

# Children and Families are the Heart of Alaska



## Keep them safe, healthy, and stable

Alaska  
Early Childhood  
Advocacy Group

2022

## 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 Infant Learning Program helped us see that the many challenges we were faced with were just opportunities for us to learn, grow, and support our daughter."*



# 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."*

### Supporting data can be found at:

#### [www.AlaskaChildrensTrust.org](http://www.AlaskaChildrensTrust.org)

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

#### [www.BestBeginningsAlaska.org](http://www.BestBeginningsAlaska.org)

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

#### [www.threadalaska.org](http://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](http://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)

**aaeyc**

Anchorage Association for the Education of Young Children



**nialaeyc**

Northern Interior Alaska Association for the Education of Young Children



**seaaeyc**

Southeast Alaska Association for the Education of Young Children



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.