



State 5-Year Plan

Federal Fiscal Years 2017-2021

Public Comment Draft

GOAL # 1: Community Inclusion, Supports, and Services

Improve service delivery to empower individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDDs) to live and thrive in their communities with formal and informal supports and services that promote independence.

Objective 1.1: *Improve at least 5 policies for appropriate lifelong service access for all populations who experience intellectual and developmental disabilities, and supports for their caregivers.*

Activities:

- Identify, synthesize, and share prior and current data related to effective goals, objectives, and activities of the Council.
- Up to 3 Council members will serve on the Council's Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) Workgroup and meet at least 4 times per year.
- At least 3 Council members will serve on the Council's Autism ad hoc committee and meet at least biannually.
- Conduct background and other necessary research to identify barriers that prevent working caregivers' ability to adequately care for adults who experience IDD while maintaining their employment.
- Work with agencies to increase independence for individuals with IDD with the greater use of assistive technology to reach our rural and remote disparity population.

- Conduct statutorily mandated responsibilities as a beneficiary board to the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority (The Trust).
- Continue to collaborate with the Alaska Mobility Coalition to enhance community transportation options statewide.

Objective 1.2: *Monitor and review at least 5 policies that will increase the use of person-centered practices for home and community-based service (HCBS) settings in the Alaskan service delivery system.*

Activities:

- Monitor, review, and comment on statutory changes around the delivery of person-centered IDD services in Alaska.
- Monitor, review, and comment on regulations on the delivery of person-centered IDD services in Alaska.
- Monitor, review, and comment on policies regarding the delivery of person-centered IDD services in Alaska.
- Review and monitor the state transition to person-centered and conflict-free HCBS settings.

Objective 1.3: *Expand Council outreach and community involvement to at least 10 annual opportunities to educate and encourage support from the public on advocacy issues of importance to people who experience IDD.*

Activities:

- Identify, synthesize, and share information to the general public on issues that affect the lives of individuals who experience IDD.
- Increase public communication on Council activities at least 10 times per year through the use of social media (Facebook, twitter), the website, radio public service announcements, and other means.
- Participate in community groups to increase our local involvement and interaction with the public.

Objective 1.4: *Expand opportunities for individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities and their families to participate in at least 3 annual efforts that improve policies and programs for persons with disabilities.*

Activities:

- Identify and recruit self-advocates for vacant Council seats.
- Provide leadership training and advocacy opportunities to at least 5 Council members, self-advocates, and family members annually.
- Continue to support a statewide self-advocacy organization.
- Increase communication, collaboration, and participation in the Key Campaign, an annual advocacy effort with the legislature led by the Key Coalition.
- Develop a mentorship program for new Council and committee members.

GOAL # 2: Employment

Alaskans with disabilities and their families will receive the necessary employment services and supports needed to become competitively employed in an integrated setting.

Objective 2.1: *Provide support for the implementation of Alaska state laws increasing the employment of individuals with disabilities which lead to 3 new or improved policies, procedures, or regulations per year.*

Activities:

- Monitor legislation relating to employment for individuals with disabilities and provide support for advocacy and research, as needed.
- Provide support for the implementation of the Alaska Employment First Act with at least one improved policy, procedure, or regulation per year.
- Provide support for the implementation of the Alaska Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Act as it relates to empowering employment for individuals with disabilities with at least one improved policy, procedure, or regulation per year.

Objective 2.2: *Increase career pathways for youth that will contribute to a 10% increase in the employment rate for youth with disabilities by 2021.*

Activities:

- Support continuation and expansion of Alaska Project SEARCH sites, adding 2 new sites by 2021.
- Collaborate with the Alaska Job Center Network on the Disability Employment Initiative, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation on Work Incentives and Opportunities Act implementation of PETS, and the Trust Beneficiary Employment and Engagement Initiative regarding youth transition programs in the state; collaborating on at least 3 activities, trainings, or events per year.
- Increase use of discovery techniques and activities in schools to enhance transition, holding at least one training per year.
- Partner with the Center for Human Development (CHD) to expand post-secondary education options, participating in at least one activity, event, training, or meeting per year.
- Partner with the statewide self-advocacy organization on its employment initiative with at least 3 events, activities, or trainings completed per year.
- Collaborate with the Center for Human Development on transition handbooks for multiple stakeholder groups, with three handbooks created and disseminated by 2021.
- Monitor Department of Education & Early Development (DEED) Indicator 14 competitive employment data yearly.

Objective 2.3: *Work with partners to develop and implement a plan to increase the number of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities who are employed by 10% by 2021.*

Activities:

- Advocate for changes in the State's IDD HCBS waiver on supported employment services, providing at least one recommendation per year.
- Increase the number of Community Work Incentives Coordinators (CWICs), adding 3 new CWICs by 2021.
- Increase asset building opportunities for Alaskans with disabilities including free tax preparation, IDAs and financial literacy trainings, participating in at least one event or activity per year.

- Work with CHD, the Trust, and other partners to increase provider capacity for employment services and supports, holding at least 2 trainings per year.
- Develop a collaborative for providers, employers, and agencies interested in becoming Ticket to Work Employment Networks by 2021.
- Disseminate information on employment through job fairs, conferences, and other events, participating in at least 3 events or activities per year.
- Increase awareness and utilization of the Alaska Disability Benefits 101 online tool, participating in at least 3 events or activities per year to disseminate information or provide user training.
- Continue to provide support to the Business Employment Services Team collaborative (BEST), participating in at least 3 events, activities, or trainings per year.
- Advocate annually for a percentage hiring benchmark for State contracts on hiring people with disabilities, achieved by 2021.
- Increase opportunities for individuals with IDD to become self-employed using the Micro-enterprise program, disseminating program information through at least two events or activities per year and at least one informational training per year.

GOAL # 3: Early Intervention

Strengthen policies and programs so that infants and toddlers with disabilities, their families, and caregivers receive appropriate early intervention services and supports.

Objective 3.1: *Assist, advise, and collaborate with statewide partners to optimize at least 3 policies or practices annually that improve funding, program parity, and utilization of early intervention services and inclusive childcare for infants and toddlers with disabilities statewide.*

Activities:

- Investigate and support the implementation of expanded financial resources for early intervention and inclusive childcare services statewide to optimize funding, training, and program quality by participating in at least 3 annual improvement activities.

- Collaborate with partners to strengthen statewide telepractice use for early intervention with at least one member participating in statewide Telepractice workgroups.
- Assist the Alaska Early Intervention/Infant Learning Program (EI/ILP) in increasing the current rate of service delivery by researching gaps by 2019.
- Establish statewide policy to standardize the billing by early intervention providers for developmental services by 2021.
- Identify obstacles to families with children with disabilities from accessing inclusive childcare statewide.

Objective 3.2: *Increase the knowledge of professionals and families of infants and toddlers with disabilities resulting in appropriate early screenings, identifications, referrals, and interventions by supporting at least 3 opportunities annually for multidisciplinary training and collaboration to improve systems.*

Activities:

- Participate in at least 2 statewide multidisciplinary collaborative efforts annually to improve appropriate early screening, referral, and interventions for infants and toddlers with a potential disability.
- Advocate for increased family involvement in, and understanding of, early intervention policies, initiatives, and programs by providing at least 2 leadership and training opportunities annually.

Objective 3.3: *Collaborate and coordinate to improve the number, scope, and practice of early childhood professionals to meet the needs of the state by participating in at least 2 collaborative workforce development and improvement efforts annually.*

Activities:

- Research student loan forgiveness and tuition incentives for difficult to recruit fields and service locations.
- Collaborate with partners on workforce development initiatives by participating in at least 2 improvement activities annually.
- Research the job turnover, "burn-out," and other obstacles to long term retention of program staff.

Objective 3.4: *Meet the annual federally mandated requirements as Alaska's Interagency Coordinating Council for Infants and Toddlers with Disabilities under Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.*

Activities:

- Advise and provide comment on State EI/ILP on federal and state applications, performance reports, regulations, and policies at least once a year.
- Advise State EI/ILP & DEED regarding the timely transition of toddlers with disabilities to preschool & other appropriate services by an annual report form ILP and DEED on transition before the age of three.
- Prepare & submit an annual report to the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) and the Governor on the status of early intervention programs in Alaska for infants and toddlers with disabilities.
- Recruit and support at least 2 parents annually to become members of the Council and the Early Intervention Committee and other stakeholder and advocacy groups and activities.
- Post best practice information, trainings, and articles on the Early Intervention listserv at least 15 times a year.
- Participate in statewide boards that collaborate to improve healthcare and intervention systems for infants and toddlers with a disability on a quarterly and as needed basis.

GOAL # 4: Education

Participate in activities that lead to enhanced practices so that children and youth with disabilities have access to appropriate qualified professionals, curriculum, inclusion, support, and resources to ensure they have the skills they need for educational success and future independence.

Objective 4.1: *Participate in at least 3 collaborative initiatives and programs annually to improve graduation rates and postsecondary transition for students with disabilities.*

Activities:

- Provide stakeholder input for the planning and implementation of the State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP), which focuses on improving graduation rates of students with disabilities by an annual presentation by DEED and at least 2 members participating on the Leadership Team.

- Investigate the creation of tiered, endorsed, or differentiated diplomas, including diplomas for students taking alternate assessments.
- Participate in at least 2 collaborative initiatives annually that lead to employment training and assistance for students with disabilities.
- Participate and provide support for at least 2 activities annually to improve post-secondary outcomes for students with disabilities.

Objective 4.2: *Identify and participate in at least 3 activities annually that enhance the training, recruitment, retention, and professional development of education professionals to meet the needs of students with disabilities.*

Activities:

- Monitor, advise, and assist in activities that reduce the use of exclusionary discipline for students with disabilities by assisting in the development of at least one training a year.
- Participate in activities that enhance the use of distance delivery of education and related services for students with disabilities by having one member participate in a statewide collaborative Telepractice group.
- Investigate parents' and education professionals' understanding of restraint and seclusion regulations and their ability to report incidents of noncompliance by an annual report and recommendations from the Disability Law Center.
- Advocate for enhanced paraprofessional professional development and credentialing.
- Advocate for teacher preparation programs in Alaska to include a basic course in evidenced-based behavior by 2021.
- Identify, support, and increase parent training, involvement, advocacy, policy, and systems improvement efforts and initiative by providing or supporting at least 2 training or advocacy opportunities for families annually.

Objective 4.3: *Meet the statutorily mandated annual requirements as Alaska’s Special Education Advisory Panel (SEAP) under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and as the governing agency for the Special Education Service Agency (SESA).*

Activities:

- Review Alaska’s Part B Annual Program Performance Report (PPR) and post-secondary outcome reports each year.
- Provide recommendations to DEED on identified gaps and issues relating to Special Education on an as needed basis.
- Provide training to the Education Committee on roles and responsibilities of the SEAP under IDEA for new members and for all members on an annually.
- Attend State Board of Education meetings and provide stakeholder input at least 2 times per year.
- Provide public comment and stakeholder input on policies, regulations, or legislation that has an impact on students with disabilities at least 5 times annually.
- Sponsor the annual Inclusive Practice Award at the Alaska State Special Education Conference (ASSEC).
- Ensure active stakeholder participation in initiatives, trainings, and professional development activities on a monthly and quarterly basis.
- Post best practice information, trainings, and articles on the Special Education listserv at least 15 times a year.
- Ensure 5 Council members and the Executive Director or designee participate as SESA Board members.
- Assist in implementation of SESA’s strategic plan by participating in SESA meetings 4 times a year and reviewing at least 6 reports from SESA annually.

GOAL # 5: Healthcare

Alaskans with disabilities will have greater access to needed health care services that will improve their quality of life.

Objective 5.1: *Provide at least 10 annual trainings to individuals experiencing disabilities, direct care professionals, and caregivers regarding health promotion for individuals with disabilities.*

Activities:

- Develop health care training and present at conferences, health fairs, expos, etc.
- Increase physical activity and healthy diet in people with disabilities through adaptive physical activity workshops offered to Direct Service Providers.
- Disseminate best practices and other educational materials to health care providers, caregivers, and case managers on key preventive screenings for Alaskans with disabilities.
- Train provider agencies serving people with IDD on the adapted Diabetes Self-Management and Education program.

Objective 5.2: *Collaborate with at least 2 partner agencies annually to increase the number of individuals aging with IDDs that have appropriate support systems in place.*

Activities:

- Collaborate with the Aging and Disability Task Force for planning of the annual Aging & Disability Summit.
- Participate in monthly meetings of the statewide advisory Aging and Disability Coalition.
- Collaborate with Alaska Association of Retired People (AARP) on public events and other activities to include people with disabilities and those that are aging.

Objective 5.3: *Actively participate in at least 3 state, tribal, and/or community workgroups on Medicaid reform and redesign annually.*

Activities:

- Ensure Medicaid billing for the remote (telehealth) delivery of waiver services to our rural and remote disparity population
- Monitor, review, and comment on statutory changes and new laws that affect the Medicaid IDD waiver.
- Monitor, review, and comment on regulations and regulatory changes that affect the Medicaid IDD waiver.

- Monitor, review, and comment on policy changes and new policy development that affect the Medicaid IDD waiver.

Public comment on this draft State 5-Year Plan can be made via the following ways:

- Complete this survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2017StatePlan>
- Email feedback to: Kristin.Vandagriff@alaska.gov
- Mail ideas and suggestions to:
Governor’s Council on Disabilities and Special Education
ATTN: State 5-Year Plan Public Comment
3601 C St, Suite #740
Anchorage, AK 99503
- Fax feedback to: 907-268-8995, “ATTN: State 5-Year Plan Public Comment”
- Telephone your thoughts or ideas to 907-269-8990, or toll free at 1-888-269-8990, and ask for Kristin Vandagriff

Public comment is due by 5pm (AKT) on Tuesday, July 5, 2016.