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

Total amount: $95,524,397

Preliminary estimate that 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:

- Deliver stabilization funding grants to all eligible providers per federal guidelines

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 grants to providers who provide non-traditional care hours and serving parents working in the first responder and/or medical fields
• 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 GO NAPSACC training and materials for child care providers to support health and nutrition
• Increase funding to support provider partnerships with the Infant Learning Program
• Improve school age standard quality work
• Provide training on protective strategies from the Strengthening Families framework to child care providers and staff
• Provide additional funding to thread for:
  o free training for providers through *thread*
  o Utilize one time funding to finalize full implementation of Learn & Grow, Alaska’s Quality Recognition and Improvement System
  o Utilize SEED professional development system funds to implement Alaska’s Early Childhood Strategic Direction strategies for supporting the workforce
  o 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 for strategies that fall within the scope of ARPA stabilization
• 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