



# LIVING WELL ON THE LAST FRONTIER

Kristin Vandagriff (Executive Director)  
Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education



# New ACL Grant:

- **5 Year Federal Grant Awarded to the Council**
  - \$392,000 per year
  - Currently in Year 3
- **Develop and coordinate model approaches:**
  - Community monitoring
  - Community capacity building,
    - To enhance the independence, integration, safety, health, and well-being of individuals living in the community
- **Targets three different interrelated groups:**
  - Individuals with Developmental Disabilities (DD) and their Families/Guardians
  - Service providers
  - Policy makers

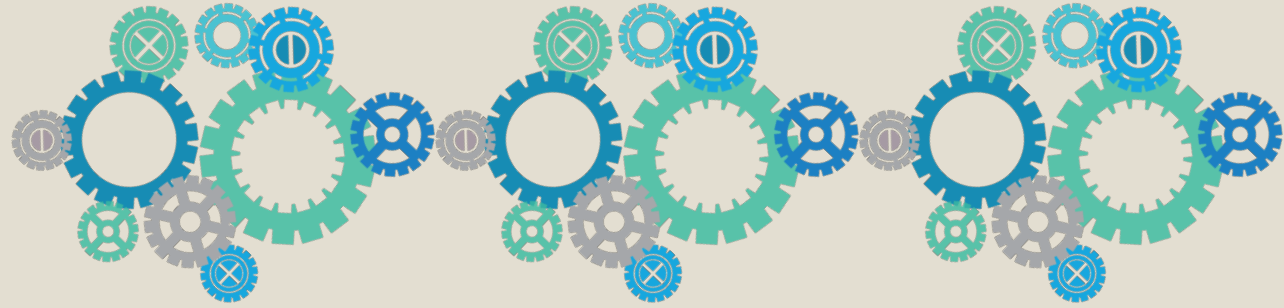


# Overarching Goal:

The overarching **goal** of this project is to ***increase the community integration, health, safety, independence, and well-being of individuals with developmental disabilities through realization of our DD vision:***



# Objectives:



1. Enhance the **health and safety** of individuals who experience developmental disabilities by increasing their **independence, self-determination, community integration, employment, and participation**.
2. Strengthen the knowledge and skills of direct support professionals to use evidenced-based and/or promising practices related to **culturally and linguistically person-centered thinking** and **supported decision-making** which may improve workforce stability, retention, and advancement.

# Objectives:



3. Strengthen and **elevate the leadership roles that self-advocacy organizations**, Centers for Independent Living and other peer support networks, working together with families and others, play in improving and assuring the quality of home and community based services.
4. Enhance the effectiveness and coordination of efforts by the state, the DD Act network and others to **implement the HCBS settings rule** and **address rights violations** in the HCBS service delivery system for people with DDs.

# Grant Partners:



**Alaska Governor's Council on Disabilities & Special Education (lead)**

and:

**Alaska Association on Developmental Disabilities (AADD)**

**Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority (the Trust)**

**Disability Law Center of Alaska (DLC)**

**Peer Power, Inc.**

**Key Coalition of Alaska**

**State of Alaska Senior & Disability Services (SDS)**

**Southeast Alaska Independent Living Center (SAIL)**

**Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC)**

**University of Alaska *Anchorage* Center for Human Development,**

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As well as the **Alaska DD Systems Collaborative**

# Work-to-date:



- Project Management Team meetings held quarterly
- Professional Services Agreements and Reimbursable Service Agreement with partners in place with renewals for year 3
- Meetings with ACL, other state grant teams, Lewin (external evaluators), & Mission Analytics (technical assistance)
- Advisory presentations to the Council (3 times a year)

and at least one call to the DD Systems Collaboration

# Work-to-date:



## ◦ Small working groups continue to meet:

- Evaluation
- Environmental Modification (EMOD)/HomeMap Assessment
- Employment First
- Challenging Behaviors
- Home and Community Based Services (HCBS)  
Integrated Settings Transition



# Work-to-date:



## ◦ Small working groups continue to meet:

- Direct Service Professional/Provider (Person-Centered)
- Plan of Care
- Community Relationship Building (building natural supports)
- Self-Advocacy
- Supported Decision making Agreements (SDMA)

# Recent Activities:

- Plan of Care Webinars
- EMOD Survey Results
- DD Vision Survey Year 2 Results
- Alaska Work Matters Taskforce Efforts
- Self-Advocacy Webinars
- DD Vision Town Halls and Self Advocacy Empower Hour
- Supported Decision Making Efforts
- Centralized Reporting and Mandatory Reporter Efforts
- Disability Pride Mid-Winter Celebration



# ALASKA ADVOCACY AND LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

*Share your voice and perspective with your community!*

Self-Advocates have the opportunity to be involved in organizations that they love, by joining boards or becoming members of organizations. Some examples of Alaskan organizations that are related to advocacy or disability rights in Alaska, are listed below. If an organization you know of is not listed here, we encourage you to check with the organization to find out how you can become involved.

## DISABILITY-RELATED BOARD OPPORTUNITIES

### CHALLENGE ALASKA

Improves the lives of people with disabilities, their families and the whole community through adaptive sports, therapeutic recreation, and education. They reach individuals in Anchorage, the Mat-Su, and the Kenai Peninsula.

- [www.challengealaska.org](http://www.challengealaska.org)
- [www.facebook.com/challengealaska/](https://www.facebook.com/challengealaska/)



### PEER POWER

This organization's purpose is to help Self-Advocates become empowered. The organization is Self-Advocate led, and connects people from all over Alaska.

- [peerpower907.wixsite.com/peer-power](http://peerpower907.wixsite.com/peer-power)
- [www.facebook.com/PeerPower907/](https://www.facebook.com/PeerPower907/)



### KEY COALITION

A grassroots organization that helps people with developmental disabilities become educated and empowered, through policy change and access to policy makers. Their mission is to promote the dignity, status, and equality of Alaskans from around the state who experience disabilities as valued, contributing participants in a shared community.

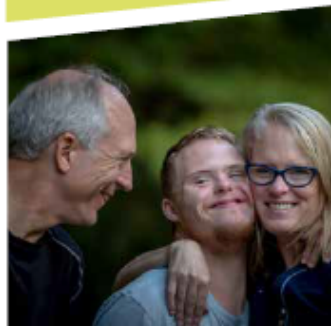
- [keycoalitionofalaska.wordpress.com](http://keycoalitionofalaska.wordpress.com)
- [www.facebook.com/keycoalitionofalaska/](https://www.facebook.com/keycoalitionofalaska/)



### STONE SOUP GROUP

A non-profit that provides information, support, training and resources to assist families caring for children with special needs. They reach individuals all over the State of Alaska.

- [www.stonesoupgroup.org/](http://www.stonesoupgroup.org/)
- [www.facebook.com/stonesoupgroup/](https://www.facebook.com/stonesoupgroup/)



# The Alaska Advocacy and Leadership Opportunities Guide

# Living Well on the Last Frontier

A Health & Safety Toolkit for Alaskans  
with Disabilities

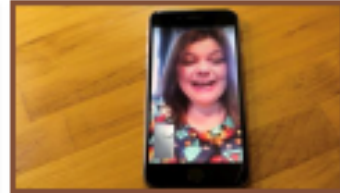
IN THIS  
TOOLKIT:

Stay Healthy

Stay Safe

Stay Connected

Frequently  
Asked Questions



## COVID-19 RESOURCE TOOLKIT

Information and Resources to Keep  
You Healthy, Safe, and Connected

The coronavirus disease 2019, or COVID-19, outbreak has left a lot of people in need of new or different resources and clear information. While the situation continues to change all the time, we want you to have access to the information and tools you need to stay healthy, safe, and connected.

## Updated Version and Additional Webinars \*\*\*Coming Soon\*\*\*

### Alaska Specific Plain Language COVID-19 Toolkit

Everything from understanding the virus and how to stay safe, to ideas on how to keep engaging with people virtually

- Collaborative effort with the Division of Senior and Disabilities Services.



**SAVE THE DATE!**

# 5TH ANNUAL PEER POWER SUMMIT

Sep. 24th-26th 2021

Application and Venue information will be available by March 15th, 2021

For more information contact Ric Nelson at [rnelson@thearcofanorage.org](mailto:rnelson@thearcofanorage.org) or by phone at (907) 777-0195

[www.peerpower907.com](http://www.peerpower907.com)

GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON DISABILITIES & SPECIAL EDUCATION

The Arc of Anchorage

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**Save the Date**

**5<sup>th</sup> Annual Peer Power Self Advocacy Summit**


**September 24-26, 2021**

Living Well:

# I HAVE RIGHTS



**ACCESS**  
**CHOICE**  
**COMMUNITY**  
**DIGNITY & RESPECT**  
**PRIVACY**  
**SAFETY**  
**WORK**



**New  
Resource  
Preview!**

# Questions?

