Media Advisory

For Immediate Release
June 12, 2019
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*KIDS COUNT® Data Book* Ranks Alaska amongst the worst in the nation in how we treat children

ANCHORAGE, Alaska — The 2019 *KIDS COUNT® Data Book* by the Annie E. Casey Foundation shows Alaska’s children and families are hurting. This is the 30th year the Data Book has outlined how the nation and individual states are faring and Alaska remains at the bottom.

WHAT: 2019 Kids Count Report unveiled, Alaska statistics debuted

WHERE: Alaska Children’s Trust, 3201 C Street, Suite 110

WHEN: Monday, June 17 at 11:00am

“Alaska ranks 50th in health and 49th in the education category. This means our children are faring amongst the worst in the nation,” said ACT President & CEO Trevor Storrs. “It’s time to prioritize our children and their families and make child centered programs and healthcare accessible for all Alaskans.”

Alaska also ranked highest in death rates amongst children and the highest in substance abuse rates, of any state. The purpose of the Data Book is to provide up to date information that will lead to policy and program changes that better support children, giving them an opportunity to thrive and live up to their full potential. It’s an issue that is of great concern in Alaska as legislator’s debate the future of the Permanent Fund Dividend and its impact on citizens.

Another major concern is the upcoming 2020 census. Alaska is considered at high risk for an undercount. More than 26,000 children would be at risk of losing vital benefits that provide health care, nutrition, education and housing. Since the census is done every 10 years, the lack of funding would have long lasting consequences and impact
those already most vulnerable. Investing in an accurate count is directly tied to the well-being of Alaska’s children.

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**Release Information**
The 2019 KIDS COUNT® Data Book will be available June 17 at 12:01 a.m. EDT at www.aecf.org. Additional information is available at www.aecf.org/databook. Journalists interested in creating maps, graphs and rankings in stories about the Data Book can use the KIDS COUNT Data Center at datacenter.kidscount.org.

**About Alaska Children’s Trust**
Alaska Children’s Trust (ACT) is the statewide lead organization focused on the prevention of child abuse and neglect. ACT has operated as Alaska’s KIDS COUNT partner since 2016. The goal of the data is to have timely information available in order to make positive changes in the lives of Alaska’s families.

**About the Annie E. Casey Foundation**
The Annie E. Casey Foundation creates a brighter future for the nation’s children by developing solutions to strengthen families, build paths to economic opportunity and transform struggling communities into safer and healthier places to live, work and grow. For more information, visit www.aecf.org. KIDS COUNT® is a registered trademark of the Annie E. Casey Foundation.