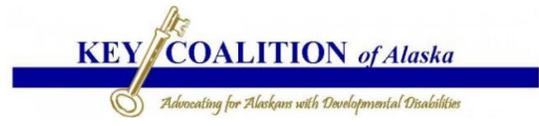




## Ensure all eligible individuals previously receiving Alaska State grant funds to continue to receive services at the same level they previously received.

- Since the 1970s, Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD) services were funded with grants from the State of Alaska General Fund. Individuals receiving these services met the state eligibility definition for IDD services under Alaska State Statute AS 47.80.900, which continues to exist as originally established under state law.
- Grants were limited in amount and did not cover entire needs identified in communities. However, the grant funds provided for the initial development of IDD services in urban and rural settings around Alaska. Provider organizations implemented an array of needed services for children and adults, often subsidizing the cost of services through additional funding sources and community support.
- In the 1990s, the Alaska Home and Community Based Waiver Services (HCBS) system was established to capture federal match dollars. **The grant-funded system was kept in place to support individuals who did not meet the criteria for waivers and individuals on the IDD wait list.**
- **The new HCBS system required a higher level of eligibility for individuals with IDD, including a level of medical care similar to that required for admission for institutional care or a nursing home. Eligible individuals were also required to receive Medicaid disability benefits.**
- **At the time of implementation of the waiver system, an estimated 25% of the IDD population in Alaska did not meet the increased eligibility level for waiver funding.** Either their medical condition was not sufficiently severe to require institutionalization or they were successfully employed with adequate wages to preclude the need for Medicaid funds. **IDD grant funds continued to support their success and independence in community life.**
- Thousands of Alaskans with IDD have been supported with grant dollars for decades. As a result of SB74, a plan to “sunset” the \$12 million grant program and use the funds to establish a new Individualized Support Waiver (ISW) to draw down a 50% federal match was developed. The transition message to individuals and families indicated that no one would lose services. **Over the past two fiscal years, IDD grant funds were reduced and then eliminated on December 31, 2018.**
- Hundreds of individuals and families who received grant funds in urban and rural areas around Alaska have lost critical long-term services without an adequate plan for continued assistance. A “safety net fund” was established to

# 2019 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES



provide a small amount of funds, \$10,000 - \$15,000 annually, as needed by individuals. The safety net funds are not adequate and not easily accessible. Their future for individuals is also uncertain, resulting in anxiety and fear.

- **Individuals who meet the state definition for eligibility for services and who have received essential grant-funded support for years have been placed in jeopardy. Community providers, often the primary source of support and long-term relationships with individuals with IDD, are doing their best to continue a minimal level of service, without funding, to prevent crisis, job loss and threats to health and safety.**

## **RECOMMENDATION:**

- Allocate funding to ensure people eligible for IDD supports receive the minimal services they need to continue living successfully in their community.