

2021/2022 Grant Recipients

Total Amount Awarded: \$158,650

Grant Awards

Statewide

Beacon Hill (\$10,000)

Heart Gallery of Alaska

The Heart Gallery works with Office of Children's Services case workers, youth, and volunteer photographers to develop profiles of children in foster care who are legally free for adoption. The profiles bring awareness from the community to children and youth in foster care who are seeking a forever family, put faces to children in foster care and words to their stories, and give them an opportunity to share who they are.

Facing Foster Care in Alaska (\$5,000)

Through peer connections, training, and youth-led advocacy, members of FFCA have a strong impact on improving outcomes for themselves and children who come after them. FFCA continued its foster youth advocacy efforts, including efforts to improve protections for LGBTQ+ and Indigenous foster youth, increase foster youth voter registration through the PFD, and advance legislation to provide additional supports to youth in care and reduce the number of families involved in the child welfare system.

First Alaskans Institute (\$5,000)

2021 Elders & Youth Conference

The annual Elders & Youth Conference held by First Alaskans Institute brings together over 1,500 Indigenous Alaskan elders and youth to transfer cultural knowledge between the generations and strengthen collective advocacy, offering many young Alaskans their first opportunity to engage in meaningful dialogue and experiences relevant to their history. The conference (held virtually in 2021) sought to build community and improve protective factors for youth by encouraging attendees to get involved in cultural and linguistic revitalization, civic engagement, community advocacy, healing, and personal and professional development.

Native Village of Kwinhagak (\$10,000)

Kwinhagak "Culture Heals" Day Camp

The “Culture Heals” camp is a 4-day camp for children and parents, which seeks to help children heal from the impacts of trauma with traditional knowledge. The camp hopes to strengthen community social connections by bringing youth and Elders together and teaching traditional parenting skills.

Native Village of Port Lions (\$9,358)

Feeding Our Traditions

The Native Village of Port Lions’ Feeding Our Traditions program provides monthly community cooking classes that focus on utilizing traditional and subsistence foods. Participants get hands on experience prepping and cooking a meal with a highlighted ingredient and learning the history of the foods prepared, in classes facilitated by local Elders and culture bearers.

thread (\$5,000)

Parent TALK

Parent TALK is a free parenting engagement opportunity where parents, caregivers, and professionals from across Alaska gather to discuss and share experiences related to parenting and supporting children and families. Caregivers are invited to ask questions, participate in activities, and share their own experiences. Sessions sought to build parental resilience by teaching about the Strengthening Families Five Protective Factors, sharing knowledge on parenting and child development, and increasing social connections.

Volunteers of America – Alaska (\$10,000)

Alaska Kinship Family Program

VOA Alaska’s Kinship Program is a support program for Alaskans raising relative children. The program offers services that promote the health and wellness of children and their relative caregivers, like an assessment of needs, health information and assistance, referrals to community service providers, respite, case management, financial assistance, newsletters, and support groups.

Northern/Interior

Denali Preschool and Learning Center (\$10,000)

DPLC Social Emotional Support

DPLC expanded education for staff through resources and training to understand ACEs and how they affect youth, staff, and caregivers. The project aims to improve the ability of staff to

recognize trauma, work to actively support and effectively intervene with student behavior, and encourage coping strategies and problem-solving skills in students, all through the lens of trauma-informed care.

Fairbanks Children’s Museum (\$7,200)

Baby Mingle at FCM

Baby Mingle is a program that provides a free and supportive environment for caregivers of infants. The museum opens early for caregivers and their babies to enjoy a calm and quiet museum environment, free catering, and an opportunity to connect with caregivers of other infants. A new agency each week shares information and resources with families to help connect them with concrete supports.

Interior Alaska Center for Nonviolent Living (\$10,000)

Inclusive Prevention: Developing a Co-Ed Running Program with Interior Cultural Values

IACNVL is developing a co-ed running curriculum with Interior cultural values. Youth of all identities will benefit from lessons on healthy choices, mentors, stereotypes, and more all while participating in creative running games. IACNVL is collaborating with local culture bearers to create a curriculum that reflects Interior culture and includes origin stories and phrases that belong to the diverse languages that constitute the Athabascan language group.

Southcentral

Anchorage School District Preschool (\$10,000)

ASD Early Childhood Mental Health Consultative Model

The Childhood Mental Health Consultant at ASD Preschool provides services to children, teachers, staff, and families via classroom observation, professional development, and direct meetings with families. These services empower all parties to help respond to children experiencing adverse effects due to trauma or other familial factors.

Camp Fire Alaska (\$10,000)

Building Resiliency Through Learning Pods

Camp Fire Alaska, in partnership with the Anchorage School District, provided unique in-school “Learning Pods” for youth in Title 1 schools in reaction to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Learning Pods make it possible for youth to access childcare and individualized on-line learning,

receive additional academic, social, and emotional support, and three meals each school day at no cost to the family.

Catholic Social Services (\$10,000)

Leveraging Technology to Increase Access to Services and Strengthen Families

This project provided multigenerational support to families through the Flourishing Families Initiative, giving Wi-Fi hotspots and Chromebooks to parents for them to attend virtual Parent Cafés. These workshops gave families opportunities for social connections and shared knowledge about the Strengthening Families model.

Kenai Peninsula Borough School District (\$10,000)

Upstream Connections in KPBSD

Upstream Connections (UC) is a program designed to motivate and engage at-risk students in the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District. UC ensures students serving community probation terms find and build upon their strengths, while at the same time expanding their system of support by identifying opportunities and interventions that can best accelerate their personal growth and positive behaviors.

MSSCA Infant Learning Program (\$7,792)

DIR Floortime Training

Floortime Training gave the staff at Infant Learning Program training and certification in the DIR Floortime intervention model: an evidence-based intervention model which promotes child development via relationships with primary caregivers, for children ages 0-3 experiencing developmental delays.

Story Works Alaska (\$10,000)

Building Resilience and Breaking the Cycle of CAN, One Story at a Time

Story Works Alaska supports in- and out-of-school workshops that invite students to share stories of resilience, learning, and positive change. Their programs include in-school storytelling workshops, their BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color) youth group—Youth4Change—and meetings for queer and transgender BIPOC youth, with the goal of creating healthy spaces for youth to connect and engage around shared identity and experiences.

Southeast

Juneau School District (\$10,000)

Juneau Title I Elementary School Social Workers/Family Advocates

Juneau School District is working to address challenges students face and advance trauma-informed practices through the social worker/family advocate positions at Kax̄digoowu Héen, Glacier Valley, and Harborview Elementary Title I Schools. Social worker/family advocates provide mental health and family support for the highest needs students at these elementary schools, including support to students during the school day and assisting families in accessing services to address homelessness, childcare, income and food insecurity, domestic safety, substance use, and health concerns.

Women in Safe Homes (\$7,500)

Youth Peer Education Intern Program

This program uplifts Ketchikan teens who provide education, training, and support to their peers under the direction and guidance of Women in Safe Homes staff. This program trains youth peer educator interns to serve as a source of information on healthy relationships, teen dating violence and sexual assault, and local resources. The KYPE program also allows teens to develop crucial leadership skills, form strong relationships with adult mentors, and promote protective factors among their peers.

Youth Advocates of Sitka, Inc. (\$10,000)

Cloud Healthy Relationships Program

Youth Advocates of Sitka, Inc. launched their Healthy Relationships groups for youth ages 12-21 to address topics like consent, sexuality and inclusive sexuality, sexual anatomy, reproductive health, and delaying parenthood. The program aims to empower youth with the information necessary to make healthy relationship choices and improve their connectedness with positive and supportive adults and peers.