

## **ACCEE FUND GOALS, GUIDING PRINCIPLES, AND APPROACH TO ALLOCATING FUNDING**

Prepared by Implementation Team  
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*The Implementation Team has prepared this document to support the Accountability Board in consideration of its first budget, which will be submitted to the Anchorage Assembly and Mayor during the fall of 2024. The Implementation Team recognizes that there are limited ACCEE Fund dollars and that all investments made by the Accountability Board must be strategic and impactful. After meeting for many months to discuss the ACCEE Fund; hearing from experts in the field; soliciting public feedback and engaging in community conversations; meeting with community partners; and reviewing and evaluating best practices and local, state, and national trends in the sector, the Implementation Team has prepared this set of goals, guiding principles, and recommended approach to utilizing and administering the ACCEE funds. The Implementation Team suggests the Accountability Board employ these foundational recommendations when putting together its proposed budget for the Anchorage Assembly and Mayor. Further, it recommends that the Accountability Board formally adopt clear goals and guiding principles so that the public, as well as the child care and early education community, understand the Accountability Board's underlying goals as well as its limitations. The Implementation Team presents the following for Accountability Board discussion, possible amendment, and adoption.*

### **GOALS**

*Short-term (0-3 years): stabilize the sector*

*Long-term (4 years +): make the sector more sustainable*

*Approach to utilizing funds: balance consistency and reliability with innovation and creativity*

The Anchorage community lacks adequate child care and early education options that are high quality, accessible, and affordable, and supports for child care and early education providers are currently insufficient. As a result, care givers are leaving their jobs and operators are closing their child care and early education businesses, creating challenges for parents, families, employers, and the local economy.

After extensive evaluation, the Implementation Team believes that the primary goal of the Accountability Board, at least initially, should be to **STABILIZE** the sector. The Accountability Board can stabilize and strengthen the sector by *supporting its workers*. Only after the sector is stronger and more stable can it grow and flourish.

After the Accountability Board has directed funding to stabilize the sector, the Implementation Team suggests the Accountability Board begin focusing on actions that will make the sector more **SUSTAINABLE**.

The Accountability Board will need to balance satisfying the many immediate needs of the sector with actions that will create and build a strong, sustainable sector. The Accountability Board will also need to balance the need to provide *consistency and reliability* with the ability to *remain nimble and pursue innovative, creative strategies*.

## GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The Implementation Team presents these guiding principles for consideration. All are important and they are not necessarily listed in order of priority. These principles could assist the Accountability Board in determining which potential funding options would best contribute to the Accountability Board's goals.

- **ADDRESS THE FULL CONTINUUM OF CHILD CARE AND EARLY EDUCATION**  
We believe resources should be invested across the diverse continuum of child care and early education, serving our young Anchorage residents from birth to age 12.
- **MIXED DELIVERY OF CHILD CARE AND EARLY EDUCATION IN ANCHORAGE**  
Anchorage provides early education and child care services in a variety of ways. We will make funding decisions to improve the availability, quality, and affordability of these programs rather than attempt to have a single, uniform replacement system.
- **DATA-DRIVEN DECISIONS WITH MAXIMUM IMPACT**  
We are committed to studying child care and early education on an ongoing basis in Anchorage and to making funding decisions based on good information and data.
- **MAXIMUM USE OF MATCHING FUNDS AND PARTNER RESOURCES**  
We do not have sufficient resources to accomplish all our goals alone. We will actively seek partners and look for matching resources and funding.
- **USE OF EXISTING MUNICIPALLY-OWNED/ASD FACILITIES**  
There are existing Municipal facilities, including Anchorage School District (ASD) facilities, that are under capacity or scheduled to be closed. This presents an opportunity to use already-built space in convenient locations. The Charter directs the Board to prioritize ASD facilities first.

## APPROACH TO FUNDING AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE ACCEE FUND

The approach the Accountability Board takes when making awards will shape whether the ACCEE Fund is accessible, fair, and effective. To that end, the Implementation Team shares the following thoughts for the Accountability Board to consider as it makes funding decisions.

- Applications for and the administration of any grants should be simple.
- Grants should be distributed promptly.
- Operational grants should, when possible, be flexible and empower awardees to decide specifically how to use them.
- Operational grants should generally be made on a multi-year basis to provide some reliability to grantees, but no grantee has a right to perpetual funding.
- Operational grants should predominantly be awarded to employers to distribute to their employees, rather than to individual employees.
- Most grants should support workers and operations, but some could be for capital.
- The Accountability Board should consider balancing diverse grant funding models, including some competitive and some non-competitive grants, as well as providing grant opportunities that vary in size. This diversity helps support both stabilizing and innovative projects, while also supporting sustainability of the Fund.
- The Accountability Board should focus primarily on the needs of the sector. As to how to distribute funding and the mechanism for doing so, the Accountability Board should seek out the advice of experts.
- Up to the charter-allowed amount (10%) should be spent on administration of the Fund, so that it can be administered effectively and efficiently.