



NRFC State Profile: Alaska

June 2016

This profile describes state and federally funded programs and policies that aim to strengthen families. These programs and policies support parenting and father involvement, promote strong family relationships, enhance fathers’ economic stability, and provide support during incarceration and reentry. The profile lists phone numbers and websites for the programs. This information was correct when the profile was written (in 2016) but may change over time.

Programs to Support Responsible Fatherhood and Strengthen Families

Responsible fatherhood programs focus on issues such as enhancing parenting and relationship skills, keeping fathers involved with their children, improving their economic stability, helping them pay child support, and generally helping to strengthen families.

The following state and federally funded programs are available in the state:

Organization	Services Provided	Description	Service Area and Contact Information
Alaska Department of Corrections, Prisoner Reentry Task Force	Incarceration/Reentry Fatherhood/Parenting Domestic Violence	Alaska’s Department of Corrections (DOC), Prisoner Reentry Task Force oversees several educational, vocational, parenting, domestic violence intervention, and reentry programs for inmates. Programs and services vary by DOC institution.	Correctional facilities in Alaska. Website (907) 269-7397
Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development	Economic Stability	The Alaska Job Center Network, a service of the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, provides job search assistance services for unemployed workers, veterans, dislocated workers, and other Alaskans. Services include training and education opportunities, apprenticeships, job fairs, and workshops. The Alaska Job Center Network website also offers employment resources and a state job bank.	There are 18 Job Centers in Alaska. Website with centers and phone numbers.

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Organization	Services Provided	Description	Service Area and Contact Information
Alaska Family Services	Fatherhood/Parenting Domestic Violence	The state funded Alaska Family Services (AFS) offers parenting classes through their <i>Family Support and Preservation Program</i> . Topics include communication, nonviolent discipline, newborn care, and shielding children from conflict during divorce and separation. AFS also offers domestic violence intervention and anger management classes through its <i>Family Violence Intervention Program</i> .	Palmer and Wasilla. Family Support and Preservation Program: Website (907) 746-6225 Family Violence Intervention Program: Website (907) 373-4456
Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (ANDVSA)	Domestic Violence	ANDVSA is a state funded, statewide network supporting 18 domestic violence and sexual assault victim service agencies. Agencies provide services for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault, including an emergency shelter, a 24-hour crisis hotline, counseling, and legal assistance. ANDVSA also trains service providers and offers community education, outreach, and prevention programs.	Serves the entire state. Website with program locations and phone numbers. Juneau (907) 586-3650 Sitka (907) 747-7545
Chugachmiut	Economic Stability	Chugachmiut provides the federally funded <i>Employment Training Program</i> . The program offers training and career development resources; career guidance; referrals for job-training, skill development, and apprenticeship opportunities; connections with scholarship and employment opportunities; and help with university and scholarship applications.	Serves natives of the Chugach Region. Website (907) 562-4155
Cook Inlet Tribal Council (CITC)	Fatherhood/Parenting Healthy Relationships Economic Stability	The federally funded Cook Inlet Tribal Council (CITC) offers several programs and services for Alaska Native and Native American fathers. <i>Fathers' Journey</i> equips fathers with social, financial, parenting, and life skills to strengthen their roles as fathers and ability to provide for their families. Classes cover positive parenting, fatherhood, and healthy relationships. Other services include job skills training, supported work experience, and assistance for families in crisis through the <i>Intensive Family Preservation and Luqu Kenu Project</i> .	Activities are held at CITC's Nat'uh Service Center in Anchorage. Website (907) 793-3132

Organization	Services Provided	Description	Service Area and Contact Information
Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (CDVSA)	Domestic Violence	CDVSA receives federal and state funding to support 20 programs and services throughout Alaska. Programs support female and male victims of domestic violence and sexual assault with emergency shelter, legal advocacy, and safety planning services. CDVSA also provides batterer’s intervention programs for men who commit violence and want to change.	Serves the entire state. Website (907) 465-4356
Job Corps	Economic Stability	Job Corps is a federal job training program to help low-income young men and women ages 16 to 24 with educational and career goals.	There is one Job Corps center in Alaska. It is located in Palmer. Website (907) 861-8800
LEAP	Domestic Violence Healthy Relationships Fatherhood/Parenting	LEAP runs a 36 week <i>Alternatives to Violence</i> program for men who have used abuse at some point in their life. The program teaches healthy relationship and parenting skills, such as communication, identification and appropriate expression of emotions, de-escalation skills, assertiveness, problem solving, listening skills, self-awareness, boundaries, accountability, and general parenting skills.	Serves the entire state. A schedule to accommodate rural clients is available. Website (907) 452-2473
Mount Sanford Tribal Consortium (MSTC)	Healthy Relationships	The Mount Sanford Tribal Consortium provides the federally funded <i>Healthy Relationships</i> program for Athabascan Indian Tribes in the Copper River region. The program provides a culturally competent curriculum that reaffirms traditional Athabascan values while raising awareness about the benefits of healthy relationships and providing relationship skill building activities for adults and youth.	Serves Athabascan Indian Tribes of Cheesh’na and Mentasta Lake in the Copper River region. Website (907) 822-5399
Partners for Progress	Incarceration/Reentry Economic Stability Healthy Relationships	The state and federally funded Partners for Progress provides reentry services including employment services and job readiness, relationships and boundary setting, budgeting, transitional housing assistance, anger management, counseling, mentoring, one-on-one case management, and referrals to other resources.	Anchorage. Website (907) 258-1192

Organization	Services Provided	Description	Service Area and Contact Information
Rural Alaska Community Action Program, Inc.	Fatherhood/Parenting Healthy Relationships Economic Stability	The state and federally funded Rural Alaska Community Action Program, Inc. offers the <i>Parents as Teachers</i> , an early childhood parent education and family support program that provides home visits and support groups to increase parenting knowledge and skills.	Serves 15 rural communities across the state. Website with list of communities. (907) 865-7362

Policies to Promote Responsible Fatherhood

Paternity Establishment

Establishing paternity gives a child born outside of marriage the same legal rights and privileges as a child born to married parents. Children gain access to family medical history and rights to inheritance, fathers’ medical and life insurance benefits, social security and veterans’ benefits, and child support. In addition, Native American children gain tribal enrollment rights.

There are three ways for unmarried parents to establish paternity in Alaska: 1) By signing an Affidavit of Paternity at the hospital when the child is born or, if the form is not completed at that time, it can be picked up at the Bureau of Vital Statistics or local court and returned to the Bureau of Vital Statistics after completion. 2) By applying to the Alaska Child Support Services Division (CSSD) for CSSD services – in this case, both parents must sign an affidavit of paternity or a DNA test can be ordered to determine paternity. 3) By filing a Complaint to Establish Paternity with a local court.ⁱ

Child Custody

If unmarried or divorced parents cannot reach agreement concerning child custody or visitation, a legal order can be made through the court system. Either parent may be granted custody of the child, or both may share equally in physical custody and/or decision-making responsibilities. There is no legal connection between payment or non-payment of child support and rights to visitation.

In Alaska, parents who are able to reach an agreement on custody arrangements can file uncontested paperwork together, then the judge will approve the agreement. If parents do not agree on a custody arrangement, then the case will go to trial. A parent who has committed domestic violence may not get custody or visitation unless he or she meets certain requirements, such as completing a batterer’s intervention or substance abuse treatment program.ⁱⁱ

Child Support

The Federal Child Support Enforcement Program was established in 1975 as Title IV-D of the Social Security Act to locate noncustodial parents, establish paternity and establish and enforce child support orders. General services available in all states and territories include voluntary in-hospital paternity acknowledgement, genetic testing, explanation of state guidelines for determining child support orders, and review of child support orders at least every three years at the request of either parent. State child support offices are responsible for collection and distribution of child support payments and can modify orders when appropriate. If a parent is behind in their payments, the office may use enforcement tools such as license revocation (including drivers, professional, recreational or occupational licenses), seizure of assets, property liens, passport denial, and federal and state tax refund offsets.ⁱⁱⁱ

Alaska Child Support Services Division (CSSD) provides child support services in Alaska. Go to the [website](#) or call (907) 269-6900 for more information.

The Family and Medical Leave Act

The federal Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) protects employees who have worked with the same organization for at least twelve months and worked at least 1,250 hours within the past year. It contains provisions for both fathers and mothers to take time off after the birth or adoption of a child, or during a serious illness, without fear of losing their jobs. Employees in companies with 50 or more employees are entitled to up to 12 weeks of unpaid leave, over a one-year period, to care for a new child, recuperate from a serious illness, care for a seriously ill family member, or handle issues arising from a family member's call to active military duty. The FMLA also gives employees the right to take up to 26 weeks of leave to care for a family member who is seriously injured or becomes ill while on active military duty.^{iv}

In addition to FMLA, the Alaska Family Leave Act of 1992 provides up to 18 weeks in a 24-month period of job-protected absence to eligible employees for a qualifying serious medical condition, pregnancy, childbirth or adoption. When an employee is eligible under both FMLA and ALFA, the entitlements run concurrently.^v

Head Start

Head Start is a federally funded school readiness program for young children from low-income families. The program, currently delivered by about 1,700 local organizations – public and private, non-profit and for-profit – provides preschoolers with comprehensive services, such as education and health screenings, with the goal of building their skills across five school readiness domains: language and literacy, cognition and general knowledge, approaches to learning, physical development and health, and social and emotional development. Head Start encourages the role of parents (both mothers and fathers) as their child's first and most important teachers. Programs build relationships with families that support positive parent-child relationships, family well-being, and connections to peers and community. Early Head Start, also managed by the federal Office of Head Start, is directed toward children up to the age of three and their parents. While the program is federally funded and managed, local agencies make decisions regarding service delivery based on the specific needs of their communities; for example, some may opt to include home-based services for families in their programs. Most states have multiple Head Start programs providing services for fathers.

To find information on Head Start programs in Alaska, go to this [website](#).

Policies to Promote Economic Stability

Child Care Assistance

The Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) works with states to provide support for children and their low-income families. Subsidized child care services are available to eligible families through certificates (vouchers), grants, or contracts with providers. Fathers and mothers may select a child care provider that satisfies applicable state and local requirements, including basic health and safety requirements.^{vi}

In Alaska, Child Care assistance is known as “Parents Achieving Self Sufficiency” (PASS). Eligibility requirements and the amount of assistance that a family receives vary by 1) the family’s income and 2) the PASS program that they are enrolled in. Families eligible for PASS can receive assistance for children under the age of 13, or up to the age of 19 if the child has a developmental disability.^{vii}

Rental Assistance

The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) provides rental assistance to low-income families and individuals through a number of methods. HUD subsidizes privately owned apartments, allowing low-income tenants to rent them at reduced rates. In the Public Housing program, local housing agencies manage rental housing for low-income tenants, while HUD provides professional and technical assistance in their planning, development, and management. The Housing Choice Voucher Program, better known as Section 8, provides eligible families and individuals with vouchers that they can use to pay for all or part of the rent at housing units of their choice. Generally, eligibility for the HUD rental assistance programs is based on annual gross income, assets, family size, and other considerations such as elderly or disabled status. Local housing agencies generally set the fixed eligibility rules for their regions, determine assistance amounts, and manage waiting lists for assistance.^{viii}

Alaska has no additional state provisions for rental assistance.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly the Food Stamp program, provides low-income individuals (both men and women) and families with funds delivered in an electronic benefit transfer card, or EBT card) that can be used to purchase food. SNAP is administered within the Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Services and is federally funded, but applications, delivery, and outreach are handled at the state or local level. In general, individuals and households are eligible to receive SNAP if they have less than \$2,250 in countable resources and earn less than 130 percent of the poverty line in gross monthly income. However, characteristics of recipients (for example, age or disabled status) can affect eligibility requirements, and states have flexibility in determining eligibility, particularly with regard to what is considered a countable resource. In many states, individuals over the age of 18 and under the age of 50 are limited to three months of SNAP benefits every three years unless they are working or in a work or training program 20 hours a week. Some states have waivers to this rule for all or part of the state – for detailed state eligibility requirements, consult the [state SNAP agency](#).^{ix}

In addition to SNAP, Alaska's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Nutrition Education and Obesity Prevention Program (SNAP-ED) program provides nutrition education for Alaskans receiving SNAP. The program helps SNAP recipients make healthy food choices within a limited budget and encourage participants to choose physically active lifestyles.^x

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)

The Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program grants federal funds to states for developing and implementing their own welfare programs that provide assistance and work opportunities to needy families.

In Alaska, TANF is called the Alaska Temporary Assistance Program (ATAP). ATAP provides up to 60 months of assistance for low-income families and helps them achieve financial self-sufficiency. To qualify, families must have less than \$2,000 in countable resources, or \$3,000 if the family includes an individual who is 60 or older. Families must also have a countable income that is less than the ATAP limit. The amount of cash assistance a family receives depends on the family's size, income, and shelter expenses.^{xi}

References

ⁱ For more information on paternity establishment in Alaska, see <http://www.courts.alaska.gov/shc/family/shcpaternity.htm#how>.

ⁱⁱ For more information on Child Custody in Alaska, see <http://www.courts.alaska.gov/shc/family/shccustody.htm>.

ⁱⁱⁱ For more information on the federal Office of Child Support Enforcement, see www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/css.

^{iv} For more information on the Family and Medical leave Act, see <http://www.dol.gov/whd/regs/compliance/whdfs28.pdf>.

^v For more information on the Alaska Family Leave Act of 1992, see <http://doa.alaska.gov/dop/serviceCenters/familyLeave/>.

^{vi} For more information on the Child Care and Development Fund, see <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/occ/about/what-we-do>.

^{vii} For more information on the Parents Achieving Self Sufficiency program in Alaska, see <http://dhss.alaska.gov/dpa/Pages/ccare/parents.aspx>.

^{viii} For more information on Rental Assistance, see http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/topics/rental_assistance.

^{ix} For more information on SNAP and to find services in your state, see <http://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/apply>.

^x For more information on SNAP-ED, see <http://dhss.alaska.gov/dpa/Pages/nutri/snap-ed.aspx>.

^{xi} For more information on the Alaska Temporary Assistance Program, see <http://dhss.alaska.gov/dpa/Pages/atap/default.aspx>.