



2025-2026 AVCP Head Start Annual Report

“Tell me and I forget. Teach me
and I remember. Involve me and
I learn.” – Benjamin Franklin



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Welcome Letter

Dear Families and Community Members,

As I look back on the past year, I am grateful for the strength, care, and teamwork shown by our AVCP Head Start community. This year, we welcomed new families, built stronger partnerships, and continued to provide quality early learning experiences that help children grow and prepare for future success.

Our classrooms were full of learning, curiosity, and joy. Children took important steps in group learning, shared their ideas, and built new skills. We celebrated their progress in school readiness and the many milestones they reached along the way. We also worked closely with families to support children's health, nutrition, and social-emotional needs, because children learn best when they feel safe, supported, and cared for.

This work would not be possible without our caring staff, involved parents, and supportive community partners. Your time, effort, and trust make a lasting difference for the children and families we serve.

We are proud of what we accomplished together this year, and we are thankful to every person who helped make our program stronger. Your support helps create a positive place where children can learn, families can feel connected, and communities can continue to grow.

As we look ahead, we will continue to support fairness, inclusion, and opportunity for every child and family. Thank you for believing in our work and for being part of this journey with us.

With appreciation and hope,

Sarah Trieff-Jones
Youth and Child Unit Manager
AVCP Head Start



Executive Summary

AVCP Head Start is a federally funded early childhood education initiative that serves children ages 3 through 5, with a strong emphasis on school readiness, health, nutrition, disability services, family engagement, and culturally responsive learning. Established in 1965 and expanded by the Head Start Act of 1981, the program has been a cornerstone of early learning in Alaska since its inception. Within the AVCP region, Head Start supports children and families in rural communities by providing comprehensive services that recognize the importance of culture, language, family strengths, and community partnerships. The program is designed to reduce barriers to early childhood education, promote healthy child development, and ensure families have access to resources that support long-term stability and school success.



AVCP Head Start Philosophy



Holistic Child Development

AVCP Head Start promotes children's cognitive, social, emotional, and physical development through intentional, age-appropriate learning experiences that strengthen early literacy, numeracy, problem-solving, confidence, and positive peer and adult relationships.



Family Engagement

Head Start recognizes that each child develops at their own pace and provides responsive, individualized support for children with disabilities, developmental needs, or additional learning support. Services are designed to honor each child's strengths, culture, language, family, and community.



Head Start is grounded in the belief that every child deserves the opportunity to learn, grow, and thrive. The program supports school readiness by addressing the whole child, engaging families as essential partners, and providing comprehensive services that reflect each child's culture, language, strengths, and individual needs.

Family Engagement

Families are valued as their child's first and most influential teachers. Head Start encourages meaningful parent participation in planning, decision-making, workshops, volunteer opportunities, and program leadership to support positive child outcomes and strengthen family well-being.

Health and Nutrition

Head Start combines health, dental, mental health, and nutrition services to support each child's readiness to learn. Screening, referrals, and follow-up services help identify needs early and ensure children are prepared to participate fully in learning activities.

Program Overviews

Mission

AVCP Head Start, partnering with the parents and communities, provides a positive and safe learning environment for the children with respect to different cultures and languages, in order to open the doors to a bright and successful future



Vision

AVCP Head Start envisions children, families, and communities growing together in safe, supportive, and culturally responsive environments that encourage school readiness, lifelong learning, and overall well-being.

During the 2025–2026 fiscal year, the program served an average of 169 Head Start children, with a high enrollment of 177, representing a 90% enrollment rate. AVCP Head Start is currently operating under an Under Enrollment Plan and will strive to reach 97% enrollment by August 2026. Recruitment efforts are continuing throughout the summer to increase enrollment for the start of the new school year.





Program Overview Continued...

The program employs approximately 45 staff members who support classroom instruction, family engagement, health and nutrition services, program administration, and site operations across the AVCP Head Start service area. In addition to regular staff, AVCP Head Start contracts with external providers and specialists as needed to complete projects, provide technical assistance, support training needs, and address specialized service requirements. This staffing and contractor support structure helps the program respond to community needs, maintain required delivery standards, and ensure that children and families continue to receive comprehensive, culturally responsive Head Start services throughout the region.



Program Outcomes

AVCP Head Start 2025–2029 Program Goals

Goal 1

Develop and implement a single point of entry for all services in the AVCP Youth & Child and Family programs for the 2025–2029 grant year to increase access to services and address identified gaps.

Goal 2

Increase center-based early childhood education options by 10% in the AVCP region, consistent with community needs, through the 2025–2029 grant period and beyond.

Goal 3

Improve the response to identified family needs and partnership goals by strengthening Family Advocates' role.

Goal 4

Expand Yup'ik language, cultural teachings, and learning opportunities aligned with research-based curriculum in AVCP Head Start program settings and family engagement services.

Goal 5

Improve annual standards-aligned strategic program planning by expanding Child Plus to 100% of AVCP Head Start program sites and transitioning to paperless data collection and analysis.

Goal 6

Improve the environmental health and safety of 60% of AVCP Head Start program centers by the end of the 2025–2029 grant cycle.

Goal 7

By the end of the 2025–2029 grant year period, AVCP Head Start will conduct 100% of assessments and screenings within 120 days

Program Outcomes Continued...



Community Assessment Updates on Program Goals

AVCP Head Start is in its 2025–2029 Five-Year Grant Cycle and is working toward goals that strengthen wraparound services, expand support for children with specialized educational and social-emotional needs, enhance Yup'ik language and cultural learning, modernize records and data reporting, improve health and safety standards and screening services, increase enrollment, and explore future opportunities to develop new center-based programs in the region.

Braiding Program Services

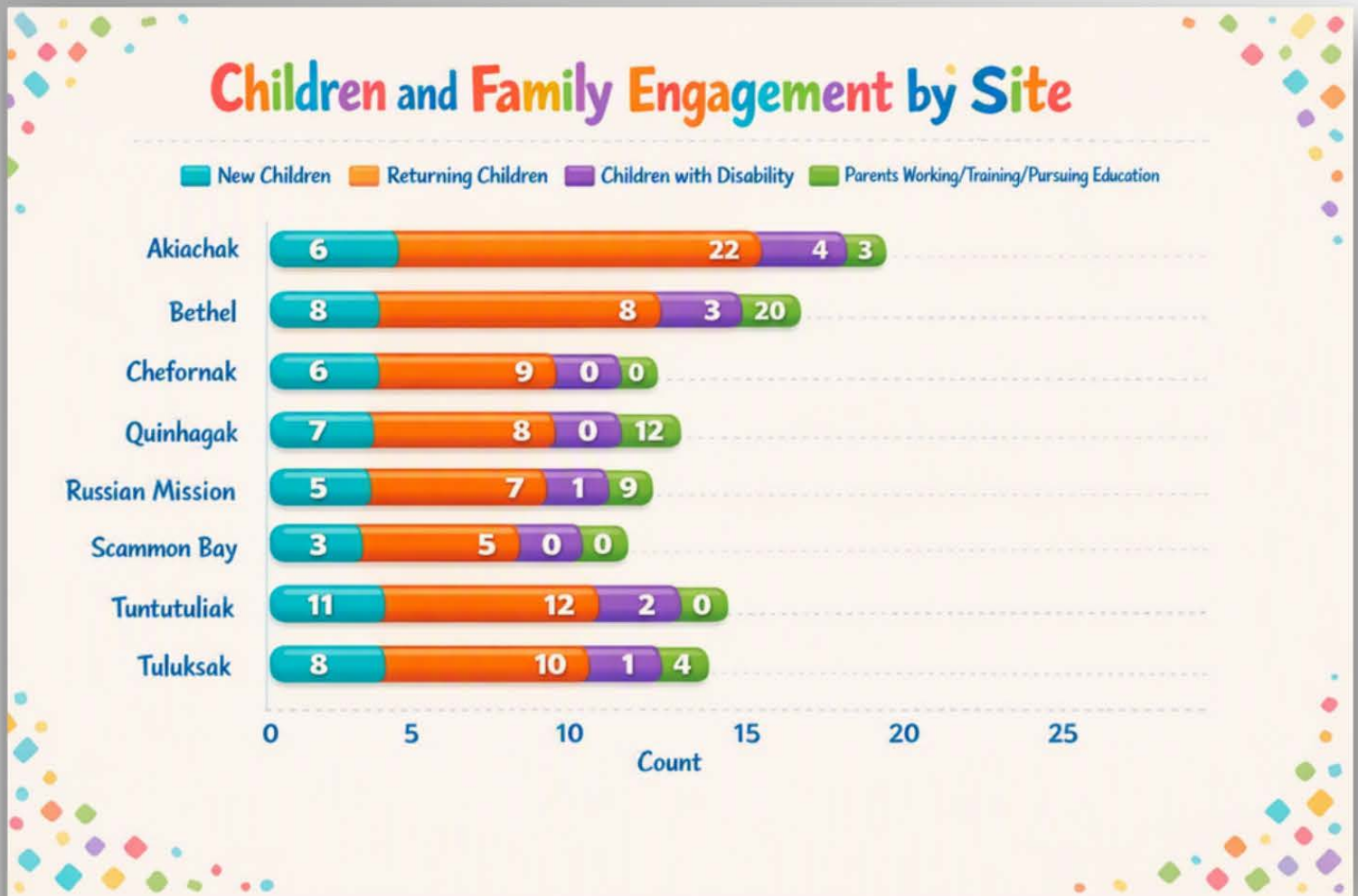
During the 2025–2026 program year, AVCP continued to braid services across Head Start, Child Care, Tribal Workforce Development, and Tribal Construction to better support children, families, and providers. Head Start and Child Care worked closely with Tribal Workforce Development to help families pursue their goals, connect with resources, support Head Start recruitment, assist Child Care families, and provide health and safety training for providers.

Head Start and Child Care staff also collaborated throughout the year to provide CPR and First Aid training for childcare providers and Head Start staff. By the end of May, training will be offered in 16 communities, with multiple sessions held in some locations. These efforts have strengthened awareness of emergency preparedness across the region, with a future goal of making the training available to the broader community.

CPR and First Aid training for Child Care and Head Start was provided in the following communities: Akiachak, Bethel, Chefornak, Russian Mission, Quinhagak, Kotlik, Scammon Bay, Tuntutuliak, and Tuluksak.

Community Assessment Questionnaire Updates 2026

Community assessment information continues to guide program planning, recruitment strategies, family engagement efforts, and service delivery priorities. Updates from families, staff, and community partners help identify ongoing needs related to childcare access, transportation, health services, family support, workforce development, and culturally responsive programming. These findings support the program's continued focus on improving enrollment, strengthening wraparound services, expanding partnerships, and ensuring that Head Start services remain responsive to the realities of families living in rural communities across the AVCP region.



Policy Council Assessment 2026



Policy Council assessment feedback reflects continued engagement in shared governance, program oversight, and family leadership.

Members support decision-making related to program goals, enrollment priorities, service delivery, and planning for improvement. Ongoing participation from parents and community representatives strengthens accountability and ensures family voices are included in program operations. Continued attention will be given to supporting Policy Council training, improving communication, and encouraging consistent participation so members feel prepared and confident in their governance role.

Policy Council Assessment: *Frequency by Theme*



Themes summarized from open-ended assessment responses.

2025-2026 Key Impacts

Typhoon Halong had a significant impact on AVCP Head Start and related Youth and Child Unit operations during the 2025-2026 program year. The storm resulted in the closure of the Kipnuk Head Start program and the suspension of the related CVRF building renovation project, which was being completed in partnership with Tribal Construction.

These disruptions directly affected 20 Head Start families and nine Child Care families, creating immediate needs related to continued early childhood services, family support, employment stability, and access to resources.

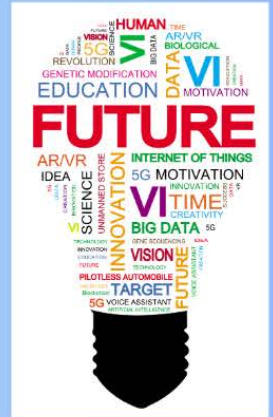
In response, the Youth and Child Unit worked quickly and collaboratively to connect impacted families with available services and help children transition into other Head Start programs, both within the AVCP region and in Anchorage.

The unit also supported affected staff by helping identify alternative employment opportunities and assisted Child Care families in Anchorage with child care applications, continued child care services, job search efforts, and educational pursuits.

These response efforts reflect AVCP Head Start's commitment to continuity of care, family stability, and responsive support during emergencies that affect children, families, staff, and community-based program operations.



Looking Ahead and Future Endeavors



- Continue the Kotlik Teen Center renovation and Head Start project in partnership with Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC) and Tribal Construction.
- Continue work on the Quinhagak Multipurpose building to transition Head Start services to the new building this year
- Partner with Yupiit School District, CRW, and the Tribe on infrastructure work in Tuluksak to fix the connection to the Head Start building's water line
- Increase service coordination with Tribal Child Welfare and Healthy Families to strengthen wraparound support for families and community members.



Looking Ahead and Future Endeavors

Fiscal Report Funding Summary

Funding Source	Period	Amount	Use / Notes
Federal Grant	FY26; 01/01/2025–12/31/2029	\$3,167,101.00; T/TA: \$30,874.00	Supports salaries and fringe benefits, program operations, supplies, travel, training, utilities, and rent
Stabilization Grant	Current award	\$89,062.00	Funds professional services contracts and Teaching Strategies CLOUD to support lesson planning
Preschool Development Grant	Current award	\$42,286.00	Supports pre-service costs, including travel, airfare, lodging, and per diem
Stabilization Supplemental	Current award	\$8,180.00	Supports technology upgrades, including computers and docking stations for Head Start staff
State Grant	FY26; 07/01/2025–06/30/2026	\$605,653.28	Supports Central Office salaries and fringe benefits, maintenance and repairs, and supplies
CACFP Food Program	FY27, FY26, FY25	FY26 anticipated: \$413,453.76; FY25 approved: \$315,158.46	FY27 funding is pending. FY25 funding supported the Nutrition Services reimbursement agreement.

Looking Ahead and Future Endeavors Continued...

Fiscal Summary.

AVCP Head Start is supported by federal, state, stabilization, preschool development, and Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) funding. The largest source is the FY26 Federal Grant at \$3,167,101.00, with an additional \$30,874.00 for training and technical assistance. The FY26 State Grant provides \$605,653.28, while CACFP funding supports nutrition services with \$413,453.76 anticipated for FY26 and \$315,158.46 approved for FY25. Additional stabilization and preschool development funds support professional services, classroom software, technology upgrades, and pre-service costs. Several FY27 funding amounts remain pending, including State Head Start and CACFP funding.



Conclusion



AVCP Head Start is a vital, community-driven program that supports the early learning and well-being of children and families across the AVCP region.

Through comprehensive, culturally responsive services, the program helps prepare children for school, strengthens families and communities, and invests in future Tribal leaders while promoting services and justice for all children, families, and communities.

“This Institution is an Equal Opportunity Provider.”



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