



Equity



Partnership



Advocacy



Inclusion



Support



Advocating for Alaskans with developmental disabilities

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Key Campaign Priorities 2024

⚠️ Priority 1: Continue the work of eradicating the Waitlist for Developmental Disability Services

- 331 children and adults with disabilities are currently on a waitlist for services. Data does not exist identifying the number of families who have removed their names due to frustration, or who have left the state due to lack of services.
- In December 2023, Senior & Disabilities Services published a proposal to address the waitlist which includes implementation of a resource allocation tool called InterRAI.
- In FY24 the legislature added funding to begin implementation of the InterRAI (resource allocation tool) which is the first step in the plan.

Ask: Continue to monitor progress of fully implementing the plan to eradicate the waitlist. (HB 281 - 2022)

⚠️ Priority 2: Support initiatives that address social determinants of health

- Affordable, accessible housing enables people with disabilities to move into more independent, less costly settings. We are seeing many people move into assisted living homes because they can't afford housing, significantly increasing the cost of Medicaid support.
- Access to transportation increases independence, access to employment, and decreased reliance on service providers.

Ask: Strengthen the state's transportation infrastructure by

- 1) Supporting funding for Human Services Transportation (included in the Governor's original budget proposal)***
- 2) Adding \$1 million for Transit Match Funding.***

Ask: Support the increase of housing vouchers specifically for people with disabilities.

Ask: Continue to address challenges within state infrastructure to improve timeliness and access to state services - Division of Public Assistance, Disability Determination Services and Office of Public Advocacy.

⚠️ Priority 3: Invest in Community Behavioral Health Services

- Alaskans with disabilities, family members and other caregivers need access to timely behavioral health services.

Ask: Increase the state's investment in community behavioral health services by 1) Supporting a \$13 million request to close the gap from a delayed rate increase and 2) Enact a 1% increase in Medicaid spending (approx. \$26 million/year) to bolster current community behavioral health rates until a new long-term rate methodology is created.