

Economic Stability Task Force - K-12 COVID19 Child Care Assistance

Due to increased costs created by the COVID-19 pandemic, financial support is needed to provide families in Juneau access to RALLY programs. To meet higher standards of health and safety protocols, primarily through increases in staff and new curriculum development RALLY has raised rates from \$999 per month for full time summer care in 2019, to \$1380 in 2020. Part time, school year rates have increased from \$720 per month in 2019 to \$960 in 2020. State and city grant programs do not apply to children over the age of four, creating a barrier to working parents of school age children during the summer months.

The state childcare assistance program reimburses only \$350 for low income families, creating an additional gap in coverage of \$381 per month in COVID-19 costs for the summer RALLY program, and \$240 per month during the school year. Joy Lyon at AEYC estimates that given the already low income status of many families, It is unlikely that parents currently receiving child care assistance will be able to afford this gap.

Additionally, JEDC estimates that 65% of Juneau employees qualify as essential workers. The CARES act provides for childcare assistance for essential workers, and funding for low income families of the essential workforce should cover the entire assistance gap, at \$1,030 per month per full time enrollee June-August 2020, and \$610 per month per part time enrollee September - December 2020.

Proposed CARES Funding Assistance:

- \$390 per month tuition subsidy for low income families eligible for child care assistance through DHSS, Tlingit and Haida, or Office of Children's Services - per month, per full time enrollee, June - August 2020. \$240 per month, per part time enrollee, September - December 2020.
- Proposed tuition assistance will provide for an additional three full time employees in the summer months, and six full time employees during the school year. Additional employees are necessary to perform temperature checks, sanitation practices, drop off and pick up protocols, and maintain smaller group sizes within the new curriculum.
- AEYC will administer grant funds directly to families to cover assistance shortages, families must be enrolled in RALLY and currently receiving child care assistance to be eligible.
- Grant funds should also be made available to families of essential workers attending Montessori Borealis, a school district run program that does not qualify for other city child care assistance programs.

Summer RALLY enrollment is projected to be 32 children in June, 48 children in July, and 48 children in August. Part time fall enrollment is projected to be 120 children with a full-time K-12 school schedule reinstatement, and 60 children if school resumes with an adjusted schedule. AEYC estimates RALLY participation of low income families is 50% of enrollment.

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Tuition Assistance Costs:

	Est. Eligible Enrollees	FT Enrollees	PT Enrollees	Essential Worker	CARES Subsidy
June	16	0	0	16	\$16,739.60
July	24	2	0	22	\$23,162.40
August	24	2	0	22	\$23,162.40
September	60	0	15	45	\$31,050.00
October	60	0	15	45	\$31,050.00
November	60	0	15	45	\$31,050.00
December	60	0	15	45	\$31,050.00
Total Tuition Subsidy					\$187,264.40

*Note: The essential worker family totals include Montessori Borealis, estimated at 6 eligible children per month.

In addition to increased staffing and curriculum, RALLY estimates COVID related expenses for procuring PPE and supplies will total \$25 per full time attendee, per month, and \$12.50 per part time attendee per month.

Supply Increase Costs:

	FT Enrollees	PT Enrollees	PPE Expense
June	40		\$1,000.00
July	56		\$1,400.00
August	56		\$1,400.00
September		128	\$1,600.00
October		128	\$1,600.00
November		128	\$1,600.00
December		128	\$1,600.00
Total COVID Supply Cost			\$10,200.00

*Note: The enrollee totals include Montessori Borealis, estimated at 8 children per month.

K-12 COVID Child Care Assistance Total: \$197,464

AEYC Administration fee \$3,527

Total: \$200,991
