

# City & Borough of Juneau Community Funding Request

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## Basic Information

Name of Requesting Group or Organization	AEYC
Summary of request (sentence or phrase)	Gap Funding for Child Care Apprenticeship Program
Amount of request	\$250,000
Assembly member Sponsor	Paul Kelly
Is this a request for a one-time event, purchase or grant match?	One-Time
Does this request financially support the group's ongoing or operating expenses?	Yes
Primary contact individual for this group	Blue Shibler
Primary contact's phone number	907-723-9970
Primary contact's email	bshibler@aeYC-sea.org

### 1. Funding Request (Project) Title (Suggested heading):

#### Gap Funding for the Juneau Child Care Apprenticeship Program

### 2. Project description and benefit. Describe the project (in half a page or less), including specific aspects of the funding request and project. Explain how the project will benefit the community. What sector(s) of the community will this project benefit and/or serve?

The Juneau Child Care Apprenticeship Program is a two-year initiative that blends on-the-job training with formal education, leading to two key credentials: an occupational endorsement certificate (OEC) in Early Childhood Education (ECE) from the University of Alaska and a Federal Certificate of Apprenticeship from the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL). Our current cohort of four apprentices will graduate in May 2025, and we aim to launch a new cohort in August 2025. The requested \$250,000 in CBJ funding will provide a bridge period of funding to cover program costs for the first year of the next cohort, ensuring the program continues without interruption.

The Program strengthens the local childcare workforce by training and supporting new early childhood educators, directly increasing the supply of available childcare. With a structured pathway combining hands-on experience and education, apprentices gain the skills to enter and remain in the field, reducing turnover and improving program stability. This benefits families by expanding access to reliable, high-quality care, enabling parents to stay in the workforce and support the local economy. To be a registered apprentice program (RAP) with DOL, apprentices are required to have mentors. This is an added benefit as mentors are current childcare leaders who receive in-depth training on mentoring early childhood educators, which contribute to lower turnover as their skills to support and guide staff increase. Additionally, the program supports broader workforce development efforts, ensuring a steady pipeline of skilled professionals in early childhood education. By addressing the shortage of qualified childcare workers, this program contributes to a stronger, more sustainable childcare system in Juneau, benefiting families, businesses, and the community as a whole.

3. Plans and progress. Describe (in one or two paragraphs) what has been accomplished so far (if anything) toward this project's or funding's goal. This may include studies, designs, grant application status, fundraising activity, and total funds raised to date.

We regularly work with Anchorage (UAA), the Alaska Department of Labor, and the Alaska Workforce Investment Board to align the program with workforce development priorities and credentialing pathways. Additionally, we are working with Senator Murkowski's office to explore sustained long-term funding opportunities. To support the program's growth, we have pursued grant funding, engaged in workforce advocacy, and leveraged initial funding to launch operations. While we do not have any funding secured for this project, we are hopeful that our efforts result in confirmation of additional funding soon.

Working toward financial sustainability, we are redesigning the program to require childcare host sites to contribute to apprentice wages, reinforcing the value of apprentices within the workforce while reducing reliance on external funding. We have also joined a statewide cohort of apprenticeship programs to stay informed on best practices, emerging trends, and policy developments. This collaborative approach strengthens our ability to secure additional funding, adapt to workforce needs, and position the program as a long-term solution to Juneau's childcare workforce challenges. We currently have a waitlist of candidates interested in being in the next apprenticeship cohort.

4. Project support. Is the project supported in CBJ or other community plans (List where the project is mentioned or supports concepts in planning documents such as the Assembly Goals, Legislative Priorities, CIP Plan, etc.

The CBJ Assembly has prioritized child care as an area of extreme need. This program will support economic development, workforce stability, and social services, aligning with Assembly grants' objectives.

5. Goal of project. In one sentence or less, state the goal of the project. For example, "economic development" or "improve non-motorized transportation routes."

Continue the Juneau Child Care Apprenticeship Program to help advance the childcare workforce.

6. Total cost:

A. TOTAL COST (including funds already secured) = \$400,000 (for a two year cohort)

B. AMOUNT SECURED (include funding source) = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

7. Timeline: Indicate when you hope to complete the project.

August 2025- no end date

8. Physical Location. Please provide the address or physical description of where the project is located.

SEAAEYC 3200 Hospital Drive, Ste 204, Juneau, AK 99801