

# EMPOWERMENT THROUGH EMPLOYMENT



Employment Resources Guide for Alaskans with Disabilities

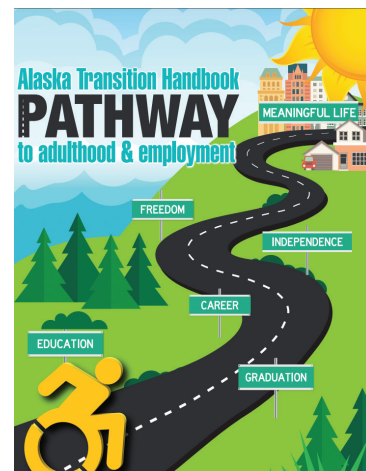


This resource was developed to help realize the vision of “Empowerment through Employment” for Alaskans experiencing a range of disabilities, including mental illness, substance use/abuse disorders, intellectual and/or developmental disabilities, and traumatic brain injuries. There are many resources available to support Alaskans with disabilities in becoming employed and maintaining employment. This document includes many of those resources with web links to where you can find more information.

Alaska is an ‘Employment First’ state and employment in the general workforce should be the first and preferred option for individuals with disabilities receiving assistance from publicly funded systems.

Alaskans with mental health and substance use disorders, developmental disabilities, as well as traumatic and acquired brain injuries may benefit from services and supports around employment to improve their health outcomes, including treatment and recovery efforts for some.

Additionally, if you would like more information on the resources included below, you may want to visit, [The Alaska Transition Handbook: Pathway to Adulthood and Employment.](#)





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# SERVICES TO HELP ALASKANS WITH DISABILITIES TO FIND A JOB

## DIVISION OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION

The Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) provides counseling and supports to individuals who have a disability in preparation for getting and keeping good jobs. To qualify, you must have trouble getting or keeping a job because of a mental or physical disability. DVR staff can find someone to assess your disability, and if you need it, DVR can fund this service. If you are receiving Social Security for a disability and would like work, then you may qualify for DVR services.

- Visit the DVR website: [labor.alaska.gov/dvr/](http://labor.alaska.gov/dvr/)
- Orientation video
- Contact DVR to apply: [labor.alaska.gov/dvr/contact.htm](http://labor.alaska.gov/dvr/contact.htm)
- See page 38 of the [Alaska Transition Handbook](#) for more information.

## TRIBAL VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION

There are 10 regional Tribal Vocational Rehabilitation (TVR) programs in Alaska. TVR provides culturally relevant services and supports to eligible tribally enrolled Alaska Native/American Indian's that are based on the individual's strengths, resources, priorities, concerns, abilities, capabilities and, most importantly, informed choice. TVR programs are available to work with the local school districts and the state DVR program to compliment transition plans and Pre-Employment Transition Services.

- Visit the TVR website: <https://citci.org/employment-training-services>
- See page 39 of the [Alaska Transition Handbook](#) for more information including a listing of Alaska's TVR programs and their contact information.

## JOB CENTERS

All Job Center frontline staff are trained to assist people with disabilities in discovering different options that may be available for obtaining gainful employment. Job Centers exist throughout Alaska and are a multi-faceted resource that can help with job placement and training. They can also help establish a proper foundation to obtaining employment. At a Job Center, staff may help with resume building, mock interviews, job application assistance, and database navigation. For immediate help contact the Anchorage Job Center at 907-269-4759 or email:

- [midtown.jobcenter@alaska.gov](mailto:midtown.jobcenter@alaska.gov)
- Visit the AlaskaJobs website: [www.jobs.alaska.gov](http://www.jobs.alaska.gov)
  - [Instructions for prior ALEXsys users](#)
  - [Instructions for new AlaskaJobs users](#)
- See page 41 of the [Alaska Transition Handbook](#) for more information.





## SENIOR AND DISABILITIES SERVICES

Senior and Disabilities Services (SDS) promotes the health, well-being, and safety of individuals with disabilities, seniors, and vulnerable adults by facilitating access to quality services and supports that foster independence, personal choice and dignity. One of the largest resources for individuals is the Medicaid waiver program(s). Waiver options with employment services include the: 1) Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Waiver, 2) Adults with Physical Developmental Disabilities Waiver, 3) Children with Complex Medical Conditions Waiver, and 4) Individualized Supports Waiver. Once qualified, the waivers offer services, such as: care coordination, residential habilitation (such as group home services), day habilitation, respite, supported employment, chore services, environmental modification, intensive active treatment, and transportation. Supported Employment may help with training, support, and supervision to help keep a job.

- [Visit the SDS website: health.alaska.gov/dsds/Pages/default.aspx](https://health.alaska.gov/dsds/Pages/default.aspx)
- [Learn more about services: health.alaska.gov/dsds/Documents/pdfs/SDS\\_MedWaiverBrochure.pdf](https://health.alaska.gov/dsds/Documents/pdfs/SDS_MedWaiverBrochure.pdf)
- See page 34 of the [Alaska Transition Handbook](#) for more information.

## STATE OF ALASKA DIVISION OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

The Division of Behavioral Health has a commitment to improving the quality of life of Alaskans through the right service to the right person at the right time. The central purpose of the division is to provide a continuum of statewide behavioral health services (mental health and substance use) ranging from prevention and screening to brief intervention and acute psychiatric care. They offer housing services, substance abuse programs, disaster preparedness, employment services, and more.

- [Visit the Behavioral Health website: health.alaska.gov/dbh](https://health.alaska.gov/dbh)
- [Behavioral Health Supported Employment Initiative's webpage](#)

## RESOURCES IF YOU'VE LOST YOUR JOB:

### ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT: UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

Alaska's Unemployment Insurance Program (UI) is dedicated to providing unemployed workers fast and accurate payment of UI benefits. UI benefits serve to bridge the economic gap for the individual worker and stabilize local economies.

- [Visit the Unemployment Insurance website: labor.alaska.gov/unemployment/](https://labor.alaska.gov/unemployment/)



# BENEFITS INFORMATION

## WORK INCENTIVES PLANNING AND ASSISTANCE

Work Incentives Planning and Assistance (WIPA) projects are funded by the Social Security Administration (SSA) to provide information and benefits planning to enable people with disabilities to make informed choices about work. WIPA projects hire and train Community Work Incentives Coordinators who work with individuals receiving Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) and/or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) to provide in-depth counseling about benefits and the effect of work on those benefits.

- Visit the WIPA website: [www.uaa.alaska.edu/academics/college-of-health/departments/center-for-human-development/wipa/](http://www.uaa.alaska.edu/academics/college-of-health/departments/center-for-human-development/wipa/)
- See page 47 of the [Alaska Transition Handbook](#) for more information.

## ALASKA DISABILITY BENEFITS 101

The Alaska Disability Benefits 101 Website (DB 101) helps you find your way if you want to navigate benefits and options before you enter the workforce. DB 101 calculators allow you to create and explore scenarios that match your life situation, and find out how changes in employment, earnings, marital status, or other factors may affect health coverage and disability benefits. The website is written in plain language, designed for accessibility, and offers resources for additional support.

- Visit the DB 101 website: [ak.db101.org/](http://ak.db101.org/)
- See page 50 of the [Alaska Transition Handbook](#) for more information.
- Videos and resources on how to best use this free tool: <https://health.alaska.gov/gcdse/Pages/db101.aspx>

## ACHIEVING A BETTER LIFE EXPERIENCE ACCOUNTS

The Alaska ABLE Plan helps individuals with disabilities save for their future and achieve a better life. With the Alaska ABLE Plan, you can save for qualified disability expenses without losing your eligibility for certain assistance programs, like Supplemental Security Insurance (SSI) and Medicaid. Balances of \$100,000 or less are excluded from your SSI resource limit, and balances of \$400,000 or less are excluded from your Medicaid resource limit if you are not receiving SSI. Workers with disabilities are able to save \$27,060 per year, and non-workers with disabilities are able to save \$15,000 per year. This amount will vary if the Federal Gift Tax varies. The Alaska ABLE Plan may be a great option for those who have received a federal stimulus payment, and who want to begin saving. You can put all or part of your stimulus payment into an ABLE account. That way, you don't have to worry about spending the money right away if you don't need to.

- Visit the Alaska ABLE website: [savewithable.com/ak/home.html](http://savewithable.com/ak/home.html)
- Visit the National ABLE Resource Center website: [www.ablenrc.org](http://www.ablenrc.org)
- See page 53 of the [Alaska Transition Handbook](#) for more information.





## MEDICAID

Medicaid is available to help pay for basic health needs and long-term care services for low-income Alaskans. To qualify for Medicaid or Medicare, you must first apply through the Division of Public Assistance (DPA). Adult Public Assistance, Working Disabled Medicaid Buy-In, and Section 1619(B) are all Medicaid programs that you may qualify for if you are eligible for Medicaid. To qualify for Medicaid, you must first apply through the Division of Public Assistance (DPA).

- Visit the Medicaid website: <https://health.alaska.gov/dpa/Pages/default.aspx>
- Learn about Medicaid on the Division of Public Assistance website: <https://health.alaska.gov/dpa/Pages/medicaid/default.aspx>
- See page 28 of the [Alaska Transition Handbook](#) for more information on Medicaid.

## MEDICARE

Medicare is federal health insurance for people 65 or older, individuals who are receiving Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) for two years, individuals diagnosed with ALS and people with End-Stage Renal Disease. If enrollment is not automatic, you can apply for Medicare through the Social Security Administration.

- Visit the Medicare Information Office website: <https://health.alaska.gov/dsds/Pages/medicare/default.aspx>
- Learn about Medicare on the Social Security Administration website: [www.ssa.gov/benefits/medicare/](http://www.ssa.gov/benefits/medicare/)

## SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INSURANCE

Supplemental Security Insurance (SSI) is a program offered by the Social Security Administration (SSA). This program's goal is to help people who are older, who are blind, who have a disability, or who have no or little income. This program helps people to afford basic needs like food, shelter, clothes, water, etc. Plan to Achieve Self-Support (PASS) is an SSA work incentive program that allows individuals with disabilities who are receiving SSI or SSDI to set aside money for future expenses to help pay for expenses related to employment.

- Visit the Social Security Administration website: [www.ssa.gov/disabilityssi/ssi.html](http://www.ssa.gov/disabilityssi/ssi.html)
- Learn more information about PASS: [www.ssa.gov/disabilityresearch/wi/pass.htm](http://www.ssa.gov/disabilityresearch/wi/pass.htm)
- See page 28 and 49 of the [Alaska Transition Handbook](#) for more information.



# EMPLOYMENT RIGHTS AND THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

## THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990

The ADA makes it unlawful to discriminate in employment against a qualified individual with a disability. If you have a disability and are qualified to do a job, the ADA protects you from job discrimination on the basis of your disability. Under the ADA, you have a disability if you have a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits a major life activity. The ADA protects you if you have a history of such a disability, or if an employer believes that you have such a disability, even if you don't.

- [Visit the ADA website:](https://www.ada.gov/) <https://www.ada.gov/>
- See page 44 of the [Alaska Transition Handbook](#) for more information.

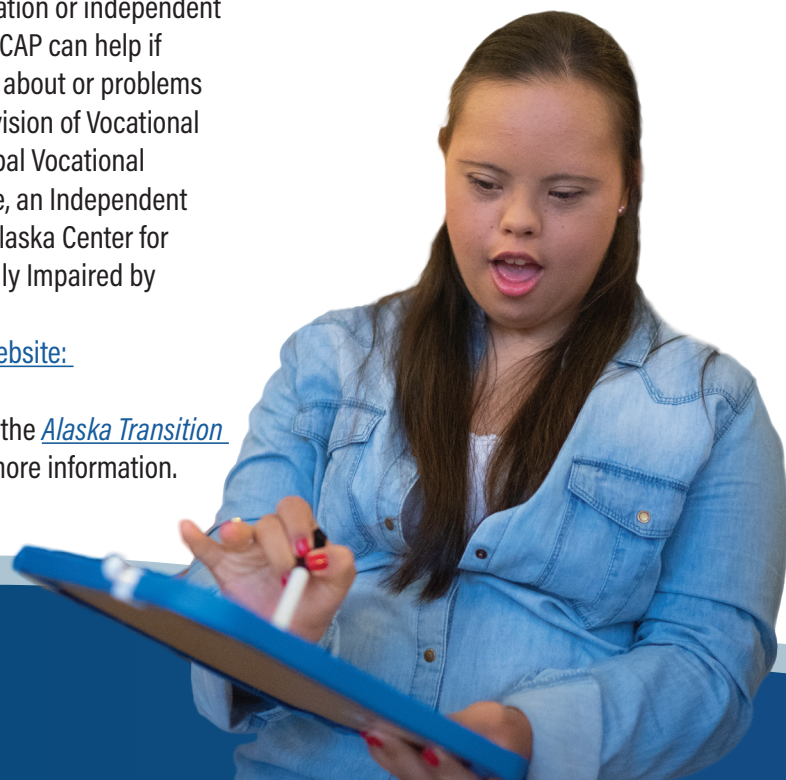
## DISABILITY LAW CENTER OF ALASKA

The Disability Law Center's (DLC) mission is to vigorously enforce and advance the rights and interests of people with disabilities. They envision a future where people with disabilities are empowered to exercise individual choice and be equal participants in the community where they live, learn, work and play. This agency has a unique authority to enforce both state and federal laws concerning the rights and benefits of individuals with disabilities. This authority includes initiating investigations of abuse and neglect in institutions, community settings, or programs that serve individuals with disabilities. DLC also operates the Client Assistance Program (CAP) that helps individuals who experience problems when applying for or receiving vocational rehabilitation or independent living services. The CAP can help if you have questions about or problems with, The Alaska Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, a Tribal Vocational Rehabilitation Office, an Independent Living Center, The Alaska Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired by contacting the DLC.

- [Visit the DLC website:](http://www.dlcak.org) [www.dlcak.org](http://www.dlcak.org)
- See page 30 of the [Alaska Transition Handbook](#) for more information.

## JOB ACCOMMODATION NETWORK

- [Visit the Job Accommodation Network \(JAN\) to learn about reasonable accommodation:](http://www.askjan.org/) [www.askjan.org/](http://www.askjan.org/)
- [Speak with someone about accommodation questions free of charge:](http://askjan.org/contact-us.cfm) [askjan.org/contact-us.cfm](http://askjan.org/contact-us.cfm)
- [For COVID-19 specific accommodation information, visit:](http://askjan.org/topics/COVID-19.cfm) [askjan.org/topics/COVID-19.cfm](http://askjan.org/topics/COVID-19.cfm)





## NORTHWEST ADA CENTER

Northwest ADA Center provides information, guidance and training on how to implement the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) in order to support the mission of the ADA to “assure equality of opportunity, full participation, independent living, and economic self-sufficiency for individuals with disabilities.” Northwest ADA Center is part of the ADA National Network. This national platform of ten centers is comprised of ADA professionals and experts charged with assisting businesses, state and local governments, and people with disabilities as they manage the process of changing our culture to be user friendly to disability and the effect the variety of health conditions can have on society.

- Visit the Northwest ADA Center, website: [nwadacenter.org](http://nwadacenter.org)
- To contact someone who can answer your questions about the ADA, call 1-800-949-4232 or email: [nwadactr@uw.edu](mailto:nwadactr@uw.edu)

## SUPPORTED DECISION MAKING AGREEMENTS

Supported decision-making is the process of empowering individuals with disabilities to make decisions on their own as an alternative to guardianship. A Supported Decision-Making Agreement (SDMA) is a written document describing how supporters will assist with decisions. It could be useful for students who face complex decisions, whose first language is not English and students with disabilities.

- Visit the Supported Decision Making Agreements in Alaska website: <https://health.alaska.gov/gcdse/Pages/projects/SDMA/default.aspx> See page 23 of the [Alaska Transition Handbook](#) for more information.

## WORK MATTERS TASK FORCE

The purpose of the Task Force was to review and analyze existing policies, practices, and procedures, barriers, and workforce utilization data regarding the employment of people with disabilities in the State of Alaska, and prepare a report that includes recommendations that should be adopted by the Governor and applicable departments, agencies, and commissions of the executive branch, and policy options for consideration by the legislative branch to expand and improve employment opportunities and outcomes for individuals with disabilities. Twenty-two recommendations and sixty-eight action steps were identified by the Task Force and are described in detail in the full report.

- Download report: <https://health.alaska.gov/gcdse/Documents/AKWorkMattersReport.pdf>



# GENERAL DISABILITY RESOURCES AND INFORMATION

## ALASKA MENTAL HEALTH TRUST AUTHORITY

The Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority (Trust) is a state corporation that administers the Alaska Mental Health Trust, which is a perpetual trust established to improve the lives of beneficiaries. Beneficiaries include Alaskans with Mental Illness, Developmental Disabilities, chronic alcoholism and other substance related disorders, Alzheimer's Disease and related dementia, and Traumatic Brain Injuries. The Trust operates much like a private foundation, using its resources to ensure that Alaska has a comprehensive integrated mental health program.

- Visit the Trust website: [www.mhtrust.org](http://www.mhtrust.org)
- See page 36 of the [Alaska Transition Handbook](#) for more information.

## THE TRUST BENEFICIARY EMPLOYMENT AND ENGAGEMENT INITIATIVE

The Trust Beneficiary Employment and Engagement (BEE) Initiative helps beneficiaries who are underrepresented in society to gain integrated employment with competitive wages. The Trust's intent with the BEE Initiative is to ensure that beneficiaries have the opportunity to obtain integrated employment, meaningful activities and engagement, asset building, training and awareness, competitive wages, higher education, benefits analysis, and support services.

- To learn more, please visit: [mhtrust.org/focus/beneficiary-employment-engagement](http://mhtrust.org/focus/beneficiary-employment-engagement)

## THE TRUST MINI-GRANT

The Trust mini-grant program provides individuals within all Trust beneficiary groups up to \$2,500 for a broad range of equipment, supplies and services to improve their quality of life, increase independent functioning, and help them attain and maintain healthy and productive lifestyles.

- To learn more, please visit: [alaskamentalthrust.org/alaska-mental-health-trust-authority/grants/mini-grants/](http://alaskamentalthrust.org/alaska-mental-health-trust-authority/grants/mini-grants/)

## DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY RESOURCE CONNECTION

The Developmental Disability Resource Connection (DDRC) program assists individuals with developmental disabilities and their families wishing to access services through State of Alaska developmental disabilities programs. The DDRC program is often the "point of entry" for accessing services. Assistance may include applying for eligibility, referral to a wide variety of resources in their home community, completing forms and gathering documentation for Medicaid, the Developmental Disabilities Registration and Review, and other public programs.

- Visit the DDRC website: <https://health.alaska.gov/dsds/Pages/grantservices/DDRCmini.aspx>
- See page 29 of the [Alaska Transition Handbook](#) for more information.





## AGING AND DISABILITY RESOURCE CENTERS

Alaska's Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) connects people with disabilities, seniors, and caregivers with long-term services and supports of their choice. The ADRC network serves Alaskans statewide, regardless of age or income, through regional sites

- Visit the ADRC website: <https://health.alaska.gov/dsds/Pages/adrc/default.aspx>
- See page 29 of the [Alaska Transition Handbook](#) for more information.

## STATEWIDE INDEPENDENT LIVING COUNCIL

The Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC) ensures that Centers for Independent Living (CILs) are available throughout Alaska for seniors, individuals, and families living with disabilities. The SILC and CILs work together to write a three-year State Plan for Independent Living, and then monitor the implementation of that plan, including coordination of many initiatives aimed to improve the lives of persons with disabilities statewide.

- Visit the SILC website: [www.alaskasilc.org](http://www.alaskasilc.org)

## CENTERS FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING

Centers for Independent Living (CILs) exist across the state in many communities. CILs are nonprofit organizations that are run by and for persons with disabilities. Independent living advocates believe that people with disabilities are the best experts on what is needed to live, work and play independently. They believe that all people should be able to live independently in their community of choice. CILs can assist consumers in developing employment goals as part of their Independent Living Plan.

- To find your local CIL, visit: [www.ilru.org/projects/cil-net/cil-center-and-association-directory-results/AK](http://www.ilru.org/projects/cil-net/cil-center-and-association-directory-results/AK)
- See page 30 of the [Alaska Transition Handbook](#) for more information.



## ALASKA 2-1-1

Alaska 2-1-1 provides one-stop shopping for a variety of community resources, including emergency food, transportation, educational opportunities and counseling.

- Dial 2-1-1 to receive information, or visit the 2-1-1 website: [alaska211.org](http://alaska211.org)
- See page 19 of the [Alaska Transition Handbook](#) for more information.

# TECHNOLOGY AND OTHER SUPPORTIVE EQUIPMENT

## ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY OF ALASKA

Assistive Technology of Alaska (ATLA) is a statewide, not-for-profit organization that focuses on increasing access to and the acquisition of assistive technology, devices and services for individuals of all ages with disabilities. ATLA connects Alaskans with the tools they need to learn, gain or maintain employment and to participate in their school, home and communities as independently as possible.

- Visit the ATLA website: [www.atlaak.org](http://www.atlaak.org)
- See page 20 of the [Alaska Transition Handbook](#) for more information.

## EMPLOYMENT SMART TECHNOLOGY TOOLS

People with disabilities may benefit from the use of certain technological tools, many of which are free or low cost. Tools such as alarms, reminder apps, calendars, expense trackers, communication apps, visual checklist apps, etc. can improve independence and employment skills for people with disabilities.

- See Page 57 of the [Alaska Transition Handbook](#) for more information.

## LOAN CLOSETS

There are multiple loan closets around Alaska, within the communities of Anchorage, Fairbanks, Juneau, and the Kenai Peninsula. Loan closets offer independence for people with disabilities who need specialized medical equipment and borrow these items for free. Loan closets in your area may offer additional services to help with assistive technologies and adaptations for your home. These services are offered through Access Alaska (Statewide), The Southeast Alaska Independent Living Center (Southeast Alaska), and Independent Living Center (Kenai Peninsula).

- Visit their websites:
  - [www.accessalaska.org/dme-loan-closet](http://www.accessalaska.org/dme-loan-closet)
  - [www.sailinc.org/assistive-technology](http://www.sailinc.org/assistive-technology)
  - [www.peninsulailc.org/Community-Closet](http://www.peninsulailc.org/Community-Closet)
- See page 43 of the [Alaska Transition Handbook](#) for more information.





# SELF-EMPLOYMENT RESOURCES

## MICROENTERPRISE GRANTS FOR SELF-EMPLOYMENT

Microenterprise grants are available to increase access to self-employment opportunities for persons with disabilities who are Alaska Mental Health Trust (Trust) beneficiaries. Grant funds may be used for costs associated with starting a new business, expanding a current business or acquiring an existing business. You may apply more than once, and for up to \$10,000 in total for all Microenterprise Grants that you apply for over your lifetime.

- Visit the microenterprise grant website: [www.uaa.alaska.edu/academics/college-of-health/departments/center-for-human-development/megrant/index.cshtml](http://www.uaa.alaska.edu/academics/college-of-health/departments/center-for-human-development/megrant/index.cshtml)
- See page 59 of the [Alaska Transition Handbook](#) for more information.

## SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTERS

Small Business Development Centers (SBDC) aid small businesses and aspiring entrepreneurs, including people with disabilities, throughout Alaska. They offer free business consulting and low-cost training services such as business plan development, manufacturing assistance, financial packaging and lending assistance, and more.

- Visit the Small Business Development Center website: <https://www.sba.gov/local-assistance/resource-partners/small-business-development-centers-sbdc>
- See page 59 of the [Alaska Transition Handbook](#) for more information.



## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

### THE GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL EDUCATION

The mission of the Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education (GCDSE) is to create change that improves the lives of Alaskans with disabilities. The Governor's Council on Disabilities & Special Education combines the expertise and experience of many stakeholders throughout the state into one unique council, providing planning and coordination support for services to Alaskans with developmental disabilities. The Council also supports Alaskans with developmental disabilities to share their voice.

- [Visit the GCDSE website: health.alaska.gov/gcdse](http://health.alaska.gov/gcdse)
- See page 70 of the [\*Alaska Transition Handbook\*](#) for more information.

### ADVISORY BOARD ON ALCOHOL AND DRUG ABUSE AND ALASKA MENTAL HEALTH BOARD

The Advisory Board on Alcohol and Drug Abuse (ABADA) and the Alaska Mental Health Board (AMHB) are the state boards charged with planning and coordinating behavioral health services funded by the State of Alaska. The joint mission of AMHB and ABADA is to advocate for programs and services that promote healthy, independent, productive Alaskans.

- [Visit the ABADA and AMHB website: health.alaska.gov/abada/Pages/default.aspx](http://health.alaska.gov/abada/Pages/default.aspx)

### THE ALASKA COMMISSION ON AGING

The mission of the Alaska Commission on Aging is to ensure the dignity and independence of all older Alaskans, and to assist them to lead useful and meaningful lives through planning, advocacy, education, and interagency cooperation.

- [Learn more about ACoA: health.alaska.gov/acoa/Pages/default.aspx](http://health.alaska.gov/acoa/Pages/default.aspx)



## MATURE ALASKANS SEEKING SKILLS TRAINING

The purpose of MASST is to foster individual economic self-sufficiency and promote useful opportunities in community service activities that shall include community service employment for unemployed low-income persons who are age 55 or older, particularly persons who have poor employment prospects. MASST also aims to increase the number of persons who may enjoy the benefits of unsubsidized employment in both the public and private sectors. MASST participants may also encounter barriers to employment that include mental health conditions, substance abuse, and disabilities.

- [Learn more about MASST: labor.state.ak.us/masst/home.htm](http://labor.state.ak.us/masst/home.htm)

## TRAUMATIC AND ACQUIRED BRAIN INJURY PROGRAM

The State of Alaska TABI Program funds non-profit agencies to provide services to individuals who have been diagnosed with a Traumatic or Acquired Brain Injury. The TABI Program has a goal to establish standards and recommendations for improvement of prevention, assessment, and care of persons with TABI in Alaska, among other goals. TABI is a program under the Division of Senior and Disabilities Services, and the UAA Center for Human Development is the official advisory board for TABI.

- [Learn more about TABI: health.alaska.gov/dsds/Pages/tabi/default.aspx](http://health.alaska.gov/dsds/Pages/tabi/default.aspx)

## STONE SOUP GROUP

Stone Soup Group (SSG) offers training and information for parents regarding Individualized Education Programs (IEPs), family rights, and guardianship. For youth with special needs they have activities that teach self-advocacy, friendship and dating, and other practical life skills. SSG is also the federally designated Family to Family Health Information Center and can help families with the transition from pediatric to adult health care.

- [Visit the Stone Soup Group website: www.stonesoupgroup.org](http://www.stonesoupgroup.org)
- See page 19 of the [Alaska Transition Handbook](#) for more information.





## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

### LINKS RESOURCE CENTER

LINKS – Linking Information and Knowledge about Special needs – is a non-profit agency that has served the Mat-Su Borough for more than 20 years. We currently have four programs serving various populations in the borough and statewide. These programs are the Community Parent Resource Center, the Aging and Disability Resource Center, and the Veterans Directed Care Program.

- Visit the LINKS website:  
<http://linksprc.org/aboutlinks/>

### CENTER FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

The mission of the UAA Center for Human Development (CHD) is to improve the quality of lives for people who experience disabilities and their families, across their life span, through interdisciplinary training, technical assistance, and more.

- Visit the CHD website:  
[www.uaa.alaska.edu/academics/college-of-health](http://www.uaa.alaska.edu/academics/college-of-health)
- See page 32 of the [\*Alaska Transition Handbook\*](#) for more information.

### ALASKA ASSOCIATION ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

The Alaska Association on Developmental Disabilities (AADD) serves as the voice of providers in order to enhance the quality of life of individuals with developmental disabilities and their families. AADD develops cooperation between agencies, facilitates new ideas, and coordinates activities through the dissemination of information among agencies, the public, the State of Alaska, the Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education, and more.

- Visit the AADD website:  
[www.aaddalaska.org](http://www.aaddalaska.org)



## THE DEAF NAVIGATOR PROGRAM

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The Deaf Navigator program is housed at Hope Community Resources and provides help to Deaf and Hard of Hearing Alaskans to improve long-term employment. The navigator coordinates statewide resources from Health and Social Services, Employment Services, Housing Services and also provides training to employers and service providers on the needs of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing communities. The Deaf Navigator program can provide free public access to a computer, videophone, caption phone, and TTY.

- [Visit the Deaf Navigator Program website: www.hopealaska.org/deaf-navigator](http://www.hopealaska.org/deaf-navigator)

## THE ALASKA CENTER FOR THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED

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The Alaska Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired is the only training and rehabilitation center for blind and visually impaired Alaskans in the state. Together with the Alaska Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, we prepare our clients for success in life and work. The Alaska Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired uses virtual teaching methods for assistive technology to help clients learn computer skills for employment. The Alaska Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired also teaches orientation and mobility skills to assist clients with public transportation and to navigate their workplace.

- [Visit the Alaska Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired website: www.alaskabvi.org](http://www.alaskabvi.org)



## NOTES

[illegible]







# Trust

Alaska Mental Health  
Trust Authority



State of Alaska,  
Governor Mike Dunleavy  
Department of Health  
Heidi Hedberg, Commissioner  
Governor's Council on Disabilities & Special Education  
Patrick Reinhart, Executive Director  
Robert B. Atwood Building  
550 W 7th Ave, Suite 1220, Anchorage, AK 99501  
Toll Free: 1-888-269-8990  
Phone: 907 269-8990 | Fax: 907 269-8995  
Email: [gcdse@alaska.gov](mailto:gcdse@alaska.gov)  
Website: <https://health.alaska.gov/gcdse>  
Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/gcdse> • Twitter: <http://twitter.com/gcdse>  
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