The Center for Human Development (CHD) is a University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities in Education, Research and Service (UCEDD) authorized by the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000. There are 67 UCEDDs, at least one in every state and territory, that form an Association of UCEDDs (http://www.aucd.org/). Since CHD is the only UCEDD in Alaska, it serves the entire state.

The UAA CHD has four major functions:

- Interdisciplinary education
- Community training and technical assistance
- Research
- Information dissemination

These activities are designed to increase the independence, productivity and community integration and inclusion for individuals with disabilities. CHD's projects and activities are not limited to developmental disabilities; they focus on a wide range of disabilities, ages and issues.