

# Alaska



**What are some of the self-advocacy organizations that currently exist in your state? What are their major activities or functions?**

- **Speak for Change**: Anchorage self advocates group
- **Key Coalition**: State-wide developmental disability advocacy group for self advocates and families
- **Wall Busters**: Fairbanks advocacy group
- **Partners in Policymaking**: State-wide advocacy training for self advocates
- **Peer Power**: State-wide self advocacy group
- **Fairbanks People First**

# What are the resources for the self-advocacy organizations?

Name of self- advocacy organization	Who provides the resource(s)?	What resource(s) is provided?
Speak for Change	Hope Community Resources	Staff, funding, activity scheduling
Peer Power	Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education and the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority, Center for Human Development, Disability Law Center	Staff, funding, advisor support, training
Wall Busters	Access Alaska Fairbanks	Staff, funding, fundraising assistance
Fairbanks People First	Fairbanks Resource Agency	Staff, funding, facilitation

## **What has worked in your state for self-advocacy organizations?**

- People First of Alaska brought the International People First Conference to Alaska in late 90s.
- Education about self advocacy and supports
- Provide disability awareness to school students
- State-wide disability advocacy organizations involve self advocates
- Advocacy within disability provider agencies

## **What are some challenges or struggles that your state self-advocacy organizations have faced?**

- Consistent well-trained staff who empower and don't impede self advocates
- Leadership development
- Outreach, training, and coordination in rural areas

## **What are you most proud of in regards to self-advocacy currently in your state?**

- Governor's Council on Disabilities & Special Education's commitment to revitalizing the self advocacy movement
- There is state-wide interest in learning about and supporting self advocacy

# **What goals or dreams does your state have for self-advocacy?**

- Strong, reliant self advocacy movements that draw in new members
- To maintain the current level of outreach and training in the face of budget cuts

**List the names and organization affiliation of each team member**

- David Berube: Disability Law Center (P & A)
- Josie Boggs: Governor's Council on Disabilities & Special Education (GCDSE)
- Kathy Fitzgerald: Center for Human Development, GCDSE, Key Campaign
- Taylor Gregg: GCDSE, Peer Power
- Kaleene Lamb: GCDSE, Key Campaign, Peer Power, Fairbanks People First, Wall Busters
- Angela McCardle: Key Campaign, Fairbanks People First, Fairbanks Resource Agency
- Debra Mutchler: Fairbanks People First, Peer Power
- Ric Nelson: GCDSE, Peer Power, Key Campaign, TASH
- Lucy Odden: GCDSE, Peer Power, Key Campaign
- Millie Ryan: GCDSE, Peer Power, Key Campaign
- Thomas Scheurer: Peer Power, Fairbanks People First
- Karen Ward: Center for Human Development