

# Kids' Corps, Inc. Head Start/Early Head Start



- ▶ 298 enrolled in 2020 at 8 locations in Anchorage
- ▶ Grant based with some fee for service
- ▶ 4 months to 5 years old (pre-k)
- ▶ Variety of options and hours, including full day/full year
- ▶ Comprehensive services
- ▶ 94% families meet poverty guidelines

# Impact of Covid 19 on services

- ▶ All 14 classrooms closed since March 6 (4 classes scheduled to continue through the summer)
- ▶ All teachers and family services staff continuing to provide virtual services through Zoom, Facetime etc. through June 12 and are being paid full time wages
- ▶ Reopening one full day pre-k classroom (7:30-5:30) on June 16
- ▶ Reopening infant/toddler full day classroom (same hours) July 6
- ▶ Two classes unlikely to reopen this summer

# Impact on families

## Phone Survey

- ▶ 171 households participated
- ▶ Hmong & Spanish translators who know the families
- ▶ Conducted in April

## A Few Headlines....

- ▶ In 10% of households grandparents assisted with caring for children
- ▶ 15% of households lack a thermometer
- ▶ 78 (46%) households reported at least one working parent was laid off or had hours reduced

# Challenges/Resources for reopening

## Challenges

- ▶ Meeting children's needs while maintaining physical distancing
- ▶ Space and staff to accommodate reduced child/adult ratios etc.
- ▶ Need for continued support for families (especially food and income) as family work situations evolve
- ▶ Maintaining continuity of services if new outbreaks occur

## Resources

- ▶ ASD food program is being very widely used by Head Start families
- ▶ Other local non-profits like thread, Alaska Children's Trust, United Way, Foraker and many others
- ▶ Public health at all levels
- ▶ Federal resources/Office of Head Start for financial support and flexibility