

Juneau Child Care: Improving Quality & Availability

Recommendations to the CBJ Assembly on August 29th, 2011



Juneau Assembly's Top 10 Priorities for 2011:

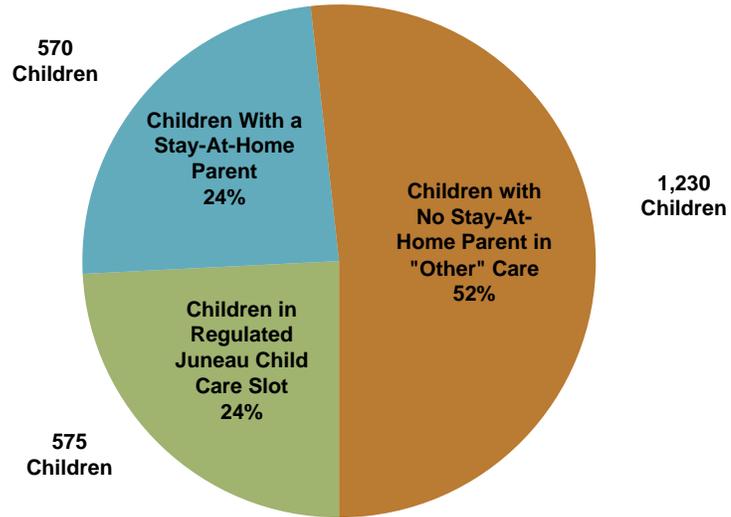
- Support funding of a new state office building.
- **Promote greater availability & affordability of child care for young working parents.**
- Write a climate action plan and achieve Assembly adoption before the end of 2011.
- Actively promote Juneau as a world class climate research facility.
- Continue to support fisheries development in Juneau through infrastructure development.
- Facilitate and support a non-profit led effort to address homelessness in Juneau. Review the potential development of the AJ Mine.
- Determine multi-year Assembly course of action for North Douglas Crossing

Why we are here...



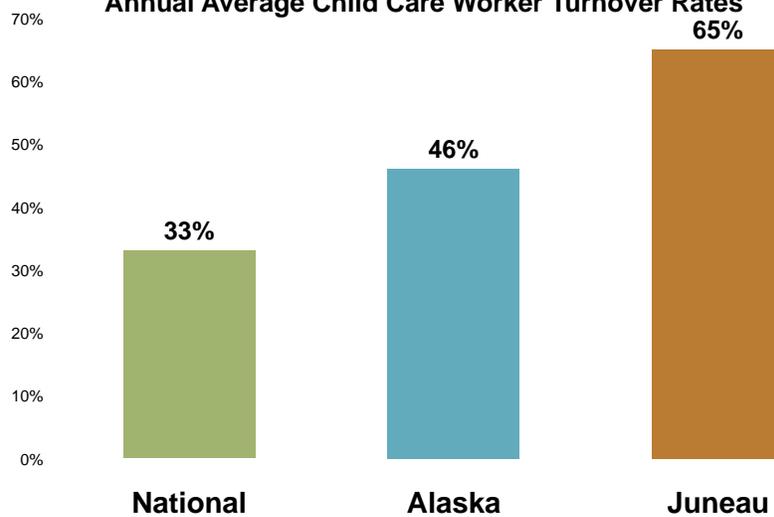
The Problem: Not Enough Child Care

Total Juneau Kids Under 6 = 2,375



The Problem: High Provider Turn Over Rates

Annual Average Child Care Worker Turnover Rates



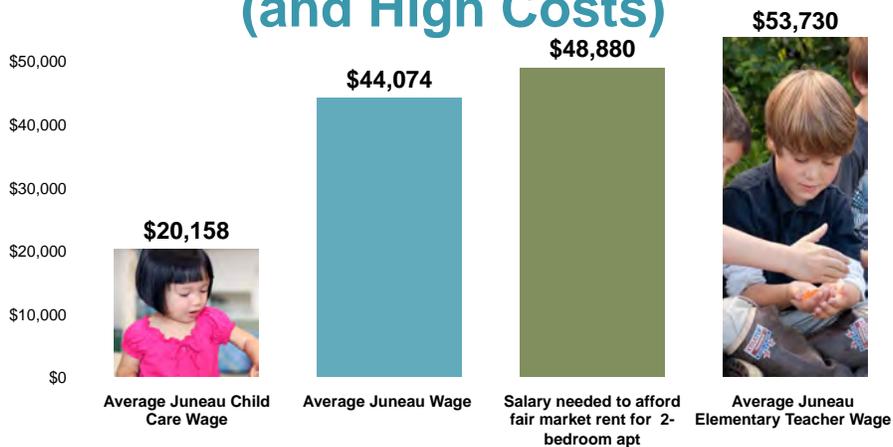
The Problem: Low Teacher Credentials



For every Juneau child care worker with a basic child development credential, there are 5.5 working in the field without such training.*

* "basic child development credential" refers to obtainment of a Child Development Associate or at least 12 credits in Early Childhood Education.

The Problem: Low Wages (and High Costs)



Juneau parents pay an average of \$9,184 per child per year for child care.

And yet, his teacher was paid 2.7 times more than hers.

Why Quality Child Care Matters

The long-term economic impacts of quality early education & child care



Source: Economic Impact Report on Early Education and Child Care Services in Alaska

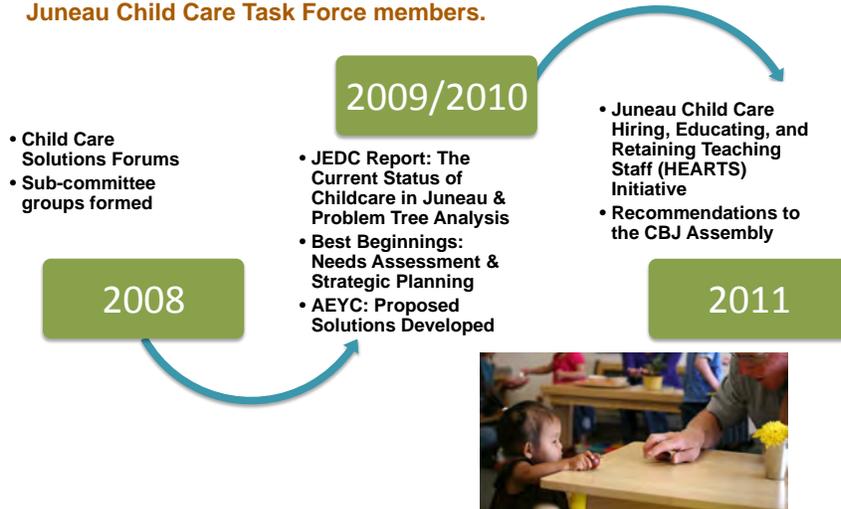
How Can We Turn the Tide?



Recommendations

Juneau Child Care Coalition

Two year strategic planning process, involving AEYC, Partnerships for Families and Children, JEDC, Juneau Child Care Association, and Juneau Child Care Task Force members.



Retention and Compensation Initiative:

Programs designed to reward early care and education teachers and providers based on their level of education and years of tenure.

The Juneau Economic Development Council looked at community programs in the following 17 states:



- | | | | |
|-----------|------------|-----------|----------------|
| Arizona | California | Montana | New York |
| Florida | Georgia | Illinois | North Carolina |
| Kansas | Kentucky | Oklahoma | Oregon |
| Minnesota | Missouri | Utah | Vermont |
| | | Wisconsin | |

Retention and Compensation Initiative Outcomes:

Professional development and retention programs for child care providers:

Overall Findings



Finding 1-Improved Retention



Finding 2-Improved Education Levels



Finding 3-Increased Professionalism

Juneau Leading the Way As a Family Friendly City:

Quality of Life is Key Here:

- One in five Juneau residents say that quality of life is the **main reason they live here.**
- Juneau was named **the fifth-best city in the US** which to raise an outdoor kid by Backpacker magazine.
- CBJ won award for being a **Family Friendly Employer** in 2011.
- If Initiative is successful in Juneau, we can become **a model for the State.**

The HEART Initiative

Objective:

To Improve the Quality and Availability of Child Care for all Families with Young Children in Juneau

Recommendations:

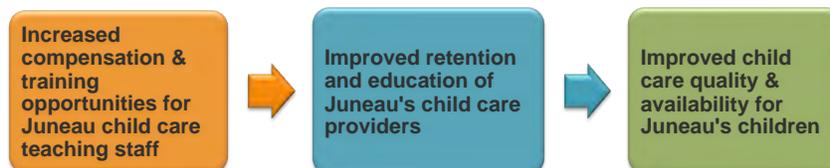
1. Educational Incentives
2. CBJ Child Care Fee Waivers
3. Child Care Professional Reimbursements



The HEART Initiative Recommendation 1

Educational Incentives:

Institute a training compensation program to encourage Juneau's child care providers to earn credentials in early education and increase their earnings.



The HEART Initiative Recommendation 1

Educational Incentives: Annual Implementation Costs

Award Level	Award Per Individual	Est. Number of Eligible Individuals	Annual Cost to the CBJ
Tier I	\$0.41 per hour	15	\$12,700
Tier II	\$1.35 per hour	6	\$16,900
Tier III	\$2.71 per hour	5	\$28,200
Administration Cost			\$2,890
Total Annual Cost to CBJ		26	\$60,690

The HEART Initiative Recommendation 2

CBJ Child Care Fee Waivers:

Institute CBJ cost waivers for

- Fire Marshall Inspections
- Conditional Use Permits
- Sales Tax Exemptions
- Property tax exemptions

Relief from CBJ fees would encourage more programs to become licensed.



The HEART Initiative Recommendation 2

CBJ Fee Waivers: Annual Implementation Costs

Service	Per Individual	Est. Number of Facilities	Annual Cost to the CBJ
City Zoning Permit	\$450	2	\$900
Fire Marshal	\$50	37	\$1,850
Sales Tax Exemption	varies	37	\$16,000
Property Tax Exemption (pro-rated for # FT children)	varies	32	\$32,000
Total Annual Cost to CBJ			\$50,750

The HEART Initiative Recommendation 3

Child Care Professional Reimbursements:

Institute reimbursement of annual costs to enable child care professionals to meet state licensing requirements; including

- First Aid**
- CPR**
- Background Checks**
- Mandatory Early Childhood Training Costs**

Licensed providers or center directors would contact AEYC and request a reimbursement.

The HEART Initiative Recommendation 3

Child Care Professional Reimbursements: Annual Implementation Costs

Service	Per Individual	Est. Number of Individuals/ Facilities	Per	Annual Cost to the CBJ
CPR Training	\$40	141	1 Year	\$5,640
First Aid Training	\$40	141	3 Years	\$1,880
Fingerprinting	\$30	141	6 Years	\$705
Annual 20 hour in-service	\$100	141	1 Year	\$14,100
Cost to obtain a CDA	\$925	10	5 Years	\$9,250
Total Annual Cost to CBJ				\$31,575

The HEART Initiative Measuring Our Success

Measurable Goals

1. Quality Control: Early Childhood Environmental Rating Scale
2. Retention Rates
3. Professional Development Levels
4. Total Child Care Capacity



The HEART Initiative Total Costs

Educational Incentives: \$60,690
CBJ Fee Waivers: \$50,750
Child Care Professional Reimbursements: \$31,575



Total Costs: \$143,021

OR

**Annual Cost
per Juneau Child:
\$60**

Thank You



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AEYC-SEA **threa** connecting early care & education to alaska **BEST BEGINNINGS** Alaska's Early Childhood Investment **JEDC** Juneau Economic Development Council