

# Alaska's Early Childhood Joint Task Force

To better meet the needs of young children and families in Alaska, three new early childhood initiatives have decided to join leadership efforts to accomplish two shared goals; to conduct a statewide needs assessment and develop a unified strategic plan. This joint task force is expected to be a one year project, ending in December 2019 or upon the completion of a strategic plan.

Department of Education and Early Development (DEED)

## PRESCHOOL DEVELOPMENT GRANT

*Alaska's early childhood education systemic plan for the future.*

The target population is low income or rural children under age six.

Short and intermediate-term outcomes are to:

- Increase parent knowledge and maximize early childhood care and education (ECCE) choices
- Improve child transitions into school
- Increase the quality and availability of ECCE programs
- Improve teacher preparation and retention
- Have a unified system of programs and data

Long term outcomes:

- Increase the number of low-income or rural children that arrive at school ready for success
- Increase number of students proficient by third grade reading

The grant is jointly administered by the DEED in partnership with the DHSS and runs from December 2018-December 2019 with an option for renewal.

**Contact: Kristen Spencer,**  
Education Specialist II, DEED  
kristen.spencer@alaska.gov  
907-465-4862

Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS)

## IMPACT PROJECT

*Build upon past successes, enhance the infrastructure and capacity of programs and further our ability to deepen engagement and grow partnerships.*

The Impact Project is a technical assistance award designed to support states as they develop and expand their capacity in planning and implementing their own early childhood priorities. Alaska's Impact Project focus is to support the Child Care Program Office (CCPO) and Alaska Early Childhood Coordinating Council (AECCC) efforts to align systems with the services and programs serving children birth to age 12.

The grant is awarded through the State Capacity Building Center. Technical assistance received through this award will enhance the CCPO and the AECCC's ability to form and lead a unified early childhood system and meet its identified priorities efficiently and effectively.

The Impact Project begins October 2018. Projects are expected to last from 18-24 months.

**Contact: Christina Hulquist,**  
Program Coordinator II, CCPO  
christina.hulquist@alaska.gov  
907-269-3439

Southcentral Foundation

## INDIGENOUS PROJECT LAUNCH

*Our goal is for children to enter school with the social, emotional, cognitive, and physical skills they need to succeed.*

The target population is Alaska Native/American Indian children, ages 0-8, and their families.

Project LAUNCH's Five Prevention and Promotion Strategies:

- Screening & assessment in a range of child-serving settings
- Integration of behavioral health into primary care
- Mental health consultation in early care and education
- Enhanced home visiting with a focus on social and emotional well-being
- Family strengthening and parent skills training

The grant spans from October 2018-October 2023 and is a federal initiative funded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).

**Contact: Lindsey Earnest,**  
Improvement Advisor,  
Southcentral Foundation  
learnest@SouthcentralFoundation.com  
907-729-7430