

Grant Approval Memo



Grantee: Alaska Association on Developmental Disabilities
Request Amount: \$24,999.00
Project Title: Elevating the Voices of Lived Experience
Grant Term: 12/15/2026 to 5/31/2027
Trust Staff: Kelda Barstad

Staff Analysis:

- What does this project do?
Trust funds combined with partner funding will purchase travel to Juneau and conference space for training on legislative advocacy for Trust beneficiaries with intellectual or developmental disabilities. These funds support Key Campaign, an organized advocacy convening in Juneau March 17 & 18 2027, to amplify the voices of Trust beneficiaries.
- Who is receiving the funds?
The Alaska Association on Developmental Disabilities (AADD) is the fiscal agent for Key Campaign 2027. AADD is a statewide network of organizations and care coordinators dedicated to advancing high-quality, individualized, community-based services for Alaskans with developmental disabilities. Founded more than 30 years ago, AADD was created to unify the voice of providers—to share expertise, develop best practices, and advocate for a strong, person-centered service system that supports individuals to live the lives they choose in their home communities. AADD is the largest network of organizations serving Alaskans with developmental disabilities, representing over a hundred member organizations across the state. Key Campaign is a long-running advocacy event where individuals with disabilities, families, providers, and allies meet with Alaska legislators to share their personal experiences with Alaska systems of care and educate them about programs and services that promote independence and community inclusion. Key Campaign takes place in Juneau during legislative session; in 2027 those dates are March 17th and 18th.
- Why is staff recommending this project?
Key Campaign provides training for Trust beneficiaries with intellectual or developmental disabilities to help them have productive and meaningful visits when engaging at the capitol. Advocates travel to Juneau, attend rallies, meet legislators, submit Public Opinion Messages (POMs), and share personal stories with decision makers. The Key Campaign has contributed to major achievements in beneficiary system improvement, including ending institutionalization at Harborview Developmental Center, establishing home-and community-based service waivers, enacting TEFRA Medicaid eligibility, reducing IDD waitlists during multiple legislative cycles, and protecting funding for essential disability programs.
- Will this be a multi-year project?
This is a one-time funding request for the 2027 legislative session. It is likely future year requests will be brought forward to trustees for consideration.

Grant Approval Memo



Trust Five Year Funding History

Fiscal Year	Project Title	Amount	Status	Final Expended
2027	Building a System to Achieve Employment First For All - Year Two	\$146,126	Active	Grant ends 6/30/2027
2027	IDD System Capacity Development	\$25,000	Active	Grant ends 6/30/2027
2026	IDD System Capacity Development	\$45,000	Closed	\$45,000
2026	Complex Care - Providers United to Create Options	\$27,500	Closed	\$27,500
2025	IDD System Capacity Development	\$65,000	Closed	\$65,000
2025	Building a System to Achieve Employment First for All	\$135,000	Closed	\$135,000
2025	Cost of Care: Collaborating on Solutions	\$8,250	Closed	\$8,250
2025	Strengthening Services by Sharing Stories of Lived Experience	\$25,000	Closed	\$25,000
2024	IDD System Capacity Development	\$65,000	Closed	\$65,000
2024	Reigniting Alaska's Employment First Movement	\$5,000	Closed	\$5,000
2024	Alaska Alliance of Direct Support Professionals Organizational Development	\$11,050	Closed	\$11,050
2023	DD System Capacity Development	\$65,000	Closed	\$65,000

Comp Plan - Area of Focus	Strategic Priority Area
Area of Focus 7: Services in the Least Restrictive Environment	Cross-Priority Area

Project Description (from grant application)

Problem we are addressing: This election season has been termed the "Super Bowl" of elections. Every House member, half of the Senate, and a new governor is on the ballot. It is critical to the ongoing support and well-being of beneficiaries with developmental disabilities that legislators and other policy leaders, especially those who are new to their role, see the faces of Alaskans who will be impacted by the decisions being made in Juneau. The Key Coalition has transitioned to more targeted fly-ins due to limited resources. Two years ago Key coordinated a successful fly-in with Trust and other funders' support for the first time post-COVID. This year has been identified as a critical year to once again make this effort. New legislators will face decisions regarding the need for rate reform, self-directed service options, and the ongoing work to eliminate the waitlist. This funding will ensure legislators and other state leaders hear directly from beneficiaries regarding the system gaps, challenges and importance of community-based services. Many beneficiaries and their family members who rely on these services face barriers to sharing their experiences and attending advocacy events. It is often the stories from constituents directly impacted by legislative decisions that have the most impact.

Grant Approval Memo



What we will be doing:

1. Outreach via provider organizations and community partners to inform beneficiaries and their family members about Key Campaign 2027 and the opportunity to participate.
2. Coordinate travel to Juneau for the Key Campaign event scheduled for March 17-18. These funds will be used to pay for airline transportation, lodging and event-related costs.
3. Orientation and training activities include creating a video to distribute to all participants that provides guidance on how to provide testimony and share stories with legislators along with an overview of the legislative priorities.
4. Distribution of information regarding Key Coalition membership and opportunities for ongoing participation in advocacy opportunities in their local communities throughout the year.

AADD's Executive Director will take the lead on managing this project with extensive support from the Key Coalition Board of Directors and the Key Campaign planning team.

Targeted population and geographic area served: This project is statewide and will target children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their family members.

Expected outcomes: 1) beneficiaries will be better equipped to inform elected officials regarding the impact of access to home and community-based services, 2) the current system will receive the support needed from the State of Alaska to improve quality and access as a result of increased awareness regarding beneficiary experiences and 3) beneficiaries will build their experience and confidence in advocacy through their participation. The overarching outcome of supporting beneficiaries to be in front of their legislators in Juneau and sharing stories is a deeper commitment by elected representatives to ensuring the community-based system of supports has the resources it needs. This directly ties to the Trust's strategic priority of Ongoing Support and Well-Being. Unlike many system-level projects, the focus of this initiative is to empower beneficiaries to become actively involved in system level discussions. In addition, while this project addresses many of the focus areas in the Comprehensive Mental Health Plan, it most directly supports Goal 7 which is ensuring that beneficiaries' needs are met in the least restrictive environment.

Community support: This is the 39th year for the annual Key Campaign, a fly-in coordinated by the Key Coalition of Alaska. In addition to a dedicated core group of parents and people with disabilities, the Coalition includes the following partner organizations – Peer Power Alaska, the Alaska Alliance of Direct Support Professionals, the Infant Learning Program Association and the Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education. Key has a legacy of strong community support and is a recognized force in the hallways of the state capital.

Grantee Proposed Evaluation Measures (from grant application)

Performance Measure 1: 35 beneficiaries with developmental disabilities and/or family members will receive financial assistance to travel to Juneau.

Grant Approval Memo



Performance Measure 2: 95% of the legislators serving in Juneau during this upcoming legislative session will engage in an in-person meeting with a Trust beneficiary sharing their story of lived experience.

Performance Measure 3: Key Coalition will create a training video and distribute to advocates statewide with guidance for beneficiaries on how to share their stories as well as an overview of the legislative priorities.

Performance Measure 4: Key Campaign will include an in-person orientation session, a legislative reception and Capital visits – 50% of the participants in all of these events will be beneficiaries with lived experience or family members.

Proposed Project Performance Measures (developed by the Trust)

Performance Measure 1:

How much did you do?

- a. Number (#) of primary beneficiaries who received financial assistance to travel to Juneau.
- b. Number (#) of secondary (family members or guardians) who received financial assistance to travel to Juneau.
- c. Total number (#) of legislators visited by primary and secondary beneficiaries during the 2027 Key Campaign.

Performance Measure 2:

How well did you do it?

- a. Provide a narrative describing the activities, successes, challenges experienced, and any lessons learned during the grant reporting period. Additionally, be sure to include information on how individuals were selected to receive financial assistance for travel. Please provide a list of individuals who received financial assistance to travel to Juneau and the legislators that they visited during the 2027 Key Campaign.
- b. Number (#) and percentage (%) of participants who felt the training adequately guided and prepared them to advocate and share their stories with legislators and other policymakers in Juneau.

Performance Measure 3:

Is anyone better off?

- a. Number (#) and percentage (%) of participants who felt their stories were listened to by legislators and other policymakers during the Key Campaign.
- b. Two statements from beneficiaries describing their experience at the Key Campaign.

Grant Approval Memo



Sustainability (from grant application)

The Key Coalition is continuing to seek options for sustainability. Two years ago Key established a Steve Lesko Legacy Fund where supporters could make an ongoing financial commitment to support the Key Campaign. AADD's current strategic plan includes a goal focused on supporting Key this year to evaluate the role of coalition partners to include creating a stronger plan for financial sustainability. A significant change related to sustainability is moving to a more targeted fly-in model instead of the historical pattern of a major fly-in every year.

Who We Serve (from grant application)

This project ensures beneficiaries with developmental disabilities receive the support to share their lived experiences directly with legislators and other policymakers in Juneau. The Key Campaign has a long history of effective advocacy. Key leaders who have been part of this movement from the beginning state that the inclusion of beneficiaries and their family members have been the primary reason for the success of Key. This past year AADD was approached by provider associations in other states to talk about how to implement this level of beneficiary engagement. Here's a story from a previous fly-in: A parent with a young child with Down Syndrome and a direct support professional with the Alaska Alliance of Direct Support Professionals met with a legislator. The parent shared her challenges and worries for her daughter followed by the DSP stating that our state needs to invest in Medicaid to ensure that child has support to live a full life as an adult. That legislator became a champion in that moment. It is these stories of lived experience that are vital. Beneficiaries who are supported to travel to Juneau and share their stories are better off as a result in two ways – first, they benefit from legislative support for the home and community-based service system. It is more difficult for legislators to disregard the Medicaid disability services when they have a face and name to connect with the service system. Secondly, generations of advocates across Alaska have shared how pivotal their participation in the Key Campaign was to their advocacy journey. Being part of a fly-in, attending orientation with 150 other advocates, marching to the Capital, and meeting with legislators is empowering. Supporting Key Campaign strengthens Alaska's DD advocacy community.

Estimated Numbers of Beneficiaries Served Experiencing (from grant application)

Developmental Disabilities:	2,500
Traumatic Brain Injuries:	30
Secondary Beneficiaries (family members or caregivers providing support to primary beneficiaries):	5,000
Number of people to be trained	100

Project Budget (from grant application)

Travel Costs	\$24,999.00
Travel Costs (Other Sources)	\$15,500.00

Grant Approval Memo



Travel Costs Narrative	Roundtrip Airfare to Juneau per person: approximately \$600 = 45 people X \$600 = \$27,000 Hotel in Juneau for 2 nights (\$150 X 2) per person: approximately \$300 = 45 X \$300 = \$13,499
------------------------	--

Space or Facilities Costs	\$0.00
Space or Facilities Costs (Other Sources)	\$2,500.00
Space or Facilities Narrative	Centennial Hall Rental Fee - approximately \$2,500 for a half-day rental. This will be the site of the legislative orientation session and legislative reception

Supplies Costs	\$0.00
Supplies Costs (Other Sources)	\$0.00
Supplies Narrative	\$500: Miscellaneous supplies (signs, decorations) \$5,000: catering costs for the Legislative reception

Other Costs	\$0.00
Other Costs (Other Sources)	\$5,000.00
Other Costs Narrative	Administrative Support Costs to coordinate travel, advocacy training before Key, support during Key: 100 hours X \$50/hour = \$5,000

Other Funding Sources (from grant application)

Governor's Council on Disabilities & Special Education SECURED	\$10,000.00
Mat-Su Health Foundation PENDING	\$13,500.00
Alaska Association on Developmental Disabilities SECURED	\$5,000.00
Total Leveraged Funds	\$28,500.00