

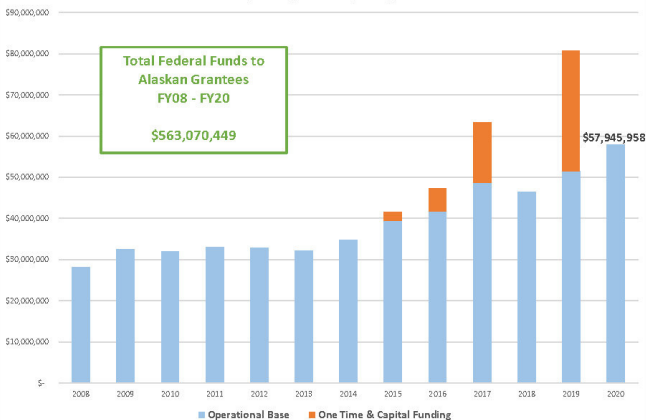
# INVESTING IN HEAD START

Head Start is Alaska's largest statewide early childhood program, providing comprehensive services for over 4,000 children and families in approximately 100 urban and rural communities throughout the state.

Alaska's Head Start programs have been finding creative ways to provide services to children and families throughout the pandemic. 14 out of 17 grantees have been able to ensure that families have enough food and never go to bed hungry. Some programs delivered daily meals with school busses, while others sent out weekly food boxes.



Total Federal Funding for Head Start & Early Head Start Services in Alaska  
(including one-time funding)



## Finding the Silver Lining in a Global Pandemic

- All of Alaska's Head Start children and families received services either remotely or in person throughout the pandemic.
- Many classroom staff were able to use closure times to receive thousands of hours of training.
- Classrooms with reduced numbers enjoyed closer relationships between teachers and the children in their classrooms.
- Head Start programs have been able to keep staff busy and working.
- Having access to funds for tech have made it possible to better stay in touch with kids, families and remote staff.

"WE HAVE BECOME MORE IN TUNE WITH FAMILY NEEDS AND WILL SEEK TO CONTINUE AND STRENGTHEN OUR SUPPORT TO THEM. -DEB TROWBRIDGE, HEAD START DIRECTOR, KAWERAK INC./AHSA PRESIDENT



"Cares Act funds has been pairing Anchorage restaurants with KCI Head Start centers to distribute restaurant meals directly to KCI families every day, M-F. In one parent's words, "All the food is great! There's enough the next day for lunch. Love that's it's already made & ready to reheat." -Dirk Shumaker, Executive Director, Kids' Corps, Inc.



"This is our teacher Carly working with a kiddo on fine motor skills while she is still in quarantine (yep, it's shaving cream)! Love, love, love the creative solutions that teachers are coming up with" -Anne Shade, Director, Bristol Bay Native Association



"A tradition of mine is to bake a pumpkin pie. This year, I sent home all of the supplies with the recipe and recorded myself making the pie and posted it for the children and families to see. This has always been a favorite activity and this year they got to make the pies at home with their families." -Gloria Martin, Thralaska teacher



# ALASKA HEAD START ASSOCIATION

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