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New federal funds to expand Alaska's Aging & Disability Resource Centers

ADRCs support Alaska seniors, Alaskans with disabilities, and their caregivers

(Anchorage, AK) — The federal Administration on Aging (AoA) on Tuesday awarded Alaska nearly \$690,000 over three years to expand its Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) network. The Alaska Department of Health and Social Services will contribute matching funds, for a total of nearly \$934,000 to expand the network.

ADRCs connect seniors, people with disabilities, and caregivers with long-term support services and equipment of their choice, from assisted living to assistive technology. Alaska's three regional ADRCs serve Alaskans statewide, regardless of age or income level.

"This award will expand our ADRC network to six sites over the next three years," said Rebecca Hilgendorf, director of the state's Division of Senior and Disabilities Services. "I'm delighted this national commitment reinforces Alaska's philosophy of supporting Alaskans with a comprehensive network of home- and community-based services."

The division plans by early winter to take proposals to operate the three new centers, said Amanda Lofgren, ADRC program manager.

"We're very excited to have this possibility to open up ADRCs in more rural areas of the state," Lofgren said. Existing centers are based in Anchorage, Kenai and Juneau. "Long-term care for Alaskans with limitations can be especially challenging in rural areas, and ADRCs can help individuals creatively stitch together help from family and neighbors with agency services."

ADRCs are a collaborative effort of AoA and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to help states make it easier for people to learn about and access the full array of long-term supports available in their communities to promote independence and dignity. Alaska's award is part of \$11 million awarded nationwide.

For details, see the Alaska ADRC Web page, <http://hss.state.ak.us/dsds/grantservices/adrc.htm>, and the federal ADRC Web page, www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/AoA_Programs/HCLTC/ADRC.

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