



Purpose Statement

To strategically invest and collaborate so that children and families have access to high-quality, sustainable child care and early education.

Core Values

Child and Family Centered: putting the needs, strengths, and voices of children and families at the heart of decisions

Strategic: advancing systemic change that is efficient, evidence-based, sustainable, and embraces innovation

Collaborative: supporting effective, responsive partnerships that value diverse voices and shared responsibility to achieve greater impact

Fair: promoting systems that are accessible, affordable, and inclusive


Transparent: decision-making that is clear, open, and respects community input

ACCEE 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.

Vivid Description:

- A demonstrated positive impact on the number of available spaces
- The sector is a more desirable place to work, leading to increased stability in the workforce
- Improved grant processes to enhance end-user experience
- The impact of funded programs is consistently evaluated, and adjustments are made where needed
- Increased sector collaboration and coordination
- Municipal regulations are assessed and updated as needed to ensure they align with the needs of the sector and support its long-term sustainability
- Increased resources are available to the sector through collaboration among public, private, and philanthropic entities



Strategic Initiative 1: Continuously evaluate and strengthen ACCEE Fund programs and systems to ensure effectiveness, sustainability, and responsiveness to community needs.

Description:

The ACCEE Fund will establish clear metrics to evaluate all programs to assess their effectiveness and areas of improvement. In addition, the Fund will regularly review and improve the grantmaking process to ensure programs are delivered effectively and meet the needs of intended beneficiaries.

Why is this project important to our organization?

The ACCEE Fund has limited funding that should be used strategically, only on the most effective programs. Evaluation and consideration of funded programs – and making adjustments, where needed – is essential to its purpose. This evaluation should take into account the accessibility and inclusivity of these programs and a commitment to making changes to how they are delivered if and when needed.

What does this project include?

Partnership with entities operating ACCEE Fund programs, engagement with the public, data collection, collaboration with the administration and Assembly, and a careful evaluation of the effectiveness of ACCEE Fund programs.

Measurable Outcome:

Develop and implement an evaluation plan for all ACCEE-funded projects and all standing board responsibilities, with results reviewed quarterly.

1-year target:

Work with partners to identify metrics and evaluation tools and begin to evaluate the effectiveness and accessibility of nascent ACCEE Fund programs and establish a dashboard to communicate findings to stakeholders.



Strategic Initiative 2: Finalize the ACCEE Fund Investment Strategy

Description:

The ACCEE Fund enabling legislation requires adoption of an initial investment strategy for the development, implementation, and expansion of child care and early education programs in the Municipality. The Board must review and update the investment strategy every three years.

Why is this project important to our organization?


The investment strategy should effectuate the purpose and vision of the ACCEE Fund and describe in more detail how ACCEE Fund budgets and related programming will align with that purpose and vision to meet child care and early education needs in Anchorage.

What does this project include?

The enabling legislation does not detail what must be included in the investment strategy, but the document should tie the ACCEE Fund purpose and vision to ACCEE Fund strategic investments.

1-year target:

Develop the investment strategy and present it to the Anchorage Assembly in 2026.



Strategic Initiative 3: Identify the resources required to support a thriving and sustainable early childhood sector that meets families' needs and develop a plan for progress

Description:

Conduct a comprehensive community assessment to identify current and future child care and early education needs in Anchorage, and develop the tools and implementation plan necessary to address those needs,

Why is this project important to our organization?

In order for all Anchorage children and families to have access to high-quality, sustainable child care and early education opportunities, the ACCEE Fund must assess not only what the Fund as it currently exists can accomplish, but what opportunities exist for making the impact even greater.

What does this project include?

A quantitative description of what is needed in the Anchorage sector and identification of gaps to delivering those services. Partnership with aligned entities to create a broader vision for child care and early education in Anchorage and determine a plan for reaching that vision.

Measurable Outcome:

Complete a community-wide assessment of child care and early education needs in Anchorage, including input from families, providers, and employers, and produce a published plan that identifies at least three priority gaps and outlines specific tools and strategies to address them.

1-year target:

Complete a community assessment of child care and early education in Anchorage by identifying and collecting baseline data, engaging key stakeholders, and producing a summary report that outlines the community's most pressing needs.



Strategic Initiative 4: Support sector collaboration and coordination

Description:

Evaluate the ACCEE Fund's role in supporting existing or creating new opportunities for sector collaboration and coordination.

Why is this project important to our organization?

Supporting collaboration and coordination will strengthen the sector, making it more likely the ACCEE Fund can reach its purpose and vision.

What does this project include?

An evaluation of what collaboration and coordination is currently happening, what is working, what else is needed, and where the ACCEE Fund can and should play a role.

Measurable Outcome:

Those in the sector report less fragmentation and more collaboration and coordination.

1-year target:

Identify the ACCEE Fund's role in facilitating collaboration and coordination in the sector and outline a plan for future action.



Strategic Initiative 5: Strengthen leadership capacity by hiring a dedicated Executive Director.

Description:

Hire and onboard the ACCEE Fund Executive Director.

Why is this project important to our organization?

The Executive Director (ED) is the key leadership position responsible for supporting the ACCEE Fund Board, managing day-to-day operations, and serving as the primary point of connection with the child care and early education sector and the broader community. The ED will assist the Board in shaping the Fund's strategic direction, implementing the strategic plan, and convening sector partners to advance this work. In this role, the ED will work to achieve Board-directed goals by serving as a connector between the ACCEE Fund Board, the Municipality of Anchorage, stakeholders, community partners, potential funders, and the child care and early education sector as a whole.

1-year target:

Within one year of this plan, the Board will have hired its Executive Director and the Executive Director will be onboarded, trained, and positioned to lead the Fund.