

# Annual Report

July 2023 – April 2024



# About us

In 1998, our state’s leading experts in injury prevention came together to discuss how our communities were systematically approaching, measuring, and evaluating injury prevention in the state. With the support of a “Safe Communities America” grant through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, these leaders created a nonprofit, the Alaska Injury Prevention Center.

Ten years ago, The Anchorage Youth Development Coalition (AYDC) merged with the Alaska Injury Prevention Center (AIPC). This merger combined the strengths of both organizations to better address injury prevention, safety, and wellbeing needs across our community and Alaska. Honoring the evolution of AIPC and the integration of AYDC’s mission, AIPC staff and board chose a new name to represent our core purpose and values: the Center for Safe Alaskans.

For twenty-five years, we have used a public health approach to identify data-driven trends, bring collaborative efforts into action, evaluate and measure the successes of our programs.



## Our Mission, Values

**Core Purpose:** Prevent Injuries. Promote Wellbeing. Improve Safety.

**Core Values:** Innovative, Collaborative, Inclusive & Respectful, Data-Driven, Strength-Based

# Executive Director's Message



As we close another remarkable year at the Center for Safe Alaskans, I am filled with immense gratitude and optimism. This year has been one of growth, resilience and profound impact. We have been able to advance our mission and make a meaningful difference in our community thanks to our staff, Board members, partners and supporters.

In the past year, we secured funding for the Overcoming Aces with Resilience Survey; this survey will fill an important data gap regarding the health of Alaska adults, and their associated shared risk and protective factors. We helped keep over 30,000 Alaskan cyclists and pedestrians safe in the dark. We hosted AYDC Youth Matter Grants, where 92% of youth who participated felt like they made a positive impact in their community. These accomplishments reflect our unwavering commitment to the Center for Safe Alaskans and are a testament to the power of collective action.

We are excited to welcome John Ruyak, Regina McConkey and Jennifer McClure to our staff. We wish Brooklyn Storms and Sam Gordon the best in their new adventures; they will be missed.

We remain committed to transparency and accountability, and we invite you to review the detailed financial and programmatic reports included in this annual report.

Thank you for your steadfast belief in our mission and your generosity, which make our work possible. Together, we are creating a future where Alaskans enjoy a sense of well-being safety, and freedom from injuries. Your involvement is vital to our success, and we are honored to have you as a partner in this journey.

Sincerely,

Marcia Howell, J.D.

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# People

Strategic priority: We will grow and retain board and staff to strengthen operational stability and mission impact.

## Center for Safe Alaskans Boards and Committees

### Executive Committee

Krystal Kompkoff  
Board President

Angeline Washington  
Board Vice President

Ronni Sullivan  
Board Secretary

Soren Orley  
Board Treasurer

Gordon Glaser  
Director

Brian Saylor  
Director

Hilary Strayer  
Director

Corlis Taylor  
Director

## Anchorage Youth Development Coalition Leadership Team

The Anchorage Youth Development Coalition (AYDC) Leadership Team supports and guides the coalition's vision, mission, values, and goals. The AYDC Leadership Team and Safe Alaskans Staff support the strategy work of the coalition through workgroups.

### Internal Clarity Workgroup

Focuses on defining clear roles and responsibilities for stakeholders within AYDC's governance and infrastructure.

### Community Engagement and Meaningful Connection Workgroup

Focuses on coalition partner and member engagement and advising on professional learning offered by AYDC.

### Youth Voice

Dedicated to creating an inclusive and equitable framework for the integration of Youth Engagement into AYDC's Equity Accountability Body.

## Center for Safe Alaskans Team

Marcia Howell  
Executive Director

Mandi Seethaler  
Deputy Director

Emmanuel Portillo  
AYDC Program Manager

Rebekah Wilcox  
AYDC Program Manager

John Ruyak  
Senior Program Manager

Evy Hail  
Program Manager

Regina McConkey  
Strategic Communications Specialist

Jennifer McClure  
Administrative Specialist

# Communications

Strategic Priority: We will increase the impacts of Safe Alaskans through communications to promote well-being, prevent injury, and improve safety.

Safe Alaskans takes a science-based approach to health communications. We put evidence into action and continually evolve our approaches to respond to new findings. This underscores our commitment to being innovative and data-driven.

## Advancing Insights with the Health Communication Neuromarketing Lab

Our [Health Communication Neuromarketing Lab](#) provides innovative insights, complementing traditional marketing tools with real-time emotional and psycho-physiological data. In 2023, growing interest in the lab led to two studies on traumatic brain injury prevention methods and research on mindfulness for improved driving awareness. The lab's work was also featured in a University of Alaska Anchorage course in the Spring Semester, 2024.

## Improving Safety by Communicating Statewide Seatbelt Data

Safe Alaskans is working to build and promote an accessible repository of its reports and data. Since 2009, we've conducted Alaska's federally-mandated statewide seatbelt observations. With the support of 5-8 observers, we annually observed over 30,000 drivers and passengers across Anchorage, Fairbanks, Kenai/Soldotna, Juneau and the MatSu Valley. This

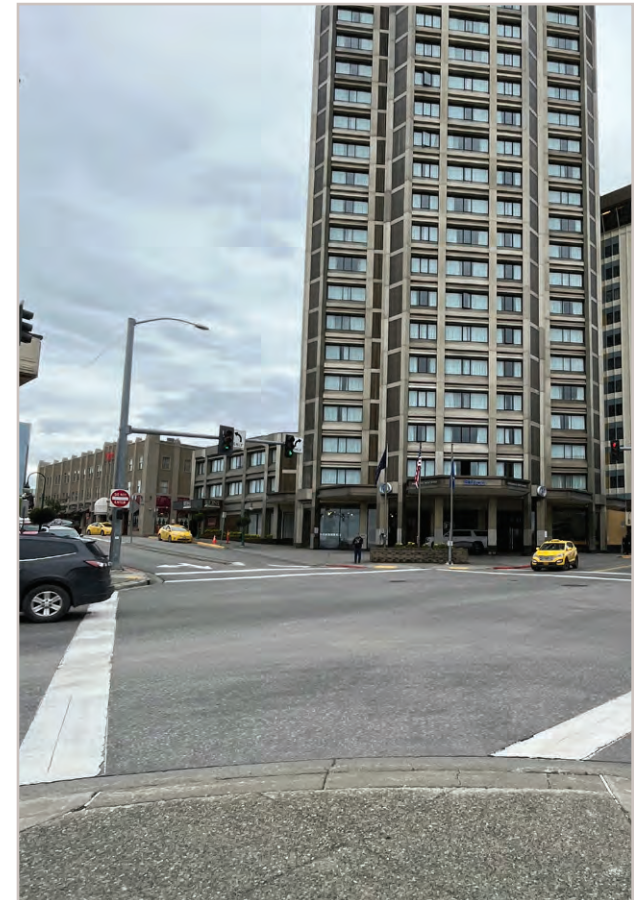
research influences how Federal transportation funds are used in Alaska. Expanded access to reports will support our partners in evidence-driven programs.

## Listening to Alaskans Through the Annual Transportation Safety Attitudinal Survey

We've conducted an annual statewide Transportation Safety Attitudinal Survey since 2014. The survey's insights on Alaskans' perspectives about safe driving and their recall of safety campaigns continue to help Safe Alaskans fine-tune its outreach collaborations.

## Ongoing Communication Enhancements

During 2023, we expanded our social media presence to include [LinkedIn](#) and [Nextdoor](#) to support outreach opportunities. AYDC improved its [weekly newsletter](#) to better serve the needs of its members. Safe Alaskans also began planning efforts for a website redesign to better reflect how we serve Alaskans.



Since 2009, we've conducted Alaska's federally-mandated statewide seatbelt observations. In 2023, observers recorded a record 95.2% of seatbelt use in Alaska.

# Partnerships

Strategic priority: We will establish strategic partnerships to expand our reach and mission driven impact.

Safe Alaskans continues to network and identify partnerships which expand our reach and mission-driven impact.

## Fostering Collaboration and Growth in Youth Development

AYDC monthly meetings offer [members and partners](#) a space to network, discuss, share opportunities, and learn about community youth development initiatives. Spotlighted presenters included Big Brothers Big Sisters Alaska, Center for Safe Alaskans, Alaska Dance Theater, Anchorage Youth Vote, Anchorage Youth Court, and Covenant House Alaska. On average, about 15 participants attended each meeting. In 2024 Anchorage Youth Court, Anchorage Public Library, Abused Women's Aid In Crisis, and Volunteers of America Alaska became financially contributing members of AYDC.

## Sharing Efforts to Strengthen Coalitions

As a member of the Anchorage Cohort, AYDC works collaboratively to serve the Municipality of Anchorage by focusing on three key strategies: strengthening the prevention landscape, influencing policy, and investing in Anchorage youth. AYDC and its partner Volunteers of America Alaska focus on these shared strategic priorities while supporting separate coalitions.

## Planning Participation Leads to New Opportunities for Data Innovation

Safe Alaskans engaged in three collaborations through its participation in the Alaska Statewide Violence and Injury Prevention Plan:

1. Alaska launched the groundbreaking Overcoming Adverse Childhood Experiences with Resilience Survey (OARS), offering unprecedented insights into adult Alaskans' childhood experiences and present quality of life. The survey expands beyond the Youth Risk Behavior Survey and the Behavioral Risk Factor Survey; it provides a comprehensive, longitudinal view of resilience development in Alaska and factors that contribute to resilience. The OARS came about through a partnership and brainstorming session between Center for Safe Alaskans, Alaska Department of Health's Section of Women's Children's and Family Health (AKWCFH). Made possible through multiple funders, including the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority, this project demonstrates a shared commitment to improving Alaskans' long-term wellbeing.
2. Partnerships between Safe Alaskans and AKWCFH initiated two projects funded by the American Public Health Association. The first collaboration seeks to develop an app for medical professional use during pre-natal check-ups; the app assesses the likelihood a baby will experience ACEs, which

supports medical professionals in addressing potential ACEs. This initiative is in a testing phase with hopes of completion in 2025. The second APHA-funded project is to develop a Large Language Model to assist narrative data extractors with the Alaska Violent Death Reporting System (AVDRS). This can support efficiently extracting themes while alleviating staff burden and secondary trauma.

3. A partnership with the Alaska Department of Health Injury Prevention Unit provides funding for Safe Alaskans staff to participate on the SRPF and Transportation Communities of Practices. It is one of the mindfulness course funders. It supports efforts to establish data linkages between crash data and trauma registry data. This provides Safe Alaskans with a conduit to receive funding from other State agencies to support new and innovative projects, including use of the Safe Alaskans Health Communication Neuromarketing Lab.

## Aligning Funding to Further the Reach of Bike and Pedestrian Safety Efforts

Safe Alaskans is funded by the Alaska Highway Safety Office for bicycle and pedestrian safety statewide, and the Municipality of Anchorage on bicycle and pedestrian safety for the Anchorage area. This provides opportunities to share efficiencies between state and local partners, increasing the impact of funds.

## Supporting Partnership Goals Through National Board Service

As a representative on the National Child Passenger Safety Board, Mandi Seethaler has the opportunity to develop partnerships with National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Safe Kids Worldwide, National Safety Council and other stakeholders. Collaborating with these organizations dedicated to injury prevention enhances our local impact by promoting child passenger safety through education, mentorship, engagement, and innovation, aligned with Safe Alaskan values. These partnerships enable us to exchange resources, knowledge, and expertise, leading to enhanced program implementation and innovative approaches. This work also creates local partnership expansion opportunities by developing subject matter expertise to support local injury prevention programs.



Mandi Seethaler enjoying a silly moment with colleagues across the country. Her board service with the National Child Passenger Safety Board supports ongoing collaborations.

# Advocacy

Strategic priority: We will engage in advocacy and public policy work that will promote core purpose driven systemic change.

Our advocacy and policy work comes in many forms, and is largely centered around our partnerships.

## Ensuring Safe Alaskans Priorities Are Represented

Much of Safe Alaskans' influence on policy centers around leadership roles in statewide strategic planning groups. Participation provides us an opportunity to share our subject matter expertise, listen and learn from others, and ensure that Safe Alaskans' priorities are represented in strategic plans.

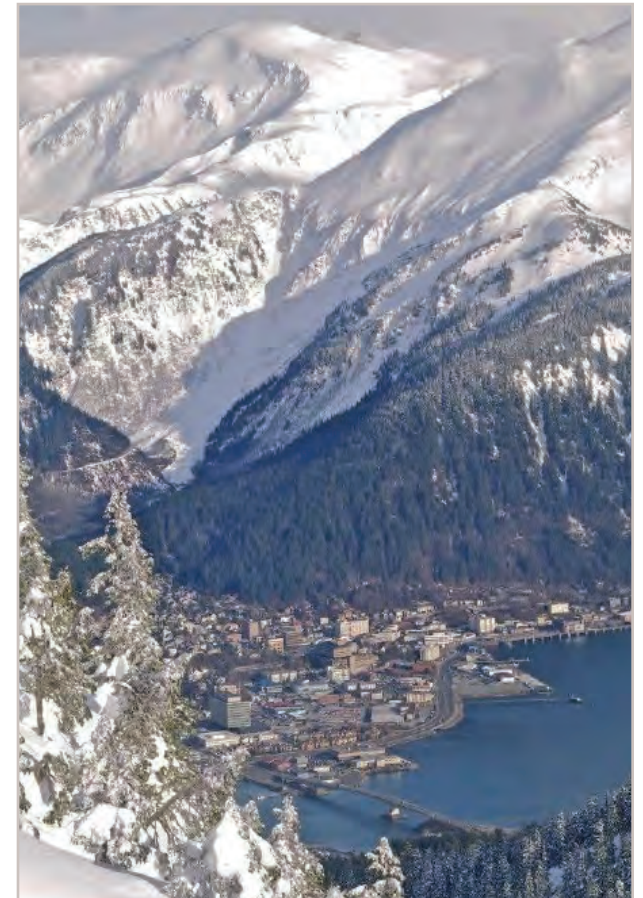
Staff participate on many multidisciplinary teams, including the [Alaska Strategic Highway Safety Plan](#) steering committee, co-chairing the Alaska Statewide Violence and Injury Prevention Partnership, co-chairing the Alaska Shared Risk and Protective Factor Community of Practice and the Alaska Transpiration Community of Practice and a seat on the Healthy Alaskans 2030 Advisory team. Staff also serve in many positions in multiple Child Passenger Safety advocacy groups including Curriculum Co-Chair, Community Engagement Representative and past Chair of the National Child Passenger Safety Board, NHTSA Training Contact for Alaska, Alaska Highway Safety Office Statewide CPS Coordinator, Buckle Up for Life Curriculum Committee Member and Kidz in Motion International Child Passenger Safety Conference Planning Committee Member.

## Lobbying and Support for Alaska Laws

Safe Alaskans sometimes supports and lobbies for specific legislation. While much of our funding is sourced from grants, we maintain unrestricted funds for lobbying, an activity government-originated grants cannot support.

Safe Alaskans actively lobbied for the Alaska House Bill 203, a bi-partisan sponsored safe firearm storage bill. Unsafe firearm storage is a risk factor for intentional and unintentional firearm related injuries and deaths. Firearm deaths are now the leading cause of death for youth in the United States.

AYDC followed and supported Alaska Senate Bill 24, a Youth Mental Health Education Bill. The bill allows, but does not mandate, school districts to incorporate age-appropriate mental health information into their curriculum, as guided by the State Board of Education.





# Programs

Strategic priority: We will expand and deepen our programming and further our mission, including engaging in innovative research. Safe Alaskans is known as an international, statewide and local go-to resource center.

Through a diverse array of programs, we've made strides in areas ranging from youth empowerment and traffic safety to cultural integration and social-emotional learning.

## Growing Equity and Justice Skills

AYDC partnered with OMNI Institute, a non-profit social science consultancy, to facilitate *Setting the Course: A Cohort Journey of Learning for Equity and Justice*, a month-long course designed to help participants build a foundational understanding of justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion. Participants gained skills to engage in anti-racist action and developed personalized growth plans. The course emphasized the practical application of equity and justice, in relation to shared risk and protective factors, positive youth development, and social-emotional learning.

Key achievements: Participants reported increased confidence in defining the Four I's of Oppression (ideological, institutional, interpersonal, internalized) and recognizing how the Four I's of Oppression shape systemic inequality. Six of the seven participants who completed the course agreed or strongly agreed that they felt comfortable defining the Four I's of Oppression, and all participants recognized how the Four I's of Oppression shape systemic inequality. In addition, all participants agreed or strongly agreed that they could apply the concepts learned in the course to their work.

## Improving Health and Safety With Mindfulness Trainings

Safe Alaskans offers free online mindfulness training for Alaskans, collaborating with the State Department of Health Injury Prevention, Alaska Highway Safety Office, and instructor Tara Lampert. Mindfulness, focusing on present experiences without judgment, has protective influences on health concerns including safer driving, substance misuse, violence, and suicide prevention. We're currently evaluating the course's effectiveness in increasing mindfulness and decreasing aggressive driving.

## Supporting Youth-Led Community Projects in Anchorage

AYDC's Youth Matter Grants (YMG) empowered Anchorage youth ages 12-24 through community projects fostering positive relationships and safe environments. This year, we met our goal and successfully awarded \$25,000 to five local groups, including Alaska Theatre of Youth's anti-bullying production of Mean Girls, Jr., Covenant House Alaska's LGBTQ Game Group creating safe spaces, Youth Vote's Civic Education Podcast, Alaska Dance Theatre's creation of a Youth Advisory Team, and Alaska Native Heritage Center's Cultural Workshop for the Unguwat Program.

Key achievements: Participants in YMG experienced supportive adult relationships, with 100% feeling respected and 96% reporting a bully-free environment. The program fostered competence, belonging, and empowerment, with 84% improving in problem-solving skills and increased educational persistence. YMG also had a strong community impact, with 92% of participants feeling their projects made a positive difference, and a significant rise in community respect for youth. These outcomes highlight the importance of continued investment in programs like YMG for sustained youth and community benefits.

## Engaging Teens in Traffic Safety Campaigns

Safe Alaskans partnered with four Anchorage School District high schools to implement peer-to-peer traffic safety media campaigns. Young drivers crafted messages for their peers using morning announcements, videos, and social media posts. Campaigns focused on seat belt use, distracted driving, and winter driving safety, effectively reaching youth through peer-led initiatives.

Key achievements: Over 90 students created and shared messages, reaching thousands throughout their school. Observations showed a 5.45% increase in seatbelt use across the four participating schools.



Safe Alaskans' Child Passenger Safety Technicians at a child passenger and safety education and distribution event for Catholic Social Services' Refugee Assistance and Immigration Services.

### Expanding Car Seat Education and Distribution Statewide

Safe Alaskans' certified Child Passenger Safety Technicians (CPSTs) conducted nearly half of all in-person car seat checks and distributed over 70% of car seats and booster seats statewide. Staff partnered with local organizations to bring car seat education services directly to their stakeholders. Partner organizations included Kids Corp Inc., Tanaina Child Development Center, Cook Inlet Housing Authority and military families at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson (JBER). In addition to education for caregivers, Safe Alaskans collaboratively builds the capacity of CPSTs statewide through technician certification courses.

**Key Achievements:** Between July 2023 and April 2024, Safe Alaskans CPSTs completed 439 car seat checks, distributed 304 car seats and booster seats, supported 13 check-up events and delivered education at 28 community education events. Staff also instructed at three CPST certification trainings.

### Breaking Records in Safety Gear Distribution

We significantly increased distribution of bicyclist and pedestrian safety gear statewide. Conspicuity materials were mailed and distributed at community events, far exceeding previous years' numbers. We provided materials to individuals, families, schools, and organizations serving vulnerable road users. Helmet distributions in Anchorage included proper fitting education at community events and schools.

**Key achievements:** In the fall and winter of 2024, we provided over 30,000 conspicuity items statewide. Based on observations at three Anchorage-based distribution hubs, we observed a 141% increase in use. Staff also provided 315 helmets to bicyclists in Anchorage, including proper fitting education.

### Supporting Older Driver Safety with CarFit Revitalization

Safe Alaskans is rebuilding CarFit services for older drivers post-pandemic. New Safe Alaskans staff and Creighton University occupational therapy students have been trained as CarFit technicians. We've re-engaged partners to promote and host events. In early 2024, we developed a presentation to educate about aging and driving challenges, enhancing awareness and support for older drivers.

**Key achievements:** Safe Alaskans Hosted four CarFit events, serving a total of 42 Alaskans.

### Enhancing Social-Emotional Skills in Youth Organizations

The *Second Order Change professional learning series*, held in-person in Spring 2024, helped youth serving organization staff improve social and emotional competencies. Fifteen participants from seven organizations completed the course, led by a team of experienced facilitators. Participants included

representatives from Cook Inlet Tribal Council, Pacific Community of Alaska, Spirit of Youth, VOA Alaska, Anchorage Public Library, Center for Safe Alaskans, and Abused Women's Aid in Crisis. The series was led by Meg Mielke, Krystal Kompkoff, Emmanuel Portillo, Joel Kiekintveld, and Rebekah Wilcox. This progress moves us closer to our goal of expanding enrollment to 20 participants in 2024.

**Key achievements:** *Second Order Change* resulted in a 49.0% positive shift in participants' perceptions and social and emotional learning (SEL) skills, with the pre-training average across all SEL domains at approximately 3.99 and the post-training average of approximately 4.35 (on a scale of 1-5).



Emmanuel Portillo presents at Second Order Change.

### Expanding Reach of Second Order Change Program

In January 2024, the Second Order Change (SOC) Training of Trainers certified three participants to facilitate the SOC Professional Learning Series. The five-week course, led by Ciara Lowery, resulted in certification for Emmanuel Portillo, Rebekah Wilcox, and Meg Mielke (CITC). This achievement aligns with our Strategic Plan and increases our capacity to expand the program.

## Integrating Alaska Native Culture and Restorative Practices in Education

In 2023-24, our partnership with the Alaska Native Cultural Charter School (ANCCS) focused on enhancing academic, social, and emotional learning through restorative practices. Ricky Robertson provided training, observation, and coaching in this area. Additionally, we supported a two-day Calricaraq Training, emphasizing Alaska Native well-being practices in classrooms. Professional development sessions with Agatha John-Shields centered on equity in education through a Native lens. We furthered cultural integration by supporting over a dozen Alaska Native artists in week-long immersive learning experiences. Regular visits to the school reinforced our commitment to deepening our relationship with school leadership and achieving our goal for the year.

Key achievements: ANCCS Staff reported increased knowledge in stress management, connecting Alaska Native values to their work, and strengthening student relationships. Implementation of new strategies, such as daily morning circles and peace corners, was successful, with 93.3% of staff feeling supported by leadership by the end of the 2022-2023 school year.



AYDC supports restorative practices through its partnership with Alaska Native Cultural Charter School.

# Program Impacts



## Young Driver Safety

**90+** Students engaged in creating/  
sharing safe driving messages

**5.5%** Seatbelt usage  
increase across  
participating schools



## Social-Emotional Training

**7/8** Course completion for  
participants of *Setting the  
Course: A Cohort Journey of  
Learning for Equity and Justice*

**100%**  
Success rate for participants  
applying concepts to their work

## Restorative Practices

Alaska Native Cultural Charter School Staff reported increased knowledge in stress management, connecting Alaska Native values to their work and strengthening student relationships.



## Bike and Pedestrian Safety

**30k** Conspicuity  
items distributed

**141%** Conspicuity  
usage increase  
observed by staff



## Child Passenger Safety

**70%** of Alaska car and booster seats  
distributed through Safe Alaska CPSTs

**439** Seat checks completed

**304** Seats distributed

**28** Community events

**13** Check up events



## Youth Matter Grants

**5** Grants awarded  
\$25,000 supporting  
youth

Of Youth Matter Grant participants ...

**92%** Felt their projects **made a positive difference**

**96%** Reported a **bully-free environment**

**100%** Reported **feeling respected**

# Finance

Strategic priority: Finance: We will build organizational financial resilience.

Safe Alaskans achieved significant milestones and financial growth. We maintained six months of operational reserves ensuring stability and built an innovative fund enabling us to pursue groundbreaking initiatives. Through strategic financial management, we created a staff and board development fund to allow us to invest in the growth and expertise of our team. Marcia secured a new sponsor for the International Safety Media Awards, who generously contributed \$25,000. Safe Alaskans qualified for the Employee Retention Credit (ERC) during the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. We are grateful for new funding from the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority, enabling us to support the initial Overcome Adverse Childhood Experiences through Resilience Survey (OARS). The Municipality of Anchorage and the State of Alaska provided second-year funding to support Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety initiatives. Additionally, the American Public Health Association funded the new AVDRS data extraction project. The increased funding from our three largest contributors, which totaled over \$450,000, is greatly appreciated. Our funders are instrumental in driving our initiatives forward and making a positive impact in our community.

**CENTER FOR SAFE ALASKANS**  
Statement of Financial Position  
September 30, 2023

<u>ASSETS</u>	
CURRENT ASSETS	
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 591,718
Grants and Contracts Receivable	449,522
Supplies Inventory	4,349
Security Deposits	5,705
Prepaid Expenses	14,229
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	<u>1,065,523</u>
Operating Lease Right of Use	<u>6,055</u>
PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT	
Equipment	22,018
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	<u>(22,018)</u>
PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT - NET	<u>-</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$ 1,071,578</u>
<u>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</u>	
CURRENT LIABILITIES	
Accounts Payable	\$ 89,709
Accrued Payroll and Related Liabilities	55,193
Deferred Revenue	<u>187,710</u>
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	<u>332,612</u>
Operating Lease Obligations	<u>6,055</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES	<u>338,667</u>
NET ASSETS	
Without donor restriction	674,942
With donor restriction	<u>57,969</u>
TOTAL NET ASSETS	<u>732,911</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	<u>\$ 1,071,578</u>

**CENTER FOR SAFE ALASKANS**  
Statement of Activities  
Year Ended September 30, 2023

CHANGES IN NET ASSETS WITHOUT DONOR RESTRICTIONS	
Support:	
Grants and Contracts	\$ 1,367,957
Contributions	114,671
Restrictions Satisfied By Payments	<u>49,690</u>
TOTAL SUPPORT	<u>1,532,318</u>
Revenues:	
Interest Income	5,371
Other Income	<u>1,285</u>
TOTAL SUPPORT	<u>6,656</u>
 TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUES	 <u>1,538,974</u>
Expenses:	
Program Services	1,560,410
Management and General	117,579
Fundraising	<u>7,696</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>1,685,685</u>
INCREASE (DECREASE) IN NET ASSETS WITHOUT DONOR RESTRICTION	 <u>(146,711)</u>
NET ASSETS WITH DONOR RESTRICTION	
Grants, Contributions and Contracts	35,380
Restrictions Satisfied By Payments	<u>(49,690)</u>
INCREASE (DECREASE) IN NET ASSETS WITH DONOR RESTRICTION	 <u>(14,310)</u>
INCREASE (DECREASE) IN NET ASSETS	(161,021)
NET ASSETS - beginning of year	<u>893,932</u>
NET ASSETS - end of year	<u>\$ 732,911</u>

# Reflections

## Testimonials

“The practical applications that folks defied for themselves and their commitment to taking their knowledge of othering and belonging into practice.”

— Participant, EP-Setting the Course: A Cohort Journey of Learning for Equity and Justice

“John was very nice and patient”

“Brooklyn is awesome, 100%!”

“Expressing my sincere appreciation for Brooklyn’s help.”

“This is a great resource, thank you for your time” and another found our staff to be “very helpful and knowledgeable”

“Safe Alaskans helped us with both our infant and next stage car seat installation. They were informative, clear, kind and made sure we walked away feeling confident in knowing how to safely install and use our car seats.”

— Caregiver feedback from one-on-one car seat checks included kudos to various staff members

“The volunteers were extremely helpful and showed me how to install a car seat properly, and shared information on when it would be safe to move to face forward position.”

— Caregiver Feedback from Tanaina Child Development Center Car Seat Check-up event:

“Thank you so much for all of your help! Our scholars will be much safer this summer because of your efforts!”

— Dr. Clare Fulp; Principal, Mountain View Elementary, related to delivering helmets to their school:

## Staff Celebrations

**Emmanuel** One notable accomplishment was becoming a Second Order Change Certified facilitator and facilitating sessions of the SOC series in Spring 2024. In addition, we were able to offer *Setting the Course: A Cohort Journey of Learning for Equity and Justice* month-long course focused on developing a foundational understanding of justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion. This aligns with AYDC’s Equity Commitment to “Act Courageously” as prioritized in [AYDC’s Commitments to Liberation](#). Lastly, the AYDC Leadership Team and Safe Alaskans Staff are working to clarify AYDC’s governance and infrastructure to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of our coalition.

**Rebekah** I am thrilled to have completed the Second Order Change Training of Trainers, becoming a certified facilitator, and successfully leading two sessions for the 2024 cohort. This achievement contributes to our increased capacity to expand the training series in the upcoming year. Additionally, I celebrate our accomplishments at the Alaska Native Cultural Charter and the strengthened bond with the staff, reflecting our commitment to meaningful collaboration and growth.

**Sam** I am proud of the videos we produced for the Municipality of Anchorage. Over the last year, we produced three videos that showcased the importance of recognizing pedestrians as people — something we are trying to focus on in our bike and pedestrian safety programs. Making the videos made me feel connected to the organization and our Alaskan community. I am very proud of the work I got to do!

Brooklyn This year, I celebrated a significant personal achievement by becoming a certified Child Passenger Safety Technician. Since certification, I've conducted 78 car seat checks, engaging with diverse caregivers. I've really enjoyed the opportunity to not only ensure child safety but also to interact with the caregivers, learning about their backgrounds and children. It's been fulfilling to help caregivers deepen their understanding of child safety and to offer support in keeping their little ones secure on the road.

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Mandi Experience gained as the Alaska Highway Safety Office Statewide CPS Coordinator and as a representative of the National Child Passenger Safety Board, gave me the opportunity to share my knowledge at various conferences, meetings, and webinars. Some of the events include the Alaska Maternal Child Health and Immunization Conference, the LifeSavers Conference, the Kidz in Motion International Child Passenger Safety Conference, the Alaska Native Medical Center Trauma Meeting, the very first National CPS Instructor Forum, and several National CPS Coordinator Forums.

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Evy This year, I spent time working towards becoming a child passenger safety instructor. This certification will help our program be able to serve our community by offering more child passenger safety technician classes. I have been accepted as an instructor candidate and am scheduled to join the instructor team at a CPST training in June in Fairbanks. I am very excited to continue growing my child passenger safety skills and using them to help support our child passenger safety community.

John I joined the Safe Alaskan's team in October 2023. Since joining the organization, I have become a Child Passenger Safety Technician and supported multiple car seat check-up events and private car seat check appointments. I have also been trained to complete checks through the CarFit program and supported my first event in April 2023. In the winter, I led the design and implementation of our peer-to-peer program which engage local high school students in developing and disseminating traffic safety messaging. I am excited to see how I can continue to grow with Safe Alaskans.

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Regina I joined the team as a Strategic Communications Specialist in May, 2024. I've collaborated with Safe Alaskans numerous times over the years through my work in health communications. I feel great about my decision to join this team, and look forward to contributing to our mission.

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Jennifer Since onboarding at the end of May, I have become a Certified Child Passenger Safety Technician, and CarFit Technician. I've had the opportunity to participate in both a Car Seat and CarFit event during the site visit with our grantors. A project I am proud of completing in my short time here is reorganizing our main supply room. I was able to bring better flow, maximization and functionality to the room for our staff to easily find and pull supplies. I also had the pleasure of working with Emmanuel and Rebekah on the Fair View Back to School event putting together goodie bags for attendees. I am looking forward to growing and learning in my position and working with the whole team to further our mission of injury prevention.