

Application ID	2466440
Submitted	May 15, 2026
Status	Awaiting review
Applicant(s)	Chelsea Burke (chelsea.burke@alaska.gov)
Organization	Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education 92-6001185 550 W 7th Ave Suite 1220, Anchorage, AK (ANC-Anchorage Intl.), AK, 99501, US
Program and cycle	FY28 Request for Recommendations FY28 Request for Recommendations
Tags	No tags
Forms	FY28 Request for Recommendations Template

General Information

Proposed Program/Initiative Title*

Statewide Self-Advocacy Leadership and Support Initiative

Total Request Amount (All Sources)*

Total FY28 requested amount from all sources (MHTAAR, GF/MH, Other)

\$150,000.00 USD

Primary Beneficiary Population Served by this Project*

Developmental Disabilities

Board Priority*

Priority ranking of this request for your board (1st, 2nd, 3rd).) A maximum of three (3) requests may be submitted per advisory board for consideration.

3

Geographical Area Served by Project*

Please select "Statewide" option if there is not a distinct area served by this request

Statewide

Request Funding Details

FY28 MHTAAR Amount*

Amount of FY28 MHTAAR requested for project

\$150,000.00 USD

FY28 GF/MH**Recommendation Amount**

Amount of FY28 GF/MH

Recommendation requested for project.

No answer

*** FY28 Other Amount***

Amount of FY28 other funding requested for project

No answer

FY28 Other Description

If there are funds requested in the "other" box above, please identify the source of the other funding anticipated for this project.

No answer

Project Budget

Estimated Personnel Services Amount for Project*

\$0.00 USD

Narrative Description for Projected Personnel Costs*

N/A

Estimated Travel Amount for Project*

\$35,000.00 USD

Narrative Description for Estimated Travel Costs*

Travel funding would support participation by self-advocates from across Alaska, including rural and underserved communities, in statewide meetings, national conferences and training opportunities, leadership trainings, conferences, advocacy activities, and collaborative planning efforts. Alaska's geographic challenges and high travel costs often create barriers to participation for individuals with disabilities. Funding would help ensure self-advocates can participate in leadership and advocacy opportunities regardless of where they live.

Estimated Other Costs for Project*

\$115,000.00 USD

Narrative Description for Estimated Other Costs*

Other costs would support self-advocacy-led activities and operations, including accessible meeting supports, stipends for self-advocate participation and leadership roles, training materials, technology and communication supports, outreach efforts, event costs, and small grants or contracts supporting self-advocacy projects. Funding may also support development of accessible plain-language materials and statewide networking opportunities that strengthen self-advocacy capacity in Alaska.

Request Description

Project description*

Narrative description of requested program/initiative. This description must include relevant data that supports the need for this recommended project. If partners are involved, describe key stakeholders relevant to the success of the project.

The Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education (GCDSE) is requesting funding to strengthen and support self-advocacy-led initiatives for Alaskans with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). Self-advocacy organizations and initiatives play a critical role in ensuring individuals with disabilities have opportunities to speak for themselves, participate in leadership roles, influence policy decisions, and advocate for services and supports that impact their lives.

One of the core responsibilities of Developmental Disabilities Councils under the federal Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act is supporting self-advocacy and leadership development among individuals with developmental disabilities. Alaska has historically benefited from strong self-advocacy efforts that created leadership opportunities, peer support networks, and statewide advocacy activities. However, sustaining self-advocacy infrastructure in Alaska has remained challenging due to limited funding, staffing instability, geographic barriers, and limited statewide coordination capacity.

This initiative would provide resources to support self-advocacy-led efforts statewide, including leadership development, statewide networking, training opportunities, advocacy engagement, and accessible participation opportunities for individuals with IDD. Funding would prioritize activities that are led by or directly guided by self-advocates and would help expand opportunities for individuals with disabilities to participate in public policy discussions, systems change efforts, peer mentorship, and community leadership.

Key stakeholders include self-advocates, disability organizations, tribal partners, service providers, advocacy organizations, the Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education, and other statewide partners working to improve inclusion and self-determination for Trust beneficiaries.

Name of state department and division that would receive the FY28 funds. A signed letter from the Department/Division receiving the funds that they have reviewed the request and support the funding request must be included as an attachment *

Department of Health, Senior and Disabilities Services

In this section, please confirm that this recommendation has been authorized by the department and/or division that would require receipt authority to receive the funding. *

Yes

Connection to the Comprehensive Integrated Mental Health Plan*

Area of Focus 7: Services in the Least Restrictive Environment/Objective 7.2: Increase access to effective and flexible, person-centered, long-term services and supports in urban and rural areas to avoid institutional placement where inappropriate

Sustainability Plan*

Sustainability plan for this project in future fiscal years

The Council anticipates this request serving as foundational support to strengthen and stabilize statewide self-advocacy capacity in Alaska. Initial funding would help establish and expand leadership opportunities, statewide coordination, and self-advocacy activities while building long-term partnerships and diversified funding strategies.

Over time, GCDSE would work collaboratively with community partners, advocacy organizations, grant opportunities, and other public and private funding sources to sustain self-advocacy efforts beyond initial Trust funding. Future sustainability efforts may include blended funding approaches, project-specific grants, partnerships with disability organizations, and continued investment from stakeholders committed to strengthening self-determination and community leadership among Alaskans with disabilities.

Beneficiary Impacts*

Description of how the proposed program/initiative will serve Trust beneficiaries and the intended outcomes.

This initiative would directly benefit Trust beneficiaries with intellectual and developmental disabilities by increasing opportunities for leadership, peer connection, advocacy engagement, and community participation. Individuals with disabilities would have greater access to self-advocacy training, leadership development, and meaningful involvement in systems and policy discussions that impact their lives.

Intended outcomes include:

- Increased participation of self-advocates in leadership and advisory roles
- Expanded access to peer support and mentorship opportunities
- Greater statewide representation of self-advocate voices
- Increased community inclusion and self-determination
- Stronger collaboration between self-advocates and statewide disability partners

The initiative would help ensure Trust beneficiaries have meaningful opportunities to influence policies, programs, and services while building long-term self-advocacy capacity throughout Alaska.