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SEAAEYC Newsletter

2023 Overview

In 2023, SEAAEYC continually worked to close the gap between the high cost of quality childcare and what families can afford, as well as improve childcare worker wages. Through these efforts, SEAAEYC advocated and attained funds from the CBJ budget for operating expenses for childcare programs and secured funds to improve childcare worker wages throughout Juneau. As a result, Juneau's childcare programs have remained stable throughout many recent challenges, while many programs across the state closed. SEAAEYC also received funding from sales tax revenue for childcare expansion, which has increased the availability of childcare.

SEAAEYC distributed a record number of 72 HEARTS awards in 2023. The HEARTS initiative is a crucial wage supplement awarded in three tiers depending on experience and education. These awards have supported an increase in educational qualification of childcare staff and reduced turnover.

Furthermore, SEAAEYC is in the early stages of developing a Family Center, which will become the co-location for valuable services to families in Juneau. This project was allocated \$5 million from congressional spending by U.S. Senator Lisa Murkowski in 2023. A special thank you to Senator Murkowski for making this possible!



Our Success

Parents as Teachers

In 2023, SEAAEYC served an impressive 103 families and 131 children with 876 home visits! Every month families are invited to a weekly playgroup, a monthly evening dinner, and this year had some special pop-up events like parenting classes, massage groups, and art sessions.

Partnerships for Families and Children

SEAAEYC hired a new coordinator and set goals around Kindergarten Readiness as well as increased access to and awareness of mental health services.

Imagination Library

As the local sponsor of Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, SEAAEYC currently has 1,179 children enrolled in the program and 14,620 books were distributed to children (birth to 5 years) across SE Alaska in 2023.

Childcare Apprentice Program

This new and exciting program is the first of its kind in Alaska. This program was designed to bring more people into the early childcare field and increase skills and education. In 2023, SEAAEYC hired a total of 5 apprentices.

Child Development Associate Credential

In conjunction with Tlingit and Haida Second Generation Community Learning Center, SEAAEYC awarded 12 candidates their CDA Credential in 2023.

Diaper Bank

In 2023, 39,807 diapers were provided by SEAAEYC to 7 non-profit organizations who provide services to families and children in Juneau.

Upcoming Event



Join us March 15th – 16th, 2024 at Centennial Hall in Juneau for the SEAAEYC Early Childhood Conference! This year's theme is called Embrace the Mess and focuses on art and creativity, so get ready for lots of hands on fun! For questions or to register, visit www.rsvpbook.com/embracethemess.

A Message from Director Blue Shabler

"We work hard here at SEAAEYC to provide services that support local families, advocate for equitable learning opportunities, and promote inclusivity for all children, families, and childcare personnel. Your support plays a crucial role in the success of such initiatives. Thank you!"



AEYC delegation meets with Rep. Mary Peltola, February of 2023.

Thank You for Your Support!

SEAAEYC's valuable services and resources are made possible through a variety of grants and contributions from generous community members like you. Please consider supporting the SEAAEYC Imagination Library or Diaper Bank, by selecting one of the following links below or contact SEAAEYC.



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