



**reimagine
anchorage**

IMPACT REPORT

Reimagine Anchorage: Community Impact Report

In April 2020, Anchorage voters supported a bold, practical solution to address Anchorage's most pressing problems: a new sales tax on alcoholic beverages sold in the Municipality, with revenue dedicated as new funding towards three specific issues: increasing community safety; reducing and preventing child abuse and neglect, sexual assault, and domestic violence; and preventing and treating substance misuse, mental health issues, and homelessness. The collection of the tax would begin in 2021.

In 2021, 17 agencies received Anchorage Health Department grants through the alcohol tax fund. Grantees put these funds towards 49 activities to go upstream and invest in the primary prevention of child abuse and neglect, sexual assault, and domestic violence.

Grantees' activities fell into three major categories:

Training and workforce development for providers working with the target population. Grantees helped providers expand their skill and capacity through activities including providing hiring and referral bonuses to afterschool providers, hosting language access trainings to improve organizations' accessibility, and training volunteer court-appointed special advocates for children.

Direct services and community resources that directly serve the target population. Grantees provided direct services to individuals and worked to expand access to community resources through activities including providing translation and interpretation services, creating new preschool programs in the Anchorage School District, and enrolling children at risk for developmental delays in early intervention services.

Plan development to create organization and municipal-wide frameworks to improve services and address critical issues. Grantees convened Anchorage stakeholders to address child sexual abuse and afterschool needs within the Municipality, developed a strategic plan to offer more youth in care court-appointed special advocates, and demonstrated communications to share the impact of Reimagine Anchorage.

Category 1: Training and Workforce Development

Alaska Children's Trust (ACT)

Activity 1: Alaska Afterschool Network (AAN) Afterschool Outreach Support Signing & Referral Bonuses

AAN offered \$300 signing and referral bonuses to youth-serving organizations in Anchorage. Four organizations – the Anchorage School District, Camp Fire, Anchorage Youth Court, and Bear Valley Community Association – utilized the program.

Success Statistic: Four organizations used the program, awarding 30 signing bonuses and seven referral bonuses.

Activity 2: AAN Afterschool Outreach Support Outreach & Marketing

AAN worked with C+L Creative to design and produce two recruitment videos for afterschool professionals. Additional funds were used to promote and target the videos on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and YouTube.

[Afterschool Jobs Video #1](#)

[Afterschool Jobs Video #2](#)

In addition, funding was awarded to the four organizations that participated in the signing and referral bonus project for direct outreach for staff recruitment. This funding allowed the organizations to tailor their outreach to their specific needs, reach their supporters and followers, and make the asks more personal to their organizations.

Activity 3: AAN Trauma-Informed Consultation

While AAN initially intended to provide trauma-informed care training and technical assistance for Anchorage's afterschool sector, afterschool programs were stretched thin during COVID-19. They could not dedicate time for sector-wide training. This activity was modified to allow organizations to host trainings related to trauma-informed care to allow for greater scheduling flexibility, lessen the impact on staffing schedules, and allow organizations to tailor the training to their needs. Three organizations utilized this opportunity: Camp Fire, Bear Valley Community Association, and Anchorage Youth Court.

Success Statistic: Overall, 127 individuals participated in 6 pieces of training, including QPR Suicide Prevention; Social Emotional Learning; Social Emotional Learning PQA Planning with Data; Conscious Discipline; Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion; and Cultural Sensitivity and Diversity Training.

Activity 4: AAN Annual Conference Professional Development

In 2021, AAN hosted its annual conference for afterschool professionals virtually on November 18 and 19. AAN used grant funds to provide conference scholarships to 60 Anchorage-based afterschool professionals. Overall, 259 afterschool professionals, including 82 from Anchorage, registered to attend the conference.

The conference offered three live keynote presentations and eleven live workshop presentations for 17.5 total hours of professional development. The conference also offered nine pre-recorded workshops

provided by local Alaskan organizations and seven pre-recorded workshops provided by national partners for ten total hours of professional development and nearly 30 hours of professional development.

Success Statistic: 60 Anchorage-based afterschool professionals from 8 Anchorage-based organizations received scholarships to attend AAN's conference.

Success Story: One conference attendee provided this feedback: "AMAZING! Each time I attend, I think.... this was the best year ever. There's no way they can outperform this. And yet - here we are. You guys out did yourselves once again. Thank you so much for all your work and your scholarships, and your technical abilities. I enjoyed attending without leaving home. I enjoyed all the presenters and engagement."

Alaska Institute for Justice (AIJ)

Activity 1: Language Access Training

AIJ provided the Anchorage Health Department (AHD) grantees training on language access plans, the AIJ language access platform, and best practices in making services accessible for limited English proficient Alaskans. Trainings ensured that grantee organizations could meet their language access needs and make their services accessible to underserved communities in Anchorage.

Trainings included a kickoff event that informed organizations of the resources available to them as grantees. AIJ also hosted three webinars for these organizations: Introduction to AIJ's Interpreter Scheduling Platform, Learning the Components of a Language Access Plan, and How to Work with an Interpreter. Overall, 34 participants registered for the webinar series. The webinars were also recorded and are available on the AIJ Language Interpretation Center website.

Activity 2: Community Interpreter Training Series

In November 2021, AIJ held a week-long Community Interpreter Training Series to introduce bilingual Alaskans to interpreting and refresh the skills of existing Language Interpretation Center interpreters. Participants learned about the skills and ethics required to be a professional interpreter and language access needs in Alaska. The five-part training series was also recorded and is available to community interpreters and AHD grantee organizations.

Success Statistic: 14 individuals were speaking eight languages (Samoan, Nuer, Russian, Vietnamese, Yup'ik, Hmong, Dinka, and Spanish) participated in the five-part training series.

Success Story: One participant shared the following about the Community Interpreter Training Series: "I thought that the last Module on Alaska Native languages was extremely important for any one of us, interpreters, and panel members - willing to share and knowledgeable. Just like a course on Native Alaskan Cultures for all Alaskan teachers, the information shared in this Module should almost be required as a part of interpreter training for all interpreters working in the state of Alaska. It is that valuable."

Alaska Writing Project (AWP)

Activity 1: AWP Anti-Racist Writing Workshop for ASD Teachers

AWP collaborated with the Alaska Black Caucus to spearhead professional development for Anchorage School District (ASD) teachers on anti-racist pedagogy and curriculum to create healthy, sustainable, empowering classroom communities. During two days of workshops on the University of Alaska Anchorage campus, teachers learned about anti-racist curricula and tools to utilize in the classroom. At the second workshop, presenters from First Alaskans Institute, the Alaska Black Caucus, and the Alaska Coalition of BIPOC Educators spoke on anti-racist education. Workshop participants used their learnings to write anti-racist action plans they will utilize in their classrooms and education spaces this spring. These plans were published in the National Writing Project's Write Now Teacher Studio.

During both sessions, participants heard from creative writing scholar Felicia Rose Chavez, author of *The Anti-Racist Writing Workshop: How to Decolonize the Creative Classroom*. All participants received a copy of Chavez's book and a \$100 book stipend to use at The Writer's Block Bookstore.

Success Statistic: Over 120 ASD teachers and administrators applied for 30 workshop spots. The workshop expanded to allow 34 individuals to participate.

Court Appointed Special Advocates for Children (CASA)

Activity 1: CASA Volunteer Training

Grant funding allowed CASA to hire a new Anchorage CASA Program Coordinator who recruited and trained seven new CASA volunteers. Each volunteer completed an initial screening and 30 hours of training covering advocacy, legal processes, adverse childhood experiences, court reporting, youth visits, cultural responsiveness, and trauma-informed service delivery. CASA volunteers support victims of child abuse and neglect. Their work includes attending court hearings, visiting with the child at least twice a month, monitoring the child's case, making recommendations for evaluations or services each child may need, keeping the child connected to their family, and keeping all critical players on track to move the case forward towards a permanent outcome in the best interest of the child.

Funding also covered activities related to the case matching and assignment process. These activities included reviewing incoming Office of Children's Services petitions to identify cases that would benefit from CASA volunteer support, identifying the best suited CASA volunteers for those cases, and filing appropriate documents with the court.

Success Statistic: CASA served 101 children in care, each assigned a CASA volunteer. 30 CASA volunteers were actively assigned, and seven new volunteers were trained during the grant period.

Activity 2: Alaska Child Welfare Conference

Alaska CASA partnered with the UAA Child Welfare Academy and the Alaska Center for Resource Families to sponsor the inaugural Alaska Child Welfare Conference, which took place virtually on November 4-6, 2021. The conference's audience focused on five essential groups – guardians ad litem, CASA volunteers, OCS employees, resource families (foster, adoptive, and kinship care families), and tribal members (ICWA workers, tribal social services, tribal court personnel). The conference sought to improve groups' knowledge and skill in providing child welfare services in Alaska.

Southcentral Foundation

Activity 1: Family Wellness Warriors - Community Based Learning Circles

The Southcentral Foundation Family Wellness Warriors (FWW) project aims to increase the reach of comprehensive, sustainable family violence and child maltreatment prevention programs in the Municipality of Anchorage using culturally resonant, evidence-based programs. FWW used grant funds to provide six training opportunities for municipality partner organizations. FWW on providing these agencies with culturally grounded tools and resources for prevention. The trainings covered codependency, boundaries, anger, recovery support, and grief and loss. Six individuals from partner organizations also attended the five-day Arrigah House training, which discusses generational healing and uses the cultural value of stories to help participants reflect on their experiences to shift harmful perspectives and patterns of behavior.

In addition, FWW provided a Learning Circle Leader training to five community organizations: Alaska Native Justice Center, Abused Women's Aid in Crisis, Covenant House, Gospel Rescue Mission, and Stand Together Against Rape. This two-day training provided a foundational understanding of the philosophy of Southcentral Foundation Learning Circles and taught participants to implement a basic learning circle model.

Success Statistic: FWW hosted six trainings for 53 participants, with 98.4% reporting that the training was beneficial and 98.4% reporting that the tools they learned will help them with their relationships.

University of Alaska Anchorage Child Welfare Academy

Activity 1: Human Services 290: Strengthening Families™

The University of Alaska Anchorage Child Welfare Academy (CWA) developed and provided a nine-week, three-credit undergraduate course on the Strengthening Families Protective Factors framework entitled Human Services 290: Strengthening Families, or HUMS 290. Strengthening Families is a research-informed framework used to enhance family strengths and child development and decrease child neglect and abuse. The course aimed to provide professional development while also improving the well-being of childcare providers that serve families within the Municipality of Anchorage.

Success Statistic: 61 students enrolled in HUMS 290. Of those, 67% had not received prior training on the Strengthening Families Framework, indicating the course reached professionals who had not yet been introduced to this critical framework.

Success Story: Survey respondents universally agreed (100%) that the Strengthening Families framework was relevant to their work. As a result of the course, students operationalized Strengthening Families and protective factors to better support families and explain what they did in their roles. One student wrote, "I did use some of these concepts [before] but did not have the 'language' or words for what I was doing. This helped to give the words and ideas to share with co-workers and parents."

Activity 2: Strengthening Families Alaska Training & Additional Workshops

CWA offered Strengthening Families Alaska training to childcare providers and staff in Anchorage. Thirty-four child-serving professionals completed training, including individuals from Anchorage School

District Migrant Education, Alaska Family Services, Alaska Premier Care Coordination, LLC., and Beacon Hill.

Success Story: Overall, 131 child-serving professionals attended a CWA training or workshop.

Category 2: Direct Services & Community Resources

Alaska Children's Trust

Activity 1: Development of ASD Student Safety Posters

In partnership with Standing Together Against Rape (STAR) and the Anchorage School District, ACT designed three safety posters for each grade level (elementary, middle, and high school), for nine total posters promoting personal body safety and encouraging students to speak up about unsafe situations. The design of the posters was based on STAR's existing ASD curricula due to ASD's rigorous approval process. Posters were printed in English, Spanish, Hmong, Samoan, and Yupik and will be distributed to ASD schools soon.

Activity 2: Development of Pathway to Hope: Prevention and Healing of Child Sexual Abuse

ACT worked to revitalize Pathway to Hope, an indigenous train-the-trainer program to prevent child sexual abuse (CSA) initially developed in the mid-2000s. ACT convened a team of five "Faculty Trainers," individuals involved in the original Pathway to Hope program with backgrounds in prevention work, to review the original Pathway to Hope materials – a video featuring Alaska Native Elders speaking out about CSA and a guidebook for program facilitators. ACT then contracted a videographer to produce an updated Pathway to Hope video specific to Anchorage's BIPOC communities; video editing is currently in progress. ACT also worked with a copyeditor and graphic designer to update the Pathway to Hope guidebook; copyediting is now complete, and graphic design for the updated manual is in progress.

Alaska Institute for Justice

Activity 1: Translation and Interpretation Work

AIJ provided AHD grantee agencies with access to free interpreter services and translation services during the grant period. During this time, AIJ served six grantee agencies and translated 28 different documents into seven different languages: Hmong, Korean, Russian, Samoan, Spanish, Tagalog, and Yup'ik. The Language Interpreter Center also provided seven grantee agencies with interpreter services for 15.5 hours of interpretation in the following languages: Chuukese, Korean, Samoan, Somali, Spanish, and Yup'ik.

Success Statistic: Ten grantee agencies received translation and interpretation services for nine languages.

Anchorage Public Library

Activity 1: Early Literacy Stations

The Anchorage Public Library (APL) installed three early literacy stations at Polar Pediatrics, Achievement Therapy, and Listen2Learn Speech Therapy and is installing three additional stations at health clinics and community locations to be determined in 2022. Each literacy station contains board and picture books; child-height front-facing bookcases; activity tables with seating; magnetic, dry-erase boards; rugs; and puzzles, toys, and manipulatives.

Activity 2: Countdown to Kindergarten Incentives

APL offered events at library branches using Anchorage School District Countdown to Kindergarten kits. Events provide families the opportunity to practice school-readiness skills with children. To incentivize families to attend multiple events and to complete pre-and post-event surveys, APL gave out activity pads and books as prizes for attendance. More Countdown to Kindergarten events will be held in the coming months, with the primary audience being four and five-year-old children who will begin kindergarten in 2022. More prizes will be distributed as more children and families complete more events and demonstrate more kindergarten readiness skills.

Success Statistic: 68 families participated in 8 Countdown to Kindergarten events. APL gave out 24 activity pads and three books as prizes at these events.

Activity 3: Food Bank Book Distribution

APL partnered with the Food Bank of Alaska to include free books in its school backpack program. APL staff purchased popular books for different ages, from beginning reader books to upper elementary level chapter books, distributed with food backpacks in spring 2022.

Success Statistic: APL purchased a total of 2,529 books.

Anchorage School District Preschool

Activity 1: Countdown to Kindergarten

ASD Preschool used its funding to improve its Countdown to Kindergarten (C2K) program and plan the implementation of its Play to Learn program. Four ASD Preschool staff members visited Boston to work directly with district and program administrators of the Boston C2K program to learn about program improvement and expansion opportunities. ASD Preschool program hired an additional part-time staff member to assist with coordination and expansion efforts. Also, held in-person and virtual C2K events and completed planning for the Play to Learn program, which provides an opportunity for three to five-year-old children and their families to attend a weekly playgroup hosted by an early childhood educator. Playgroups began in January 2022.

Success Statistic: 262 individuals attended 10 C2K events from August through December 2021.

Activity 2: ASD Preschool Classrooms

ASD Preschool opened general education preschool programs at Eagle River Elementary, Nunaka Valley Elementary, Northwood Elementary, and Klatt Elementary. Classrooms were also set up at Wonder Park Elementary and Ptarmigan Elementary, and classrooms will open as soon as teacher positions are filled. In addition to opening these programs, ASD Preschool also secured Waterford Reading program licenses. Waterford, an online early learning program that helps children learn early literacy skills through 15-minute lessons, is now available for 4-year-old children not currently in an ASD general education program.

Success Statistic: A total of 38 children enrolled in four new ASD preschool programs.

Activity 3: ASD Preschool Mental Health Services

ASD Preschool implemented mental health services in 18 schools. This work was done by ASD's preschool mental health consultant, who worked with teachers to adjust classroom practices. They also implemented wellness opportunities, connected families to resources, provided professional development for teachers and learning opportunities for families, and assisted in problem-solving around students of concern. ASD Preschool also completed the Devereux Early Childhood Assessment (DECA) for all children receiving early childhood mental health resources.

Success Statistic: Mental health services are provided in 41 classrooms in 18 schools. Services reached approximately 500 families and supported approximately 100 staff members.

Activity 4: Gas Cards

ASD Preschool provided gas cards to assist homeless families with transportation to school. During the grant period, the families of 16 children in ASD preschool programs received gas cards to assist with transportation. While adding a bus route is currently not possible due to a shortage of bus drivers – an ongoing challenge for ASD preschool – these gas routes have helped families get their preschoolers to school. In the future, ASD Preschool would like to broaden its support for families experiencing homelessness and provide resources such as winter gear, food support, and household support.

Success Statistic: 16 students' families received gas cards.

Abused Women's Aid in Crisis (AWAIC)

Activity 1: Public Service Announcements

AWAIC used its funds to create and air Public Service Announcements (PSAs) on domestic violence. AWAIC worked with Upper One Studios, who created three video PSAs (two in English and one Spanish translation), two radio ads, and multiple web banners for websites to use as part of AWAIC's marketing campaign. The PSAs cautioned individuals that "domestic violence is not something that you can see" but that it is up to us to "learn the warning signs of abuse, reach out, let them know you care, believe them, [and] see them." They also instructed individuals to visit awaic.org for more information. The PSAs aired on TV and radio stations in November and December 2021.

View the AWAIC video PSAs here:

[30-Second PSA](#)

[15-Second PSA](#)

[30-Second Spanish Translation PSA](#)

Activity 2: Personnel and Transportation Costs

AWAIC used its funding to cover personnel and transportation costs. Personnel costs during the grant period provided education and outreach to Anchorage youth, including presentations at Anchorage middle schools. AWAIC also purchased bus passes for residents of its emergency domestic violence shelter.

Alaska Writing Project

Activity 1: Literacy Enrichment for Youth

In collaboration with the Alaska Black Caucus, the Alaska Writing (AWP) sponsored the Bettye Davis Youth Summit held at Bettye Davis East High School on Friday, October 22, 2021. 125 youth from 12 combined Anchorage School District high schools, alternative programs, and the ASD/UAA Middle College attended the summit, which included sessions focusing on anti-racism and youth leadership. Six youth who attended the Bettye Davis Youth Summit also presented a panel focused on the impact of COVID-19 on youth mental health at the Bettye Davis Covid Summit on Saturday, October 23, 2021.

With the Alaska Black Caucus, AWP also hosted the “Beloved Community Event,” which brought together more than 123 Anchorage community members for a community feast, vendor fair, dance performances, and other educational activities centered on Kwanzaa and its seven principles. Activities promoted the core components of literacy – reading and writing – while also teaching participants about the spirit of Kwanzaa. During the event, 148 books were given to 9 school-age children. An additional 125 books were given to Shiloh Baptist Church, COGASOC, and First American Baptist Church to distribute to youth who could not attend the Kwanzaa event.

Finally, AWP also procured 40 computers, printers, and a teleconferencing system for the Alaska Black Caucus’s Equity Center. The technology will allow for the development of youth’s digital writing and publication skills and help the space to meet literacy programming and professional development needs going more effectively forward.

Success Statistic: 125 youth attended the Bettye Davis Youth Summit, and 123 individuals attended the Beloved Community Kwanzaa Event.

Cook Inlet Tribal Council

Activity 1: Flourishing Child Program

The Cook Inlet Tribal Council (CITC) used its funding to continue its Flourishing Child project, a flexible, family-centered, and relationship-oriented program designed to improve access to trauma and culturally informed services to non-abusing parents and their children exposed to domestic violence. The project works to improve multi-system collaboration to support Alaska Native and American Indian adults and children impacted by family violence through strategies including access to support at non-traditional service locations, the expansion of wrap-around services, and training for providers. With its funding, CITC hired three family service workers and actively recruited program participants.

Success Statistic: 27 adults and children were enrolled and engaged in services during the grant period.

Success Story: The program helped survivors of domestic violence work with the Office of Children’s Services (OCS). One parent who was reluctant to participate in the program because it was OCS-recommended worked with staff to meet critical goals, including reunification with her children in her home. She reported that developing trust with the Flourishing Child staff helped her meet her goals. Another parent reported on a survey that “[staff] was able to come to my house and see that we are safe...[staff] can tell OCS I am participating and doing well on my safety plan.” These responses demonstrate how Flourishing Families helps caregivers navigate systems like OCS.

Denali Family Services

Activity 1: Community Trainings: Trauma-Informed Care & Parenting with Love and Logic

With its funding, Denali Family Services (DFS) offered two trainings – the Science of Attachment and Love and Logic – to parents and early childhood providers. Science of Attachment: Supporting Caregiver Success in Early Childhood is a three-day miniseries of trainings focused on early childhood attachment that teaches caregivers to help children feel safe and secure through trusting relationships. DFS offered two cohorts of this training, one in November and one in December of 2021. The Love and Logic: Early Childhood Parenting Made Fun course is a five-part series for parents, mental health professionals, and educators designed to help caregivers create positive home environments, prevent misbehavior, teach character and responsibility, stay calm in stressful parenting situations, and help prepare children to avoid drugs and alcohol later in life. DFS offered one cohort of this training. Both trainings were open to both parents and providers and were well-attended by both audiences.

Success Statistic: 40 individuals participated in one or more DFS trainings.

Program for Infants & Children, Inc

Activity 1: "At-Risk" PIC Enrollment

Program for Infants and Children (PIC) provides individualized early intervention services for infants and toddlers (and their families) who experience developmental delays or those at-risk for developing developmental delays. Services are multidisciplinary; PIC offers an array of pediatric specialties such as Occupational Therapy, Speech-Language Therapy, Physical Therapy, Behavioral Health, and Developmental Therapy. PIC also provides intensive family service coordination to connect children and families to community services to support their goals and objectives. With this grant, PIC served children under three referred to the program by the Office of Children's Services. The funding allowed PIC to enroll all children considered "at-risk" without requiring documented delays on a standardized test. This funding allowed PIC to serve a population of children who might not show delays early in life but who research shows begin to manifest learning difficulties and developmental delays later. Through this program, PIC engaged 23 families in services.

Success Statistic: 23 families were engaged in services ranging from connecting to other community resources to engaging with PIC directly. Fourteen families have connected to formal PIC intake, evaluation, or other services.

Shiloh Community Development, Inc.

Activity 1: Adverse Childhood Experiences Awareness and Prevention Program

Shiloh Community Development, Inc. (SCDI) offered three presentations on adverse childhood experiences (ACEs), Strengthening Families, and trauma-informed practices between October and December 2021, drawing more than 50 participants. One presentation featured a panel discussion with Alaska Superior Court Judge Herman Walker, Dr. Nicole Taylor from Dillingham School District, and Arika Paquette, Community Services Director for Women in Safe Homes in Ketchikan. Panelists shared how they found out about ACEs, why understanding ACEs matters to them, and how their knowledge of ACEs

informs their work. Overall, presentations focused on the negative impacts of high ACE scores and educated participants on steps communities can take to build resilience and promote supportive relationships to prevent and heal from ACEs.

Success Statistic: 60% of participants stated they had not heard of ACEs before attending SCDI's presentation, and 94% reported increased knowledge of ACEs after the presentation.

Success Story: One participant reported that their crucial takeaway from the presentation was that "No matter what happen[ed] in the past, I have the power to shape my future. Having one caring adult can make a difference."

Activity 2: Science, Technology, Engineering, Math (STEM) Program

SCDI recognized the need to increase the number of minorities in STEM, resulting in creating a program that will introduce the youth of color to STEM through fun projects. SCDI's STEM classes taught youth to build their robots and computers. SCDI hosted three STEM classes in December 2021 and has regularly hosted these sessions in 2022. During the funding period, roughly 50 students participated in SCDI STEM classes.

Success Story: One parent wrote that, because of SCDI's STEM classes, "my son moved from wanting to become a gamer to becoming a gaming engineer."

Southcentral Foundation

Activity 1: Family Wellness Warriors - Covenant House Drum Making

In recognition of National Alaska Native/Native American Heritage Month and in preparation to begin offering on-site learning circles to Covenant House Alaska's adult residents in transitional housing, FWW led an Alaska Native drum making activity with the residents and staff of Covenant House Rights of Passage House, which provides housing and services to young adults experiencing homelessness in Anchorage. Ten Covenant House residents, two Covenant House staff members, and five FWW staff members participated in a two-session activity: drum creation and traditional story sharing, followed by personalizing the drums and learning a Yupik drum and dance song.

Success Statistic: 12 total Covenant House residents and staff participated in the drum activity

Activity 2: Enhancing the Nutaqsiivik Nurse-Family Partnership Home Visiting Program with Behavioral Health Services for Families

The Southcentral Foundation's Nutaqsiivik program used its grant to support the integration of behavioral health services into its nurse home visiting program. Using the Nurse-Family Partnership home visiting model, nurses in the program develop and foster relationships with families and provide care tailored to meet their needs. The program has also integrated behavioral health services into home visiting. Nurses and behavioral health consultants (BHCs) work together to promote maternal and child health, address trauma, prevent abuse, and improve overall family wellness. Nurse home visitors may refer moms to BHC services based on the results of screenings for intimate partner violence, generalized anxiety disorders, and depression. Nurse home visitors may also identify a need for BHC services based

on their knowledge and relationship with the mom. BHCs provide direct services for families and work with nurse home visitors, providing them with training, case consultation, and case reviews.

Success Statistic: During the grant period, there were 180 BHC encounters provided to Nutaqsiivik families and 41 unique individuals receiving services from the BHCs in the Nutaqsiivik program. 134 Nutaqsiivik participants were screened for mental health or related services during the grant period.

Success Story: One Nutaqsiivik mom said: "My name is Brandi. I am 27 years old. Our journey with Nutaqsiivik started when I was 8 weeks pregnant with my daughter. I was trying to have a baby for 3 years...then bam! I got pregnant out of nowhere when I least expected it. As soon as I saw the positive pregnancy test, I was so happy. But obviously, I did not know anything about being pregnant or taking care of a newborn. At that time, I was going through a period of depression but did not know it. Through the journey with Nutaqsiivik, [my nurse] and [BHC] have helped me with my confidence. They gave me a lot of support being a new mother. They helped me to understand that once I set my mind to it, I could do anything. Nutaqsiivik helped me to feel comfortable as a mother."

Standing Together Against Rape (STAR) Alaska

Activity 1: STAR Prevention and Education Presentations and Outreach

STAR provided presentations to various organizations, classrooms, and community groups. Presentations covered implicit bias, preventing and responding to sexual harassment, and bystander intervention and reached diverse audiences, including university students, faculty, and staff; National Park Service staff; NOAA employees; and Anchorage School District students. STAR also printed brochures and created two STAR booth displays to aid outreach efforts.

For classroom presentations, STAR restocked "leave behind" items for students and teachers, including tote bags, lanyards, silicone wristbands, Frisbees, carabineers, and pencils, all featuring STAR's logo and crisis line information, and updated its "Continuing the Conversation" letter to parents explaining STAR's curriculum. STAR also introduced a new "office hours" program, allowing schools to host a Prevention and Education Specialist who can speak privately with students following presentations and respond appropriately to any disclosures.

Success Statistic: Between July 1 and December 31, 2021, STAR provided seven presentations to 112 Adults and ten presentations to 473 youth.

Activity 2: STAR Prevention and Education Videos

STAR's Prevention and Education team worked with Yuit Comms to develop a Sexual Assault and Consent Video for Jr. High and High School students. The video helps students understand that consent must be voluntary, active, aware, and age-appropriate and goes over the components of sexual assault.

Activity 3: Trauma Counselling

STAR contracted with two trauma counselors skilled in therapies like Eye Movement Desensitization Reprocessing (EMDR), Emotional Freedom Technique (EFT), self-hypnosis, and Cognitive Behavioral Therapy.

Success Statistic: Funding from this grant covered 40 therapy sessions with trauma therapists for STAR clients.

Activity 4: Emergency Client Assistance

STAR provided emergency financial assistance to help survivors and their families pay for food, rent, security systems, and other expenses related to emergency relocation.

Success Statistic: STAR provided \$30,629.30 in emergency client assistance during December 2021.

Victims for Justice

Activity 1: Services for Victims of Violent Crime

Victims for Justice (VFJ) provides services to support Alaskans affected by violent crimes like assault, robbery, arson, drunk driving, and homicide. With its funding, VFJ provided free, confidential emotional support, emergency financial support, and practical advice on navigating community resources and the judicial process to 38 individuals. Funding was a significant challenge, and the number of individuals affected by violent crime VFJ was able to serve was limited due to the grant's short time frame. VFJ also onboarded and trained two new advocates during the grant period to assist with this work. This additional support allowed VFJ to rebuild its relationship with the Anchorage Police Department Patrol Unit to begin to pilot direct referrals from reported incidents using an app in 2022.

Success Statistic: VFJ served 38 Alaskans affected by violent crime during the grant period. Of the 79% of new clients who filled out VFJ's survey, 89% reported knowing more about safety than they did before, 97% reported knowing more about available resources, 96% reported knowing more about the criminal justice process, and 100% felt more emotionally supported and heard.

Activity 2: "A Million Strangers in Their Pocket" Documentary

VFJ created a short documentary, produced by Affinity Films, on youth social media use and violence. The film discusses the promotion of self-harm on social media, cyberbullying, online grooming, and destructive social media trends. The video highlights the perspectives of a parent, high school principal, school resource officer, school psychologist, and juvenile probation officer and features the stories of students impacted by social media. It ends with concrete tips for parents to help keep kids safe in today's ever-changing digital world. VFJ promoted the video on its social media channels to raise awareness of this vital issue.

Volunteers of America Alaska

Activity 1: Services for Trailside Heights and Lumen Park Residents

VOA Alaska filled the vacant role of Family Wellness Coordinator in July 2021. The Family Wellness Coordinator provides comprehensive wellness services, including needs assessments, care coordination, information and assistance, referral navigation, and educational workshops for Trailside Heights and Lumen Park residents, VOA Alaska's affordable housing for families and seniors. Grant funding allowed the Family Wellness Coordinator to provide a wide variety of services to residents. Services included partnering with the Children's Lunchbox to provide weekly boxed lunches to children at Trailside

Heights. Working with the Food Bank of Alaska to deliver monthly senior food boxes to Lumen Park residents and provide residents of both apartment buildings access to the REACH Community Pantry to receive food, cleaning supplies, hygiene items, and COVID-19 PPE.

The Family Wellness Coordinator also promoted social connectedness and positive parenting at Trailside Heights by providing on-site case management for 30 families, hosting Parent Cafes to increase parents' social connection and teach parenting skills, and creating parent engagement kits with family conversation starters, infographics on positive parenting, and other resources.

Success Statistic: The Family Wellness Coordinator served 30 families comprised of 59 individuals. She also served 12 senior residents of 71 unique individuals served at both residences during the grant period.

Activity 2: Prime for Life Classes

In addition to her work at Trailside Heights and Lumen Park, the Family Wellness Coordinator also hosted Prime for Life (PFL) classes for five youth cohorts. PFL is an evidence-based, therapeutic program that helps individuals learn to reduce their risks of alcohol and drug-related problems. The two-day alcohol and drug risk reduction program is designed for individuals who have begun using alcohol and other drugs or are in a group where alcohol and drug use is likely. The Family Wellness Coordinator taught PFL to youth referred by the Anchorage School District.

Success Statistic: Seven youth successfully completed the PFL course.

Success Story: Two youth attended PFL in October 2021, and after completing the program, they volunteered their time to create 50 prevention bags with tobacco and drug use prevention information, which they delivered to a local high school.

Activity 3: Materials for School-Based Clinicians

VOA Alaska used grant funding to provide educational materials, including conversation starters, reading materials, and psychotherapy treatment plans, to school-based behavioral health clinicians at seven ASD schools. Clinicians also received educational resources to distribute to the families of the over 100 children receiving behavioral health services.

Women, Infants, and Children

Activity 1: Outreach Efforts

Anchorage Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) used its funding to increase outreach to current WIC participants and Anchorage residents who are eligible but not enrolled. Activities included: (1) outreach to community partners who support and refer families to WIC and (2) advertisements on PBC Kids and Facebook to notify WIC participants of the increased value of the WIC fruit and vegetable benefit. Plus, outreach was conducted to remind WIC participants about farmers' market coupons and taxi voucher programs and boost Facebook nutrition education content. Additional outreach included mailers, text messages, and emails on WIC services and signage for farmers' markets to help participants identify where and how to use their Farmers' Market Nutrition Program coupons.

Success Statistic: WIC Facebook ads reached a total of 25,109 individuals.

Activity 2: Direct Assistance for WIC Participants

WIC provided transportation vouchers (taxi and rideshare service vouchers) to get WIC participants to grocery stores to utilize their WIC food benefits or coupons for the farmers' market nutrition program. Outreach workers called participants who had not utilized their benefits to identify participants who would benefit from twice-monthly round-trip transportation vouchers. In total, 72 families received transportation vouchers.

Success Statistic: 72 families were issued transportation vouchers, for an average of 12 vouchers per family.

Category 3: Plan Development

Alaska Children's Trust

Activity 1: Primary Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse in Anchorage

ACT worked with Denali Daniels and Associates to host a convening of local providers working to address child sexual abuse (CSA) to develop a plan for the primary prevention of CSA in Anchorage. The convening revealed that few organizations are currently working on the primary prevention of CSA. Many organizations are unaware of the work and services offered by other organizations to address CSA, little to no coordination of CSA prevention work exists, and little overall awareness exists of the issue of CSA. ACT's initial convening was a springboard for further work in this area; in February 2022, ACT convened a smaller workgroup of prevention stakeholders in Anchorage to continue the development of a CSA prevention plan for Anchorage.

Success Statistic: 21 individuals from 10 organizations participated in the initial convening.

Activity 2: Afterschool Plan for Anchorage

The Alaska Afterschool Network worked with Denali Daniels and Associates to host a convening of local providers working in the afterschool sector to develop an Anchorage-specific plan to grow and strengthen out-of-school time programs. Unfortunately, several identified individuals or organizations were unable to attend due to other obligations. However, they were able to participate in a pre-work that helped impact the plan. In the process of developing this plan, ACT learned; (1) demand for afterschool programs is much greater than the current capacity, (2) the stress on the afterschool system due to COVID has been tremendous, (3) significant staffing shortages amplified due to low pay, and (4) that there is no central coordinating system in Anchorage focused on maintaining a list of openings/availabilities in afterschool programs available for families. The initial plan has identified key steps to develop a more comprehensive and coordinated system.

Success Statistic: 12 individuals from 8 organizations attended the convening.

Alaska Children's Trust Theory of Change

Activity 1: Community Impact Report & Communications

Partnering with the Alaska Black Caucus and Recover Alaska, ACT developed a brand to communicate the impact of the alcohol tax fund. In reviewing the Theory of Change and feedback from partners, the group selected the name Reimage Anchorage. The group also worked with Rejoy Amamento to develop a logo and color scheme to connect all the aspects of the project and lay the foundation for ongoing communication of the work supported by the alcohol tax. The logo's graphics have been finalized, and the color palette will be selected soon, at which time the project's new website, developed by JW Design, will also launch.

The Reimage Anchorage website will feature blogs and videos created by the AHD grantee agencies. The group partnered with C+L Design to assemble a diverse team to create five videos and seven blogs highlighting projects funded by AHD. Videos highlighting the following programs were created: PIC, Southcentral Foundation's Family Wellness Warriors, the UAA Child Welfare Academy, the Alaska

Writing Project, and the Bettye Davis Leadership Summit are all in production, as are blog posts on the Alaska Afterschool Network, the Shiloh Community Development work on adverse childhood experiences, the Alaska Children's Trust child sexual abuse prevention work, CASA, ASD preschool, STAR, and Victims for Justice. The website will launch with all completed videos and blogs and aim to debut a new video and blog every two weeks. ACT, the Alaska Black Caucus, and Recover Alaska will utilize their existing social media presence to promote Reimagine Alaska's new website.

Alaska Institute for Justice

Activity 1: Language Access Needs Assessments

AIJ worked with Anchorage Health Department grantee agencies to conduct language access needs assessments, the first step in building capacity to provide equitable language access services. The initial agency needs assessments included self-assessment tools to identify needs and gaps in services to underserved limited English proficient Alaskans. Benchmarking each organization's capacity helps inform the subsequent strategies and recommendations to provide language access services and protocols. AIJ's language access work included helping AHD agencies understand the essential components of the language access planning process.

Alaska Writing Project

Activity 1: BIPOC Teacher Focus Group

AWP's ten-person BIPOC focus group met with two facilitators in large and small group settings throughout the grant period. The focus group identified educational needs and assets in the Anchorage School District and compiled research. The group discussed the recruitment and retention of BIPOC teachers in ASD and worked to support ASD in implementing its Anti-Racist Policy and Instructional Equity Policy, which were passed unanimously by the ASD School Board in May 2021. The group also participated in and helped facilitate two of AWP's other grant activities – the Anti-Racist Writing Workshop and the Beloved Community Family Event. Moving forward, members of the focus group plan to work with the Anchorage Education Association's Human & Civil Rights Committee, the Alaska Black Caucus' Education Committee, and community coalitions working to promote the recruitment and retention of BIPOC educators in the Anchorage School District.

Success Statistic: 12 individuals, ten teachers, and two facilitators participated in the focus group.

Court Appointed Special Advocates for Children

Activity 1: CASA Strategic Communications Plan

CASA developed a program modification plan, part of an ongoing strategy to implement a new program model that will increase program capacity to serve more children in care. CASA surveyed its professional allies (including judges, OCS workers, ICWA workers, and foster parents) to understand how the organization can best communicate with these audiences and utilize its volunteers to provide the best advocacy on behalf of youth in care. CASA also convened a working group of stakeholders to help develop and implement its program modification plan. Additional steps included the creation of a new website, branding platform, social media plan, volunteer recruitment plan, training and recruitment documents, and strategic communications plan.

Success Statistic: CASA developed 50 new branding and strategic messaging materials, including a volunteer recruitment plan, a director, a content development plan, a background screening policy document, a volunteer application, and a stakeholder survey and report.

Success Story: CASA credits the grant with helping its program “make enormous strides in creating a new foundation to build our program... One that will allow us to serve more children in a way that utilizes the strengths of our program and volunteers... While we did not experience significant program growth during this short grant period, we were able to sustain our program and whether the ongoing storm of covid-19.... It was necessary for us to take time to properly plan for and equip our program with the tools needed to move from sustaining to growing. Having done so much of this work over the past 6 months, we are in a stronger position to reach our goal of training and assigning cases to 20 new Anchorage CASA volunteers in 2022.”