

Association for the Education of Young Children, SE Alaska
 Report to City and Borough of Juneau
 CARES CBJ Emergency Child Care Grant: July 15, 2020

Summary of activity and expenditures:

The CBJ awarded \$1,057,000 in municipal CARES federal funds from the State of Alaska, for the purpose of sustaining the availability of child care for working families in Juneau. The increased costs of meeting health and safety requirements, combined with reduced enrollments of children otherwise puts child care programs at risk of permanent closure.

Upon the signed award agreement, AEYC immediately sent applications to all licensed child care programs in Juneau. The applications were collected and reviewed and the first award payment was issued June 16th to a total of 16 child care programs in the total amount of \$129,107.50.

The majority of child care programs were totally closed from March 16 through May 30. With the support of CBJ funds, the majority of full year programs are now open, though with reduced enrollments. The reduced enrollment numbers are due to a number of factors: increased spacing of children in the program to meet health guidelines, parents on unemployment or working from home, or with family risk factors that don't feel comfortable returning, and the loss of staff due to health considerations or finding other work during layoffs. Most programs require close to full enrollment to break even. The need for additional staff has also increased due to extra cleaning and health practices, providing substitute coverage, and reduced group sizes.

Participating Programs, Award Amounts, and Children served.

Name of Program	March 1 enrollment	June enrollment	Payment
ABC Center	23	12	\$9,185
Aurora Lights Childcare	37	8	\$15,775
Discovery Preschool	40	27	\$19,775
Gold Creek CDC	56	16	\$29,000
Juneau Montessori School	49	24	24,080
Bertha's Childcare	2	2	\$ 850
Chiquilladas	10	9	\$3,850
Dolores' Childcare	3	3	\$1,425
Douglas Childcare	8	8	\$3,962.50
Fiddleheads Preschool	8	*pending due to family emergency	\$3,250
Forget-M-Nots	8	8	\$2,910
Happy Face	5	5	\$2,145
Happy Roots	8	8	\$3,625
Little Stars	8	8	\$3,800
Mauricio's	8	6	\$2,775
Playful Pandas	7	5	\$2,700

Currently non Participating programs	Status
Juneau Coop Preschool	Will open at the beginning of September and will apply for funds in August.
Our Language Nest	Ineligible. Part day preschool. No parent tuition charged. Supported by grant funds.
Little Eagles and Ravens Nest	Opted out – Tlingit and Haida Central Council is able to support the program through tribal funds at this time and would like to help CBJ funds reach other child care programs.
Montessori Borealis	Ineligible due to being under the JSD umbrella
RALLY	Ineligible due to being under the JSD umbrella
Stepping Stones	New small child care center – opened July 1 for 19 children.
Sundew Childcare	Still considering whether to re-open or close permanently

Summary:

Thanks to the CBJ Assembly and Managers office for the rapid response to help keep child care programs solvent. This is a huge relief to the programs, the families, and provides stability and a healthy learning environment for children. Thanks to the leadership of CBJ, other communities across the state are now adopting the model, or were encouraged to allocate local CARES funding to child care. In Southeast Alaska, Ketchikan Assembly allocated \$350,000, and Sitka Assembly allocated \$500,000, following the lead of Juneau. The Anchorage Assembly recently allocated \$10 million to licensed child care. As each local community grapples with these challenging decisions, the work of the assembly and managers office to design an efficient, effective model is much appreciated by other communities across the state.

Remaining program grant funds: \$927,892.50

Due to the ineligible programs and opting out of one of the larger child care centers, there are now adequate funds remaining to continue funding at the current level for over five months, through the end of November. This support may be needed to sustain programs through ups and downs of community exposure rates, and through the cold and flu season, as enrollments will no doubt fluctuate and temporary closures may occur. Another option to consider would be to include new licensed child care centers that open during the calendar year.