Security Administration work incentive that allows individuals with disabilities to reduce reported wages to pay for items that allow a person to work (i.e., specialized transportation, vehicle modifications, adaptive equipment, personal assistance care, medications and job coaching).
Individualized Education Plan	IEP	An education plan for a child with a disability that is developed and implemented in accordance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).
Individualized Family Service Plan	IFSP	The plan for care for children receiving early intervention services through an infant learning program.
Individualized Plan for Employment	IPE	A written plan developed by the individual and his or her vocational rehabilitation counselor that outlines the individual's employment goal and services needed to reach that goal.
Individualized Service Plan	ISP	The plan of care for individuals receiving home and community based waivers.
Individuals with Disabilities Education Act	IDEA	A federal law describing the services and rights of students with disabilities. Originally P.L. 94-142 Education for all Handicapped Children Act. IDEA also includes Part C (Early intervention Programs for Infant and Toddlers with Disabilities).
Individuals with Disabilities Education Act	IDEA P.L. 94-142	Formerly known as the Education for All Handicapped Children Act, signed into law in 1975



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Organization	Acronym	Description
Infant Learning Program Provider	ILP	Local agencies that provide services to children (birth to 3) who have disabilities and their families.
Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities	I/DD	A severe, chronic disability that is attributable to a mental or physical impairment or combination of mental and physical impairments; is manifested before the individual attains age 22; is likely to continue indefinitely; results in substantial functional limitations in three or more of the following areas of major life activity: self-care, receptive and expressive language, learning, mobility, self-direction, capacity for independent living, economic self-sufficiency; and reflects the person's need for a combination and sequence of special, interdisciplinary, or generic assistance, supports or other services that are of lifelong or extended duration and are individually planned and coordinated. Examples of types of developmental disabilities are mental retardation, cerebral palsy, autism, and seizure disorder. Mental illness and Fetal Alcohol Syndrome may also be developmental disabilities. However, the disability must result in substantial functional limitations and meet the other criteria in the definition in order to qualify as a DD.
Interagency Coordinating Council on Infants and Toddlers with Disabilities	ICC	Alaska's Council that advocates for services for infants and toddlers with disabilities.
Intermediate Care Facility for individuals with I/DD	ICF/IDD	An institution that provides care to individuals with developmental disabilities. Used to be called ICF/MR. Alaska does not currently have any ICF/IDD facilities but we do have individuals sent out of state to ICR/IDD facilities.





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Organization	Acronym	Description
Key Coalition		Educates legislators about the importance of maintaining community-based services for people with disabilities and Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD) through their annual statewide Key Campaign advocacy efforts. Members are individuals who use services, family members, care givers, representatives, providers, businesses, organizations and anyone interested in the rights and full inclusion for all Alaskans. Each year, the Key Coalition sends members to Juneau to speak with legislators about public policy issues affecting people who experience a disability. Contact: 907.227.8165
Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities	LEND	Provides graduate level interdisciplinary leadership training for individuals with a commitment to providing family-centered coordinated systems of health care and related services to improve the health of infants, children, and adolescents who have, or are at risk for developing, autism and other developmental disabilities (Housed at the Center for Human Development).
Least Restrictive Environment	LRE	Assurance that, to the maximum extent possible, children with disabilities, including children in public or private institutions or other care facilities, are education with children who are nondisabled (in accordance with IDEA) with supplementary aids and services.
Local Education Agency	LEA	The local school district.
Mat-Su Parent Resource Center	LINKS/CPRC	An agency in Mat-Su that is the Community Parent Resource Center providing parents with information about special education; an Aging and Disability Resource Center providing families with information and resources about services in the community and they provide mini grants to individuals with brain injuries.
Medicare		A federal health insurance available to people age 65 and over, or who have a qualifying disability.
Mental Health Trust Authority Authorized Receipts	MHTAAR	Funding that is directed by the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority.



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National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities	NACDD	The national organization that provides support and assistance to Councils in order to promote a consumer and families centered system of services and supports for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.
National Disability Rights Network	NDRN	The national association for protection and advocacy agencies.
National Institute on Disability & Rehabilitation Research	NIDRR	A federal agency that provides support for a wide variety of research and related activities that contributes to the rehabilitation, vocational success and integration of individuals with disabilities into the mainstream of society.
Occupational Therapy	OT	The use of treatments to develop, recover, or maintain the daily living and work skills of people with a physical, mental or developmental condition.
Office of Civil Rights (US)	OCR	The federal agency that promotes and ensures that people have equal access to and opportunity to participate in and receive services through the prevention and elimination of unlawful discrimination.
Office of Disability Employment Policy	ODEP	A federal agency in the Department of Labor whose mission is to provide leadership to increase employment opportunities for adults and youth with disabilities.
Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs	OFCCP	The federal office responsible for enforcing federal affirmative action and equal employment laws with federal contractors.
Office of Special Education and Rehabilitation Services	OSERS	Federal agency in the Department of Education that oversees OSEP, office of Civil Rights, the education of limited English proficient students, Federal student aid, vocational rehabilitation, and post-secondary education.
Office of Special Education Programs	OSEP	Federal agency responsible for special education programs and services designed to meet the needs and develop the full potential of children with disabilities
Partnerships in Employment	PIE	A federal grant program to assist individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities become employed. A project of national significance funded by the Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities.



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Organization	Acronym	Description
Personal Care Assistant	PCA	Person who assists an individual with disabilities.
Physical Therapy	PT	Therapy to remediate of impairments and disabilities to increase mobility, functional ability, quality of life and movement skills.
Plan of Care (SDS)	POC	The plan that describes the services for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities who receive services under a home and community based waiver.
Plan to Achieve Self-Support	PASS	A social security administration work incentive that allows a person with a disability to use or set aside income or resources to reach a work goal. For example, money could be set aside for an education training program or to start a business.
Positive Behavioral Supports	PBS/PBIS	It is an evidence-based framework used by schools to improve school culture and student behavior, promoting a safe environment for learning. A key aspect of PBIS is focusing on more positive behaviors and less on negative behaviors.
Present Levels of Educational Performance	PLEP	A statement of a child's current levels of academic and developmental performance in school. It is a required statement in a child's IEP.
Project of National Significance	PNS	Funding from the administration on intellectual and developmental disabilities that focus on issues affecting individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Current priorities include employment, family supports, and technical assistance.
Protection and Advocacy System	P&A	Each state has an agency that is responsible to protect and advocate for the rights of persons with developmental disabilities as defined by the Developmental Disabilities Act.
Public Law	P.L.	A designation for a federal law.
Region - Anchorage/Mat-Su		Matanuska-Susitna Borough, Anchorage Municipality
Region - Gulf Coast Region		Valdez-Cordova Census Area, Kenai Peninsula Borough, Kodiak Island Borough
Region - Interior Region		Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area, Fairbanks North Star Borough, Denali Borough, Southeast Fairbanks Census Area



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Region - Northern Region		Northwest Arctic Borough, North Slope Borough, Nome Census Area
Region - Southeast Region		Juneau, Sitka, Wrangell, Haines Borough, Ketchikan Borough, Skagway Borough, Yakutat Borough, The Borough, the Prince of Wales-Hyder Census Area, Hoonah-Angoon Census Area, Petersburg Census Area.
Region - Southwest Region		Kusilvak Census Area, Bethel Census Area, Dillingham Census Area, Bristol Bay Borough Lake and Peninsula Borough, Aleutians East Borough, Aleutians West Census Area
Section of P.L. 99-457	Part C	Early Intervention Programs for infants and Toddlers with Disabilities of the 1986 Amendments to the Education of the Handicapped Act. Used to be referred to as Part H.
Self-Injurious Behavior	SIB	Behaviors that are harmful to oneself, such as head banging or scratching or biting oneself.
Senior and Disability Services	SDS	The state agency that oversees services for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and seniors in Alaska.
Short Term Assistance & Referral Program	STAR	The STAR program assists individuals with developmental disabilities and their families to access services through State of Alaska Developmental Disabilities Programs.
Social Security Administration	SSA	A part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) that administers both Social Security and SSI programs.
Social Security Disability Insurance	SSDI	An insurance program for former workers who have become disabled, and for disabled adult children of workers who are retired, disabled or deceased.
Special Education Advisor Panel	SEAP	A Council that provides policy guidance to the Department of Education and Early Development on the special education and services for students with disabilities. The Council is Alaska's SEAP.
Special Education Service Agency	SESA	An agency that provides consultation services to local school districts on how to educate students with disabilities funded through the Department of Education and Early Development.
Speech Language Pathologist	SLP	A therapist who assesses, diagnoses, treats, and helps to prevent communication and swallowing disorders in individuals with disabilities.



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State Board of Education and Early Development	BEED	
State of Alaska	SOA	Refers to any part of state government in Alaska.
Statewide Independent Living Council of Alaska	SILC	A Council that develops monitors and evaluates services for individuals with disabilities under the Alaska State Independent Living Plan.
Stone Soup Group Inc	SSG	An agency that provides information, support, training and resources to assist families caring for children with special needs.
Supplemental Security Income	SSI	A Social Security Administration program that provides monthly payments to aged, blind and disabled people with limited income and resources (assets).
TASH: Equity, Opportunity and Inclusion for People with Disabilities	TASH	A national membership organization consisting of people with disabilities, families, professionals and community members. Dedicated to people perceived as having severe intellectual disabilities and seeks to build an inclusive society that values all people.
Tax Equity and Fiscal Responsibility Act	TEFRA	A Medicaid program for children (under 19) with disabilities pay for services (medical, developmental or psychiatric).
Ticket to Work and Workforce Investment Act	TWWIA	A federal program that allows states to expand Medicaid health care coverage so that people with disabilities who work can “buy-in” to health insurance. It enables people with disabilities to go to work without risking the loss of necessary health care services available through the Medicaid Program.
Tribal Vocational Rehabilitation	TVR	Tribal agency responsible for assisting individuals with disabilities to obtain and maintain employment.
University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities	UCEDD	A university program which provides for interdisciplinary training, demonstration of exemplary services, technical assistance and dissemination of findings regarding services for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities in accordance with the DD Act.



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Organization	Acronym	Description
Work Incentives Planning and Assistance	WIPA	A federal program to help individuals receiving Social Security benefits understand how going to work will affect their benefits.
Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act	WIOA	Helps job seekers and workers access employment, education, training and support services to succeed in labor market. It increases individuals with disabilities' access to high-quality workforce services to prepare them for competitive integrated employment. It also created Advisory Committee on strategies to increase integrated employment for individuals with disabilities.
World Institute on Disability	WID	WID provides training and technical assistance to DPOs to conduct effective disability advocacy, community barrier removal, and public education campaigns; develop national policies; and create networks and national coalitions.