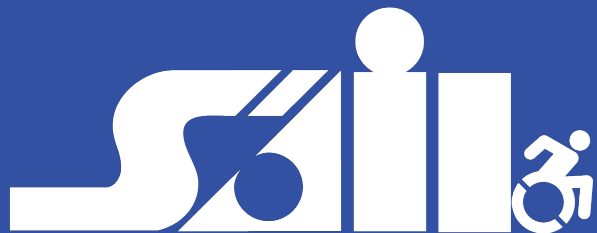




VOICE: Veteran-Directed Care



Inspiring Personal Independence



© Southeast Alaska Independent Living

Image Description: An Alaska Native elder and veteran sits on a bench smiling and holding a cane in front of a scenic water and mountain backdrop.

Janine Allen

Coordinator of SAIL's Veteran-Directed Care program

Proud to be hard of hearing and to have experience with a lifelong disability :)

Image Description: A young blond girl (Janine as a girl) looks up smiling at a standing dark-haired female audiologist. Janine is being fitted for an FM system to help her hear.



”

Who do you want to care for you?



Thought experiment:

You have an upcoming surgery scheduled, and you need someone to provide hands-on care for you while you heal. Who will you lean on?



Southeast Alaska Independent Living (SAIL)



Mission: Inspiring Personal Independence



A Center for Independent Living (CIL) serving all of Southeast AK



SAIL's Core Values: Empowerment, Accessibility,
Integrity, Collaboration, Inclusion





Image Description: A fluffy blond puppy with a black snout wears a SAIL bandanna. Oscar believes in personal independence!



What is a Center for Independent Living?

A Center for Independent Living (CIL) is a non-residential non-profit organization that provides services to individuals with disabilities to live a more independent life. All CIL's are run **by and for** people with disabilities.

SAIL works with individuals to set and accomplish goals that improve their quality of life and ability to live independently in the setting they choose.

Where is SAIL?

SAIL served 3,300+ seniors and people experiencing disabilities throughout Southeast Alaska in FY23.

From information and referral, to peer support and home accessibility, SAIL served more than 1,500 seniors in FY23.

We live and work on *Lingít Aaní*, and recognize these unceded, traditional lands are stewarded by the Lingít, Haida and Tsimshian Peoples. We are grateful for their care and deep commitment to the land, and commit to better understand the rich and complex histories of the places we call home. The intergenerational impacts of colonization, and the movement for healing and justice, continue to inform our work as we create more inclusive, accessible communities across our region. We invite you to join us in learning and using the traditional names of communities where we provide our services. You can find more information about traditional place names on our website at www.sailinc.org/equity-work.

Place names from *Haa Léelk'w Hás Aaní Saax'ú* (Our Grandparents' Names on the Land), compiled by Thomas Thornton, as well as information from the Alaska Native Language Archive (UAF).





VOICE



Veterans'
Options for
Independence
Choice and
Empowerment



Image Description: A close-up of random alphabet letters in red tomato soup broth.



What is VOICE?

VOICE is a participant-directed hands-on care program SAIL offers veterans in Southeast Alaska in close collaboration with the Veterans Administration (VA).

It places veterans in the driver's seat, allowing them to direct their own at-home care.



Image Description: The logo of the Veterans Administration: a flying eagle claspng American flags.

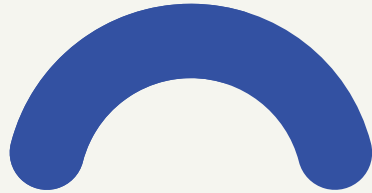


Inspiring Personal Independence 9



45 veterans

Across Southeast Alaska used the VOICE program this last year. There's room for more! Alaska has the highest percentage of veterans in the nation at 10%



Across Southeast

In Juneau, Ketchikan, Sitka, Haines, Metlakatla, Klawock, Gustavus, Klukwan, Craig, Ward Cove, Thorne Bay, Hollis...



Goal: Remain at home with supports





Traditional Services



Veteran-Directed Services



Image Description: A comparison of traditional in-home care services and veteran-directed services.

Image credit: Association for Community Living

The veteran directs the care!



Choose who to hire:

Spouse, Children, Other Family Members, Friends, Community Members... the veteran gets to decide.



Set wages and hours:

From an assigned VA budget based on care needs. The level of pay determines number of hours.



Sign timesheets:

Veteran (or authorized representative) is responsible for directing the budget, managing employees, and signing timesheets.



SAIL helps every step of the way:



Help with paperwork

Establish the veteran as the employer and can support with employee paperwork if needed. SAIL uses a payroll provider that handles payroll and taxes.



In-home assessments

Help getting the program up and running, and ongoing monthly support to ensure veteran is able to obtain needed care.



Anything/ everything

We bring SAIL resources and know-how to bear in supporting our veterans and helping them accomplish their goals.



To be eligible for VOICE, a veteran must...

1

Be enrolled in VA healthcare.

2

Must have hands-on care needs.

To be eligible for VOICE, a veteran must...

3

Have a designated VA primary care provider.

4

Be capable of directing their own care, or appointing an authorized representative to direct care on their behalf.

The Veteran-Directed Care process:



Veteran and medical provider complete a VA form assessing the veteran's in-home care needs



The VA reviews and authorizes a budget based on veteran's care needs



SAIL works with veteran (or authorized rep) to establish spending plan



Veteran (or auth. rep) directs the care with ongoing support from SAIL



•••

**More often than not,
VOICE compensates
loved ones for the
work *they're already
doing*, and brings
money into the
veteran's own home.**

Especially powerful for rural Alaskan veterans

- Might not be a care agency (or agency care workers) available locally
- Economic impact!
- A valuable tie to the VA
- Ongoing monthly connection to SAIL resources/ supports
- Program enables the flexibility required in Southeast
- Rural Alaskan veterans tend to be especially independent-minded

”

Who do you want to care for you?



Thought experiment:

You have an upcoming surgery scheduled, and you need someone to provide hands-on care for you while you heal. Who will you lean on?



For more information reach out to a local SAIL office

or visit us online at: www.sailinc.org

Or drop by our booth at the SRECE summit!

Juneau

1-800-478-7245

Ketchikan

1-888-452-7245

Angoon

1-888-487-1022



Prince of Wales

1-888-487-1035

Sitka

1-888-500-7245

Haines

1-888-471-1332

Kake

1-907-785-6471



Gunalchéesh! Thank you!

Questions? Thoughts?



Janine Allen, VOICE coordinator
jallen@sailinc.org
888-487-1014