

Spending Plan: Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act & American Rescue Plan Act of 2021

Total amount: \$92,581,557

This document is intended to communicate the strategies identified for planning purposes. Preliminary strategies and estimates will necessitate adjustments during implementation.

IMPROVE AFFORDABILITY & SUBSIDY PROGRAM \$28,657,319

30%

Funding source- ARPA:

- Hire a contractor to review and improve the Child Care Assistance Program to make it more accessible and supportive for parents and providers which will inform strategies such as: ***
 - Support parents by covering the cost of co-payments (for a period to be determined)
 - Provide grants to families not typically covered by child care assistance including those utilizing non-traditional care hours and those ineligible due to income, this will be targeted to parents working in the first responder and/or medical fields
 - Increase reimbursement rates to a higher percentile of market rate
 - Improve payment policies
 - Broaden eligibility to child care assistance
 - Update Family Income and Contribution Schedule
 - Provide contracted slots
 - Improve Child Care Grant Program & the Alaska IN! Program
- Pilot a tiered reimbursement initiative for infant and toddler care ***
- Provide financial aid for providers who were not participating in subsidy system prior to Covid-19 pandemic***

INCREASE ACCESS TO LICENSED CARE \$45,336,010

50%

Funding source- ARPA:

- Phase 1 stabilization provides immediate relief to providers and collects information to inform future phases***
 - Additional supports through bonuses provided for non-traditional care hours (designed to serve parents working in the first responder and/or medical fields), Learn & Grow participation, Child Care Assistance Program Participation, serving children with special needs, and serving infants and toddlers.
- Phase 2 stabilization helps providers reach their intended licensed capacity and return to stabilization***
 - Additional supports through bonuses provided for participation in Learn & Grow and the Child Care Assistance Program
- Phase 3 contributes toward stabilizing licensed child care programs and supporting the ECE workforce
 - Additional support programs for developing workforce initiatives***
 - Included additional community-based grants and Workforce Initiative Opt-In

Funding source- CRRSA:

- Improve technology supporting health and safety*
- Provide start up grants for underserved communities for increasing licensed child care slots ***
- Increase funding to support research and writing of regulation changes
- Provide funding to After School Network to increase School-Age supports and child care slots***
- Support increased compliance for background check program**
- Provide grant to increase infant/toddler slots***
- Provide incentives for Head Start and Pre-K programs expanding to operate full day licensed child care **
- Support families with special needs children to increase access to child care ***

INCREASE SUPPORTS FOR QUALITY IMPROVEMENT \$9,552,439

10%

Funding Source- CRRSA:

- Purchase and distribute developmental screening kits and training/support***
- Increase funding for UAA RSA Scholarships to those in early childhood learning paths***
- Provide health and nutrition supports for child care providers through a sponsorship with Go NAPSACC***
- Increase funding to support provider partnerships with the Infant Learning Program ***
- Improve school age standard quality work***
- Provide training and supports on the protective factors with the Strengthening Families framework through a sponsorship with the Child Welfare Academy **
- Provide additional funding to thread for:
 - free training for providers through *thread* ***
 - Utilize one time funding to finalize full implementation of Learn & Grow, Alaska's Quality Recognition and Improvement System**
 - Utilize SEED professional development system funds to implement Alaska's Early Childhood Strategic Direction strategies for supporting the workforce ***
 - Provide funding to Individuals in the field through SEED ROOTS awards***

INFRASTRUCTURE \$9,552,439

10%

Funding Source- CRRSA:

- Hire additional positions/contractors for planning and implementation of federal relief strategies **
- Coordinate with DEED (funding, policy) including Head Start and Pre-K programs ***
- Provide grant opportunities to local communities or municipalities *
- Supports for improving tribal coordination ***
- Enhance and improve technology supporting child care data and reports (ICCIS system) *
- Complete the provider portal tool for child care providers *

** Denotes alignment with Division of Public Assistance Guiding Principles*

*** Denotes alignment with Early Childhood Alaska: A Strategic Direction for 2020-2025*