

Application Detail

Application ID	2465612
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*

Universal Changing Spaces Assistance Fund

Total Request Amount (All Sources)*

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

\$250,000.00 USD

Primary Beneficiary Population Served by this Project*

All Beneficiaries
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.

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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

\$250,000.00 USD

FY28 GF/MH**Recommendation Amount**

Amount of FY28 GF/MH Recommendation requested for project.

\$0.00 USD

*** FY28 Other Amount***

Amount of FY28 other funding requested for project

\$0.00 USD

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*

\$25,000.00 USD

Narrative Description for Projected Personnel Costs*

Funding will support personnel and administrative costs associated with implementation and oversight of the Universal Changing Spaces Assistance Fund. This includes grant administration, coordination with applicants and partners, outreach, technical assistance, application review coordination, reporting requirements, fiscal oversight, and general project management. Personnel costs represent approximately 10% of the total project budget to ensure effective and accountable administration of the statewide grant program.

Estimated Travel Amount for Project*

\$5,000.00 USD

Narrative Description for Estimated Travel Costs*

Funding will support limited in-state travel associated with project implementation, planning meetings, stakeholder coordination, outreach activities, and site visits related to completed or ongoing universal changing space installations. Travel may include visits to project locations to support collaboration, monitor progress, document outcomes, and share successful accessibility models across communities.

Estimated Other Costs for Project*

\$220,000.00 USD

Narrative Description for Estimated Other Costs*

The majority of project funding will be used for direct pass-through grant awards to eligible organizations, businesses, nonprofits, and community entities for the installation of universal changing spaces across Alaska. Funds may support equipment purchases, adult-sized changing tables, accessibility modifications, installation expenses, and related implementation costs necessary to create safe, dignified, and accessible changing facilities for individuals with significant support needs and their caregivers.

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 Universal Changing Spaces Assistance Fund is a statewide grant program designed to expand access to adult-sized changing tables and accessible changing spaces in Alaska's public-serving facilities, nonprofits, businesses, transportation hubs, and community spaces. The FY28 request builds upon the initial FY27 investment of \$250,000 in capital funding from the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority, which supported the launch and implementation of the program.

Many Alaskans with intellectual and developmental disabilities, traumatic brain injuries, mobility disabilities, and other significant support needs cannot safely use standard restroom facilities or infant changing stations. Families and caregivers are often forced to use restroom floors, vehicle spaces, or leave public settings early due to lack of accessible changing facilities. This creates barriers to community participation, travel, recreation, education, employment, and healthcare access.

Over the past several years, Alaska has seen increased momentum surrounding universal changing spaces through public advocacy, HB141, and installation projects at locations including Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport, Homer Airport, the Alaska State Capitol Building, and the Alaska State Fairgrounds event hall. These efforts demonstrate both statewide need and growing public support.

FY28 funding would expand the grant program's reach, allowing additional communities and organizations to apply for installation support while the program infrastructure is formalized through a competitive RFI process. Due to Council staffing capacity, the grant program is anticipated to be administered externally through a qualified entity with experience in accessibility, grants management, and disability community engagement.

Key stakeholders include the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority, Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education, self-advocates, caregivers, disability organizations, transportation and tourism partners, local governments, architects, builders, and community-based organizations.

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, Division of 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. *

Confirmed

Connection to the Comprehensive Integrated Mental Health Plan*

Area of Focus 3: Economic and Social Well-being

Sustainability Plan*

Sustainability plan for this project in future fiscal years

The FY28 request represents a continuation and expansion of the initial FY27 pilot investment intended to establish long-term systems change around universal accessibility in Alaska's built environment.

During FY27 and FY28, the program will focus on:

Establishing sustainable grant administration through an external managing entity selected through an RFI process;
Developing statewide outreach and technical assistance resources;
Supporting successful installation projects across diverse geographic regions;
Building partnerships with architects, contractors, municipalities, transportation facilities, nonprofits, and businesses; and
Increasing awareness of universal changing spaces as a standard accessibility feature rather than a specialty accommodation.

Long-term sustainability will be supported through a combination of future philanthropic investment, private-sector partnerships, municipal participation, and integration of universal changing spaces into standard capital planning and accessibility practices. The project also aims to leverage the momentum created through HB141 and related public infrastructure conversations to encourage broader policy and systems-level adoption.

As awareness and demand continue to grow, the program is intended to transition from a pilot grant initiative into a sustainable statewide accessibility resource supported through collaborative public and private investment.

Beneficiary Impacts*

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

The Universal Changing Spaces Assistance Fund directly benefits Trust beneficiaries with intellectual and developmental disabilities, traumatic brain injuries, mobility disabilities, co-occurring conditions, and other significant support needs who require adult-sized changing accommodations.

The initiative improves health, dignity, safety, and community inclusion by increasing access to hygienic and appropriate changing facilities in public spaces. Without these accommodations, many beneficiaries and caregivers face barriers that limit participation in travel, recreation, education, healthcare appointments, employment, civic engagement, and community events.

The program is also expected to reduce caregiver strain and improve quality of life for families by allowing beneficiaries to participate more fully and safely in community life.

Intended outcomes include:

Increased number of universal changing spaces available statewide;
Expanded geographic access to accessible facilities;
Increased community participation for Trust beneficiaries and caregivers;
Increased awareness of accessibility needs among public and private entities; and
Advancement of inclusive design practices across Alaska communities.

The project supports the broader goal of creating communities where Trust beneficiaries can safely participate, belong, and engage with dignity alongside their peers.