

ACRONYMS

Acronyms are initials that stand for a series of words. Below are common acronyms used when relating to individuals with disabilities and the services they receive.

AAIDD [American Association on Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities](#)

An interdisciplinary association of professional and concerned individuals in the field of intellectual and developmental disabilities.

AADD [Alaska Association on Developmental Disabilities](#)

DD provider association that advocates for services for people who experience developmental disabilities.

ABA **Applied Behavior Analysis**

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.

ABIN [Alaska Brain Injury Network](#)

An agency whose mission is to educate, plan, coordinate, and advocate for services for individuals with brain injuries.

ACL [Administration on Community Living](#)

Federal agency that oversees programs for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, seniors and independent living centers.

ADA [Americans with Disabilities Act](#)

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.

ADRC [Aging and Disability Resource Center](#)

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.

AHDP [Alaska Health and Disability Program](#)

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).

AHFC [Alaska Housing Finance Corporation](#)

A state program that provides affordable housing loans, public housing programs, energy efficiency and weatherization programs, senior and disability housing programs.

AIDD [Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities](#)

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.

APA [Adults Public Assistance Program](#)

A cash benefit for individuals who are blind, low income seniors or disabled who are also receiving Supplemental Security Income benefits.

API [Alaska Psychiatric Institute](#)

Alaska Psychiatric Institute is a psychiatric hospital in Anchorage that serves individuals with mental illness.

AIEI [Alaska Integrated Employment Initiative](#)

A five year federal grant from AIDD to increase the employment of youth with intellectual and developmental disabilities

APSE [Association for People Supporting Employment First](#)

A national association dedicated to the integrated employment of individuals with disabilities.

ARCA [The ARC of Anchorage](#)

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.

ASPEN [Alaska Safety Planning Empowerment Network](#)

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.

ASD **Autism Spectrum Disorder**

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.

ASSEC **Alaska Statewide Special Education Conference**

The statewide conference for special education professionals.

AT **Assistive Technology**

Special items or equipment used to increase, maintain or improve the functioning abilities of an individual with a disability.

ATLA [Assistive Technology of Alaska](#)

The statewide provider of AT services under the Assistive Technology Act.

BEE [Beneficiary Employment and Engagement \(Trust Initiative\)](#)

The Trust committee that is focused on improving employment opportunities for individuals who have disabilities.

BH [Division of Behavioral Health](#)

The state agency that provides services to individuals with mental illness.

CAP [Client Assistance Program](#)

helps individuals who experience problems when applying for or receiving vocational rehabilitation or independent living services.

CBC [Complex Behavior Collaborative](#)

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.

CEC [Council for Exceptional Children](#)

A national organization including professionals and parents who work to improve the quality of education for exceptional children.

CHD [Center for Human Development](#)

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.

CMS [Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services](#)

The federal agency responsible for Social Security and Medicaid located in the Department of Health and Human Services.

CRP **Community Rehabilitation Provider**

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.

CWIC **Community Work Incentives Coordinator**

An individual certified to provide information on how wages will affect an individual who is receiving Social Security benefits.

DD Developmental Disability

See definition under I/DD

DD Act [Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights 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.

DDRR [Developmental Disabilities Registration and Review](#) (waitlist)

The process the Division of Senior and Disability Services uses to determine eligibility for their services.

DEED [Department of Education and Early Development](#)

The state department responsible for education of Alaska's children.

DHHS [Department of Health and Human Services](#)

The federal department that oversees services that improve the health, safety and well-being of individuals.

DHSS [Department of Health and Social Services](#)

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.

DKC [Denali KidCare](#)

A state program to provide health insurance to children who live in poverty.

DLCA [Disability Law Center of Alaska](#)

Alaska's protection and advocacy agency that provides legal advocacy for individuals with disabilities.

DME Durable Medical Equipment

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)

DPA <http://dhss.alaska.gov/dpa/Pages/default.aspx> Division of Public Assistance

(welfare)

The state agency responsible for administering public benefits (i.e. food stamps, public assistance checks, heating assistance).

DVR [Division of Vocational Rehabilitation](#)

State agency responsible for assisting individuals with disabilities to obtain and maintain employment.

EIC [Early Intervention Committee](#)

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.

EI/ILP [Early Intervention/Infant Learning Program state office](#)

A state agency responsible for early intervention services to infants and toddlers (under the age of 3) with disabilities and their families.

ESER **Evaluation Summary and Eligibility Report**

A report that summarizes the evaluation done to determine if a student is eligible for special education services under the IDEA.

EPSDT [Early & Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment](#)

A component of Medicaid that requires states to provide screening, diagnosis and treatment of low income children.

FAPE [Free and Appropriate Public Education](#)

A provision under the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA) that states all children have the right to a free and appropriate education.

FASD **Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder**

A term which describes a continuum of permanent brain damage and other birth defects caused by maternal consumption of alcohol or drugs during pregnancy.

FBA **Functional Behavioral Assessment**

An assessment to determine why an individual is demonstrating inappropriate behaviors.

FERPA [Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act](#)

A federal law that protects the privacy of students receiving special education services.

GCDSE [Governor’s Council on Disabilities and Special Education](#)

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.

GF/MH [General Fund/Mental Health funding](#)

State funding for the mental health services system which includes services for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

HCBS **Home and Community Based Services**

Services provided to individuals with disabilities in the community often on a waiver from the division of Senior and Disability Services.

HIPAA [Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act](#)

A federal law that prohibits the sharing of personal information and/or medical information.

HUD [Housing and Urban Development](#)

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.

I/DD **Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities**

means 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.

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

Alaska's Council that advocates for services for infants and toddlers with disabilities.

ICF/IDD **Intermediate Care Facility for individuals with I/DD**

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.

IDEA [Individuals with Disabilities Education Act](#)

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).

IEP **Individualized Education Plan**

An education plan for a child with a disability that is developed and implemented in accordance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

IFSP **Individualized Family Service Plan**

The plan for care for children receiving early intervention services through an infant learning program.

ILP Infant Learning Program Provider

Local agencies that provide services to children (birth to 3) who have disabilities and their families.

IPE Individualized Plan for Employment

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.

IRWE [Impairment Related Work Expense](#)

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).

ISP Individualized Service Plan

The plan of care for individuals receiving home and community based waivers.

LEA Local Education Agency

The local school district.

LRE Least Restrictive Environment

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.

LINKS/CPRC [MatSu Parent Resource Center](#)

An agency in MatSu 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.

MHTAAR [Mental Health Trust Authority Authorized Receipts](#)

Funding that is directed by the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority.

NACDD [National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities](#)

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.

NDRN National Disability Rights Network

The national association for protection and advocacy agencies.

NIDRR [National Institute on Disability & Rehabilitation Research](#)

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.

OCR [Office of Civil Rights \(US\)](#)

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.

ODEP [Office of Disability Employment Policy](#)

A federal agency in the Department of Labor whose mission is to provide leadership to increase employment opportunities for adults and youth with disabilities.

OFCCP [Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs](#)

The federal office responsible for enforcing federal affirmative action and equal employment laws with federal contractors.

OSEP [Office of Special Education Programs](#)

Federal agency responsible for special education programs and services designed to meet the needs and develop the full potential of children with disabilities

OSERS [Office of Special Education and Rehabilitation Services](#)

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.

OT **Occupational Therapy**

The use of treatments to develop, recover, or maintain the daily living and work skills of people with a physical, mental or developmental condition.

Part C [Section of P.L. 99-457](#)

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.

P&A **Protection and Advocacy System**

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.

PASS [Plan to Achieve Self-Support](#)

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.

PBS/PBIS Positive Behavioral Supports

An approach used to provide intensive individualized interventions to individual children with challenging behavior using positive reinforcements. Also known as PBIS (positive behavioral intervention and supports).

PCA Personal Care Assistant

Person who assists an individual with disabilities.

PIE [Partnerships in Employment](#)

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.

P.L. Public Law

A designation for a federal law.

P.L. 94-142 [Individuals with Disabilities Education Act \(IDEA\)](#)

Formerly known as the Education for All Handicapped Children Act, signed into law in 1975

PLEP Present Levels of Educational Performance

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.

PNS [Project of National Significance](#)

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.

POC Plan of Care (SDS)

The plan that describes the services for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities who receive services under a home and community based waiver.

PT Physical Therapy

Therapy to remediate of impairments and disabilities to increase mobility, functional ability, quality of life and movement skills.

SDS [Senior and Disability Services](#)

The state agency that oversees services for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and seniors in Alaska.

SEAP [Special Education Advisor Panel](#)

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.

SESA [Special Education Service Agency](#)

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.

SIB **Self-Injurious Behavior**

Behaviors that are harmful to oneself, such as head banging or scratching or biting oneself.

SILC [Statewide Independent Living Council of Alaska](#)

A Council that develops monitors and evaluates services for individuals with disabilities under the Alaska State Independent Living Plan.

SLP **Speech Language Pathologist**

A therapist who assesses, diagnoses, treats, and helps to prevent communication and swallowing disorders in individuals with disabilities.

SOA **State of Alaska**

Refers to any part of state government in Alaska.

SSA [Social Security Administration](#)

A part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) that administers both Social Security and SSI programs.

SSDI [Social Security Disability Insurance](#)

An insurance program for former workers who have become disabled, and for disabled adult children of workers who are retired, disabled or deceased.

SSI [Supplemental Security Income](#)

A Social Security Administration program that provides monthly payments to aged, blind and disabled people with limited income and resources (assets).

SSG [Stone Soup Group Inc](#)

An agency that provides information, support, training and resources to assist families caring for children with special needs.

STAR [Short Term Assistance & Referral Program](#)

The STAR program assists individuals with developmental disabilities and their families to access services through State of Alaska Developmental Disabilities Programs.

TASH [TASH: Equity, Opportunity and Inclusion for People with Disabilities](#)

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.

TEFRA [Tax Equity and Fiscal Responsibility Act](#)

A Medicaid program for children (under 19) with disabilities pay for services (medical, developmental or psychiatric).

The Trust [Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority](#)

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).

TWWIA [Ticket to Work and Workforce Investment Act](#)

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.

TVR [Tribal Vocational Rehabilitation](#)

Tribal agency responsible for assisting individuals with disabilities to obtain and maintain employment.

UCEDD [University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities](#)

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.

WIOA [Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act](#)

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.

WIPA [Work Incentives Planning and Assistance](#)

A federal program to help individuals receiving Social Security benefits understand how going to work will affect their benefits.