

Governor's Council on Disabilities & Special Education

Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority • August 2026

Statutory Roles • Partnership • FY28 Priorities



Chelsea Burke, Executive Director

One Council • Five Roles

IDEA Part C

Interagency Coordinating Council

Early intervention

IDEA Part B

Special Education Advisory Panel

Special education

DD Act

Developmental Disabilities Council

Advocacy +
systems change

Alaska Statute

SESA Governing Board

Low-incidence
services

Alaska Statute

Trust Beneficiary Advisory Board

IDD
recommendations

THREE FEDERAL ROLES + TWO ALASKA STATUTORY ROLES

5 Roles Require a Strong Team

7 positions • 5 statutory roles • statewide responsibilities

- 7 staff positions
- 1 current vacancy - Operations Manager
- Hiring waiver pending
- Strong staff continuity & early recruitment interest

Prevention & Early Intervention: Where Can We Align?

Connecting the Trust's Moonshot to systems serving Alaska families

IDENTIFY EARLY

Developmental
Needs & Delays

CONNECT EARLY

Families to
Services and
Supports

SUPPORT EARLY

During Critical
Developmental
Years

Where can the Trust + GCDSE strengthen prevention together?

From Provider Sustainability to a Statewide IDD Baseline

The Trust-funded provider evaluation gives us a strong starting point.

10

legacy providers reviewed

~1,800

Trust beneficiaries served

\$126M

combined annual services

- Evaluation: resilient but capacity-constrained provider system
- Next question: how many Alaskans have IDD- diagnoses, geography & demographics?
- GCDSE + Trust staff are developing a scope for repeatable statewide prevalence data

FY28 RFR • Project SEARCH Transition-Age Pilot

A pilot for transition-age youth (19–24) outside the traditional K–12 setting

- Test Project SEARCH in a non-educational setting for young adults who missed the school-based pathway
- Bartlett Regional Hospital partnership in Juneau continues to move forward positively
- Build on Alaska's established Project SEARCH infrastructure and statewide coordination
- Funding supports startup, licensing, fidelity, technical assistance, training & implementation
- FY27: Build the Pilot → FY28: Implement the Pilot → Measure Employment Outcomes → Build a Sustainable Model

FY28 RFR • Universal Changing Spaces Assistance Fund

The outcome is not only table use, it is whether people can fully participate in public life.

MEASURE

- Tables / spaces installed
- Communities reached
- Dollars leveraged
- Project & installation costs

LEARN

- RFI demand & applicant mix
- Vendor / installation capacity
- Geographic gaps
- Volume-purchasing opportunities

IMPACT

- Dignity & safe personal care
- Longer community participation
- Caregiver / family access
- Universal design becoming standard

FY28 RFR • Statewide Self-Advocacy Leadership & Support

Invest directly in Alaskans with IDD as leaders, advocates and decision-makers.

- Remove financial, geographic and accessibility barriers to leadership opportunities
- Support travel, attendants, stipends, accessible participation & training
- Build in-state leadership through Key Campaign, summits, conferences and advocacy training
- Bring Alaska self-advocate voices to national policy and DD network forums
- Extend opportunities beyond Council members to emerging self-advocates statewide

Looking Ahead

GCDSE connects systems, people and policy across the disability lifespan.

- Five statutory roles - one coordinated Council
- Stable staff and strong institutional knowledge
- Prevention and early-intervention alignment
- Better IDD data for better investment decisions
- Pilots with measurable outcomes - and infrastructure with durable impact
- Self-advocates at the center of systems change

We value the Trust partnership and are ready to turn investment into durable systems change.



Chelsea Burke, Executive Director
chelsea.burke@alaska.gov
907-538-5850