

Alaska Children's Trust **COMMUNITY IMPACT REPORT**

2024

**OUR SINCEREST
THANKS TO
YOU!**

Childhood can be a magical journey of growth and self-discovery. But for far too many Alaska children, their journey includes overcoming challenges such as child abuse and neglect. But when parents, families, and communities are provided with the knowledge, skills, support and resources they need to thrive, their journey becomes one of resilience, healing, and boundless potential. Your ongoing support of Alaska Children's Trust is making these journeys safer, healthier, and filled with hope for a brighter future. Together, we are making strides in preventing child abuse and neglect.



KNOWLEDGE



When parents and community members have a base knowledge of parenting tools, child development milestones, and guidance on how to interact with children and youth, they are better able to provide for kids, and the risk of child abuse and neglect decreases.



ACT enhances Alaskans' understanding of parenting topics.

ACT plays a crucial role in enhancing Alaskans' parenting knowledge, particularly as they navigate the risks and benefits of online devices for children and youth. For many parents, their child having a phone gives them peace of mind to be able to reach them and for their child to be able to call for help when needed. But with increased device ownership and kids getting phones at a younger and younger age comes an increased need for knowledge of how to ensure safe practices when online.

Whether it's small children on YouTube or teenagers using Snapchat or Instagram, staying up-to-date with privacy and screentime settings is a challenge for most families. This year, ACT continued to develop tools to help Alaskan parents navigate this tough topic with their child safely.

Online safety in our home means reviewing chat history and monitoring who contacts our daughter. After past issues with strangers, we now check her phone as a family, discuss concerns, and use a screentime app to manage her usage.

Kaila Pfister, stepmom to a 15 year-old

Open communication with my kids is key. I discuss what's healthy and inappropriate for their minds. We focus on educational and safe gaming sites, avoiding unnecessary risks. Let kids be kids.

Mareé Hall, mom to a 6 and an 8 year-old

ACT plans to continue this important work and, going into 2025, create a resource geared specifically towards younger children and their caregivers. Our newest resource will focus on children ages 3-7 and some of the topics most impactful to them.

PARENTS

ACT created a card deck to help parents navigate online safety topics like screen time, mental health, and privacy. Over 16,000 decks have been distributed across 69 Alaskan communities.

PEERS

We know that teens often listen best to their peers, so ACT trained 12 teens in online safety concepts and guided them in creating TikTok-style videos to share safety messages with their peers.

EDUCATORS

While parents are key protectors, teachers and afterschool staff also play a vital role. ACT created an editable Online Safety Trivia template to help them start crucial conversations about online safety.

SKILLS

To promote the upstream prevention of child abuse and neglect, Alaskans must take the knowledge they have and put it into practice as everyday skills. When individuals have the skills to respond to situations with compassion and a trauma-informed lens, they are better prepared to interact and bond with children and youth.



HOPE

Healthy Outcomes from **Positive Childhood Experiences (HOPE)** introduces audiences to the benefits of positive childhood experiences (PCEs) and sparks conversation on how our communities and systems of care can ensure equitable access to PCEs and support families' strengths.

9 HOPE trainings hosted, with a total of 201 participants

ACT also provides Alaskans with the skills they need to power prevention. We host a variety of skill-based trainings throughout the year, for example:

POSITIVE INDIGENOUS PARENTING

Positive Indigenous Parenting is a training modeled after the National Indian Child Welfare Association's parenting curriculum and is uniquely customizable for different areas of Alaska and Alaska Native peoples. ACT's train-the-trainer program prepares organizations to deliver culturally-relevant parenting classes designed to help families remember traditional teaching and put them into practice.

So far this past year, 11 Alaskans from 5 organizations attended Positive Indigenous Parenting, and at least 30 more will be trained in our next two cohorts this fall.

WATCH



This past year, we launched the **Child and Youth Care (CYC)** Credential training for afterschool providers through the Alaska

Afterschool Network. Afterschool programs offer safe spaces for children to bond with role models, learn new skills, and form friendships. The training helps providers guide youth, resolve conflicts, and improve self-regulation. This year, two cohorts completed 72 hours of training, benefiting 42 providers. The class was received with enthusiasm by afterschool providers in search of professional development and a chance to flex their skills.

One participant, Steven from YMCA Alaska said, *"I think that if anyone has an opportunity to take this training, they should jump on it. There's a lot of knowledge in the room and it's been a great opportunity to build upon the skills I already have and flex my knowledge muscles to be able to bring skills back and share them with the rest of my staff and program."* ACT looks forward to continuing to offer CYC trainings and other skill-building opportunities for afterschool providers, and now has 6 certified trainers available to host them!



SUPPORT



Alaska Children's Trust recognizes that the way policies and systems are designed and implemented can either prevent or perpetuate the factors that lead to child abuse and neglect. We know that when families have the stable and reliable supports they need to thrive, the likelihood of child abuse and neglect greatly decreases.

ACT encourages both the community and policymakers to prioritize impactful, equitable, and family-focused policies and investments. This past legislative session, 2 of the key areas that ACT advocated for systems change on behalf of children were:

ACT's upstream prevention work includes advocating for strong supports for families.



THE EXPANSION OF SCHOOL-BASED MEDICAID

A bill expanding school-based Medicaid passed, securing a **\$2.5 million** federal grant for Alaska, making therapy and nurse services more accessible and convenient for Medicaid-eligible kids.

Families need easy access to medical services that fit their schedules. Previously, reimbursement to schools was limited to students with a disability and an Individual Education Program (IEP). The expansion of school-based Medicaid means more options for eligible students and appropriate reimbursement for schools. This legislative session, ACT convened stakeholders to highlight the benefits of updating these flexibilities and kept partners informed on legislative progress.

INCREASED BUDGETS FOR EARLY CHILD CARE AND HEAD START PROGRAMS

Alaska's child care system is in crisis, and many families urgently need high-quality, affordable care. ACT believes that upstream prevention of child abuse and neglect requires collaboration and community-based solutions. This past year, ACT facilitated meetings, supported advocacy, and promoted effective communication during a fast-moving legislative session. This resulted in an additional **\$16.2 million** for early childhood services in the FY25 budget, including child care and Head Start—a 170% increase from FY24 funding.

This increase is much-needed support for Alaska's childcare system, offering crucial help to providers and parents, but there is still work to be done to create a thriving child care system in Alaska.



RESOURCES

Upstream prevention of child abuse and neglect involves addressing root causes early by providing families with essentials like affordable housing, medical assistance, and food. These resources enhance children's well-being and strengthen family stability, reducing the risk of crises escalating into harmful situations.



As a resource provider, ACT helps ensure that families have what they need to thrive, helping alleviate financial stressors that could lead to neglectful or abusive situations.

This past year, ACT helped provide **a critical resource to nearly 2,000 families** – we helped distribute diapers. In Alaska, one in three families struggle to provide clean diapers for their baby. Babies without clean diapers are exposed to more potential health risks and are less likely to be accepted into daycare. Nationally, 3 in 5 parents miss work or school because they can't afford diapers.

To help alleviate this need, ACT, in conjunction with a Municipality of Anchorage grant, provided:

- Diapers to **eleven Anchorage nonprofits**
- 475,400** diapers to families
- 725,760** baby wipes to families

To date, nearly **2,000 families**, and over **2,600 children**, have received diapers and wipes.



Receiving diapers, wipes, clothing, and changing pads has helped exponentially because being a new mom is very hard financially and, I really love the support and information that helps new parents like me feel more secure and safe about my parenting. - New Mom RM-C



ACT worked hard to protect vulnerable families from predatory lending by advocating for **House Bill 145, legislation that would have capped the interest rate for payday loans under \$25,000 at 36%**. Payday loans are short-term loans that are nearly always taken out to cover basic living expenses, but become difficult to pay off due to high-interest rates, often at over 400%. Unfortunately, this bill did not pass the Alaska legislature this past year, but ACT will continue to advocate its passage to ensure these predatory lending practices are stopped and encourage access to credit-building alternatives.

The additional support of child care assistance may keep opportunities open for families that may otherwise not be able to care for a foster child.





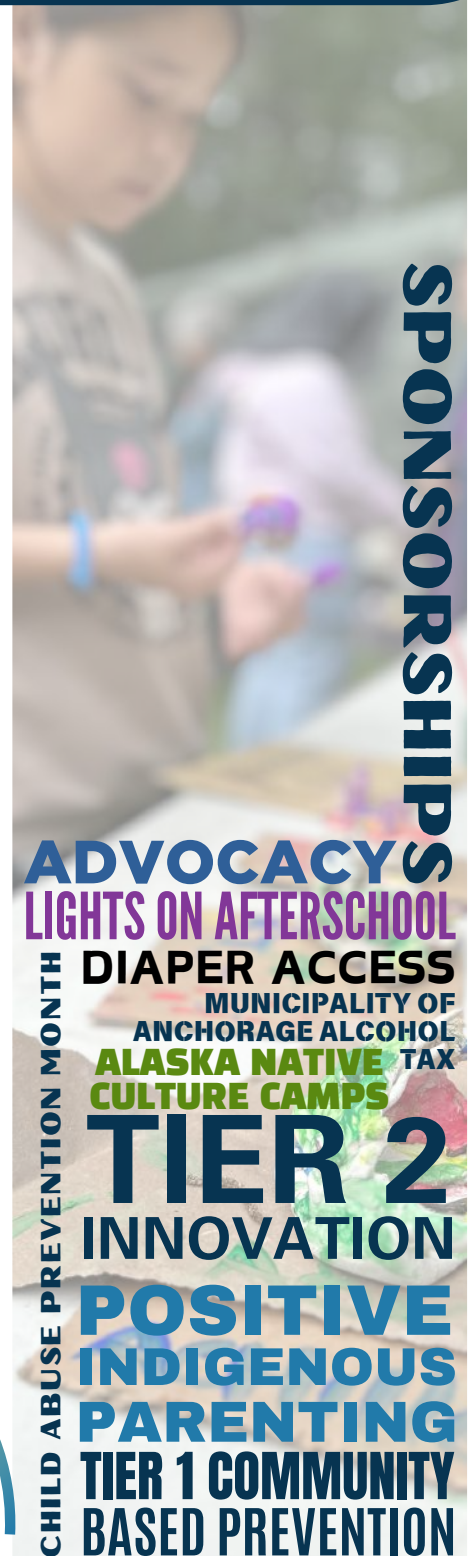
GRANTS

ACT knows that no single organization can prevent child abuse and neglect. To be effective at changing the narrative for children, youth, and families, we must join together. Partners in local communities are integral to building a brighter future for Alaska's children, which is why grantmaking is a part of our prevention efforts. This year, ACT distributed **\$2.06 million** in grants to organizations around the state.

TIER 1 GRANTS

KEYS TO LIFE

Having a parent who is incarcerated can be an adverse childhood experience. At the Keys to Life summer camp, children of incarcerated parents experienced camp for the first time. This four-day camp, funded by ACT's Tier 1 grants for a second consecutive year, provides positive childhood experiences through joyful activities like singing, crafting, and dancing. The camp fosters confidence and delivers structured learning to those who need it most. The laughter and newfound confidence children find at camp attest to the difference this program is making on their quality of life.



FINANCIAL IMPACT



Alaska Children's Trust receives support from individual donors, private foundations, corporations, businesses, and the government, allowing us to work towards achieving our mission to prevent child abuse and neglect. The graphs outline our activities for the most recently completed and unaudited fiscal year, 2023.

Endowment

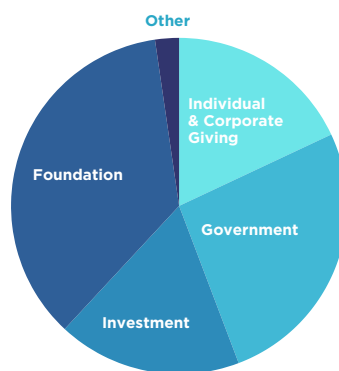
Alaska Children's Trust has partnered with the Alaska Community Foundation since 2010 to manage our endowment. As of June 30, 2024, our endowment was valued at approximately \$14.5 million.



Alaska Children's Trust has been awarded a silver seal of transparency from GuideStar, the world's largest source of nonprofit information.

I give to ACT because I understand the impacts that childhood trauma has and *I want* to be a part of the prevention and advocacy work that ACT does to help our youngest community members thrive.

- Kathleen McArdle, donor



REVENUE & SUPPORT

Individual & Corporate Giving

\$509,341

Government

\$741,168

Investment

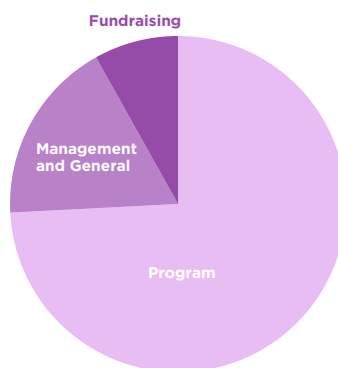
\$500,000

Foundation

\$1,011,717

Other

\$64,956



ACTIVITIES

Program

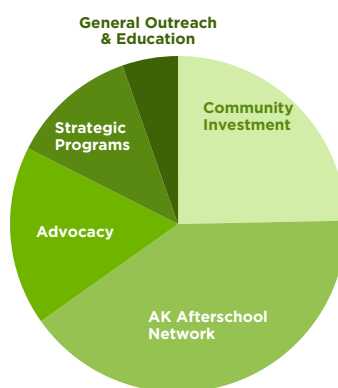
\$2,107,352

Management & General

\$502,632

Fundraising

\$230,610



PROGRAMS

Community Investment

\$452,513

AK Afterschool Network

\$742,954

Advocacy

\$316,507

Strategic Programs

\$223,448

General Outreach & Education

\$98,464



alaska children's trust