

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.