

Municipality of Anchorage's Child Care & Early Education (ACCEE) Fund



ANCHORAGE CHILD CARE & EARLY EDUCATION **FUND**



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For: Anchorage Assembly
October 9, 2025*



Agenda

- **Executive Director** Hiring Process
- 2025 ACCEE Fund **Strategic Planning**
- **2026 Proposed Budget**



ACCEE Fund Board

- [Trevor Storrs](#), [Chair](#), *President & CEO, Alaska Children's Trust*
- [Jessica Simonsen](#), [Vice Chair](#), *Family Support Specialist, Alaska Center for Resource Families and Board member for Hillcrest Children's Center and Southcentral Alaska AEYC*
- [Branwen Collier](#), *Owner and Director, Early Learning for Everyone*
- [Khalial Withen](#), *General Counsel, Alaska District Council of Laborers*
- [Isabel Broek](#), *Preschool music teacher and UAA Research Technician*
- [Jessie Nessel](#), *Director of Early Learning, Anchorage School District*
- [Mildred Parker](#), *Alaska System for Early Education Development (SEED) Manager, thread*
- [Kevin Berry](#), *Professor of Economics, UAA, and thread board member*
- [Chuck Seaca](#), *Director of Leadership Programs, Alaska Humanities Forum*

ACCEE Fund Executive Director

- **Hiring Committee:** Trevor Storrs, Khalial Withen, Jessie Nessel, Bill Falsey, Susanne FG, Austin QD
- Accepted applications for **4 weeks**; closed Sept. 30th. Received **30 applications**.
- **Interviews** in October & November
- **Offer** in late November; start work ideally in January
- **Transition** Jan-April with Austin QD



ACCEE Fund Strategic Planning

- Need a **clear and actionable strategic plan** to move from initial implementation of ACCEE Fund to long-term impact, and to inform **Code-required investment strategy**
- **Professional Growth Systems** facilitated process
- **Initial gathering** Sept 4 & 5

ACCEE Fund Strategic Planning, cont.

- **23 participants**, including **Board members and partners** from United Way, Best Beginnings, Kids Corp., State of Alaska CCPO, Muni licensing, Rasmuson Foundation, AK Afterschool Network, thread, School Board (Carl Jacobs), Assembly (KPV), Nolan/Bill
- Produced a **draft Strategic Agenda**. Includes ACCEE Fund purpose, values, vision, strategic initiatives for 3 yrs.
- Now **seeking feedback** on SA from public, admin, Assembly. Survey live and on website. **Adopt final SA at Nov. 6 Board meeting**

ACCEE Fund Strategic Agenda

- **Purpose:** *To strategically invest and collaborate so that children and families have access to high-quality, sustainable child care and education*
- **Core Values:**
 - Child and Family Centered
 - Strategic
 - Collaborative
 - Fair
 - Transparent
- **Vision:** *In three years, the Anchorage child care sector will be stabilized and positioned for sustainable growth, with evidence of positive impact on families and the community. 7 **vivid descriptions** to assess achievement of vision.*

ACCEE Fund Strategic Agenda, cont.

- **Strategic Initiatives:**
 1. Continuously **evaluate** and **strengthen ACCEE Fund programs** and systems to ensure effectiveness, sustainability, and responsiveness to community needs
 2. Finalize the ACCEE Fund **Investment Strategy**
 3. Identify the **resources required** to support a thriving and sustainable early childhood sector that meets families' needs and **develop a plan for progress**
 4. Support **sector collaboration and coordination**
 5. Strengthen leadership capacity by **hiring a dedicated Executive Director**



ACCEE Fund 2026 Proposed Budget

- Board adopted August 7; submitted to Mayor with copy to Assembly Aug 29th (due Sept 2)
- Formed after months of public testimony, Code-required hearings, written feedback, discussions with providers, survey responses (34)
- **Funding philosophy:** *The child care and early education field is currently in crisis. Stabilization support is essential to stop the losses and create a foundation for growth. Stabilization funding helps providers cover operating costs, retain staff, and maintain quality access to early learning opportunities, which strengthens families and supports the broader workforce and economy*

ACCEE Fund 2026 Proposed Budget, cont.

- Objectives: (1) to **retain and strengthen the workforce**, (2) **sustain and expand operations**, and (3) **increase access for families**
- **Continues three existing programs**: (1) early educator child care subsidies, (2) operational assistance, and (3) pilot projects and capital funding **AND adds two more**: (1) retention bonuses and (2) in-home start-up fund
- Based on feedback from Mayor's office, created **possible alternative budget**

Possible Alternative Budget

Program	2025 Budget	2026 Amt Proposed	Reduction	Alternative 2026 Budget
Child Care Subsidies	\$1.25M (6 months)	\$2.5M (full year)	\$750k	\$1.75M
Operational Funding	\$2.4M	\$2.4M	\$0	\$2.4M
Pilot Projects and Capital	\$2.0M	\$2.0M	\$750k	\$1.25M
Retention Bonuses	n/a	\$500k	\$0	\$500k
In-Home Start-Up Fund	n/a	\$100k	\$100k	\$0
ASD Classrooms	\$2.0M	\$0	n/a	\$2.0M
Tax Collection	\$580k	\$285k	\$0	\$285k
Fund Admin	\$535k	\$590k	\$90k	\$500k

Upcoming Activities

- Identify **areas of improvement for existing programs**
- **Design new programs:** explore retention bonuses and in-home start-up fund





Questions? Feedback?



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