

thread *connecting*
early care & education
to alaska

ANNUAL REPORT FY18-FY19

July 2017 – June 2019

*Advancing the quality of early education and child development by
empowering parents, educating child care professionals,
and collaborating with our communities.*



FROM THE CEO



Reaching milestones gives us an opportunity to celebrate. In 2018, the **thread** statewide Network celebrated a 10-year milestone of the re-brand as **thread** with partners ThrivAlaska and AEYC-SEA. The impact of the Network’s common “thread” to support families and the early childhood education system continues to strengthen each year as highlighted in this report.

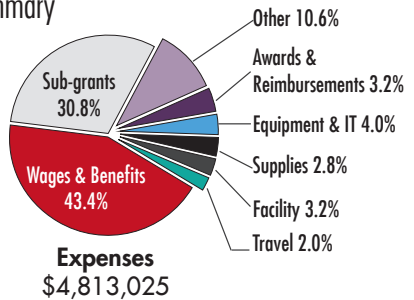
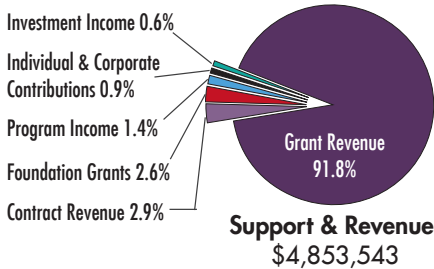
In FY18–FY19, **thread** increased its support to child care programs working to improve their quality of care, embarked on an innovative partnership to support families, and engaged the business community and policymakers in our mission of affordable, high-quality child care. A highlight was a visit from Lynette Fraga, Executive Director of Child Care Aware of America, as she toured Alaska’s child care programs.

In Southcentral Alaska, we experienced another milestone, recovering from the 2018 Earthquake. Looking back we can appreciate **thread’s** response to this unforeseen emergency in supporting child care needs.

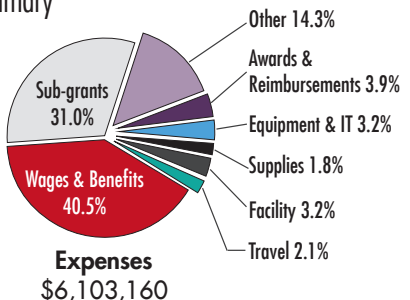
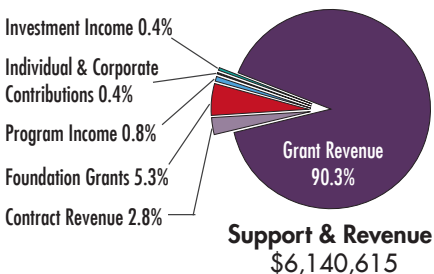
In this annual report, we celebrate these milestones with you, our friends and partners. Thank you for supporting this important work to advance the quality of early childhood education in Alaska.

BY THE NUMBERS

FY18 Financial Summary



FY19 Financial Summary



IMPACT

Families

Supporting Alaska's families with child care referrals and parenting resources.

FY18
10,769 CHILD CARE
REFERRALS TO FAMILIES



FY19
11,430 CHILD CARE
REFERRALS TO FAMILIES



In July 2017, **thread** partnered with the All Alaska Pediatric Partnership to help launch the Help Me Grow Alaska call center. This free service provides families with access to developmental screenings and community resources.

Early Childhood Educators & Programs

Cultivating Alaska's early childhood education sector with training, technical assistance, resources, and supports.

1,290 EDUCATORS &
374 PROGRAMS SERVED
IN FY18



1,583 EDUCATORS &
344 PROGRAMS SERVED
IN FY19



thread provided financial assistance to the early childhood education sector to support professional development for educators and quality improvement for programs.

FY18

\$152,050
to the sector

FY19

\$272,719 to the sector



In FY18, **thread** welcomed additional bilingual staff to expand training and services in Spanish.



thread EN ESPAÑOL

thread ofrece una gama completa de servicios para programas y programas de educación temprana de habla hispana.

EARTHQUAKE RESPONSE

In November 2018, after a large earthquake struck Southcentral Alaska, **thread** provided child care programs with supplies and resources to comfort children in their care. For Provider Appreciation Day 2019, **thread** delivered 800 yoga mats statewide to thank early educators who kept Alaska's children safe during the earthquake.



In FY19, **thread** hosted numerous symposiums statewide, providing more than 100 educators training and materials to support infant and toddler care. Additionally, more than 400 nap mats were replaced at Municipality of Anchorage child care programs in a partnership with **thread** and the Alaska Community Action on Toxics. The "nap mat replacement project" continued in Fairbanks the following year.



Each year, **thread** honors early educators and programs for their contributions and continuous quality improvement work. To learn who received the 2018 and 2019 **thread** awards, visit threadalaska.org/awards.

Engaging the Business Community & Policymakers

Supporting working families to give Alaska's children a strong foundation for success in life.



thread Board and staff advocated for affordable, high-quality child care, meeting with Alaska State Legislators in Juneau and the national delegation in Washington D.C.



In FY18, Joy Lyon, executive director of AEYC-SEA, was awarded the National Sandra J. Skolnik Public Policy Leadership Award for her service on behalf of Alaska's children and families.



In FY18, **thread** hosted Investing in Alaska's Workforce: A Summit on the Economic Impact of Early Care & Learning. This event brought together many early childhood advocates and experts, business leaders, and community members for a conversation around the economic impact of early childhood education.

INVESTING IN TECHNOLOGY



thread made progress with its Powering Ahead with Technology Project, a multi-year initiative to improve its technology. New websites were launched for **thread** as well as for Alaska SEED and Learn & Grow. Work began on Salesforce, a new digital platform for connecting with clients, which will be completed in 2021.

thanks

THANK YOU, DONORS!

thread thanks the individual donors that help make our mission possible, including our Board of Directors, Pick.Click.Give. contributors, and donors through workplace giving campaigns. **thread** also appreciates the many corporations, foundations, and partner organizations that share our vision. Because of you, more children in Alaska have access to quality early childhood education, setting them on a path to succeed in school and in life. Thank you for making a difference in the lives of Alaska's young children.



thread's Vision:

All early childhood education is accessible, affordable, and high-quality to support positive outcomes for children and families.

Core Values:

EMPOWERMENT
ACCESS
CHILD CARE PROFESSIONALISM
CHILDREN'S RIGHTS
ENTREPRENEURIAL INCUBATOR



JOIN US

There are many ways to join **thread** in advancing the quality of early education and child development in Alaska.

- Advocate
- Volunteer
- Give at threadalaska.org/donate
- Fred Meyer Community Rewards
- Amazon Smile

... and more! See how at threadalaska.org/ways-to-give.



3350 Commercial Drive, Suite 203
Anchorage, AK 99501

threadalaska.org 800.278.3723

CONNECT WITH US





Learn & Grow

Alaska's Commitment to Quality Early Care & Learning

2018-2019 PROGRESS REPORT

MISSION

To advance the quality of early childhood education
to foster the success of young children.

VISION

Early childhood and school-age programs have the resources and supports to actively engage in a continuous quality improvement process so that all children have access to high-quality programs.

(907) 265-3105 or toll free (844) 563-3230
info@aklearnandgrow.org | www.aklearnandgrow.org

WHAT IS LEARN & GROW?

Learn & Grow, Alaska's Quality Recognition and Improvement System (QRIS), supports early childhood education programs in improving the quality of their care.

To parents, high-quality child care is vital for their child's success. For programs, providing high-quality care is their goal. Learn & Grow brings these needs together in a system designed to improve and foster the success of our children by following a framework of quality.

The Learn & Grow system provides programs with tools and training focused on high-quality activities:

1. Promoting positive teacher-child interactions;
2. Using age-appropriate curriculum and activities;
3. Developing teacher skills; and
4. Creating nurturing learning environments.



There are five levels of quality, each with a unique set of standards and activities to help a program continue to improve.

HIGHLIGHTS

- In FY18, Learn & Grow celebrated its first anniversary with 20% of eligible programs statewide voluntarily participating in Levels 1 and 2. Learn & Grow partnered with the Alaska Child Care Program Office (CCPO), Alaska Department of Education and Early Development (DEED), and **thread** to begin work to develop quality standards and activities for Levels 3, 4, and 5.
- By the end of FY19, 147 early education programs were enrolled in Learn & Grow, Alaska's Quality Recognition & Improvement System (QRIS). That's 40% of all eligible programs in Alaska!



SEED

System for Early Education Development

2018-2019

Progress Report

VISION

Alaska's competent, diverse and stable early childhood workforce is adequately compensated, empowered and supported by a comprehensive, accessible and seamless professional development system to deliver effective services to children and their families.

info@seedalaska.org

main: 907.265.3194 toll free: 855.265.7333

housed & managed by

thread

Alaska SEED is a collaborative of a diverse cross-sector of early childhood stakeholders who guide the mission of SEED.



What is Alaska SEED?

Alaska SEED gives educators:

- Membership in the Alaska SEED Registry, a database to track and plan professional development
- Placement on a 12-step career ladder
- Financial supports for education and training
 - A Trainer and Training Approval System to ensure early educators get high-quality, consistent training statewide

Highlights

- In FY18, Alaska SEED launched a Training and Trainer Approval System, helping ensure the quality of professional development for early childhood and school-age educators in Alaska. Alaska SEED also began work on its Three-Year Professional Development Plan to help advance the needs of Alaska's diverse early education workforce.
- In FY19, Alaska SEED, in an effort to improve compensation for Alaska's early childhood and school-age educators, began work with Johns Hopkins University on developing a wage compensation model for Alaska.
- In FY19, Alaska SEED supported more than 1,600 early educators with registry tracking and provided over \$85,000 in professional development support.