Statewide

Alaska Strong
Our members are located in 23 of the 29 boroughs/census areas, and 88% of our members are headquartered in Alaska.

Impactful
Our membership’s direct business activity supports more than 58,000 total Alaskan jobs and $4.6 billion in total wages annually.

Generous
77% of members make cash contributions that support hundreds of nonprofits throughout Alaska, giving on average of $200,000 annually.

Board of Directors
The Alaska Chamber has representation in all regions of the state.
Who we are

700+ Members

60% Small Businesses

All Economic Sectors

- Information & Telecommunications: 6%
- Transportation & Warehousing: 7%
- Healthcare & Social Assistance: 7%
- Oil & Gas and Mining: 8%
- Local Chambers of Commerce: 9%
- Manufacturing: 6%
- Leisure & Hospitality: 7%
- Real Estate & Professional Services: 12%
- Resale & Wholesale Trade: 2%
- Industry Associations: 6%
- Seafood: 2%
- All Other Sectors: 14%

*Calculations and analysis conducted by McKinley Research Group (formerly McDowell Group) in December 2020.
(S) 9. Support decreases of barriers to entry for childcare, to increase availability of and access to childcare in Alaska

Predictable childcare enables a stable workforce. When employers can recruit and retain a qualified workforce that is not struggling with childcare issues, business, families and the economy are strengthened. The Alaska Chamber encourages the Alaska Legislature, governor and congressional delegation to work with the business community to identify fiscally responsible reforms to the childcare system.
Untapped Potential in AK

HOW CHILDCARE IMPACTS ALASKA'S WORKFORCE PRODUCTIVITY AND THE STATE ECONOMY
61% of Alaskans live in what the Center for American Progress defines as a childcare desert.

Population: 736,081
Average Household Income: $73,181
Minimum Wage: $10.34 per hour
Capital: Juneau
Surveyed: 264 parents of children 5 years and younger
Untapped Potential in AK

-$152M

Annual estimated cost to Alaska employers due to absences and employee turnover
FIGURE 02.
Household breakdown of primary reason for selecting arrangement, by income group

- Financial reasons/affordability: Low Income 80%, High Income 41%, Overall Average 52%
- Proximity to your home, work, or school: Low Income 61%, High Income 45%, Overall Average 25%
- Perceived quality/reputation: Low Income 49%, High Income 33%, Overall Average 15%
- Recommendation/referral (from a friend, family, etc.): Low Income 26%, High Income 20%, Overall Average 15%
- Personal preference: Low Income 34%, High Income 30%, Overall Average 15%
- Hours of operation: Low Income 34%, High Income 20%, Overall Average 15%
- Preferred option had a waitlist or no open slots: Low Income 12%, High Income 11%, Overall Average 10%
- Other: Low Income 51%, High Income 15%, Overall Average 10%
FIGURE 03.
Household breakdown of primary funding for childcare, by income group

- **Personal budget**: 48% Low Income, 93% Overall Average
- **Federal subsidy (also called vouchers or fee assistance)**: 13% Low Income
- **State subsidy (also called vouchers or fee assistance)**: 0% Low Income
- **Financial assistance from family/friends**: 0% Low Income
- **Financial assistance from employer**: 0% Low Income
- **Other**: 3% Low Income
- **I do not have childcare costs**: 15% Low Income

Legend:
- Blue: Low Income
- Green: High Income
- Purple: Overall Average
FIGURE 16.  
How parents said childcare issues impacted their employment

- Involuntarily separated: 2%  
- Voluntarily separated: 7%  
- Went from full-time to part-time: 11%  
- Could not go from part-time to full-time: 5%  
- Declined promotion or raise: 2%  
- Could not accept a job: 10%
FIGURE 17.
How parents said childcare issues impacted their employment, by income group

- Involuntarily separated: 0% (Low Income), 2% (High Income), 11% (Overall Average)
- Voluntarily separated: 3% (Low Income), 7% (High Income), 11% (Overall Average)
- Went from full-time to part-time: 8% (Low Income), 11% (High Income), 22% (Overall Average)
- Could not go from part-time to full-time: 2% (Low Income), 5% (High Income), 6% (Overall Average)
- Declined promotion or raise: 1% (Low Income), 2% (High Income), 11% (Overall Average)
- Could not accept a job: 8% (Low Income), 10% (High Income), 11% (Overall Average)
FIGURE 32.
Time to return to work for those leaving employment

- 42% < 6 months
- 33% Don’t know
- 8% 3–5 years
- 4% Not planning on returning
- 0% 5+ years
- 13% 6 months–1 year
- 0% 1–2 years
FIGURE 33.
Time to return to work for those leaving employment, by income group

- **Low Income**
- **High Income**
- **Medium Income**

- **< 6 months**
  - Low Income: 40%
  - High Income: 35%
  - Medium Income: 40%

- **6 months - year**
  - Low Income: 60%
  - High Income: 35%
  - Medium Income: 15%

- **1-2 years**
  - Low Income: 0%
  - High Income: 0%
  - Medium Income: 0%

- **3-5 years**
  - Low Income: 0%
  - High Income: 20%
  - Medium Income: 8%

- **5+ years**
  - Low Income: 0%
  - High Income: 0%
  - Medium Income: 0%

- **Not planning on returning**
  - Low Income: 0%
  - High Income: 0%
  - Medium Income: 0%

- **Don’t know**
  - Low Income: 0%
  - High Income: 35%
  - Medium Income: 35%
FIGURE 19.
Parents leaving employment over the next 12 months, by gender

16% Female
13% Male
14% Overall Average

FIGURE 20.
Percent of parents leaving employment citing childcare issues as a primary reason, by gender

45% Female
25% Male
39% Overall Average

FIGURE 22.
Parents leaving employment citing childcare issues as a reason, by income group

31% Low Income
29% High Income
30% Overall Average
From 2021 to 2023...

- No change in absenteeism from work.
- Females still disproportionately impacted.
- Income disparity exists, but serious problems at all levels.
"While the current child care crisis has been decades in the making, the pandemic has brought to light how essential child care is to the success of our workforce and the economy," said Cheryl Oldham, senior vice president at the U.S. Chamber Foundation. "If we want the economy to get back on its feet, we have to solve this urgent problem. That’s why the business community is a key stakeholder in this effort. Thanks to our longstanding work on child care and connections to local chambers, and BPC’s expertise in building policy solutions, both organizations are uniquely positioned to partner in successfully leading this initiative."

The Early Childhood and Business Advisory Council will bring together local chambers of commerce with key stakeholders, including state and local early childhood advocates, business owners, and state administrators, to drive progress in communities where significant barriers to child care exist."
## What Are Your Options?

### Quick Wins

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Quick Wins</th>
<th>Complexity</th>
<th>Impact</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Working Parent Support</td>
<td>++</td>
<td>Recruitment &amp; Retention, Employee Performance, Organizational Growth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flexible Scheduling</td>
<td>++</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Backup Care</td>
<td>++</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Childcare Vouchers</td>
<td>++</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subsidies</td>
<td>+++</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Onsite Care</td>
<td>++++</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Internal Investments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Internal Investments</th>
<th>Complexity</th>
<th>Impact</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Temporary childcare for unforeseen last-minute changes.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Help working parents access or afford locally-available childcare.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Help working parents access or afford locally-available childcare.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provide quality childcare exactly where parents need it—at work.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Community Investments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Community Investments</th>
<th>Complexity</th>
<th>Impact</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Public Advocacy</td>
<td>++</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Expand Community Capacity | +++       | Ways to build community capacity and supply for childcare, benefiting your working parents in the process.
Business and Childcare
Next Steps

- Business survey as part of the 2023 Early Care and Learning Economic Impact Research
- Onsite research
- Seeking public-private partnership opportunities that *work* for Alaska

**Governor's Task Force on Child Care policy recommendations**