

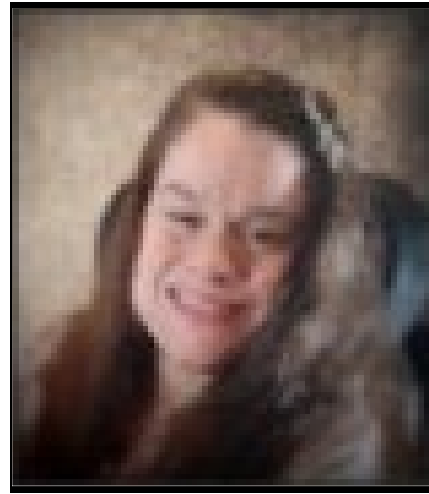
# Council Report

Patrick Reinhart,  
Executive Director

Chelsea Burke,  
Operations Manager

August 2025





# Council News!

## New Council Chair

- Sabrina Richmond, Chair (Juneau)

## & Vice Chair

- Corey Gilmore (Anchorage)
- Both are Leaders with Lived Experience(LLE) vs old term we still use sometimes --“self-advocate”



# Summer Events

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## June

- Council Meeting
- Meetings with Congressional Delegation Staffers in Alaska

## July

- National Project SEARCH Conference (Austin)
- Americans with Disabilities ACT/Disability Pride Celebrations around the State (Soldotna, Anchorage, Fairbanks, Homer, Juneau). We had reps at 4 of them.

## August

- Work Matters Task Force
- Shared Vision Collaborative
- Response to DOH on Rural Healthcare Transformation Fund



# Upcoming Events

## September

- Direct Service Professional (DSP) Appreciation Week
- Council's Foster Care Workgroup starts up
- State Plan Forums for LLE's

## October

- National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM)
- Disability & Aging Summit (DAS), Oct. 14-15
- AADD Meeting: Face to Face Meeting, Oct 21-22

OCTOBER 14 & 15, 2025

# 11TH ANNUAL DISABILITY & AGING SUMMIT

**PRESENTED BY**

THE ALASKA DISABILITY & AGING COALITION

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

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SAVE THE DATE

# Upcoming Council Meetings



GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON  
DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL EDUCATION

## Fall Council Meeting (Anchorage/Zoom)

- **Date:** October 6 – 7

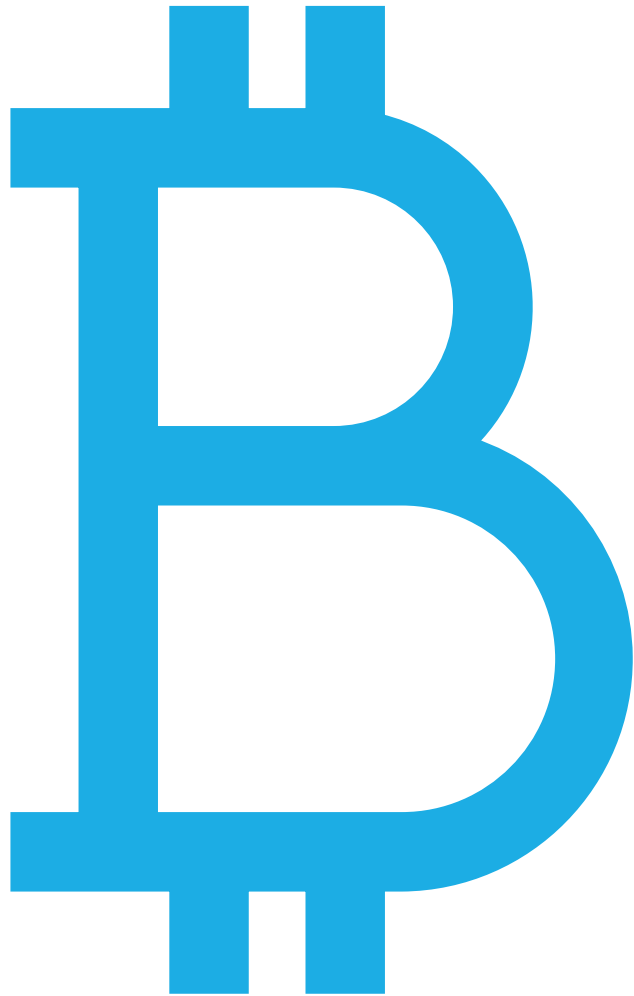
## Winter Council Meeting (Juneau/Zoom)

- **Date:** February 10-12

## Spring Council Meeting (Anchorage/Zoom)

- **Date:** May 7-8?





# Budget Recommendations

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**General Observations: Is there inequity in the distribution of Trust funding among its statutory required beneficiaries?**

For example:

- Of 34 “Partnership Grants” totaling \$4,448,903 reviewed and recommended by the P&P committee 5 are related to the I/DD population (\$137,263/3%). \$0 for ADRD, and \$88,000 for TBI.
- FY 27 proposed budget of just over \$42 million, 28% spent on TLO/PLO operations with vast majority of the rest spent on MH and SUD beneficiaries, with IDD, ADRD and TBI far below.



# GCDSE Staffing # 1 Priority

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- Experienced team of 7 staff;
- **Proposed by Trust staff:** \$225,000 for FY 27--slight increase (11%)
- **Proposed by Council:** Council needs the Trust to include us at **\$375,000 for joint staffing SOI.**
- Enough to keep all 3 Program Coordinator I/II positions next year.
- Compare to ABADA/AMHB, \$491.5 K for 2-4 positions
- Compare to ACOA, \$200 K for 2 positions





# Project SEARCH Adult Site Proposal

Seeking \$75 K for Year 1 and \$40 K for Year 2 to create a “young adult” (ages 18-35) Project SEARCH site(s) for people who experience disabilities

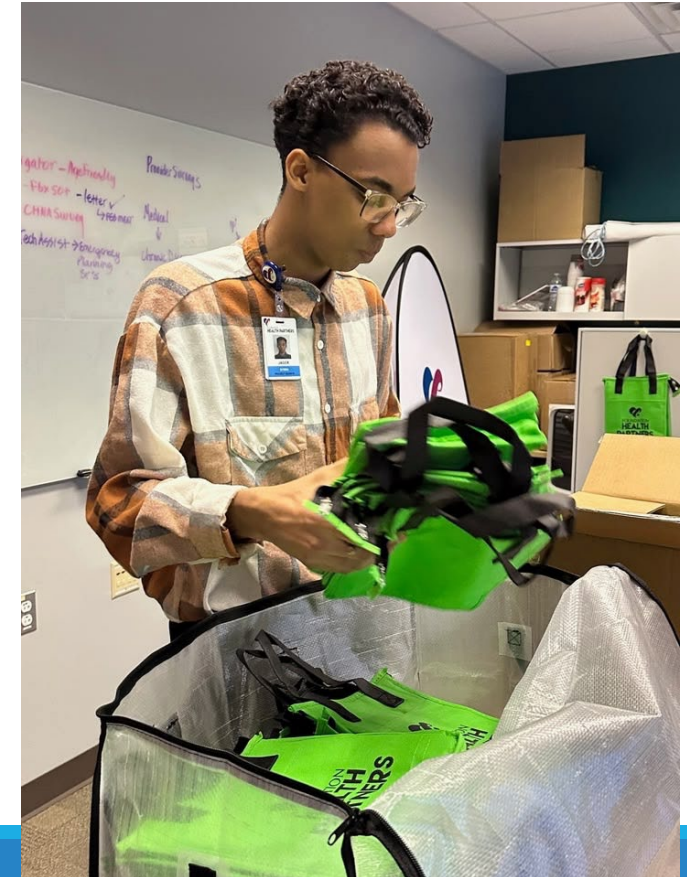
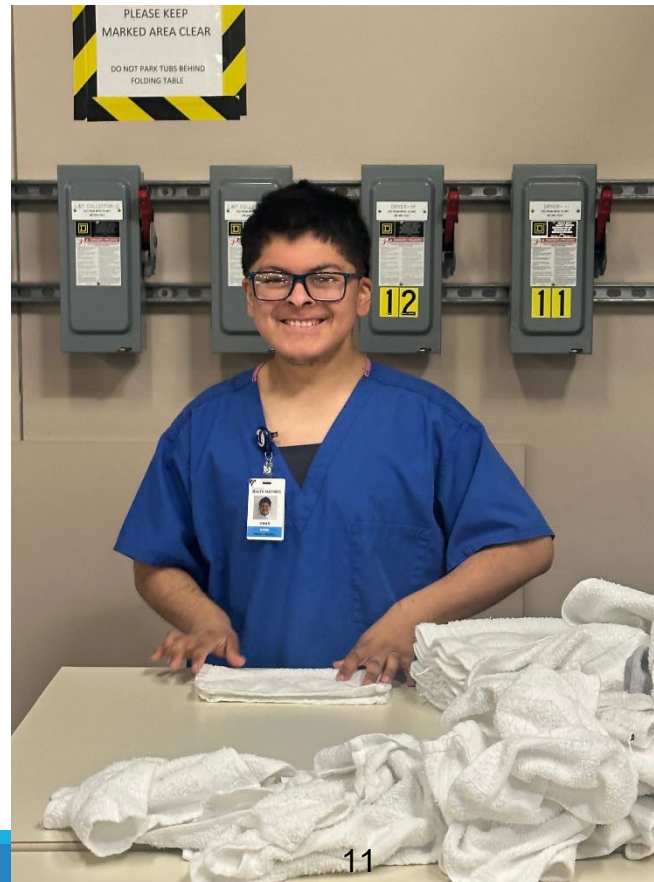
- Location Anchorage or Juneau primary consideration, serve 6-12 persons per year

Built on success with our 3 current school-based “Youth” (ages 18-22) sites running, having served over 283 interns from 2010.

- Last 5 years have averaged 81.55% employment outcomes (that’s even with COVID impacts!)
- Sites are high achieving and recognized by PS National – awarded five 100% Outcome Awards and six 70-90% Outcome Awards in last 5 years.



- GCDSE (as Statewide Coordinator) works with Adult Education Partner, Community Rehab Provider, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR), Host Business, and Project SEARCH National Liaison to open these new sites – **no current “adult” program in Alaska so is a high need area.**
- Applicants typically qualify for DVR funding supports, and some for Medicaid Supported Employment if on a waiver for long term success and replication in other communities. Often DVR also funds contracts for the Community Rehab Provider for current sites. Highly invested program.



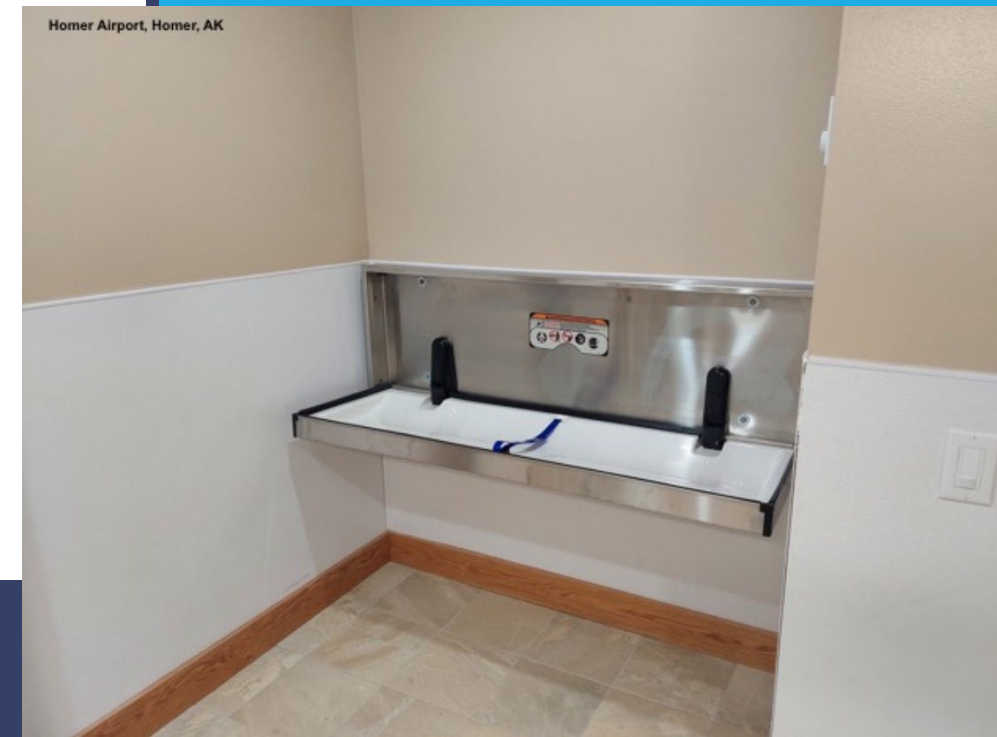
# UNIVERSAL CHANGING SPACES ASSISTANCE FUND

# What is the Universal Changing Spaces Assistance Fund?

\$250K request to support accessible adult changing spaces statewide

- Funded by: **\$250K MHTARR**
- Offers matching grants to:
  - **90/10** – Small nonprofits
  - **80/20** – Large nonprofits & small governments
  - **60/40** – Small businesses
- Supports access, dignity, and independence for people with disabilities
- Complements proposed **HB141** for public accessibility

Changing Table:  
Homer Airport



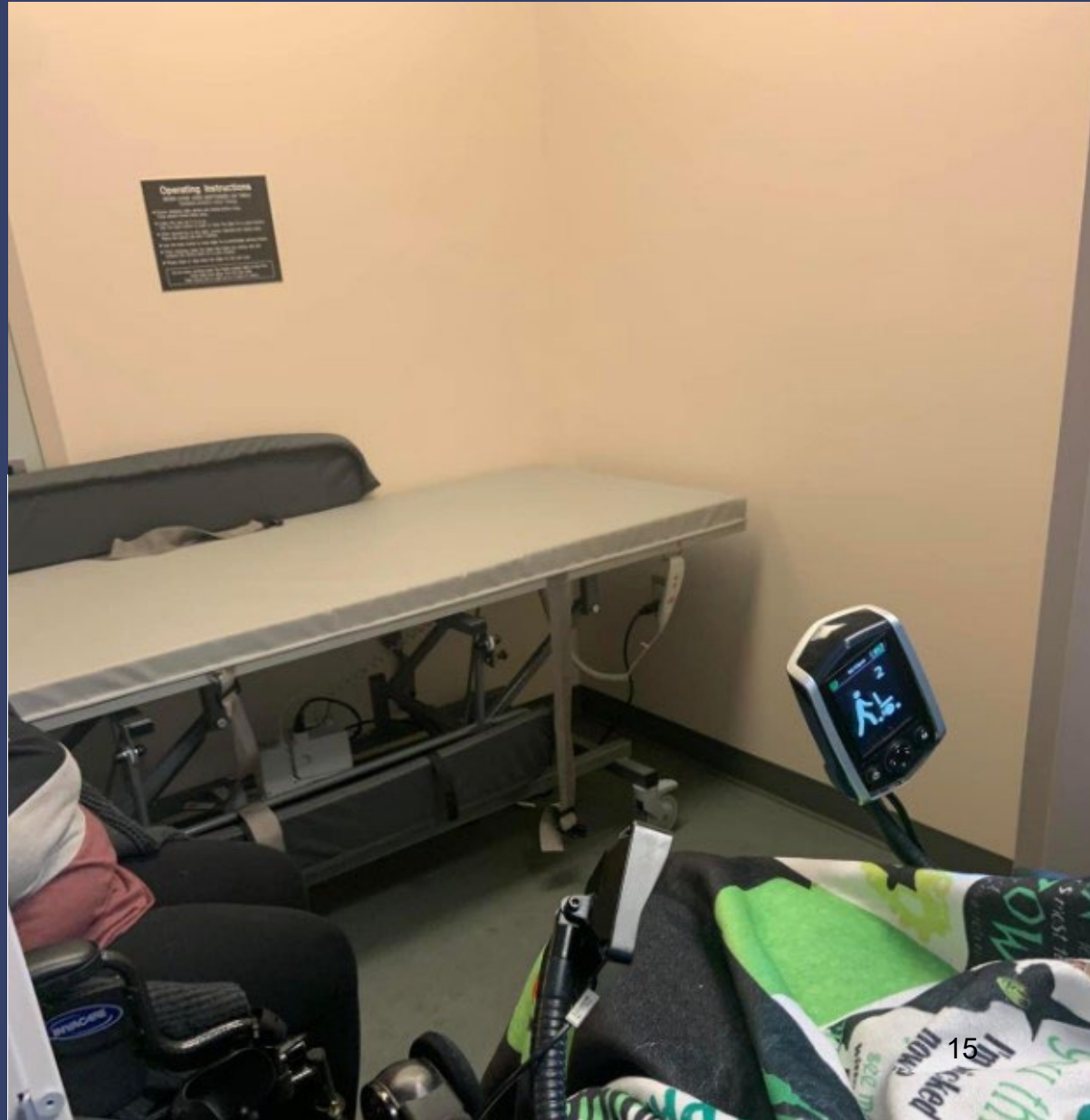
# How It Works & Who Runs it?

Changing Table at SESA Offices



- Administered by **non-profit**
- **15% admin cap** for staffing and oversight
- Review panel includes:
  - Mental Health Trust
  - SILC
  - AADD
  - Governor's Council
- Directly benefits Trust beneficiaries with IDD, TBI, mobility issues, and more
- Reduces caregiver stress and health risks

# Thank you



Photos of changing table/area  
At ANC Airport

# We also support:

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1. Staffing support for all beneficiary boards.  
Healthy boards = Healthy Trust!

2. Increases in Mini-grants for beneficiaries and flexibility - \$2 Million

3. Help for our public guardians at OPA, 2 projects

4. Beneficiary Employment Conference at DVR - \$100.0

5. Brain Injury Council support at CHD - \$165.0

6. Environmental Mods Improvement at SDS= \$94.0

7. Person Centered Transportation project at SDS - \$250.0

8. IDD Systems Capacity project at AADD - \$25.0

9. Supported Employment Workforce development at CHD - \$75.0

10. Autism Awareness & Response for Public Safety at CHD - \$150.0

11. ILP Statewide Equity Project at SDS - \$300.0

12. Self Directed HCBS Services Project at ILC - \$400.0

12. Alaska Training Cooperative at CHD - \$585.0 (is it enough?)



# GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL EDUCATION

## Questions?

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