

ALASKA EARLY CHILDHOOD ADVOCACY GROUP



Join Us and Invest in the Heart of Alaska—Alaska's Children & Families

2023/2024 PRIORITIES

1. Establish effective and accountable governance and coordination of Alaska's early childhood systems and data.
2. Prioritize young children and families in the Alaska state budget and all financial decisions—invest an additional \$50M+ to advance early childhood goals, including Pre-K and affordable, quality early childhood education.
3. Leverage federal dollars in support of children and families.

The Alaska Early Childhood Advocacy Group (AECAG) 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. Contact us as a resource on early childhood education.

aaeyc

Anchorage Association for the
Education of Young Children

niaaeyc

Northern Interior Alaska Association for the Education of Young Children

seaaeyc

Southeast Alaska Association for
the Education of Young Children



ALL ALASKA
PEDIATRIC
PARTNERSHIP



BEST BEGINNINGS
Alaska's Early Childhood Investment

thread connecting
early care & education
to alaska

Learn more about early childhood priorities and current data:

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 \(A2P2\): 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](#)

www.AlaskaChildrensTrust.org

- [Alaska Kids Count 2022](#)
- [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 Policy Fact Sheet \(2022\)](#)
- [Economic Impact Report for Early Care & Learning \(2020\)](#)
- [Early Care & Learning Dashboard \(2022\)](#)

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

— Professor James Heckman

goal:

safe families

In 2022, Alaska ranked 41st in the nation in overall child well-being.¹

Ensure families, programs, and communities partner to build protective factors that increase family resilience, enhance child development, and reduce abuse and neglect.



goal:

access to quality early childhood education

The supply of child care in Alaska meets only 50% of the demand.²



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."

goal:

healthy families

In 2022, Alaska ranked 44th in the nation in child health.¹

Ensure children and families have regular, ongoing access to health care services that are comprehensive, equitable, and culturally and linguistically responsive.



goal:

stable families

In 2022, Alaska ranked 44th in the nation in children's economic well-being.¹

Increase access to concrete supports in times of need caused by lack of safe housing, food security, out of home placement, or behavioral health treatment.



goal:

quality early learning experiences



Less than one in three Alaska students enter kindergarten with the minimum skills they need to succeed.³

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."

1. Annie E. Casey Foundation 2022 Kids Count Data Profile. www.alaskachildrenstrust.org/kidscount

2. Early Care & Learning in Alaska: 2020 Economic Impact Report. www.threadalaska.org/thread/business-community/tools-for-business/research-resources

3. Annie E. Casey Foundation 2020 Expanded Indicator Alaska-Specific Data. www.alaskachildrenstrust.org/kidscount