

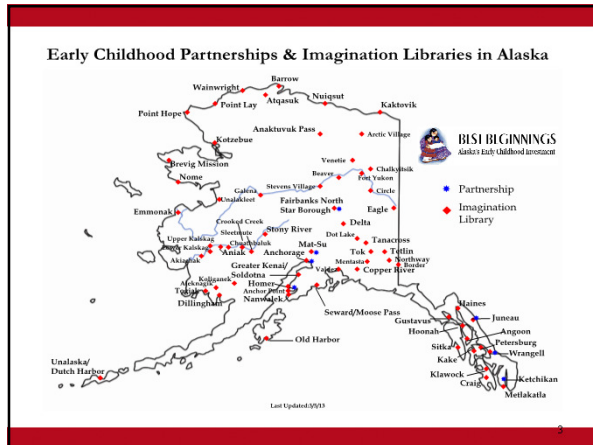
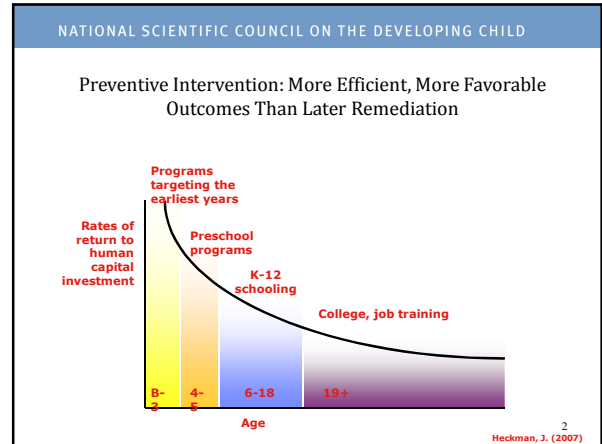



# BEST BEGINNINGS

Alaska's Early Childhood Investment


Senate Finance Subcommittee for the  
Department of Education & Early  
Development

September 10, 2013


## Mission

- To mobilize people and resources to ensure all Alaska children begin school ready to succeed
- How do we do it?
  - Parent/family engagement and education
  - Community-based
  - Research
  - Collaboration
  - Innovation



## DEED Funding

FY 2008	\$158,000
FY 2009	\$112,500
FY 2010	\$312,500
FY 2011	\$792,500
FY 2012	\$612,500
FY 2013	\$937,500
FY 2014	\$937,500



## Imagination Library

- Age-appropriate, quality children's books
- Free to families
- "Get the whole community involved in reading with children!"
- Family engagement
- Research results
- Numbers



## Imagination Library Growth

	# of Communities	# of Children Receiving Books	Cost
April 2009	3	3,673	\$110,190
September 2013	105	20,703	\$621,090

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## Resources & Outreach

- Radio and TV PSAs
- BestBeginningsAlaska.org, Facebook, YouTube
- E-newsletter
- Convening large and small groups
- Sponsoring national speakers
- Advocacy support
- Training and technical assistance to partners
- Activity guides and cards
- *Babies on Track*
- StoryTRACKS

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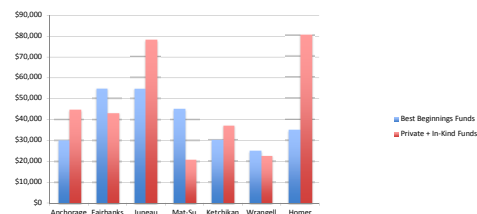
## Early Childhood Partnerships

- Wrangell
- Ketchikan
- Juneau
- Homer
- Fairbanks
- Mat-Su
- Anchorage

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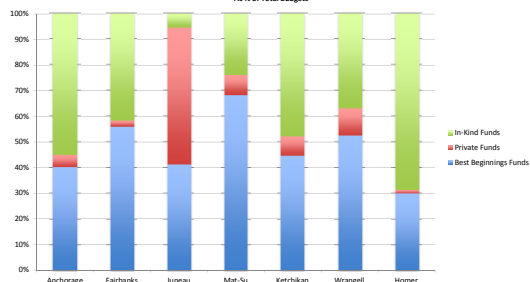
Leveraging Public Dollars  
Private/In-Kind vs. Best Beginnings Funds



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ECP Funding Sources  
As % of Total Budgets



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## Early Childhood Partnerships FY 2014

- Parent Engagement & Education
  - # of events
  - # of participants
- Language & Literacy
  - # of books delivered

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## Early Childhood Partnerships FY 2014

- Community Support for Early Childhood
  - \$ in-kind support
  - \$ private contributions
  - # advocacy interactions
- Partnership Growth & Sustainability
  - # active working group members
  - # groups/sectors involved

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“In an era of tight government budgets...the real question is how to use the available funds wisely. The best evidence supports the policy prescription: invest in the very young.”

*James J. Heckman, PhD  
Nobel Laureate in Economic Sciences*

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## BEST BEGINNINGS

Alaska's Early Childhood Investment

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