



TRANSMITTAL MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Mayor and City Council

FROM: Karl R. Amylon, City Manager

DATE: February 24, 2021

RE: **"Ketchikan Child Care by the Numbers" - Southeast Alaska Association for the Education of Young Children (AEYC)**

Attached for City Council review is AEYC's report on the status of child care in Ketchikan.

Karl Amylon

From: Joy Lyon <jlyon@aeyc-sea.org>
Sent: Friday, February 12, 2021 7:45 AM
To: Bob Sivertsen; Judy Zenge; Riley Gass; Mark Flora; Abby Bradberry; Sam Bergeron; David Kiffer; Janalee Gage
Cc: Lacey Simpson; Karl Amylon; Meghan Traudt
Subject: Thanks for your support of Ketchikan Child Care!
Attachments: 2020 Ketchikan Childcare by the Numbers.pdf; AECAG Advocacy Flier Feb 1.pdf

CAUTION: External Email

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Hi Ketchikan Assembly and Managers office,

Here is the Ketchikan Child Care by the Numbers report. Thanks to your support, to my knowledge child care in Ketchikan has remained the most stable of any community in the state. In a survey of all participating programs, 63% reported they may have had to close without the Ketchikan CARES funds.

Beyond the financial support, the programs have felt valued and recognized for their essential role in keeping children safe and learning, while their parents are earning and contributing to the community.

The programs are still struggling with retaining a qualified workforce, but good news is that Alaska will soon be receiving over 18 million dollars to support child care over the next two years from the second stimulus package. Hopefully more information will be coming soon about how and when the funds will be rolled out. While many of the child care staff have already received vaccines, it is also good news that now all child care and school district teachers are eligible as of yesterday!

Thanks for the opportunity for AEYC to partner in the grants, and for all your hard work to keep Ketchikan strong and healthy during these stressful times.

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connecting early care and education to Alaska

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Early Education

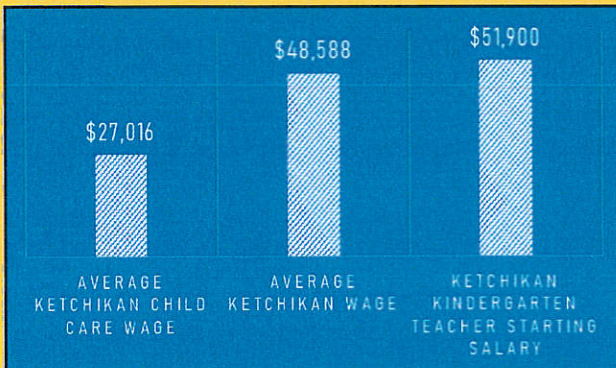
KETCHIKAN BY THE NUMBERS 2020

There is not enough child care to meet the needs of the community

There are **831** children in Ketchikan under the age of 5.5. Approximately **66%** of these children don't have a stay-at-home parent, and there are only enough child care slots for **three out of every ten** children in Ketchikan.

Low Wages Continue for Child Care Workers

In 2020, the average annual wage for child care workers was **\$27,016**, an increase of **17%** compared to the prior year. Despite this increase, wages for child care workers remain significantly lower than both the average wage for the city of Ketchikan and the starting salary for a kindergarten teacher. A decrease in enrollment and capacity has caused some programs to decrease the available hours for their workers, meaning child care workers are not seeing a full 17% increase in annual income. Also, some providers have added hazard pay to hourly wages, meaning some of these increases are likely temporary.



With an annual income of **\$42,960** needed to afford a one-bedroom apartment in Ketchikan, child care workers don't earn enough to pay rent. Low wages make it very difficult to attract and retain qualified child care professionals.

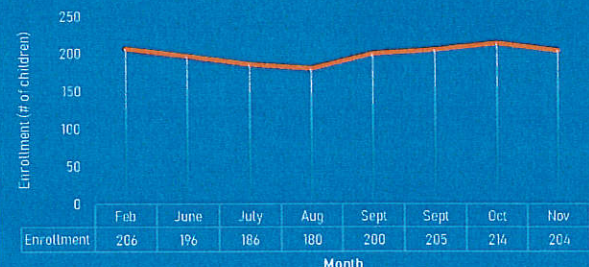
63% of Child Care Programs likely would have Closed without COVID-19 Funding Support



Enrollment Has Remained Consistent

The COVID-19 pandemic caused a slight decrease in child care program enrollment, only falling by **5%** from February to June. Ketchikan's child care programs fared relatively well, suffering no major decreases in enrollment. Enrollment was even higher in October than in February, by **4%**.

2020 KETCHIKAN ENROLLMENT RECOVERY



The COVID-19 Pandemic Led to Unprecedented Challenges

Since January, **20** child care workers left their jobs, **5** leaving due to COVID-specific reasons. The staff turnover rate was **69%**. Child care programs faced the financial burdens of heightened health and safety precautions and decreased capacity. On average, programs reported a **44%** reduction in revenue. The Ketchikan CARES program put **\$693,000** into the hands of local child care programs. On average, this amounted to **\$503** per child, per month.

Ketchikan Child Care By The Numbers

831	Population Under Age 5.5 ^{1,3}
285	Estimated Ketchikan Children Under Age 5.5 with a Stay-At-Home Parent ^{1,3}
545	Estimated Ketchikan Children Under Age 5.5 with All Parents Working ^{1,3}
9	Total Licensed Child Care Programs in Ketchikan ²
251	Total Licensed Child Care Slots in Ketchikan ²
342	Estimated Ketchikan Children Under Age 5.5 in Unknown Child Care Situations ^{1,2,3,6}
3 to 10	Ratio of Licensed Child Care Slots to Children Under the age of 5.5 ^{1,2,6}
91	Total Infant/Toddler Child Care Slots in Ketchikan ²
453	Infant/Toddler Population (Under 3) ¹
1 to 5	Ratio of Licensed Infant/Toddler Slots to Children under the age of 3 ^{1,2,6}
33%	% of Ketchikan Preschoolers Ready for Kindergarten ⁷
11	Child Care Workers with Child Development Assoc. or 12+ Credits ²
39 » 29	Average # of Child Care Workers Pre-Pandemic versus Current ²
\$7,872	Average Annual Child Care Cost Per Child ²
\$8,748	Average Annual Child Care Cost Per Toddler ²
\$27,016	Average Annual Child Care Wage in Ketchikan ²
\$48,588	Average Annual Wage in Ketchikan ⁴
\$51,900	Starting Kindergarten School Teacher Wage in Ketchikan ⁵

Sources: 1-US Census Bureau; 2-AEYC Survey of Childcare Programs; 3-American Community Survey 5-year Estimates Table B23008 2019 Estimates; 4-AK Department of Labor; 5-Ketchikan School District; 6-JEDC Analysis; 7-2020 Alaska Developmental Profile

Children and Families are the Heart of Alaska



Keep them safe, healthy, and stable

Alaska
Early Childhood
Advocacy Group

2021 PRIORITIES

1. Prioritize young children and families in the Alaska state budget and all financial decisions.
2. Invest in affordable, quality early childhood education, including Pre-K.
3. Leverage federal COVID-19 dollars in support of children and families.
4. Prioritize the governance and coordination of Alaska's early childhood systems and data.

keep families **safe**

Protect Alaska's heart. Meeting the basic needs of families – housing, food, health care, quality education – allows them to thrive.

"Treat my family with the future potential, not the current circumstances."



keep families **healthy**

Ensure comprehensive health care services are available for all, and hearts and minds will grow strong.

"I know that every day, my children are getting good nutritious foods at child care. It's such a help to not have to worry or pack meals and snacks every day."



keep families **stable**

Support parents as a child's first teacher, honoring culture and tradition.

"The Parents As Teachers visits help me to realize what the development stages of the kids are and where they need to be. Being a military family means that we move often and otherwise, might fall through the cracks."



Now more than ever it is essential to support families and children.

*Human development is economic development.
Investing early gives a greater return—it makes dollars and sense.*

— Professor James Heckman

keep families

learning



Help children get ready to learn and they will succeed in school and life.

"We cannot afford to buy books for our children. Getting books from the Imagination Library has helped bring me closer to my child and has made a huge impact on my child's thinking, speaking, and reading skills."

give families

access to quality early childhood education



Invest in quality early childhood education (licensed child care, pre-K, and Head Start) so parents stress less while children develop lifelong skills.

"If I had access to high quality child care I would be able to see my husband; we have to have two incomes to make it work. So I work days, he works nights. We only see each other in passing. I miss him."

Current data can be found at:

www.AlaskaChildrensTrust.org

- Alaska Kids Count 2020
- Alaska Children's Budget 2020

www.BestBeginningsAlaska.org

- Encouraging Early Literacy in Alaska: An Evaluation of the Imagination Library (2021)

www.threadalaska.org

- Alaska's Child Care Fact Sheet (2020)
- Economic Impact Report for Early Care & Learning (2020)
- Early Care & Learning Dashboard (2020)

www.EarlyChildhoodAlaska.com

- Early Childhood Alaska: A Strategic Direction (2020-2025)
- Strengthening the System: Alaska's Comprehensive Integrated Mental Health Program Plan (2020-2024)
- All Alaska Pediatric Partnership: Alaska's Early Childhood Environmental Scan and Baseline Report on the Conditions of Young Children (2020)
- A Needs Assessment of Alaska's Mixed Delivery System of Early Childhood (2020)
- Strengthening Families Alaska (2019)



The Alaska Early Childhood Advocacy Group is a coalition of early childhood experts and leading organizations with representation across Alaska working to increase the number of children ready to succeed in school and beyond.