

## **GCDSE Acronym Glossary**

### **AADD – Alaska Association on Developmental Disabilities**

Provider association advocating services for Alaskans with developmental disabilities.

### **AAIDD – American Association on Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities**

National professional organization focused on I/DD advocacy, research, and policy.

### **ABA – Applied Behavior Analysis**

A therapeutic approach using learning principles and data to improve socially significant behaviors, often used with individuals with developmental disabilities.

### **ABIN – Alaska Brain Injury Network**

Organization that coordinates and advocates for services for individuals with brain injuries.

### **ACL – Administration on Community Living**

Federal agency overseeing programs for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD), seniors, and independent living centers.

### **ADA – Americans with Disabilities Act**

Landmark civil rights law prohibiting discrimination and guaranteeing equal opportunities for people with disabilities in employment, public accommodations, and more.

### **ADRC – Aging and Disability Resource Center**

A state-supported system that connects seniors, people with disabilities, and caregivers with long-term services and supports.

### **AHDP – Alaska Health and Disability Program**

CDC-funded initiative to improve health and emergency preparedness for individuals with disabilities.

### **AHFC – Alaska Housing Finance Corporation**

State agency offering housing loans, public housing, weatherization, and senior/disability housing.

### **AIDD – Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities**

Federal agency (within ACL) that oversees the activities of Developmental Disabilities Councils under the DD Act.

### **AIEI – Alaska Integrated Employment Initiative**

A five-year federal grant project from AIDD aimed at increasing employment for youth with I/DD.

### **AILPA – Alaska Infant Learning Provider Association**

Association for agencies serving infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families.

### **AKCH2 – Alaska Coalition on Housing and Homelessness**

Statewide organization focused on increasing affordable housing and ending homelessness.

**APA – Adults Public Assistance Program**

State cash benefit for blind, disabled, or low-income seniors who are also receiving Supplemental Security Income (SSI).

**API – Alaska Psychiatric Institute**

State psychiatric hospital located in Anchorage with inpatient services for individuals with mental illness.

**APRIL – Association of Programs for Rural Independent Living**

National network advocating for rural independent living services and centers.

**APSE – Association for People Supporting Employment First**

National organization promoting integrated employment for individuals with disabilities.

**ARCA – ARC of Anchorage**

A nonprofit advocacy organization supporting children and adults with I/DD and their families.

**ASD – Autism Spectrum Disorder**

A group of developmental disorders including autism, Asperger syndrome, Rett syndrome, and others that affect communication and behavior.

**ASPEN – Alaska Safety Planning Empowerment Network**

A Council project to connect domestic violence/sexual assault services with those serving individuals with developmental disabilities.

**ASSEC – Alaska Statewide Special Education Conference**

Annual conference for professionals in special education across Alaska.

**AT – Assistive Technology**

Devices or equipment that help individuals with disabilities improve functional abilities.

**ATLA – Assistive Technology of Alaska**

Alaska's designated provider of assistive technology services under the Assistive Technology Act.

**AWR – Alaska Work Ready Regulation**

State regulation supporting the career readiness and skills certification of Alaskans.

**BEE – Beneficiary Employment and Engagement (Trust Initiative)**

An AMHTA initiative to increase employment outcomes for Trust beneficiaries.

**BEED – State Board of Education and Early Development**

Alaska's policymaking body for public education.

**CAP – Client Assistance Program**

Provides help to people experiencing problems with vocational rehabilitation or independent living services.

### **CBC – Complex Behavior Collaborative**

A statewide program offering intensive consultation and training to providers serving individuals with high-risk behaviors.

### **CEC – Council for Exceptional Children**

National organization of educators and advocates dedicated to improving education for students with disabilities.

### **CHD – Center for Human Development**

University of Alaska Anchorage's University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD), providing training, technical assistance, and research.

### **CMS – Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services**

Federal agency under the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services responsible for Medicaid and Medicare administration.

### **CRP – Community Rehabilitation Provider**

Individuals or organizations approved to provide employment services to DVR clients.

### **CPRC – Community Parent Resource Center**

Local centers (e.g., LINKS Mat-Su) providing training, support, and parent-to-parent connections for families of children with disabilities.

### **CWIC – Community Work Incentives Coordinator**

Certified professionals who help people on Social Security benefits understand how work impacts their income and healthcare.

### **DBH / BH – Division of Behavioral Health**

Alaska state agency providing services for individuals experiencing mental illness or behavioral health conditions.

### **DD – Developmental Disability**

A severe, chronic disability originating before age 22, likely to continue indefinitely, and resulting in substantial limitations in major life activities.

### **DD Act – Developmentally Disabled Assistance and Bill of Rights Act**

Federal law that established DD Councils, defined DD services, and included protections against abuse and neglect.

### **DDRR – Developmental Disabilities Registration and Review**

The process used by Alaska's Division of Senior and Disabilities Services to determine eligibility for DD services and manage the waitlist.

### **DEED – Department of Education and Early Development**

Alaska's state education agency, responsible for public K-12 education, early learning, and special education.

### **DFCS – Department of Family and Community Services**

Oversees **juvenile justice**, the **Office of Children's Services**, **Senior and Disabilities Services**, **public assistance**, and other family-focused programs.

### **DHSS – Department of Health and Social Services (Historical Reference Only)**

Former Alaska state department that oversaw services including public health, behavioral health, public assistance, and services for seniors and people with disabilities.

### **DKC – Denali KidCare**

Alaska's Medicaid program offering health insurance to children and pregnant women from low-income families.

### **DLCA – Disability Law Center of Alaska**

Alaska's protection and advocacy agency offering legal support to individuals with disabilities.

### **DME – Durable Medical Equipment**

Equipment such as wheelchairs or hospital beds needed to support individuals with disabilities, covered by Medicaid and Medicare.

### **DOH – Department of Health**

Responsible for **public health**, **Medicaid**, **healthcare services**, and **prevention programs** in Alaska.

### **DPA – Division of Public Assistance**

State agency managing public benefits like SNAP, heating assistance, and adult public assistance.

### **DVR – Division of Vocational Rehabilitation**

Alaska's agency helping individuals with disabilities obtain and maintain employment.

### **EC – Education Committee**

Committee responsible for the day-to-day work of Alaska's Special Education Advisory Panel (SEAP).

### **EIC – Early Intervention Committee**

Council committee advising on services for children (birth–8) with developmental delays or disabilities.

### **EI/ILP – Early Intervention / Infant Learning Program**

Alaska's early intervention system providing services to infants and toddlers under age 3 and their families.

### **EPSDT – Early & Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment**

Medicaid service requiring states to screen and treat low-income children for physical and mental health needs.

### **ESER – Evaluation Summary and Eligibility Report**

A required special education document evaluating whether a student qualifies for services under IDEA. Updated every three years.

### **FASD – Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder**

A range of brain injuries and developmental disabilities caused by prenatal alcohol exposure.

### **FAPE – Free and Appropriate Public Education**

IDEA guarantee that students with disabilities receive a tailored education at no cost to families.

### **FBA – Functional Behavioral Assessment**

A method for determining the causes of challenging behavior and how to address it through positive supports.

### **FERPA – Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act**

Federal law protecting the confidentiality of student education records, including those receiving special education.

### **GF/MH – General Fund / Mental Health**

Alaska state funding that supports mental health services, including those for individuals with I/DD.

### **GCDSE – Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education**

Alaska's DD Council, also serving as the ICC, SEAP, and governing body for SESA.

### **HCBS – Home and Community Based Services**

Services that allow individuals with disabilities to receive care in their own homes and communities rather than institutions.

### **HIPAA – Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act**

Federal law protecting the confidentiality and security of medical records and personal health information.

### **HUD – Housing and Urban Development**

Federal agency administering housing programs, including those for low-income and disabled individuals.

### **IEP – Individualized Education Plan**

A legally required plan developed under IDEA for students with disabilities, outlining their educational goals and the services they will receive.

### **IFSP – Individualized Family Service Plan**

A plan for early intervention services for children under age 3 and their families, focused on developmental goals and family involvement.

### **IPE – Individualized Plan for Employment**

A plan created by DVR and the individual with a disability outlining vocational goals and services needed to achieve employment.

### **IRWE – Impairment Related Work Expense**

A Social Security work incentive allowing individuals with disabilities to deduct expenses related to employment (e.g., equipment, transportation, personal assistance) from their income.

### **ISP – Individualized Service Plan**

A plan of care for individuals receiving home and community-based waiver services, detailing support needs and outcomes.

### **IDEA – Individuals with Disabilities Education Act**

Federal law ensuring special education services and rights for students with disabilities. Includes Part B (school-aged children) and Part C (infants and toddlers).

### **IDEA (P.L. 94-142)**

The original name of IDEA, passed in 1975 as the Education for All Handicapped Children Act.

### **ICC – Interagency Coordinating Council on Infants and Toddlers with Disabilities**

State-level advisory council that supports early intervention systems for infants and toddlers with disabilities.

### **I/DD – Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities**

A broad category of disabilities characterized by significant limitations in intellectual functioning and adaptive behavior, originating before age 22.

### **ICF/IDD – Intermediate Care Facility for Individuals with Intellectual or Developmental Disabilities**

A Medicaid-certified institutional setting for individuals with DD. Alaska currently has no in-state facilities of this type.

### **ILP – Infant Learning Program Provider**

Local agencies that deliver early intervention services to children under age 3 and their families.

### **Key Coalition**

A statewide advocacy group that educates lawmakers on the importance of community-based services for people with I/DD through the annual Key Campaign.

### **LEA – Local Education Agency**

Refers to a public school district or other entity responsible for providing education services.

### **LEND – Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities**

A graduate-level interdisciplinary training program (at CHD) to develop leaders in health care for children with autism and related disabilities.

### **LINKS / CPRC – Mat-Su Parent Resource Center**

Provides information, support, and mini-grants to families and individuals with disabilities in the Mat-Su area.

### **LRE – Least Restrictive Environment**

IDEA requirement that students with disabilities be educated with their non-disabled peers to the greatest extent possible.

### **Medicare**

Federal health insurance for people 65 and older, or under 65 with qualifying disabilities.

### **MHTAAR – Mental Health Trust Authority Authorized Receipts**

Designated funding directed by the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority for services and projects.

### **NACDD – National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities**

National membership organization that supports DD Councils in promoting inclusive systems and policies for individuals with I/DD.

### **NDRN – National Disability Rights Network**

National membership organization for Protection and Advocacy (P&A) systems across the U.S., including Alaska's DLCA.

### **NIDRR – National Institute on Disability & Rehabilitation Research**

Federal agency supporting research on rehabilitation, vocational success, and community integration of individuals with disabilities.

### **OCR – Office for Civil Rights (U.S. Department of Education)**

Federal agency ensuring equal access and non-discrimination in education and health-related programs.

### **ODEP – Office of Disability Employment Policy**

U.S. Department of Labor agency that develops and influences policies to increase employment opportunities for people with disabilities.

### **OFCCP – Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs**

Enforces equal employment opportunity laws for federal contractors.

### **OSEP – Office of Special Education Programs**

Division of OSERS focused specifically on improving results for children with disabilities under IDEA.

### **OSERS – Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services**

U.S. Department of Education agency overseeing special education and vocational rehabilitation services.

### **OT – Occupational Therapy**

Therapy that helps individuals develop or regain the skills needed for daily living and working.

### **P&A – Protection and Advocacy System**

State-designated agency (like DLCA) responsible for protecting the rights of individuals with disabilities under the DD Act.

### **PASS – Plan to Achieve Self-Support**

A Social Security work incentive that lets people with disabilities set aside income or resources for work-related goals (e.g., education, starting a business).

### **PBS / PBIS – Positive Behavioral Supports / Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports**

Evidence-based framework for improving school climate and reducing behavioral issues by focusing on positive behaviors.

### **PCA – Personal Care Assistant**

An individual who provides in-home support services (e.g., grooming, meal prep) to someone with a disability.

### **PIE – Partnerships in Employment**

Federal grant program supporting inclusive employment for youth and young adults with I/DD.

### **PLEP – Present Levels of Educational Performance**

A section in the IEP describing the student's current academic and functional performance.

### **PNS – Project of National Significance**

AIDD-funded initiatives focused on advancing national priorities such as employment and family support for individuals with I/DD.

### **POC – Plan of Care**

A document required for individuals receiving Medicaid waiver services that outlines goals, services, and supports.

### **P.L. – Public Law**

Denotes legislation passed by Congress, often referenced with a number (e.g., P.L. 94-142 for IDEA).

### **PT – Physical Therapy**

Therapy aimed at improving mobility, strength, and physical function, especially after injury or due to a disability.

### **Region - Anchorage/Mat-Su**

Includes the Matanuska-Susitna Borough and Anchorage Municipality.

### **Region - Gulf Coast Region**

Includes Valdez-Cordova Census Area, Kenai Peninsula Borough, and Kodiak Island Borough.

### **Region - Interior Region**

Includes Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area, Fairbanks North Star Borough, Denali Borough, and Southeast Fairbanks Census Area.

### **Region - Northern Region**

Includes Northwest Arctic Borough, North Slope Borough, and Nome Census Area.

### **Region - Southeast Region**

Includes Juneau, Sitka, Wrangell, Haines Borough, Ketchikan Borough, Skagway Borough, Yakutat Borough, Prince of Wales-Hyder Census Area, Hoonah-Angoon Census Area, Petersburg Census Area.

### **Region - Southwest Region**

Includes Kusilvak Census Area, Bethel Census Area, Dillingham Census Area, Bristol Bay Borough, Lake and Peninsula Borough, Aleutians East Borough, Aleutians West Census Area.

### **Part C – Section of P.L. 99-457**

Refers to early intervention programs for infants and toddlers with disabilities, part of the 1986 amendments to the Education of the Handicapped Act.

### **SDS – Senior and Disability Services**

Alaska state agency overseeing services for seniors and people with developmental or physical disabilities.

### **SEAP – Special Education Advisory Panel**

Advises Alaska's Department of Education and Early Development on special education policy; the GCDSE serves as Alaska's SEAP.

### **SESA – Special Education Service Agency**

Provides consultation to school districts on educating students with low-incidence disabilities; funded through DEED.

### **SIB – Self-Injurious Behavior**

Behaviors such as head banging, scratching, or biting oneself, often associated with developmental or mental health conditions.

### **SILC – Statewide Independent Living Council of Alaska**

Council that plans and monitors services promoting independent living for Alaskans with disabilities.

### **SLP – Speech Language Pathologist**

Specialist in diagnosing and treating communication and swallowing disorders.

### **SOA – State of Alaska**

Refers to the government and administrative structure of Alaska.

### **SSA – Social Security Administration**

Federal agency managing Social Security retirement, disability, and SSI programs.

### **SSDI – Social Security Disability Insurance**

Provides benefits to disabled individuals who have worked and paid into Social Security, and to certain family members.

### **SSG – Stone Soup Group, Inc.**

Alaska nonprofit providing resources and training for families of children with special needs.

### **SSI – Supplemental Security Income**

Monthly payments from SSA to aged, blind, or disabled individuals with low income and limited assets.

### **STAR – Short Term Assistance & Referral Program**

Program helping individuals with developmental disabilities and their families connect with state-funded services.

### **TAC – Technical Advisory Committee (Assessments and Accountability)**

A group that provides expertise on special education assessment and accountability systems.

### **TASH – Equity, Opportunity and Inclusion for People with Disabilities**

National advocacy organization focused on individuals with the most significant disabilities.

### **TEFRA – Tax Equity and Fiscal Responsibility Act**

Medicaid option allowing eligible children with disabilities to receive services based on medical need rather than family income.

### **The Trust – Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority**

A state corporation that manages a trust for Alaskans with mental illness, I/DD, chronic alcoholism, or dementia.

### **TWWIA – Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Improvement Act**

Federal law that allows people with disabilities to work and maintain access to Medicaid through a buy-in program.

### **TVR – Tribal Vocational Rehabilitation**

Tribal programs helping Native individuals with disabilities prepare for, find, and maintain employment.

### **UCEDD – University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities**

Federally funded university-based centers like CHD that provide training, technical assistance, and research on disability issues.

### **WID – World Institute on Disability**

International nonprofit providing training and technical assistance on disability rights, advocacy, and inclusion.

### **WIOA – Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act**

Federal law designed to improve workforce systems and promote competitive, integrated employment for people with disabilities.

### **WIPA – Work Incentives Planning and Assistance**

Program that helps Social Security beneficiaries understand how employment affects their benefits.