



## ***Anchorage youth make positive choices leading to success in school and life.***

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### **Why it Matters**

- In 2006-2007, 1,179 Anchorage students from grades 7-12 dropped out of school, and Alaska Native youth dropped out at over 2.5 times the rate of Caucasian youth (ASD)
- Anchorage high school youth report violence with a significant other at 2.5 times the national rate (2005 YRBS)
- 22 different validated gangs exist in Anchorage, up from 14 in 2006, and the number of members is rising (APD)
- Over 75% of Anchorage youth have tried alcohol, and more than 1 in 4 youth binge drink (2005 YRBS)

### **Measurable Goals**

1. Short term example: More organized programs successfully attract kids
2. Short-Mid term example: Across the city, more kids are participating in positive youth activities
3. Mid term example: Across the school district, youth attendance rates increase; truancy rates decrease
4. Long term example: fewer kids drop-out; more kids graduate

### **Promising/Best Practices and Research**

- Research shows that youth with assets such as positive adult relationships and meaningful activities are significantly less likely to use substances or become involved in violent activities
- Effective early intervention efforts for truants and juvenile offenders help youth get back on track toward success
- When families are stable, children are better able to succeed

### **Strategies and Tactics**

- *Provide family supports*
  - (1) Family Resource Centers; (2) Family Navigators; (3) Parenting Guide in multiple languages; (4) Affordable before and after school care
- *Increase supportive adult relationships*
  - (1) Formal and informal mentoring; (2) Anchorage Mentoring Alliance
- *Engage youth in meaningful community activities*
  - (1) In-school and out-of-school programs; (2) Geographic area pilot; (3) Youth as planners; (4) Vocational education
- *Effectively intervene with truant and delinquent youth*
  - (1) Truancy prevention programs; (2) Program for expelled and suspended youth; (3) Community Court/Justice Center in pilot area; (4) Community Policing
- *Effectively intervene when youth fall into substance use*
  - (1) Ensure evidence based treatment practices; (2) Screen all youth entering the juvenile justice system for substance use and mental health issues; (3) Retain youth and their families in treatment

### **Partners & Sponsors**

United Way, Municipality of Anchorage, Department of Juvenile Justice, Anchorage School District, Reclaiming Futures, Anchorage Youth Development Coalition, Communities in Schools, University of Anchorage, Alaska Initiative for Community Engagement, D.A.R.E., State of Alaska Department of Behavioral Health, McLaughlin Youth Center, Weed & Seed, Spirit of Youth Foundation, Friends of Alaska PYLI (Points of Light Youth Leadership Institute), Alaska Community Services, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Boys & Girls Clubs, Anchorage Youth Court, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, Camp Fire, Elmendorf Youth Activities, YMCA Anchorage, YMCA Armed Services, Volunteers of America, Covenant House, Salvation Army, Victims For Justice, Alaska Children's Services, Alaska Baptist Family Services, AFACT (Anchorage Faith & Action – Congregations Together), Nine Star Enterprises, and the list is growing.