



Alaska House Health & Social Services Committee

April 5, 2018

casey family programs

A group of diverse young people of various ethnicities and gender identities are sitting together in a circle, smiling and laughing. They are holding hands and have their arms around each other, creating a sense of community and support. The background is a soft, out-of-focus blue and white, suggesting a safe and positive environment.

SAFE CHILDREN STRONG FAMILIES SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITIES

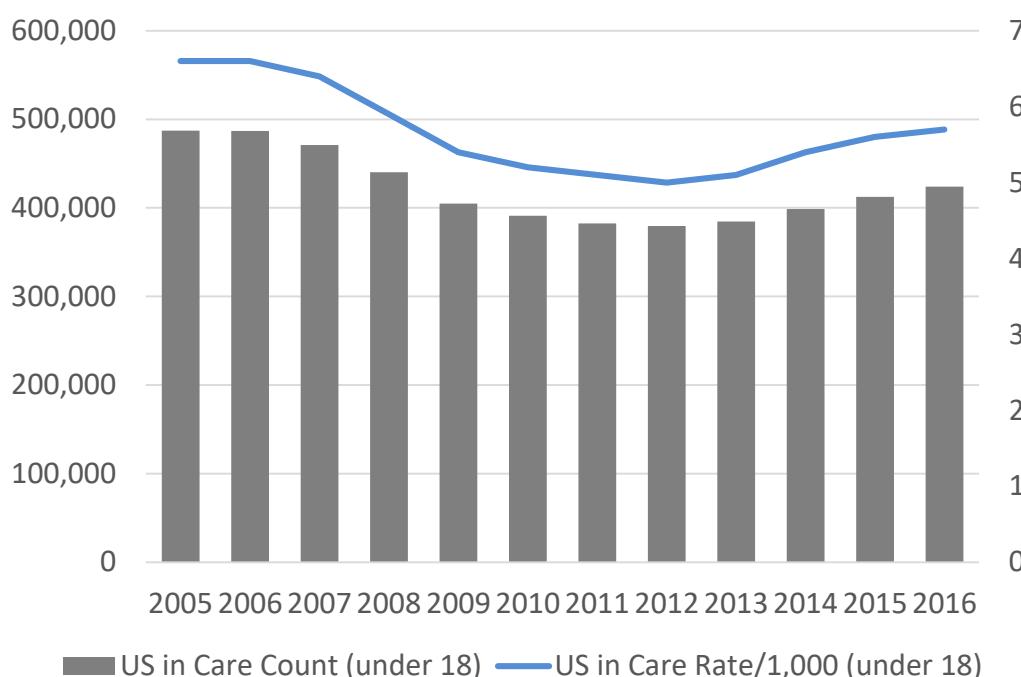
safe children | **strong** families | **supportive** communities

SAFE STRONG SUPPORTIVE

I. INTRODUCTION TO CASEY FAMILY PROGRAMS

Our Mission

Casey Family Programs is the nation's largest operating foundation focused on safely reducing the need for foster care and building Communities of Hope for children and families across America. Our mission is to provide and improve — and ultimately prevent the need for — foster care.



2020 Goals

- Safely reduce the number of children in foster care by 50%
- Reinvest the savings into building stronger more supportive communities and systems
- Improve outcomes in education, employment, mental health, in support of increasing child, family, and community well-being

Casey Family Programs has agreements with all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and 16 tribes aimed at improving child safety, permanency and well-being.

Casey Family Programs: Our Team

- Public Policy-Susan Robison
- Strategic Consulting-Lynn Biggs, Strategic Consultant to Alaska
- Data Advocacy- Niki LeProhn
- Indian Child Welfare Program- Anita Fineday and Thomas Cody

Other Casey Family Programs Teams and Capacity

- Child and Family Services – Direct services through 9 field offices in 5 states
- Research Services
- Knowledge Management
- Technical Assistance Unit
- Partnerships

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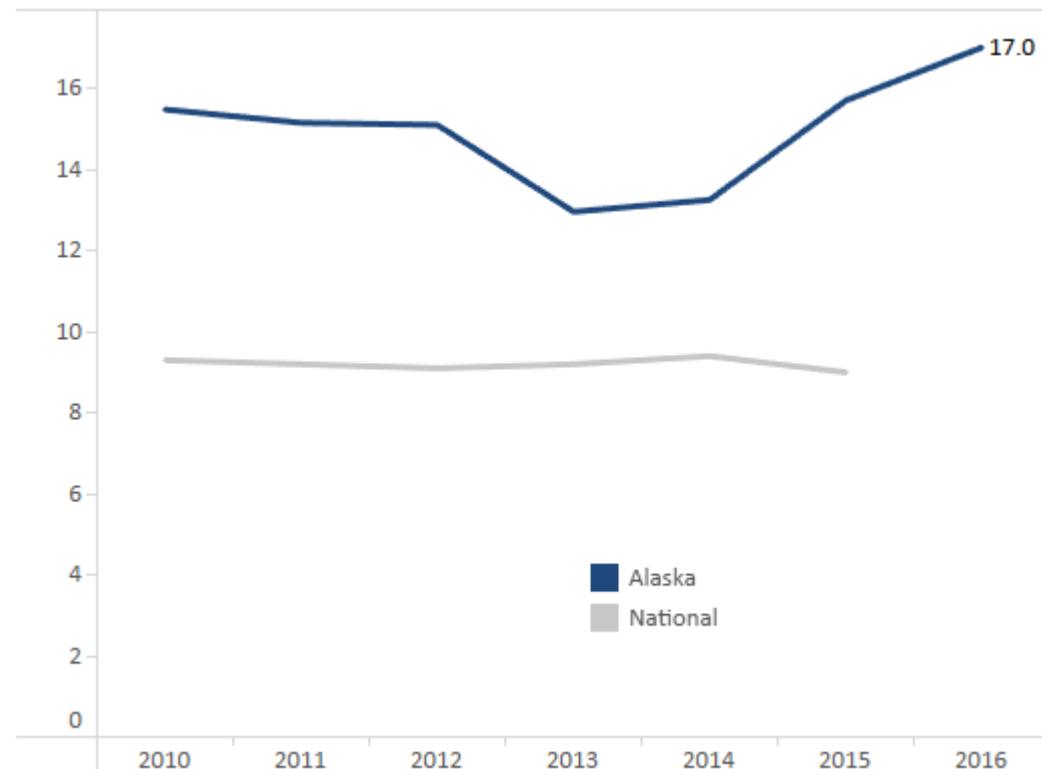
II. HOW ARE THE CHILDREN? WHAT THE DATA TELLS US

Safety first....

- In Alaska, the rates of child abuse/neglect reports, investigations, and substantiated reports are all above the national rate.
- 63.9 children per 1000 (FY16) are subject to an investigation (screened in report).
 - This number has increased 57% since 2010.
 - The rate of investigations for Alaska Native/American Indian youth is 153 per 1000 compared to White youth at 22.3 per 1000.

Safety first....

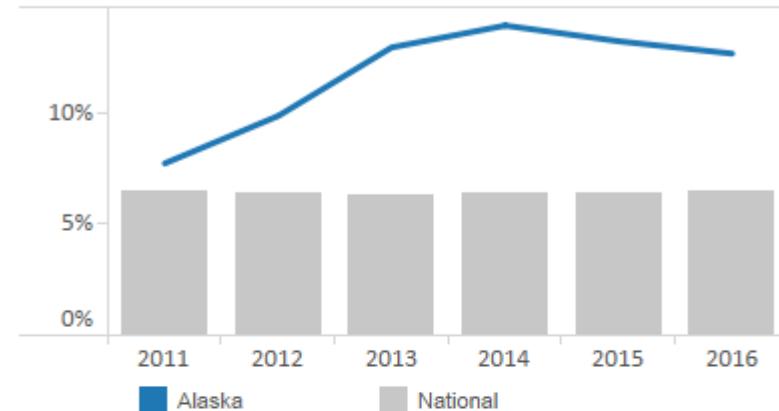
- High rate of children with substantiated reports of maltreatment
- The substantiation rate for Alaska Native/American Indian youth is 50.4 compared to White youth at 6.2.



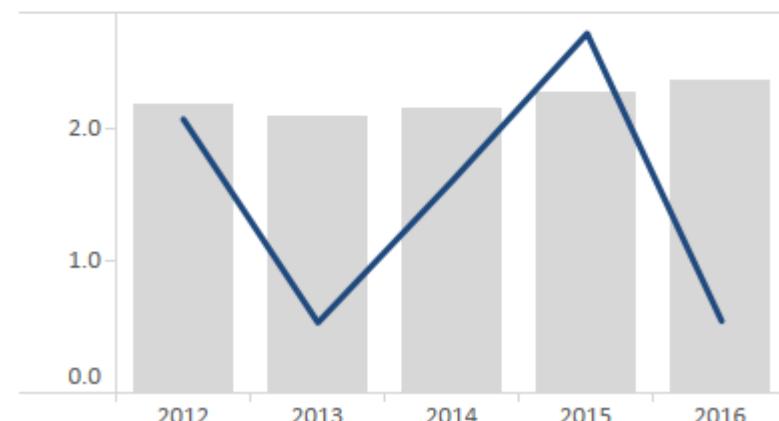
Safety first....

- Maltreatment recurrence in 6 months is nearly double the national rate, and the highest among states.
- Child maltreatment fatalities numbers have been up and down.

Maltreatment Recurrence is measured as the percent of all children involved in a substantiated incident of maltreatment who experience a second substantiated incident within 6 months.



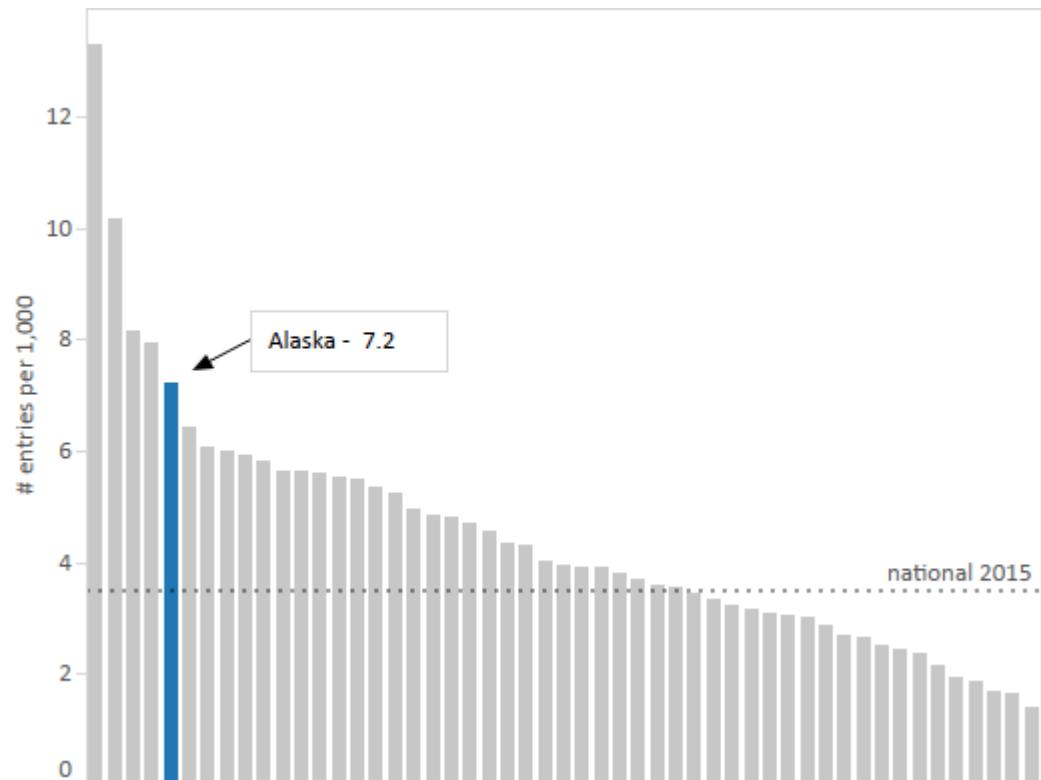
Child Maltreatment Fatalities - the number of children involved in a child maltreatment fatality as reported by states to NCANDS and reported in Child Maltreatment 2016. Rate is calculated per 100,000 children in the population.



At the front end....

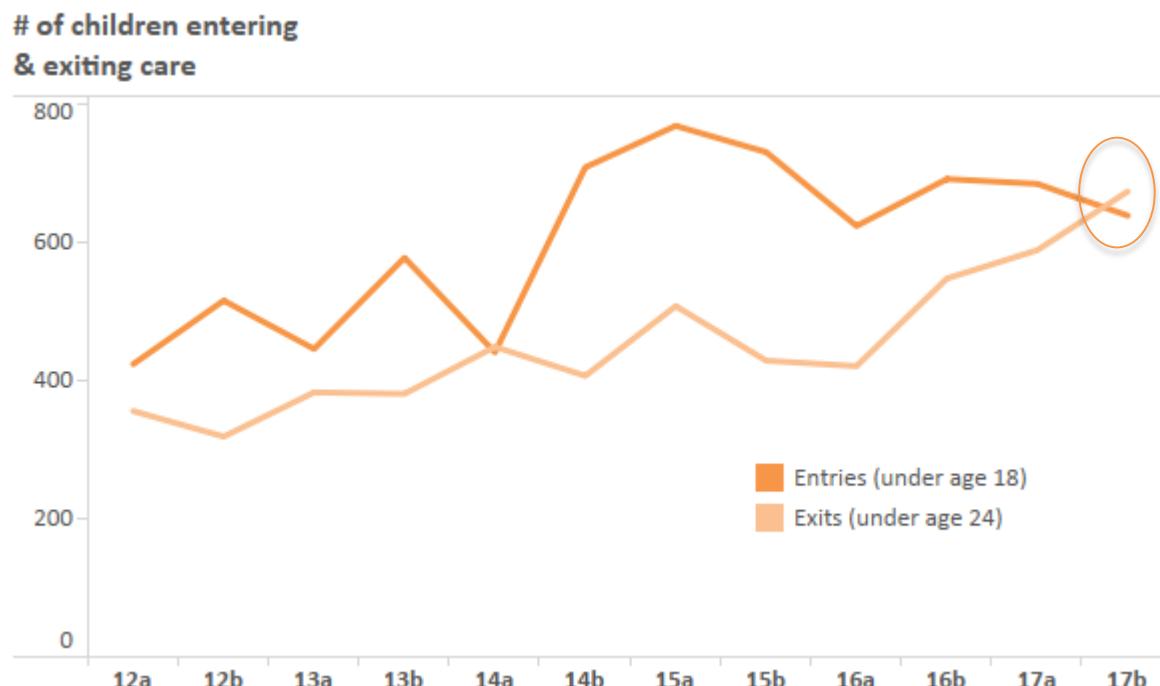
5th highest foster care entry rate of all states

- Native youth: 18.8
- White youth: 3.8



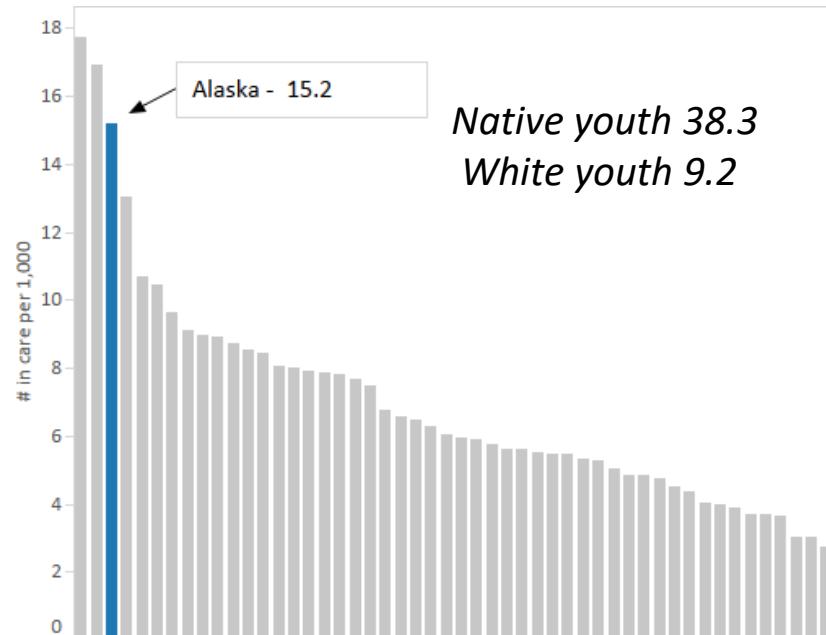
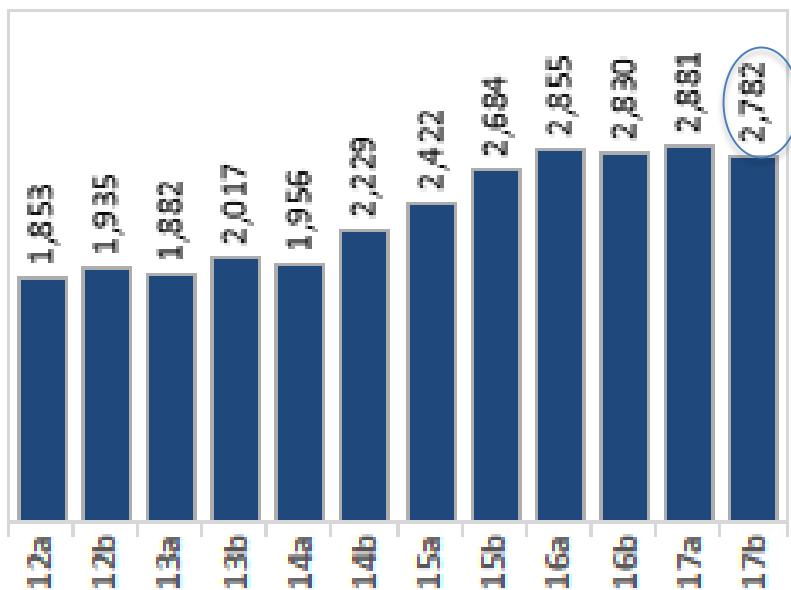
Entries into & Exits from Foster Care

Until very recently, more Alaska children entered care than exited, which led to a constant increase in the overall number of children in care. In the most recent period, more children **exited** care than entered.



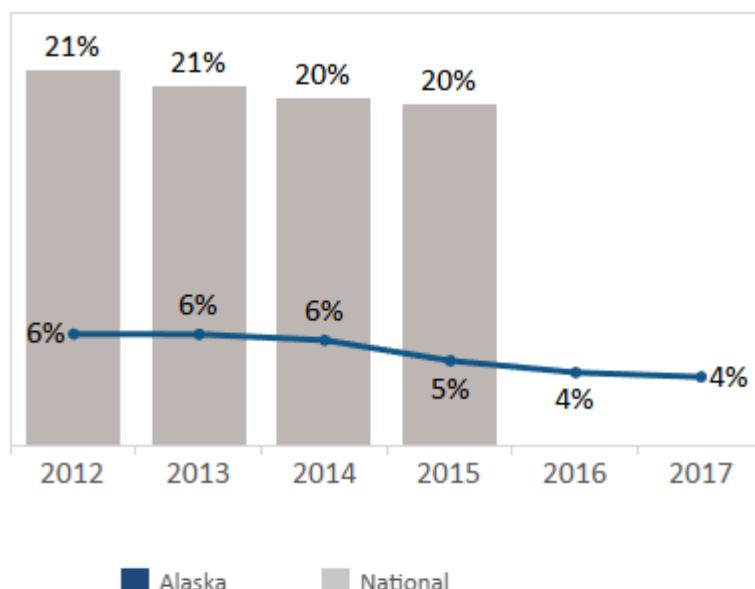
...while in care...

- While Alaska continues to have a high rate of children in care, recent data shows a slight drop in the number of children in care.

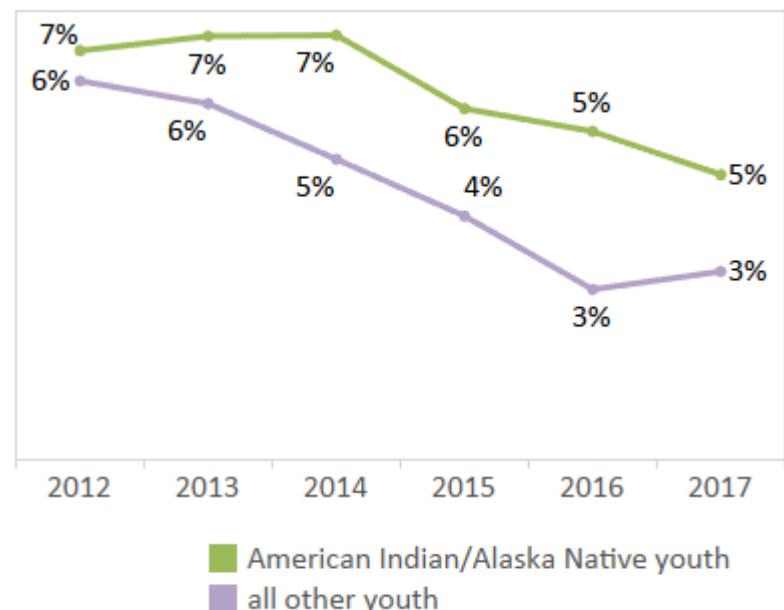


...while in care

The use of **congregate care** for children in foster care is much lower in Alaska than in many other states.



But, American Indian/Alaska Native youth were placed in congregate care at a higher rate than other children



...Exiting to Permanency

- **Key Outcome: Increase permanency for children within 12 months of entering foster care**

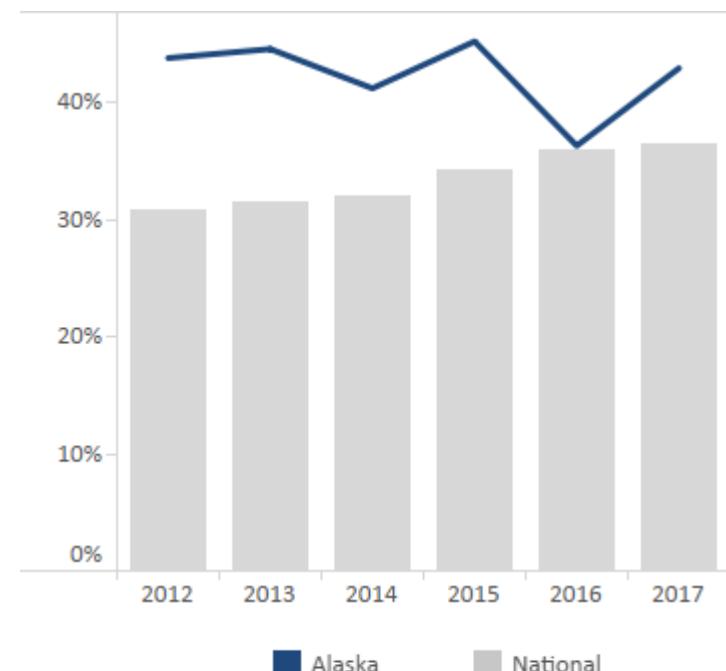
Alaska has a low, but improving rate of permanency within 12 months of a child's entering care.

- National 39% (FY15)
- Alaska 29% (FY15)

...Exiting to Permanency

- **Key Outcome: Increase permanency for children who have been in care 2 years or longer**

Permanency in Alaska for long stayers has been above national average and is improving.

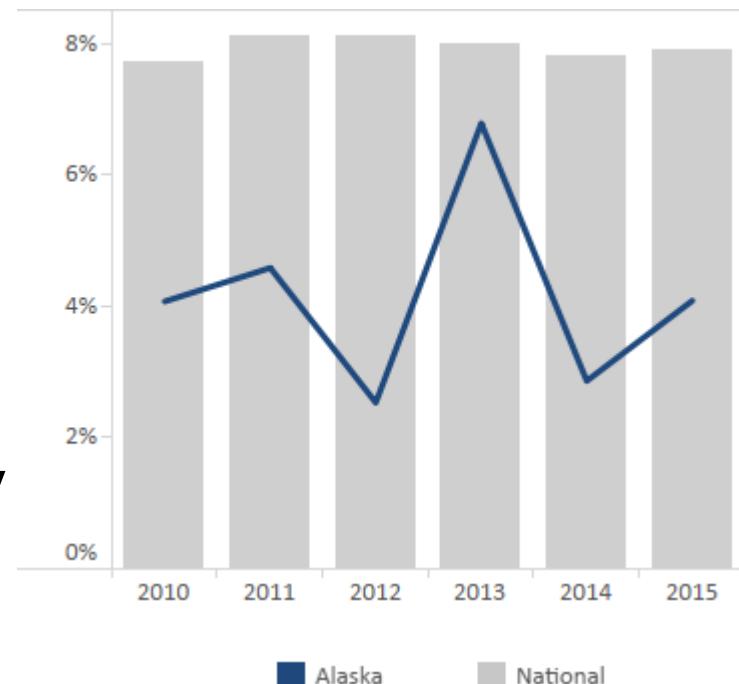


...Child safety with permanent family

- Key Outcome: Decrease re-entry into foster care**

Re-entry into care is measured by the total number of children who achieve timely permanency within 12 months and re-enter care within the subsequent 12 months.

- Alaska has the 2nd lowest re-entry rate (3%) among all states.



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III. CASEY FAMILY PROGRAMS SYSTEMS IMPROVEMENT WORK

Long History of Collaboration

- 2000—Casey Family Programs began work in Alaska
- 2005—Casey hosted statewide convening on Disproportionality
- 2008—Knowing Who You Are curriculum on racial/cultural identity introduced & embedded throughout the state

Collaborative efforts continue:

- Facing Foster Care in Alaska (FFCA) supported until non-profit status attained
- Permanency Values & Family Finding Summit, Permanency Roundtables held
- Data advocacy helped refine data indicators
- Member of Court Improvement Project

Collaborative efforts continue:

- Sponsored development of Strategic Plan to transform child welfare which was followed by signing of Compact in 2017
- Building Community of Hope Project
- Support Safe Baby Court project in Palmer
- Sponsored Statewide convening on Adverse Childhood Experiences hosted by First Lady Walker in March of 2018

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IV. CASEY FAMILY PROGRAMS INDIAN CHILD WELFARE PROGRAM



Casey Family Programs' Indian Child Welfare Program Goals

Support the demonstration of effective tribal practice models that improve outcomes for Indian children and families and that serve to inform practice for all of child welfare including tribal, county and state systems.

We accomplish this through:

- Providing technical assistance and training re. ICWA, child welfare financing, capacity development, community engagement, and intergovernmental relationships
- Spreading best practices through peer to peer sharing
- Gathering tribal leaders for dialogue and trainings on child welfare related topics
- Working with partners to increase tribal youth engagement
- Facilitating tribal-state collaboration and relationships
- Influencing national efforts to focus on and achieve improved well-being of AI/AN children and families



CFP Indian Child Welfare Program 2018 Projects

Tribe-Specific Work. 16 child welfare initiative agreements aimed at supporting the tribe in providing services to tribal children and families within the tribe's jurisdiction. Tribes' interests and priorities guide the topics and focus of the work. We also work directly with several non-agreement tribes on targeted TA efforts.

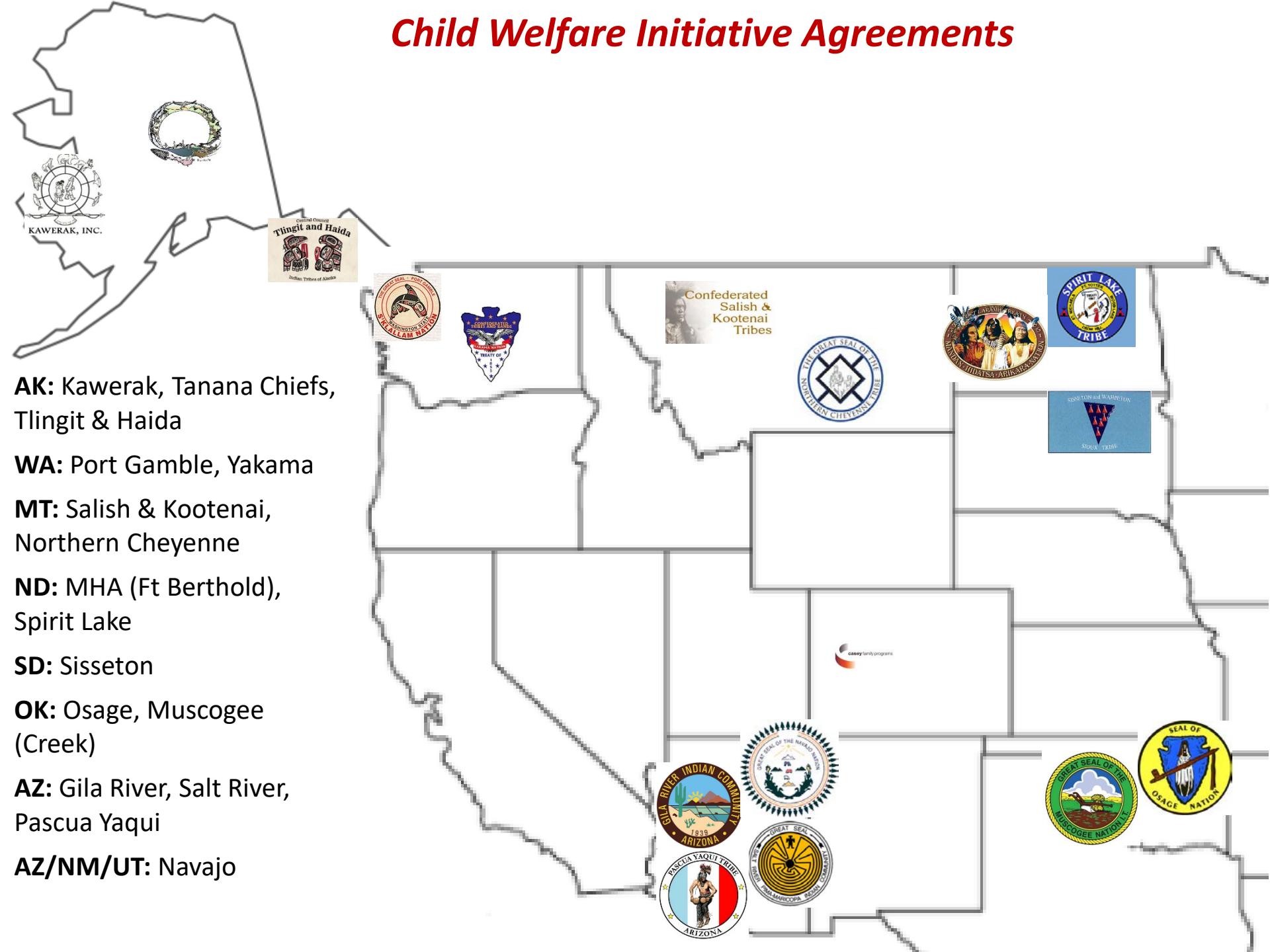
Tribal-State Work. ICWP supports and participates in tribal-state-judicial working groups in Alaska, Idaho, New Mexico, Michigan, Montana, Oklahoma, N. & S. Dakota, Arizona, California, & Wyoming.

National Projects. ICWP leads a variety of national projects, including:

- *Tribal Leaders and Child Welfare Directors:* peer to peer forum for elected tribal officials & tribal child welfare system administrators to learn and to interact with federal officials.
- *Expert Panel:* working group of identified experts in Indian child welfare and other fields, focused on improving tribal capacity to serve youth and families.

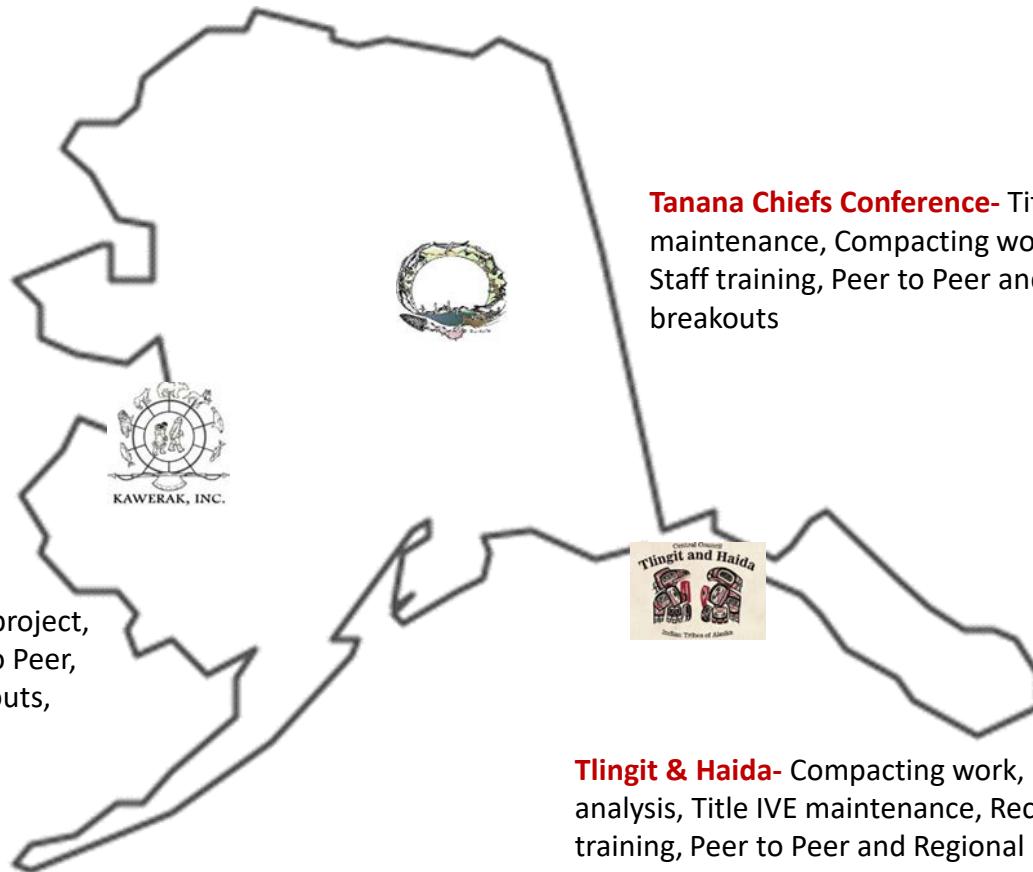
- *Capacity Development & IV-E Summits* tribal gatherings for training on identified child welfare practice and administration topics.
- *National ICWA Strategy* presentations and strategic collaborations aimed at ICWA education and promotion of compliance, & ICWA Court project that supports state courtrooms with dedicated ICWA dockets.
- *Collaboration Agreements* with NAICJA (re. promoting tribal judicial education and improving AI/AN children's outcomes), CNAY (re. tribal youth engagement), ICWA Law Center (re. demonstration project supporting parent mentor model of prevention), MSU (re. ICWA strategies).
- *Philanthropic Engagement & Partnerships* network involvement with philanthropies working in Indian Country; in coordination with Strategic Engagement & Initiatives.
- *IPA/Executive Fellows:* Fred Fisher is placed at the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis – Center for Indian Country Development. Sheldon Spotted Elk is placed at the BIA – Office of Justice.

Child Welfare Initiative Agreements



General:

- ACEs work
- Community Engagement
- Workgroup for Transforming Child Welfare Outcomes for Alaska Native Children
- Advocacy work



Kawerak- Compacting work, CoH project, Recruitment, Staff training, Peer to Peer, ICWA training and Regional breakouts,

Tanana Chiefs Conference- Title IVE maintenance, Compacting work, Recruitment, Staff training, Peer to Peer and Regional breakouts



Tlingit & Haida- Compacting work, Data collection & analysis, Title IVE maintenance, Recruitment, Staff training, Peer to Peer and Regional breakouts.



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V. FEDERAL FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Family First Prevention Services Act

- The Family First Prevention Services Act was passed and signed into law (P.L. 115-123) as part of the Bipartisan Budget Act on February 9, 2018.
- Culmination of years of discussion among key Congressional leaders who share a vision and are passionate about keeping children safely with their families.
 - Over 500 organizations supported this Act

Family First Prevention Services Act

- New option for States and Tribes to claim Title IV-E funds for prevention activities
- New policy to ensure appropriate placements for children in foster care
- Reauthorization of numerous child welfare funding streams
- And much more....

New Funding for Prevention Activities

- Allows states to receive open-ended entitlement (Title IV-E) funding for evidence-based prevention services
 - **Who:** Children at imminent risk of placement in foster care and their parents or kinship caregivers, and pregnant and parenting youth in foster care are eligible.
 - No income test for eligibility
 - **What:** Eligible prevention services are mental health, substance abuse treatment, and in-home parenting skills
 - **How Long:** Services are allowable for up to 12 months, with no limit on how many times a child and family can receive prevention services if the child continues to be at risk of entry into foster care. Services must be evidence-based and trauma informed.

New Funding for Prevention Activities

- ***When:*** Title IV-E reimbursement for eligible prevention services begins on October 1, 2019.
- ***Delinking Eligibility from AFDC:*** The new Title IV-E prevention services, as well as training and administrative costs associated with developing these services, has no income test.
- ***Non-Supplantation:*** New federal funds for prevention services are intended to augment, not supplant, state funding for prevention services.
- ***MOE:*** MOE will be set at FY2014 spending for these same prevention services for candidates for foster care.

New Policy to Ensure Appropriate Placements in Foster Care

- Provides \$8 million in FY2018 for grants to states and tribes to support the recruitment and retention of high quality foster families.
- Makes changes to what types of out-of-home placements would be eligible for federal Title IV-E reimbursement beginning October 1, 2019.
- States have the option to delay this provision for 2 years. However, delays in implementation of these provisions requires a delay in prevention provisions.

New Policy to Ensure Appropriate Placements in Foster Care

Beginning October 1, 2019, after 2 weeks in care, Title IV-E federal support will support the following placements:

- Foster Family Home (defined) – no more than 6 children in foster care, with some exceptions
- Facility for pregnant and parenting youth
- Supervised independent living for youth 18 years and older
- Specialized placements for youth who are victims of or at-risk of becoming victims of sex trafficking
- Family-based residential treatment facility for substance abuse
- Qualified Residential Treatment Program (QRTP) (defined) – clinically recognized treatment program
 - There are no time limits on how long a child or youth can be placed in a QRTP as long as the placement continues to meet his/her needs as determined in assessment.

What is a Qualified Residential Treatment Program (QRTP)?

- Has a trauma informed treatment model and a registered or licensed nursing or other licensed clinical staff onsite, consistent with the QRTP's treatment model.
- Facilitates outreach and engagement of the child's family in the child's treatment plan
- Provides discharge planning and family-based aftercare supports for at least 6 months
- Licensed and accredited

New Funding to Support Keeping Families Together During Substance Use Treatment

- Beginning October 1, 2018, Title IV-E foster care maintenance payments can be made on behalf of a child in foster care who is placed with their parent in a licensed residential family-based treatment facility for up to 12 months.
 - No income test applies for these services.
- This opportunity exists regardless of whether a state chooses to operate a prevention program through Title IV-E.

Promoting Timely Permanency for Children Across State Lines

- Provides \$5 million in new grants to states to expand the development of the electronic system to expedite the interstate placement across state lines of children in foster care, guardianship or adoption.
- Requires that states use an electronic interstate case processing system by October 2027.

Additional select items to promote safety, permanency, and well-being

- Provides Title IV-E support for evidence-based kinship navigator programs at 50%, beginning October 1, 2018.
- Requires HHS to identify model foster parent licensing standards; states have to then identify how they will implement.
- Requires the development of a statewide plan to prevent child abuse and neglect fatalities.
- Requires inclusion in the state plan of a description of activities to address developmental needs of young children.
- Eliminates the time limit for reunification services provided during a child's placement in foster care
- Makes revisions to the Chafee program to emphasize more successful transitions to adulthood.

Reauthorizing Adoption Assistance & Legal Guardianship Incentives

- Reauthorizes the Adoption and Legal Guardianship Incentive Programs through FY2022.
- Delays the phase in/expansion of the Adoption Assistance delink for children under age 2 (eligibility tied to 1996 AFDC income test) through June 30, 2024.

Continuing Child Welfare Funding

- Reauthorizes Title IV-B programs and services until FY2021.
 - Stephanie Tubbs Jones Child Welfare Services Program, including funding for monthly caseworker visits
 - Promoting Safe and Stable Families Program
 - Court Improvement Program
 - Regional Partnership Grants to Increase the Well-Being of, and to Improve the Permanency Outcomes for, Children Affected by Heroin, Opioids, or Other Substance Abuse
- Reauthorizes the John H. Chafee Foster Care Independence Program until FY2021.

Title IV-E Guardianship Assistance Program (GAP): Authorized in 2008 by Federal Legislation

- Allows federal Title IV-E matching funds for financial supports for permanent legal kinship guardians -- plus associated administrative and training costs
- Eligibility:
 - Guardian is a relative as defined by the state.
 - Guardian has been child's licensed foster parent for at least 6 months.
 - Reunification and adoption have been ruled out.
 - Child 14 and older has been consulted.
 - Court has awarded permanent legal guardianship and ruled it to be in the child's best interest.

State Child Welfare & Foster Care Commissions/Task Forces

- Vehicles for convening respected, knowledgeable individuals who have child welfare expertise or experience from a range of perspectives
- Members often include:
 - State and Tribal leaders with the ability to make or influence changes
 - Three branch representation: legislators, judicial, executive
 - Constituents with life experiences as foster youth, birth parents, kin caregivers, foster parents, adoptive parents
 - Public & private agencies and organizations that implement policies and provide services
 - Advocates
 - Others that oversee the effectiveness of implementation

Purpose, Goals & Scope

- Study specific or broad issues of concern
- Develop shared understanding of the current child welfare system and of outcomes for children and the state
- Build agreement about the desired outcomes for children and the system
- identify barriers to and opportunities for achieving desired outcomes
- Recommend policy, practice, organizational, and other strategies for improvement
- Plan how progress will be monitored and reported

Questions and Follow-Up

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