



ALASKA HEAD START

An Overview of Early Childhood Programs, Services, Funding
and the

Urgent Issues to be Addressed



WHY IS INVESTING 20% INTO HEAD START EXTREMELY SMART FOR ALASKA?

1. When paired with 80% federal money – it SERVES ALASKA'S children and families!
2. It leverages and supports (and protects!) the Federal Investment – Alaskan's federal taxes stay here!
 - \$62,554,071 of Federal Funding in federal fiscal year 23 (NOT paid by State of Alaska)
 - \$686,089,662 of Federal Funding for operations (wages, benefits, food, etc) to Alaska Head Start Programs 2008-2023
 - Many Capital Projects (New Schools!) That serve Alaskan kids and families (NOT paid by State of Alaska)
 - \$67,474,175 of Federal Capital Money to Alaska Head Start programs 2015-2023
3. Head Start programs are federally monitored and held accountable for the proper use of Federal and State funds. It costs the State of Alaska ZERO DOLLARS to know that Head Start programs are compliant with state and federal regulations, or if there are issues, to see the action plans leading to resolution.

FEDERAL FUNDING = \$62 million. 20% Non-Federal Match Required = \$12.4 million

STATE OF ALASKA – Stuck at \$6.8 million since 2013

INCREASE “Early Learning Coordination” Line Item in DEED Budget to \$12 million

WHAT MAKES HEAD START DIFFERENT?

1. Head Start is comprehensive and multigenerational – Services are delivered to children AND their families
2. Head Start targets families that are most in need of a Head Start.
Families in poverty, children in foster care, children whose families are homeless, and children with disabilities
3. Head Start ensures that all children have developmental, vision, hearing and dental screenings as early as possible, to identify any problems that could have a negative impact on a child's education.
4. Head Start is Very High Quality. Compare Head Start Program Performance Standards to Alaska's new Pre-K Program. Head Start has a 60 Year History of Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI).

ALASKAN CHILDREN & FAMILIES SERVED

- ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- Children who are in Foster Care
- Children whose families are Homeless
- Children whose families Receive SNAP
- Extremely Low Income (under 100% of poverty)
- Children who have an identified or suspected Disability
- Expanded eligibility criteria for programs operated by Alaska Native Grantees

- EARLY HEAD START

- Eligible families who are expecting a child – to age 3

- HEAD START

- Eligible families who have children ages 3 up to school age

ALASKAN

Income Guidelines for 2023

Persons in family	Guideline
2	\$24,640
3	\$31,070
4	\$37,500
5	\$43,930
6	\$50,360
7	\$56,790
8	\$63,220

For families/households with more than 8 persons, add \$5,900 for each additional person.

WHY IS ADDITIONAL STATE FUNDING URGENT?

- **11 of 17 Alaskan Head Start programs are under-enrolled – they do not currently have enough children enrolled to meet the contractual obligations required by their federal grants.**
- Why is this the case? Largely because Alaska Head Start programs are under-staffed.
 - Our business requires having enough adults hired to provide safe care for the children enrolled. Not enough adults hired? Not enough children enrolled.
- Why are programs understaffed?
 - Wages are low.
 - Federal increases have not kept up with inflation.
 - The State of Alaska has provided flat funding (\$6.8 million since 2010) except for a one-time increase of \$1.5 million provided in the current fiscal year.
 - The work is incredibly difficult. Children living with big problems have big feelings!
- What is at risk?
 - **\$14.7 million of federal grants** (24% of the \$62 million statewide total) **has been designated as at risk** for those 11 grantees, each of whom are on a 12 month deadline to become fully enrolled. The deadlines begin in February of 2024
 - Programs have ALREADY decreased the number of Alaskan children/families served. Without additional sustainable revenue (state grant increases) cutting services/costs is the only option available to increase wages.

IN FFY23 - OVER \$62 MILLION IN ANNUAL FEDERAL FUNDS DIRECTLY TO LOCAL GRANTEES IN ALASKA FOR OPERATIONS...

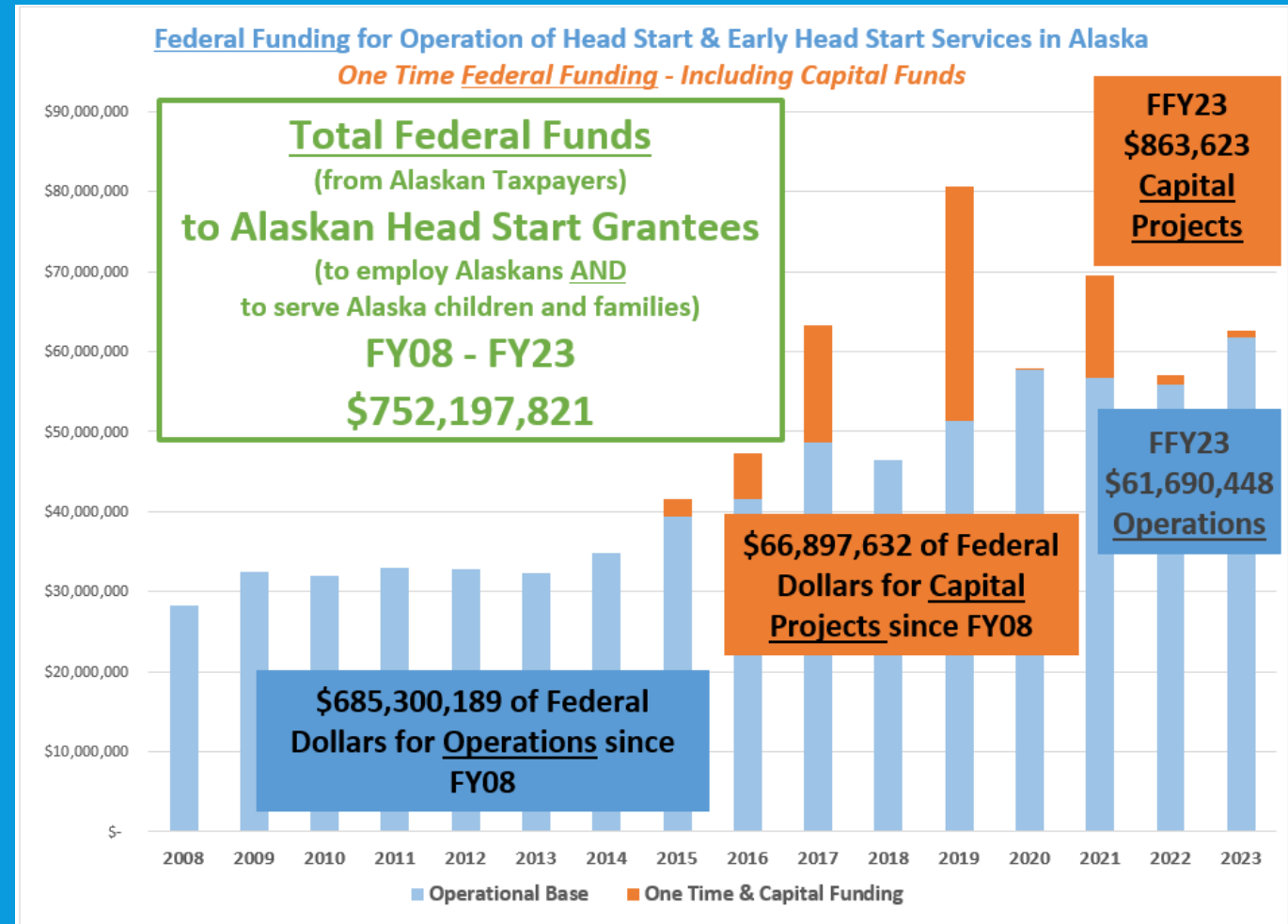
▪ 17 Local Grantees

▪ American Indian Alaska Native

- Aleutian Pribilof Island Assn
- Assn of Village Council Pres.
- Bristol Bay Native Assn
- Council of Athabascan Gov.
- Chugachmiut
- Cook Inlet Native Head Start
- Cook Inlet Tribal – Clare Swan
- Fairbanks Native Assn
- Kawerak
- Kenaitze
- Metlakatla
- Tanana Chiefs Conference
- Tlingit & Haida

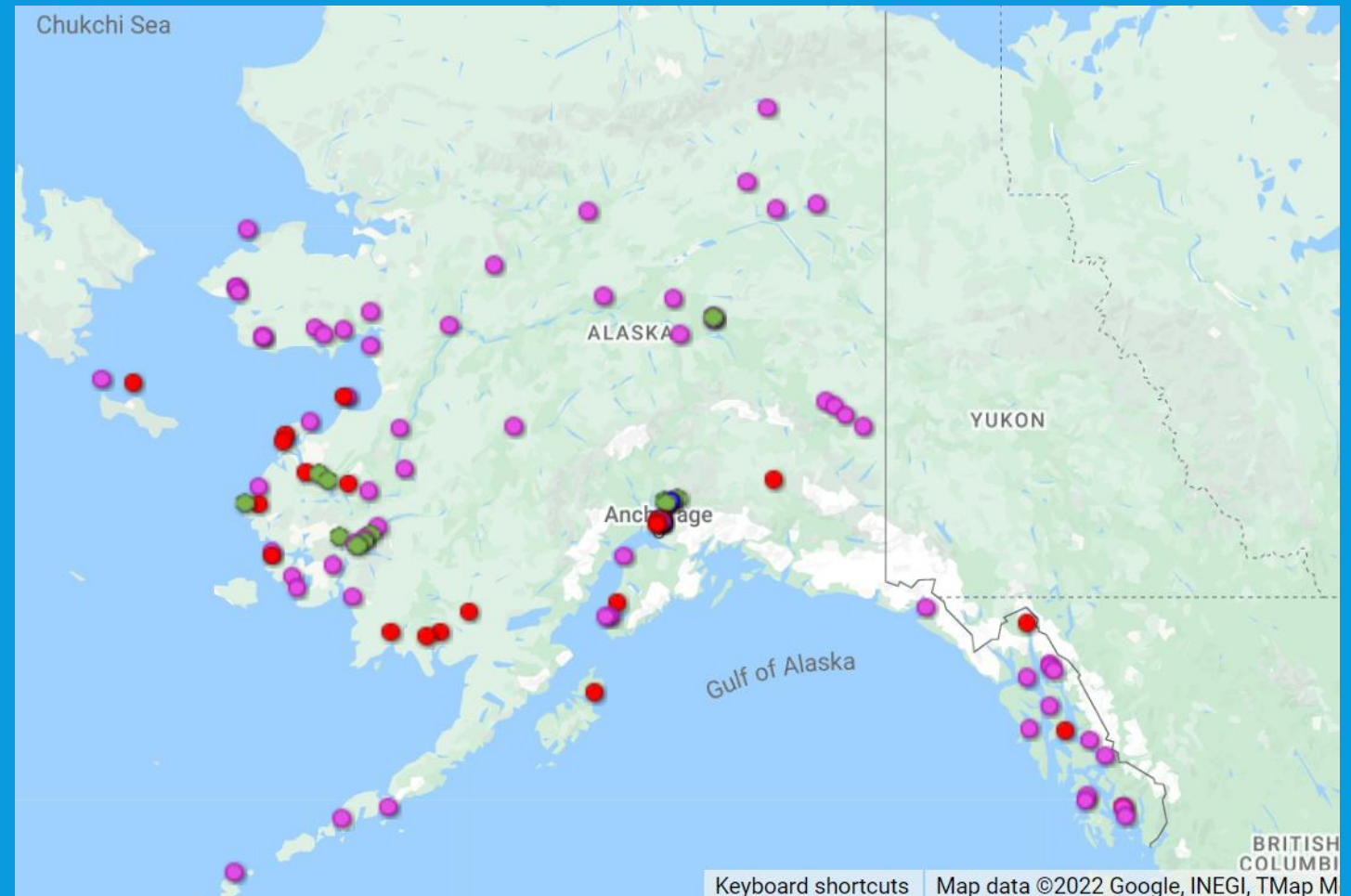
▪ Region X

- CCS Early Learning
- Kids Corps Inc.
- Rural CAP
- Thrivalaska



FABRIC OF ALASKA: OVER 100 COMMUNITIES SERVED IN URBAN, RURAL & REMOTE

- Funded Enrollment
 - 3,607 Children
- Cumulative Enrollment – 3,000
 - 38% - 4 yrs old
 - 31% - 3 yrs old
 - 14% - 2 yrs old
 - 8% - 1 yr old
 - 8% - under 1
 - 2% pregnant moms
- 1,154 Jobs - 42% are current or former parents.
- 1,560 Volunteers – 73% are current or former parents.



WHAT IS THE PURPOSE FOR STATE FUNDING TO HEAD START?

February 7, 2008

**Frequently Asked Questions for Grant Awards and Amendments,
Budget Revisions and Reimbursements**



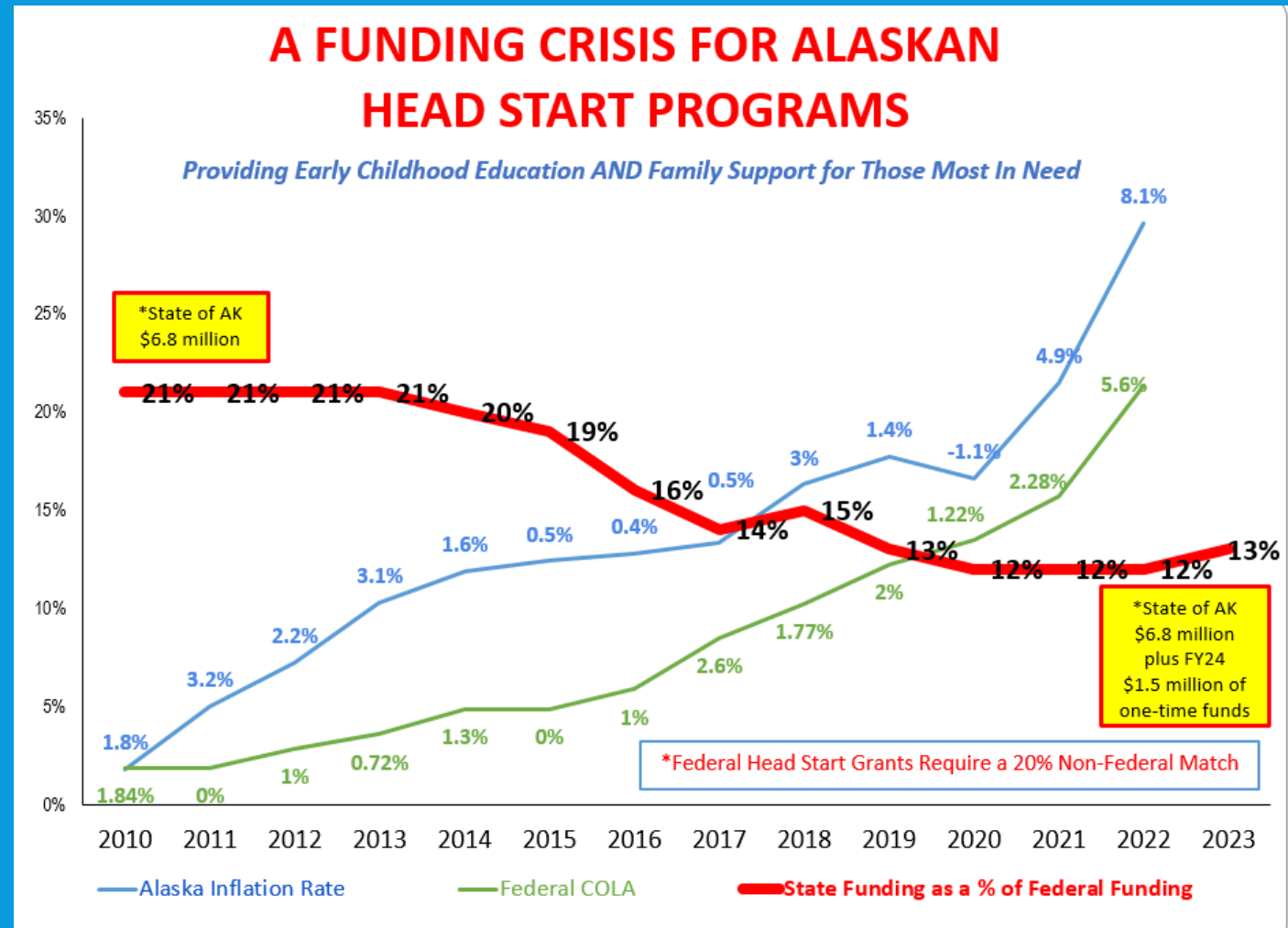
General Overview

1. *What is the purpose of the Head Start funds provided through the State of Alaska?*

- The funds provided through the State of Alaska are to **guarantee that grantees meet the required match for quality program improvement, professional development, training and technical assistance, target school readiness and whenever possible serve additional children and families.**

HAS STATE FUNDING MET THESE TWO PURPOSES?

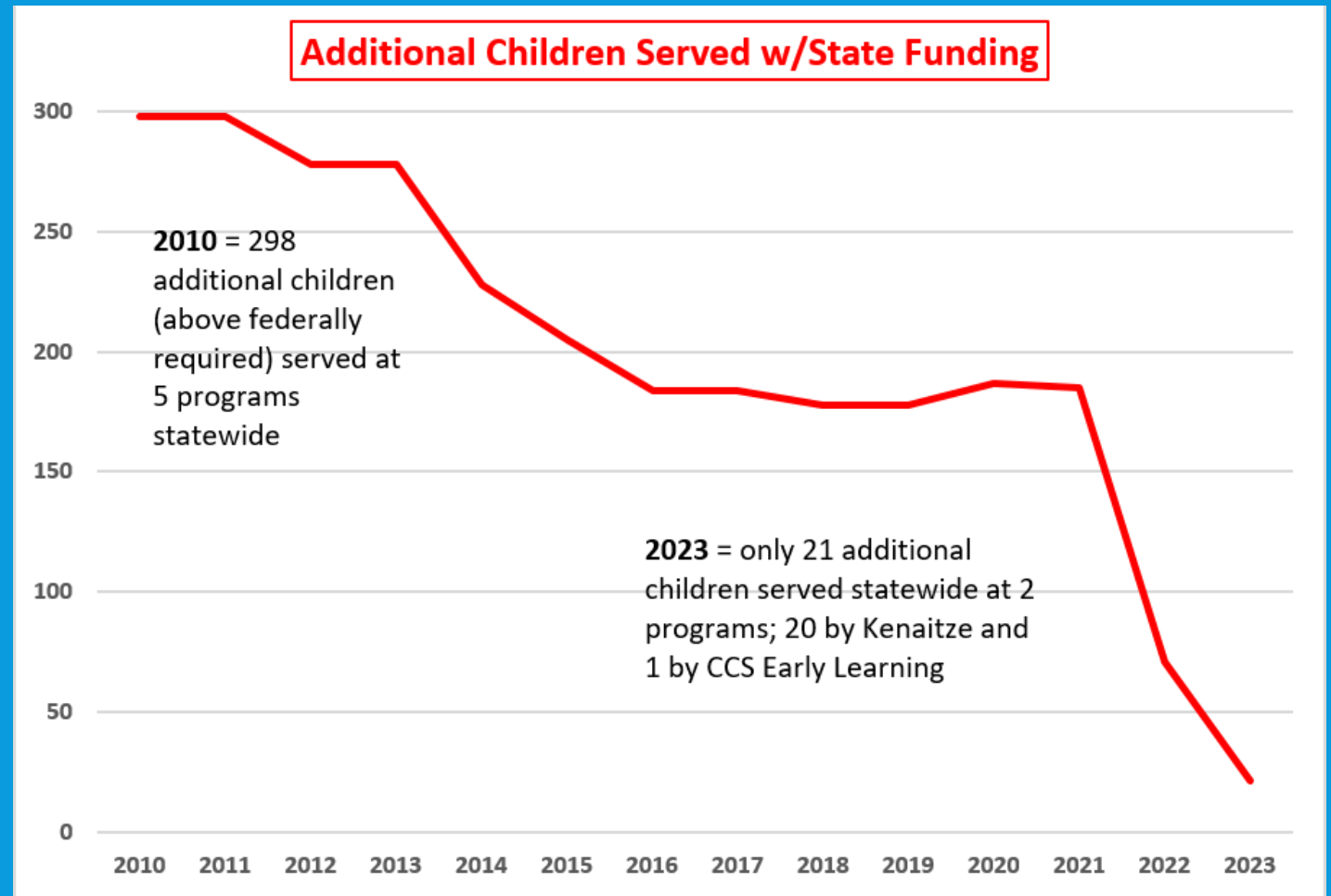
1. Guarantee that grantees meet the required match?



HAS STATE FUNDING MET THESE TWO PURPOSEES?

... and

2. Whenever possible serve additional children & families?



HEAD START FUNDING IN ALASKA

2010

Federal Funding = \$32million

Non-Federal Match Required = 20%

State Funding = \$6.8 million

Non-Federal Match Provided: 21%



2023

Federal Funding = \$62 million

Non-Federal Match Required = 20%

State Funding Options

\$6.8 million (11% match) 😞

\$12 million (20% match)



WHY DO HEAD START PROGRAMS IN ALASKA NEED ADDITIONAL FUNDING IMMEDIATELY?

- **WE HAVE A WORKFORCE CRISIS**

- Wages and benefits are far below k-12 wages
- Wages and benefits are quickly being overtaken by service/retail

- **RECRUITMENT & RETENTION ISSUES: UNDERMINING OUR SUCCESS**

- Alaskan programs are understaffed. If we don't have (or can't keep) classroom staff we aren't able to serve all the children we should.
- When children cannot be served we are not able to help them (and their families) be ready for success in school and life... and...
- ... their parents are not able to be at work

- **HEAD START AND EARLY HEAD START PROGRAMS PROVIDE THE HIGHEST QUALITY EARLY CHILDHOOD SERVICES IN THE NATION**

- Transportation to/from school
- Mental health/behavioral health services
- Early identification of disabilities and services to intervene and disrupt developmental delays.
- Parent education and family advocacy/case management

- **WITH A 20% MATCH – FIXING THE ABOVE MEANS MORE ALASKAN CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SERVED !**

TOO IMPORTANT TO NEGLECT ANY LONGER.

Invest in Alaska!

Return to 20% Match For Head Start.

(after 13 years of flat state funding)

Increase Early Learning Coordination in DEED
Budget from \$6.8m ---> \$12m

(to provide a 20% match to the \$62m of Federal \$ that Head Start grantees bring into AK)