



City and Borough of Juneau
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TO: Chair Woll and Assembly Finance Committee

DATE: January 10, 2024

FROM: Robert Barr, Deputy City Manager

RE: AEYC Parents as Teachers and Childcare Programs

In the 2023 budget season, decision making on AEYC's Parents as Teachers program request was postponed (during pending list decisions) due to our expectation that sufficient funding would be available through the State. This has not proven to be the case – available State funding meets approximately 65% of program need. The program is currently underfunded by \$65k. Staffing represents most program expenses and has been stable at 4-6 FTE/year. The program is well used and currently has a wait list of approximately 60 families.

Parents as teachers (PAT) is a home-visiting program that supports parents – especially new and under-resourced parents – in their new roles. Through relationship building, instruction, and coaching, PAT staff work to:

- Increase parent knowledge of early childhood development and improve parenting practices
- Provide early detection of developmental delays and health issues
- Prevent child abuse and neglect, and
- Increase school readiness

If desired, AEYC staff can provide a deeper dive into PAT program details.

As in past years, we expect to have fund balance remaining in our Child Care Stipend program. In FY23, those funds were re-directed into a Child Care business start up program. \$120k was originally allocated and \$20k has been spent to date resulting in one new business. We and AEYC staff are keeping our ear to the ground for other new business development opportunities. It is also possible that these funds can be used to create space in a JSD facility for a child care operator to grow their business, pending future decisions of the Joint Assembly/JSD Facilities Committee, School Board, and Assembly.

The PAT funding gap is likely to remain for future years. AEYC is seeking ongoing grant funding from JCF.

Recommendation:

If supported, fund extra PAT need through existing child care start-up fund balance. Alternatively, direct staff to prepare a supplemental appropriation to meet this funding need, maintaining start-up fund balance.