



**Anchorage Youth
Development Coalition**

Housed at Center for Safe Alaskans

July 2023

Anchorage Youth Development Coalition End of Cycle Report (SFY2020-2023)

Anchorage Youth Development Coalition Housed at Safe Alaskans

Coalition Description: Anchorage Youth Development Coalition (AYDC) housed at Safe Alaskans is a broad and inclusive coalition of youth-serving organizations, businesses, and individuals working to create shared community practices around professional youth work. AYDC promotes and integrates strength-based strategies through advocacy, resources, networking, and training to ensure that all Anchorage youth thrive.

Our Vision: All Anchorage's Youth Thrive

Our Mission: AYDC promotes and integrates strength-based strategies through advocacy, resources, networking, and training

Our Purpose: Advance positive youth development

Coalition Membership and Activity: AYDC currently has **33** active members representing **79%** of AYDC's target agencies. Coalition members represent diverse sectors, including youth-serving, behavioral health, law enforcement, school, civic and volunteer, Federal, State, local and tribal, media, religious, and Health and Medical organizations. Coalition members participate in Coalition Activities such as AYDC Coalition Gatherings, AYDC Leadership Team, and coalition workgroups and make financial contributions. In addition, they are actively involved in Infrastructure Development and Capacity Building Activities, including Second Order Change, Youth Matter Grants, and Youth Program Quality. Lastly, coalition members collaborated on AYDC's Policy Education and Advocacy activities to strengthen a shared risk and protective factors approach in organizational and other policy contexts. AYDC has applied the **five steps** of the Strategic Prevention Framework with fidelity since 2016.

In SFY20-23, we continued connecting and engaging with AYDC members and partners through:

- Coalition Activities
 - AYDC Coalition Gatherings
 - AYDC Leadership Team
- Infrastructure Development and Capacity Building Activities
 - Second Order Change (SOC)
 - Youth Matter Grants (YMG)
 - Youth Program Quality (YPQ)
 - Alaska Native Cultural Charter School (ANCCS) Trauma Informed Capacity Building project
- Policy Education and Advocacy Activities

Coalition Activities

AYDC Coalition Gatherings

AYDC’s Monthly Coalition Gatherings allow our members and partners to network, dialogue, share upcoming opportunities, and learn about positive youth development initiatives in the community from spotlight presenters.

AYDC has an active and diverse membership, with an average of 15 members attending each monthly coalition gathering. We learned about the innovative youth development work happening in Anchorage from 19 agencies, including Alaska Geographic, Alaska Native Justice Center, Alaska Literacy Program, Alaska Seeds of Change, Alaska Teen Media Institute (Spirit of Youth), American Lung Association, Anchorage School Business Partnerships, Anchorage Youth Court, Anchorage Youth Vote, Boys and Girls Club Alaska, Choosing Our Roots, Covenant House’ Youth Task Force, Identity, Inc., Planned Parenthood Teen Council, See Stories, The Alliance, YWCA Alaska, TRIO Educational Talent Search. AYDC Staff facilitated discussions on evaluation and assessment findings, including Community Readiness, Coalition Capacity, Equity Commitments, Second Order Change Initiative, and Youth Matter Grants Initiative.

Testimonial

“I am so grateful to be part of AYDC. Coming to the Monthly Coalition Gathering meetings has helped me connect the needs of Anchorage youth to the correct resources available to them. I am always learning from the members of AYDC.”- Gretchyn O., Alaska Seeds of Change

Outputs

375 Participants	42 Meeting Hours	28 Meetings
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Outcomes

AYDC Coalition Member Survey (2022): Designed to develop a deeper understanding of AYDC’s membership, member participation and engagement in the coalition, AYDC responsiveness to member input and feedback, member knowledge and participation in AYDC initiatives, and support and training needs of coalition members

- 84% Coalition Member Survey Respondents agreed or strongly agreed that AYDC keeps the community updated on its activities
- 86% Coalition Member Survey Respondents agreed or strongly agreed that AYDC has a regular meeting cycle members can count on
- 78% Coalition Member Survey Respondents agreed or strongly agreed AYDC celebrates its successes

AYDC Coalition Gatherings

The AYDC Leadership Team work to further the vision, mission, values and goals of AYDC. The AYDC Leadership Team provides guidance on the coalition’s strategic direction.

In SFY 2020-2023, the AYDC Leadership Team supported the strategy work of the coalition through the workgroups below.

- **Equity Workgroup:** This workgroup guided the development and implementation of AYDC’s commitment to Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (JEDI).
- **Enrichment Workgroup:** This workgroup guided the infrastructure development and governance of AYDC.
- **Advocacy and Policy Workgroup:** This workgroup guided the advocacy and policy actions to support positive youth development in Anchorage.
- **Evaluation and Assessment Workgroup:** This workgroup advised the evaluation and assessment activities of AYDC.

Testimonial

“Anchorage has an incredible variety of resources for youth, and AYDC is a connector for youth-serving organizations to share their knowledge and learn about each other. Knowledge is power; being able to witness positive changes, program growth, and success stories over time with the monthly coalition gatherings is part of the magic that is proof of what we can accomplish in making Anchorage better for our young people.”-Jordan Kamer, AYDC Leadership Team

Outputs

91 .5 Meeting Hours	56 Meetings
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Outcomes

Coalition Capacity Survey (2022): Survey that is required by AYDC’s Comprehensive Behavioral Health Prevention and Early Intervention (CBHPEI) grant from the State of Alaska Division of Behavioral Health. This survey asks 71 questions about 15 different constructs or areas of coalition capacity

- 100% of Coalition Capacity Survey respondents strongly agreed or agreed that Leadership supports behavioral health prevention as a focus of our efforts in the community
- 87.5% of Coalition Capacity Survey respondents strongly agreed or agreed that Leadership effectively promotes our mission and goals related to behavioral health
- 87.5% of Coalition Capacity Survey respondents strongly agreed or agreed that Leadership keeps us focused on and progressing toward our goals.

Infrastructure Development & Capacity Building

Second Order Change

Second Order Change is a leadership development series and a professional learning community. It supports staff at all levels in youth-serving organizations to strengthen social and emotional intelligence, which is responsible for over 50% of effectiveness in all professions and is critical to support youth development. The six-part series focuses on developing the following competencies in participants: Self-Management, Responsible Decision Making, Self-Awareness, Social Awareness, and Relationship Skills.

In July 2020, AYDC developed and launched the Second Order Change Training of Trainers course to prepare and certify facilitators to lead AYDC’s Second Order Change initiative. The virtual course took place over 4 weeks and certified 8 new Second Order Change facilitators from Alaska Humanities Forum, ASD 21st Century Learning Centers, Camp Fire Alaska, Center for Safe Alaskans, Cook Inlet Tribal Council (CITC) Inc, Covenant House Alaska, and Denali Family Services.

Testimonial

"[Second Order Change] provided a safe, learning and empowering space with other community staff working on similar individual, family, and/or community need. I feel connected to the area, community, and across the state more. I have tools and an understanding through the experience and interaction that are empowering for me." - SOC participant

Outputs

74 Participants Supported	15 Youth Serving Partners Supported	24 Sessions
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Outcomes

Second Order Change Evaluation: retrospective pre-post survey aimed at evaluating the program’s impact in five areas of Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) including skills in self-awareness, social awareness, relationships, self-management, and responsible decision-making; and four areas of Youth Program Quality including creating a safe environment, creating a supportive environment, providing an interactive environment, and providing an engaging environment.

- Results indicate a positive impact of Second Order Change on participants. There was an increase in the average participant score in all 17 of the Social Emotional Learning skill areas that were surveyed.
- There was an increase in the average score in two of the four areas of Youth Program Quality that were surveyed
 - I create a safe environment for youth
 - I create an engaging environment for youth

Youth Program Quality

AYDC Youth Program Quality (YPQ) initiative engages Anchorage youth programs in continuous improvement to support positive development experiences and better outcomes for youth. This initiative supports youth development programs serving children and youth, ages 5 to 21 years old.

During SFY2020-2023, we facilitated a Youth Program Quality Coaching workshop for Campbell Creek Science Center, provided technical assistance to ASD 21st Century Community Learning Centers on Social and Emotional Learning Program Quality Assessment and Quality Coaching trainings. We also enrolled five coalition partners to participate in a new Weikart Center Emotion Centered Practices Learning series.

Youth Matter Grants

Youth Matter Grants are mini-grants for youth-led projects to build safety, foster supportive youth-adult relationships, and make a difference in the community. Mattering matters! When youth know that they matter to their community, they are less likely to engage in risky, unsafe behaviors and more likely to display higher levels of connectedness and mental well-being. AYDC has granted \$93,000 to youth-led community projects to promote youth health and wellbeing.

Youth Matter Grant Goals include:

- Safety. Youth described wanting to live in a safer community, not just for physical safety but also emotional safety to be themselves.
- Support, Respect, and Fairness. Youth expressed a desire for respect and fair treatment by adults. This can happen through friendly, supportive, and positive relationships with adults.
- Make a Difference. Youth want to make a difference in their communities and be involved in the decision-making process.

Testimonial

“This grant created meaningful opportunity to foster youth leadership, enhance the wellbeing of LGBTQ+ youth who experience homelessness, and strengthen the bonds of our Community.”-YMG participant

Outputs

23 Projects	16 Youth Serving Partners	141 Youth Participants	19569 reached by YMG projects
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Outcomes

Youth Matter Grant Program Evaluation: Retrospective pre-post survey that measures youth participants' program participation, program impact, and program satisfaction.

- 63.6% of youth respondents experienced a positive shift in their belief that people their age help to make their community a better place to live after participating in Youth Matter Grants.
- 60% of youth respondents indicated that they feel like they matter more in their community after participating in Youth Matter Grants than they did before.
- 36.0% of youth respondents indicated that they have more adults they would feel comfortable seeking help from if they had an important question affecting their life than they did before they participated
- 70.0% of youth respondents either agreed or strongly agreed that they feel more interested in learning, education, and school after participating in Youth Matter Grants.

Alaska Native Cultural Charter School Trauma Informed Capacity Building project

This project aims to provide trauma-informed, social and emotional learning professional development to ANCCSS staff to transform the school, creating a learning climate of trust and positive behavior.

The project seeks to accomplish this through three main objectives: 1) Increase staff feelings of preparedness to implement trauma-informed practices, 2) Improve staff capacity to support students in building Social and Emotional Learning skills and feeling connected to the school and 3) Decrease the number of student behaviors that require staff intervention; Increase positive student behaviors.

Trainings were focused on:

- Trauma-informed care
- Student Self-Regulation activities
- Staff self-care, teacher wellbeing, strategies for teacher self-regulation, and equipping teachers to be warm demanders through proactive and responsive behavioral strategies
- Strengthening teacher-student relationships
- Connecting CHAMPS curriculum to the school’s Alaska Native values

Outputs

30 Staff Supported	51 hours of Professional Learning	235 youth reached
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Outcomes

ANCCS Professional Development Cumulative Evaluation: Participants were asked to complete a survey to provide feedback about their overall perspective of the three professional development trainings received. This includes participants’ perspectives about implementation of strategies and content learned, leadership support of the implementation, and overall value of the professional development trainings.

- **93.3%** of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that implementation of the new strategies and content is supported by school leadership.
- **73%** or more of respondents agreed or strongly agreed with the following statements:
 - I understand how Native values connect to my work.
 - I am able to consistently implement CHAMPS in a way that's connected to our school's Native values.
 - Since completing the training series, I notice more self-regulation strategies being used around the school.
 - I currently practice personal self-regulation during challenging moments with students.
 - Being a warm demander is a teaching practice I plan to use with students.

Policy Education and Advocacy

AYDC and Center for Safe Alaskans policy education and advocacy work focused on elevating and strengthening a shared risk and protective factors approach in organizational and other policy contexts. For example, the Inclusion of Shared Risk and Protective Factors in strategic plans influences the use of the framework at the local level. By focusing on shared risk and protective factors in both public and behavioral health work, prevention efforts can have a greater reach across multiple areas of health concerns, create opportunities to leverage diverse resources, and present increased opportunities for sustainability compared to traditional siloed work.

In SFY2020-23, we advocated for and succeeded in seeing the inclusion of protective factors in Healthy Alaskans 2030 objectives through participation in HA2030 Advisory Group and on the mental health, injury prevention, suicide prevention and SRPF HA2030 workgroups to advocate for the advancement of SRPF perspectives on statewide objectives, strategies, and action steps. We participate and take the lead on several workgroups working to advance shared factors locally and statewide including State Epidemiology Influences Workgroup, Shared Risk and Protective Factors Community of Practices Data Workgroup, Shared Risk and Protective Factors Communications Workgroup, and Alaska Statewide Violence and Injury Prevention Partnership (ASVIPP). We secured funding and took the lead on developing and housing the Shared Risk and Protective Factors *ALASKA* website. The Alaska Strategic Highway Safety Plan now includes a shared risk and protective factor component related to young drivers.

We took advocacy action on several individual bills and proposed policies locally, and statewide through letters of support. This included formally supporting the SB9 underage drinking prevention bill, restoring funds to the Marijuana Education Treatment Fund (METF), successful opposition to proposed budget cuts to Prevention work from the Prop 13 Anchorage Municipal Alcohol Tax, House Bill 60 /Senate Bill 80, supporting youth mental health education in public schools; Supported Anchorage School District’s Anti-racism and Instructional Equity Policies which passed; Supported US Equality Act sponsored by Senator Murkowski; Sober Truth on Preventing (STOP) Underage Drinking Reauthorization Act which was passed.

We led advocacy for the inclusion of Adolescents Experiences with Racism and youth self-regulation questions in the Alaska Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS). Finally, we conducted Community Readiness Assessments in 2020 and 2023 focused on youth shared protective factors.

Outputs

<p>9 Letters of Support Signed</p>	<p>24 Instances of Shared Factors Adoption in policy or guiding documents</p>	<p>2237 Reached Through Policy Education and Advocacy Efforts</p>
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Outcomes

Community Readiness Assessment (2023): Conducted to gain an understanding of the current attitudes, knowledge, and resources of Anchorage leadership and community members related to using a shared youth protective factors approach to improve the well-being of Anchorage youth.

- Overall Community Readiness Score: **4.59**
 - The overall community readiness score to use a shared protective factors approach to improve the well-being of Anchorage Youth was 4.59. It is higher than the Tri-Ethnic Model’s Stage 4 of community readiness, “Preplanning,” yet slightly lower than Stage 5 “Preparation.”
- When examining the average scores for each of the five dimensions of readiness, scores for leadership and community climate both increased slightly from 2020 to 2023
 - Leadership- Average Score was **5.26**
 - At least some of the leadership is participating in developing, improving, or implementing efforts to increase youth shared protective factors in Anchorage, possibly by being a member of a group that is working towards these efforts or being supportive of allocating resources to these efforts.
 - Community Climate-Average Score was **4.70**
 - Some community members believe that increasing youth shared protective factors is a concern in Anchorage and that some type of effort is needed to address it; and at least some community members are participating in developing, improving, or implementing efforts to increase youth shared protective factors in Anchorage.