

Children and Families are the Heart of Alaska



Keep them safe, healthy, and stable

Alaska
Early Childhood
Advocacy Group

2021

PRIORITIES

1. Prioritize young children and families in the Alaska state budget and all financial decisions.
2. Invest in affordable, quality early childhood education, including Pre-K.
3. Leverage federal COVID-19 dollars in support of children and families.
4. Prioritize the governance and coordination of Alaska's early childhood systems and data.

keep families safe

Protect Alaska's heart. Meeting the basic needs of families – housing, food, health care, quality education – allows them to thrive.

"Treat my family with the future potential, not the current circumstances."



keep families healthy

Ensure comprehensive health care services are available for all, and hearts and minds will grow strong.

"I know that every day, my children are getting good nutritious foods at child care. It's such a help to not have to worry or pack meals and snacks every day."



keep families stable

Support parents as a child's first teacher, honoring culture and tradition.

"The Parents As Teachers visits help me to realize what the development stages of the kids are and where they need to be. Being a military family means that we move often and otherwise, might fall through the cracks."



Now more than ever it is essential to support families and children.

*Human development is economic development.
Investing early gives a greater return—it makes dollars and sense.*

— Professor James Heckman

keep families

learning



Help children get ready to learn and they will succeed in school and life.

"We cannot afford to buy books for our children. Getting books from the Imagination Library has helped bring me closer to my child and has made a huge impact on my child's thinking, speaking, and reading skills."

give families

access to quality early childhood education



Invest in quality early childhood education (licensed child care, pre-K, and Head Start) so parents stress less while children develop lifelong skills.

"If I had access to high quality child care I would be able to see my husband; we have to have two incomes to make it work. So I work days, he works nights. We only see each other in passing. I miss him."

Current data can be found at:

www.AlaskaChildrensTrust.org

- Alaska Kids Count 2020
- Alaska Children's Budget 2020

www.BestBeginningsAlaska.org

- Encouraging Early Literacy in Alaska: An Evaluation of the Imagination Library (2021)

www.threadalaska.org

- Alaska's Child Care Fact Sheet (2020)
- Economic Impact Report for Early Care & Learning (2020)
- Early Care & Learning Dashboard (2020)

www.EarlyChildhoodAlaska.com

- Early Childhood Alaska: A Strategic Direction (2020-2025)
- Strengthening the System: Alaska's Comprehensive Integrated Mental Health Program Plan (2020-2024)
- All Alaska Pediatric Partnership: Alaska's Early Childhood Environmental Scan and Baseline Report on the Conditions of Young Children (2020)
- A Needs Assessment of Alaska's Mixed Delivery System of Early Childhood (2020)
- Strengthening Families Alaska (2019)



ALL ALASKA
PEDIATRIC
PARTNERSHIP



thread

The Alaska Early Childhood Advocacy Group is a coalition of early childhood experts and leading organizations with representation across Alaska working to increase the number of children ready to succeed in school and beyond.