



# COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT

**March 2011**

*“Making a difference in the lives and families  
of young children within our communities”*

**PLAY – LAUGH – LEARN – GROW**



## **Acknowledgements**

### ***Report Writer***

Mark Lackey, Executive Director

### ***Survey Design***

#### **CCS Early Learning Programs Team**

Debbie Adams  
Kristine Bayne  
Patrick Cockrell  
Cathy Gruver  
Susan Hale  
Donna Johnson  
Mark Lackey  
Neva Lancaster  
Leann Mason  
Bonnie Monson  
Michelle Schilling  
Dominique Shaw  
Nancy Tremaine  
Marvella Webster  
Joyce Wright

#### **CCS Early Learning Policy Council**

Cristen Kolb  
Jo Hansen  
Ivy Spencer  
Justin Davidson  
Tiffany Moore  
Tina Brown  
Jesse Heath  
Barbara Walker  
Theresa Walton  
Hazel Davidson  
Jamie Whitesell  
Laurie Vandenburg  
Kristine Bollinger  
Jessie Dietz

### ***Data Analysis and Compilation***

Mark Lackey, Executive Director  
Gaylyn Towe, Executive Assistant

## Introduction and Methodology

CCS Early Learning began the process of conducting our full three year Community Needs Assessment in November of 2010. At this time a decision was made to base our community assessment process on those that have been performed in the past. Past assessments have utilized a well researched and validated community assessment tool licensed as “Know Your Community” and developed by the Family Resource Coalition in Chicago, Illinois. We also relied on portions of “Five Steps to Community Assessment” which is a workbook developed by the Academy for Educational Development (AED) – which is a technical assistance provider for American Indian/Alaska Native Head Start Programs

“Know Your Community” outlines three main steps in conducting a community needs assessment. The first step is to develop a **statistical profile of your community**. This can be done by reviewing existing community reports, databases, and information. If gaps in knowledge are discovered additional information is collected to make sure unanswered questions are addressed. We know that in our community there are many resources that help us to set the statistical baseline of hard data about our communities. These various tools and resources will be referenced in this report.

The second step in this process is to **assess community needs** from residents’ perspectives. For the past 5 years we have utilized Survey Monkey to do our customer satisfaction surveys and to collect data and information for our community assessment. We identified specific community populations, providers, and demographics that we wanted to make sure and target with our survey to insure we received a broad community sample. We also wanted to identify community partners that would understand the need and the value of collecting this information and would assist us in the distribution and collection of data.

On November 4, 2010 the CCS Community Survey was released. Groups that received the survey included the following:

- Employees from both school districts that operate in our service area
- All CCS employees
- Community Council members from every community in our service area
- Families enrolled at CCS
- Business partners and chamber of commerce members from all communities in our service area
- Employees of other human services providers in our service area
- Elected officials and government employees at the municipal, borough, and state levels
- CCS Board of Directors – past and present

In addition we encouraged participants to pass the survey on to others in our community that they thought might be interested. One “reward” for taking the survey was our promise to share the results with anyone who wished to see them upon the completion of our

efforts. The complete community survey is attached as Appendix A, and many excerpts will be referenced in this assessment.

We also provided a completely separate survey designed to assess the needs and level of satisfaction of families currently enrolled in our Head Start and Early Head Start programs. The 2011 CCS Family Survey was conducted in February and March of 2011 using a combination of Survey Monkey and paper copies for those families who did not or could not utilize the online version. The family survey report is attached as Appendix B.

These surveys were designed to help us collect information to answer the following categories:

- The demographic make-up of Head Start and Early Head Start eligible children, including number, location, and ethnic and racial composition.
- Other child development programs serving Head Start and Early Head Start eligible children
- The estimated number of children with disabilities
- Data regarding the education, health, nutrition and social service needs of Head Start and Early Head Start eligible children.
- The education, health, nutrition and social service needs of Head Start and Early Head Start eligible children, as defined by their families and community institutions.
- Resources available in the community.

The third step in our community assessment process was to examine the **resources and assets** that are currently available in our community. Because our services are provided in two distinct communities we provide different resource guides that cover services in these specific areas. We have recently partnered with the United Way of Mat-Su to utilize their community resource directory for our families in this area. We still maintain and produce our Eagle River resource guide. Both of these resource directories are included in Appendix C.

Following the collection of data the summarization of community perspectives and analysis of data could begin. We reviewed this information to help us make the following determinations:

- Determination of the program's philosophy and long range and short range program objectives
- Determination of the type of services and program option(s) to be provided
- Determination of the recruitment area of the program
- Determination of the locations of centers and home-based programs
- Determination of the criteria that defines the types of children and families that will be given priority for recruitment and selection

The **summary** of our Community Assessment efforts is the final piece of this document and discusses the significant findings that were documented through this process.

## STATISTICAL PROFILE OF OUR COMMUNITIES

According to data just released from the 2010 Census, “Alaska’s 2010 Census resident population has been determined to be 710,231. This is an increase of 13.3 percent from 2000 to 2010. Alaska has four types of primary divisions that are equivalent to counties in other states: borough, census area, city and borough, and municipality. Among these, the largest county equivalent is Anchorage Municipality, with a population of 291,826. Its population grew by 12.1 percent since 2000. The other county equivalents in the top five include Fairbanks North Star Borough, with a population of 97,581 (increase of 17.8 percent); Matanuska-Susitna Borough, 88,995 (increase of 50.0 percent); Kenai Peninsula Borough, 55,400 (increase of 11.5 percent); and Juneau City and Borough, 31,275 (increase of 1.8 percent).”

CCS Early Learning’s service area straddles the two largest governmental regions in Southcentral Alaska: The Municipality of Anchorage and the Matanuska-Susitna Borough. These two areas together accounted for 73.5% of the total statewide population increase between 2000 and 2010. The organization’s services in Anchorage are confined to the Chugiak-Eagle River area of the northern part of the municipality. In the Matanuska-Susitna Borough, services are currently concentrated in and around the “Core Area,” which includes the cities of Palmer and Wasilla, the Meadow Lakes area just north of Wasilla, and the Knik-Fairview area which is south of Wasilla.

### CHUGIAK-EAGLE RIVER

It is a perennial challenge for all sectors in the community to obtain data specific to this area of Anchorage. For the first time in many years, the Municipality of Anchorage (MOA) compiled and published demographics for its planning area, including some discrete statistics on the Chugiak/Eagle River area. The information is contained within “Anchorage Indicators/Neighborhood Sourcebook,” and is published on the city’s web page at: <http://www.muni.org/Departments/OCPD/Pages/NeighborhoodSourcebook.aspx>

#### ▪ Population

- The Municipality of Anchorage continues to dominate the state. Its population of 291,826 in 2010 accounts for 41.1 percent of the state’s population. This percentage of the statewide population has decreased slightly since 2000 when Anchorage made up 41.5 percent of the state population.
- According to the 2010 Census the population in the portion of the Municipality of Anchorage that we serve is 34,982. This is broken out into the following Census Tracts with a general description:

▪ Census Tract 1.01 (Peters Creek/Eklutna)	5,736
▪ Census Tract 1.02 (Chugiak and Birchwood)	5,259
▪ Census Tract 2.01 (N. Eagle River, West of Glenn Hwy)	4,110
▪ Census Tract 2.02 (N. Eagle River, East of Glenn Hwy)	5,947
▪ Census Tract 2.03 (Eagle River)	10,549
▪ Census Tract 2.04 (Hiland and Eagle River Valley)	3,381

- Eighty-four percent of the population is White; 4 percent is American Indian or Alaskan Native; 2 percent is Asian; 2 percent is Black, 1 percent is other, and 6 percent is 2 or more races.
  - According to the MOA Neighborhood Sourcebook, in 2000, preschoolers accounted for 6.7 percent of all people living within all the Eagle River community council planning areas, and school-aged children accounted for 25 percent.
  - Seventy percent of the population lived as married couples and 5.4 percent lived in single-family female households. Eighty-one percent of people owned and lived in their own home.
- **Employment:** The latest Anchorage Economic Development Corporation economic forecast has information that can be very useful in planning for the upcoming year: [http://www.aedcweb.com/documents/doc\\_download/79-2011-aedc-economic-forecast.html](http://www.aedcweb.com/documents/doc_download/79-2011-aedc-economic-forecast.html) This document states, "Preliminary job numbers for 2010 suggest the Anchorage economy bounced back surprisingly quickly from 2009's losses – the first for the city in 20 years. "The Great Recession" that rocked the national and world economies over the last few years was felt in Anchorage, but not to the degree seen in most of the country. Adding to that good fortune was a quicker than average recovery for the city's economy during the nation's worst recession since the Great Depression. Though recession-related job losses were evident for both Alaska and Anchorage in 2009, they were on a different scale than elsewhere in the U.S. While the nation's job count fell 4.5 percent from 2008 to 2009, Alaska's dropped just 0.3 percent and Anchorage's fell just 0.6 percent."

In this document they forecast that there will be an overall increase of 1,100 jobs in the Anchorage economy during 2011, a net change of +.7 percent. Changes are expected in the following areas:

- Transportation (+300 jobs)
  - Health Care (+300 jobs)
  - Leisure and hospitality (+200 jobs)
  - Retail Trade (+100 jobs)
  - Construction (+100 jobs)
  - Professional and Business Services (+100 jobs)
  - Financial Activities (+100 jobs)
  - Government (-200 jobs)
- **Unemployment:** Anchorage's 2010 unemployment rate (the average monthly rate for the first 11 months of the year) was 6.9 percent, up just slightly from 2009's average rate of 6.6 percent and almost two percentage points above 2007's 5.0 percent rate. The U.S. unemployment rate has risen considerably more over that period, climbing from below 5 percent in 2007 to 9.6 percent in 2010. However, both the U.S. and Anchorage rates have been trending down in recent months. Anchorage also continues to have a much lower unemployment rate than the rest of the state which had a rate of 8 percent during 2010.

- **Self-Employed:** According to the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, there were approximately 36,236 self-employed proprietors in the Anchorage economy in 2005, which was the most recent data available. Self-employed persons are not typically included in the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development published data.
- **Personal Income:** Anchorage residents earned a total of \$13.97 billion in personal income in 2008, according to the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis. Anchorage residents account for almost half of the total statewide personal income of \$30.22 billion. Per capita personal income in Anchorage was \$49,805 in 2008, which is a 5.8 percent increase from the preceding year. This per capita income is ranked as the 26<sup>th</sup> highest in metropolitan areas across the United States.

Another key piece of data that helps us to look at the income levels of residents in our service area is the percentage of students in the public schools that qualify for free or reduced meals. The percentage of students in Chugiak/Eagle River area who received free reduced meals in 2010/2011 was 16 percent compared to 13 percent in 2008. Across the entire Anchorage School District, 39 percent of the student population is eligible for free or reduced meals, compared to 33% in 2008. This further indicates that the portion of the Municipality that we serve is more affluent; however, the entire area has suffered as a result of the recent downturn in the economy.

Free/Reduced School Lunch in Chugiak-Eagle River					
	2008	2010		2008	2010
Eagle River Elementary	31%	35%	Chugiak High School	9%	13%
Gruening Middle School	15%	19%	Mirror Lake Middle School	13%	17%
Eagle River High School	10%	13%	Chugiak Optional Elementary	4%	4%
Fire Lake Elementary	23%	35%	Birchwood ABC Elementary	11%	12%
Homestead Elementary	14%	12%	Alpenglow Elementary	7%	8%
Ravenwood Elementary	8%	6%	Chugiak Elementary	16%	18%

	2008	2010		2008	2010
Chugiak/Eagle River (Total)	13%	16%	Anchorage School District (Total)	33%	39%

- **Housing:** Statistics from the Multiple Listing Services through July of 2010 showed that the average sales price for single-family houses in Anchorage was \$328,655. That's 2.4 percent higher than a year ago, and the first increase after two years of small decreases in the average sales prices. In the 2000 Census there were 100,368 total housing units reported. In the 2009 American Fact Finder update 110,982 housing units were reported with a occupancy rate of 93.4 percent. This is a 10.5 percent increase in the number of units available in Anchorage.

- **Community Trends:** In December of 2006 the Anchorage Assembly adopted the Chugiak Eagle River Comprehensive Plan Update. The original plan was adopted in 1993 and this is the first and most recent update to this document. This area is in many ways, a typical bedroom community. Residents of Chugiak-Eagle River tend to be older, more educated, and have significantly higher incomes than the rest of the Municipality. In 2000 the median household income for Chugiak-Eagle River was \$68,652 compared to the Municipality at \$55,546. The number of impoverished citizens is also significantly less, with only 2.9% living below the poverty line in 2000, versus 7.3% of the overall Municipality. As the Municipality of Anchorage grows, the Eagle River-Chugiak area is expected to continue growing as well. It is expected that the rate of growth will slightly outpace that of the Municipality and by 2025 the area is projected to have a population of 53,695 or 15% of the overall Municipality of Anchorage.
  
- **Other Child Development and Child Care Programs:** The State of Alaska has recently started a limited pilot pre-K program in several areas of our state. However, at this time there are no state funded pre-k programs in operation in our service area. The only programs that are in operation are private child care centers or child care homes. These facilities are classified as either licensed or approved. These designations are only obtained if a center or home wishes to be eligible to receive state child care assistance funds. There are many private homes and relatives that also care for children “underground” where the vast majority of children are safely cared for. However, we have no way of tracking this data because they are not regulated or tracked in any way. The latest data indicates that there are approximately 32 licensed child care providers in the Chugiak and Eagle River area. These providers have the ability to care for 871 children. Our Chugiak Head Start facility accounts for 60 of these. There are also 17 Approved Child Care facilities in this area. Each Approved facility is allowed to care for up to 5 children. This would allow child care for an additional 85 children if each of these facilities were full.

## **MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH**

For the past 21 years, the Mat-Su Borough (MSB) has been the fastest growing community in Alaska. In the nation, it ranked as the 31<sup>st</sup> fastest growing county in 2006. In both square miles and population, Mat-Su is the third largest borough in the state. Nearly the size of West Virginia, the borough’s population is surpassed only by Anchorage and the Fairbanks North Star Borough. Its home to three residents per square mile, compared to 166 in Anchorage. Unlike Anchorage, where most of the large swaths of developable land are gone, Mat-Su still has significant room to grow, which is why it has become home to the lion’s share of the area’s new residents in recent years.

- **Population:** The MSB remains the fastest growing area of the state, as it has been since 1990, with growth of 50 percent from 2000-2010. This compares to growth of 12 percent in Anchorage and 13 percent in the state as a whole during the same time period. There are only three incorporated cities in the Mat-Su Borough; Palmer, Wasilla and Houston – and these three areas only contain 18 percent of the overall Borough population. The area of the Borough with the highest population is

Knik-Fairview with a 2010 population of 14,923. The population in Knik-Fairview has grown by 112% since 2000 and if it was incorporated it would be the fourth largest city in Alaska behind only Anchorage, Fairbanks, and Juneau.

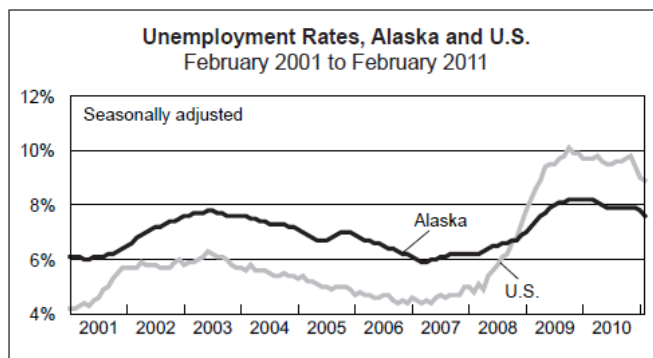
- The population in the Mat-Su was 88,995 as of 2010, is projected to exceed 100,000 in 2016 and 140,000 by 2030. The areas of the borough that have seen the most growth in population since the 2000 census are listed below.

<u>Area</u>	<u>Population</u>	<u>Pop Gain</u>	<u>Percent Gain</u>
Knik-Fairview	14,923	+7,873	+112 percent
Tanaina	8,197	+3,204	+64 percent
Meadow Lakes	7,570	+2,751	+57 percent
Fishhook	4,679	+2,649	+130 percent
Gateway	5,552	+2,600	+88 percent
Wasilla city	7,831	+2,362	+43 percent
Lakes	8,384	+1,658	+25 percent
Palmer city	5,937	+1,404	+31 percent
Big Lake	3,350	+715	+27 percent
Houston	1,912	+710	+59 percent
Butte	3,246	+685	+27 percent

- The median age in the Borough was 34.5 in 2009 which is a bit older than both Anchorage and the rest of the state.
  - In 2009 7.9 percent of the population was under 5 years of age.
  - The Borough tends to be among the least diverse areas of Alaska. Eighty five percent of the Borough population was Caucasian, 5.5 percent were Native American, 3.7 percent were Hispanic, and 3.2 percent were identified as Black, Asian, Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander or other.
- **Schools:** The Mat-Su Borough’s school enrollment numbers coincide with the borough’s surge in population. Unlike statewide school enrollment that peaked in 1999, the borough’s enrollment has continued to grow. The population of 17,079 students enrolled in the Borough as of October 1, 2010 is second in the state – only behind Anchorage. The facilities include 20 elementary schools, five middle schools, six high schools, and four K-12 schools, including a comprehensive home school. Additionally, the district hosts six charter schools, and three alternative education schools which offer a range of specialized programs. Facilities are continually being remodeled, expanded and built to keep up with the growing student population.
  - **Employment:** During the past four decades, the principal source of the borough’s growth has been its proximity to the state’s largest city. This type of economic relationship is not unusual in other parts of the country, but it’s one of a kind in Alaska. What allows this relationship to exist is the fact that most of the Mat-Su Borough’s population lives within 40 to 50 miles of Anchorage by a major highway.
    - Simply put, jobs in Anchorage account for much of the borough’s growth. Average wages for jobs in Mat-Su are more than a quarter lower than they are in Anchorage. The biggest reason for the wage difference is not that

similar jobs pay more in Anchorage, but that Anchorage is home to a much larger number – and percentage – of high wage jobs.

- In 2008, 55 percent of Mat-Su Residents worked locally and 32 percent of worked in Anchorage, These statistics excludes commuters who work for the federal government or the uniformed military, which is a significant portion of the population. It also excludes the self-employed.
  - There are other Mat-Su commuters who have to travel significantly longer distances than the drive to Anchorage. Thirteen percent of the borough’s working population are truly long distance commuters, working on the North Slope or in other areas of the state. After Anchorage, Mat-Su has the second-largest group of resident Alaska North Slope workers. Other borough residents commute to oil platforms in Cook Inlet, fisheries in Bristol Bay, mines in Delta Junction or construction jobs throughout the state.
  - Employment has also grown faster in the Mat-Su Borough than anywhere else in the state. From 916 jobs at statehood in 1959, Mat-Su employment has grown to 37,744 in 2008 (again excluding military, federal and self employed workers).
  - Since 2000, more than three quarters of all wage and salary job growth in the Mat-Su Borough has come from the services sector, which isn’t particularly surprising since those jobs dominate the borough’s labor market. Health care and social assistance, along with retail, has been the largest contributor to this growth. Combined, they represent nearly a third of all jobs in Mat-Su. Leisure and hospitality services (mostly restaurants and hotels) are not far behind in growth.
  - As it has been for many years, the Mat-Su Borough remains the largest agricultural producer in the state.
  - Several very large projects are also impacting employment in the Mat-Su. Among them are the Port MacKenzie port expansion, the Alaska Railroad spur extension (to the Port), and the construction of the state’s largest prison facility, Goose Creek which is under construction and scheduled to open in 2012. There also appears to be an increasing likelihood that industrial coal mining will make a re-appearance in the Mat-Su Borough in the near future.
- **Unemployment:** The borough’s average unemployment rate for 2010 was 9.1 percent, which was a significant increase decrease from 2007’s annual rate of 7.3 percent. Traditionally the MSB unemployment rate has consistently been higher than Anchorage’s unemployment rate, the rate for the state of Alaska, and the rate for the nation as a whole (see 2007 below). However, because the nationwide recession did not impact Alaska as much as it did in the lower 48, the nationwide rate has risen above the other three (see 2009 and 2010 below). The MSB rate continues to be higher than the Anchorage and the Alaska average.



Average Unemployment Rates

	<u>2007</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>2010</u>
Mat-Su Borough	7.3%	8.9%	9.1%
Anchorage	5.0%	6.6%	6.9%
Alaska	6.1%	7.8%	8.0%
United States	4.6%	9.3%	9.6%

- Personal Income:** Wage data clearly reveal the reason so many Mat-Su residents commute. The commuter work force, which makes up 45 percent of the borough's working population, earns 58 percent of the total wages earned by Mat-Su residents. The degree to which this occurs in Mat-Su is unique in Alaska: the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis estimates that more than a third of Mat-Su's \$819 million in personal income comes from sources outside the borough. Every other borough and census area in the state has an income flow in the opposite direction – out rather than in.

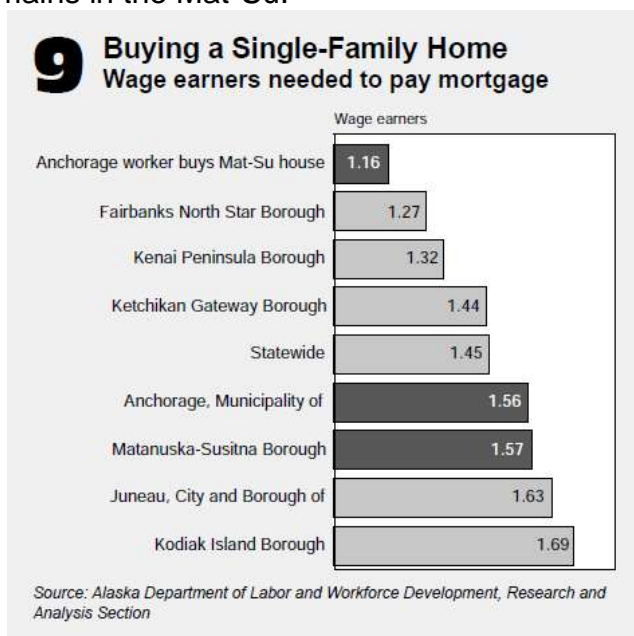
Once again another great indicator of personal income is to examine the percentage of students in the public school system that are eligible for free or reduced meals:

<b>Number of Schools Providing Free/Reduced School Lunches in the Mat-Su Borough</b>		
<b>% of students receiving free and reduced school lunches</b>	<b>Number of Schools 2008</b>	<b>Number of Schools March 2011</b>
0 – 20%	1	4
20 – 29%	6	6
30 – 39%	6	12
40 – 49%	10	10
50 – 59%	7	4
60 – 69%	2	2
70 – 79%	1	2
80 – 89%	1	1
90 – 100%	0	1
<b>Total Avg % of Students Receiving Free/Reduced Meals</b>	<b>37.00%</b>	<b>37.16%</b>

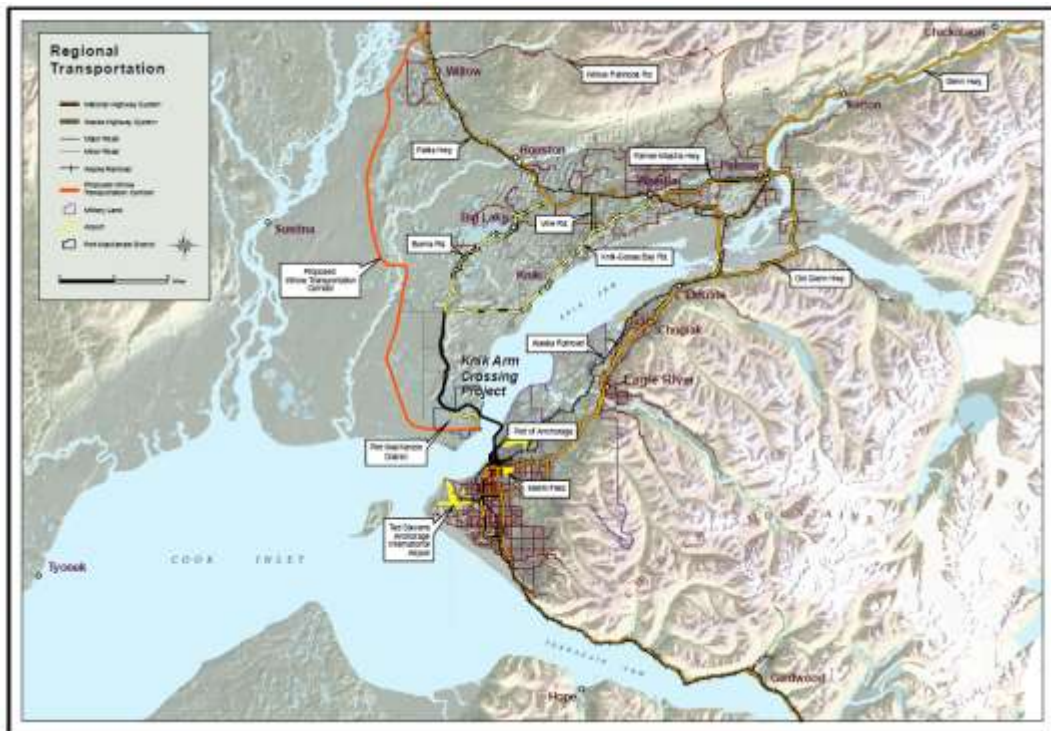
As of March 2011, in the Mat-Su School District, the average percentage of students eligible for free or reduced meals is 37.16 percent. Out of the 42 individual schools 10 reported percentages above 50 percent. The highest percentage of students eligible for free or reduced meals was reported to be 100 percent at BERYOZOVA (a K-12 Russian Immersion School), Trapper Creek Elementary at 84 percent, Burchell High School (an alternative High School) at 73 percent, and Sutton Elementary at 70 percent. It also should be noted that more schools are listed in the 2011 column. Several charter schools have been included as well as a

new elementary school built since 2008. All of the charter schools are in the 0-20% category.

- The median household income (inflation adjusted) for the Mat-Su Borough in 2009 was \$66,052. This can be compared to Anchorage at \$70,151 and the state as a whole at \$64,635.
- **Housing:** A big part of the Mat-Su Borough's appeal is its affordable housing market.
  - The average sales price reported during the fourth quarter of 2010 for an existing single family residence in the Mat-Su Borough was \$233,268. This can be compared to an average sales price of \$323,895 in Anchorage. New construction has an even wider margin. In the Mat-Su the average price for a new single family residence was \$275,342, in Anchorage it was \$434,321. This differential is obviously very enticing to job holders in either Anchorage or Mat-Su, as well as for those who may be working outside the region but want to live near Anchorage.
  - New construction in the Mat-Su also regularly outpaces that in Anchorage, primarily because most of the available land for construction in Anchorage has been utilized while much remains in the Mat-Su.
  - Far more Mat-Su residents live in their own homes as compared to Anchorage – 80 percent in Mat-Su versus 61 percent in Anchorage. This is probably due to several factors including the higher cost of purchasing in Anchorage, the fact that less land is available in Anchorage, and more apartment and rental housing is present and needed in the municipality.
  - The price of renting a place to live is also much different. In order to rent a single family residence in Anchorage the average price would be \$1,535 a month. In Mat-Su it would be \$1,160. An apartment in Anchorage would average \$989, in Mat-Su an apartment would average \$796.
  - It would be an oversimplification, however, to say that inexpensive housing is the only thing that has attracted so many people to the Mat-Su Borough. The lifestyle options available are another contributor. The ability to live on a larger piece of land than would be available in Anchorage, for example, is certainly appealing to many.



- Another attraction is the alternate types of housing that exist in the borough but are rarely available in Anchorage. In 2006, roughly 256 structures – or 18 percent of the new residential building activity recorded in the borough – were categorized as “cabin-like structures” or buildings not required to meet the more stringent zoning and permitting requirements that are typical in incorporated urbanized areas such as Anchorage. Many of these buildings are recreational properties but many others are primary residences for people who want a different lifestyle than would be possible in Anchorage.
- **Community Trends:** Assuming that the Anchorage and statewide economies continue to expand, the Mat-Su Borough is unlikely to relinquish its role as an economic standout. According to Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development population projections, the Mat-Su Borough could become the second-most populous area in the state sometime in the next 5 years, and population projections estimate that the borough’s population could reach 136,459 in 2029. A number of known projects will be important to both the near- and long-term economic future of the borough:
  - *State Prison:* The largest of these is the current construction of a Goose Creek Correctional Center at Point MacKenzie. This will be a new, \$240 million, 1,536 bed medium-security correctional center for long-term male felony offenders. The new facility will be constructed on a 330-acre tract, and will include 430,000 SF of buildings on a 135-acre cleared compound. Construction is expected to bring 600 to 700 jobs and operation will require approximately 350 long term correctional center jobs in the Borough. The project is currently 84% complete, however recent concerns about the cost of operation have raised concerns among state legislators.
  - *Knik Arm Bridge:* A more speculative endeavor that could have major long-term economic consequences is the construction of the Knik Arm Bridge – a



bridge that would directly connect Anchorage and the Mat-Su Borough. The concept of a direct transportation route via a causeway or link-span bridge between Anchorage and Point MacKenzie has been discussed for over 50 years. The Knik Arm Bridge and Toll Authority, (KABATA) created by the State of Alaska in 2003, published the final Environmental Impact Statement in 2008. KABATA's goal is to construct a cost-affordable, vehicular toll bridge of about 2.7 miles across Knik Arm to join the Port of Anchorage area and Port MacKenzie area, as well as 19 miles of road to support the bridge's accessibility. The purpose of this project is to build a bridge to fulfill the following needs:

- An efficient link between the operations and infrastructure of the two ports;
  - An alternate north-south emergency response and disaster evacuation route;
  - Transportation infrastructure for existing and projected population and economic growth; and
  - Implementing the Alaska legislative mandate.
- *Port MacKenzie Rail Extension:* The new rail link is expected to bring significant economic benefit to Alaska through new jobs, economic diversification and state revenues. The rail project is expected to create some 3,000 construction and construction related jobs, according to a study by the Institute of Social and Economic Research. The shorter rail distance to tidewater provided by the project could stimulate valuable new development in the Interior due to lower transportation costs. For example, if the Alaska Gas Pipeline project gets underway, shipping the pipe and heavy materials through Port MacKenzie could save \$100 million. The new rail link could also supply most of the heavy materials for the construction of the proposed Susitna Dam.
- *Natural Gas Pipeline:* Two design projects are currently underway to explore the possibility of building a Natural Gas Pipeline to connect reserves on the North Slope of Alaska to markets in Canada and the lower 48. The State of Alaska passed the Alaska Gasline Inducement Act (AGIA) in 2008 that authorized the state to award a license to TransCanada to permit, develop, and build the 1,715 mile pipeline. ExxonMobil, who is one of the three major producers of gas on the North Slope has since agreed to work together with TransCanada. The other two producers, Conoco Phillips and BP, have joined together to form Denali which is working on a similar project. If and when a project is started the construction of a pipeline would have a major impact on the economics of the entire state.
- **Other Child Development and Child Care Programs:** The State of Alaska has implemented a pilot pre-K program over the past two years. No pilot pre-K sites are currently located in our service area. The only programs that are in operation are private child care centers or child care homes. These facilities are classified as either licensed or approved. These designations are only obtained if a center or home wishes to be eligible to receive state child care assistance funds. There are many private homes and relatives that also care for children "underground" where

the vast majority of children are safely cared for. However, we have no way of tracking this data because they are not regulated or tracked in any way. The latest data indicates that there are approximately 62 licensed child care providers in the Mat-Su Borough. These providers have the ability to care for 1,757 children. Our Head Start facilities account for 252 of these. There are also 77 Approved Child Care facilities in this area. Each Approved facility is allowed to care for up to 5 children. This would allow child care for an additional 385 children if each of these facilities were full.

- **Health, Nutrition, Mental Health, and Dental Needs of Alaskan Children:**  
Various data has been collected regarding the overall health status of children in Alaska. It is very difficult to find data for pre-school age children as they typically are not as easily accessible as school age children. However, the data below is either taken from the preschool age group or is applicable across all ranges of childhood.

#### Oral Health

Dental caries, or tooth decay, is the most prevalent chronic disease of childhood. Among children, oral disease and oral pain have been associated with speech problems, difficulty eating, sleep problems, poor school performance and reduced self esteem.

- Thirteen percent of mothers of 3-year olds say they've been told their child had tooth decay or cavities.
- The current recommendation for the first dental visit is at eruption of the first tooth or no later than age 1. Five percent of mothers surveyed in CUBS followed this recommendation. Fifty-five percent of the surveyed moms report their child had not yet been seen by a dentist.
- Many large population areas (including our service area) do not have municipal water supplies – thus fluoridated water is not available.  
*Source: Alaska CUBS 2008*
- An oral health study screening of Alaska Native dental clinic users during 1999 indicated that Alaska Native children experienced 3 to 4 times the amount of dental decay as their national counterparts.
- Additionally severe early childhood caries was found in 59.7% of 2-4 year old Alaska Native children screened during the project.
- Sixty-five percent of Alaska third graders who participated in an open mouth assessment by dental professionals in 2004-2005 had caries experience (treated/restored and untreated tooth decay) and 28% had untreated caries.
- Medicaid/Denali KidCare is the dental coverage source for many of the children and adolescents with special health care needs. Only about 1 in 3 children enrolled in Medicaid/Denali KidCare receive an annual dental service. Furthermore, many dentists are not accepting new Medicaid clients in their practices and the state has only 14 pediatric dental specialists. Compounding the problem, the Alaska dental labor force is aging: during Fiscal Year 2002 more than 25% of active, licensed dentists were age 55 years and older and 39% were age 45-54 years.

- Children in families with low incomes have 5 times more untreated decay than children in higher income families  
*Source Women's Children's & Family Health Title V Needs Assessment: Special Series Fact Sheets April 2005*

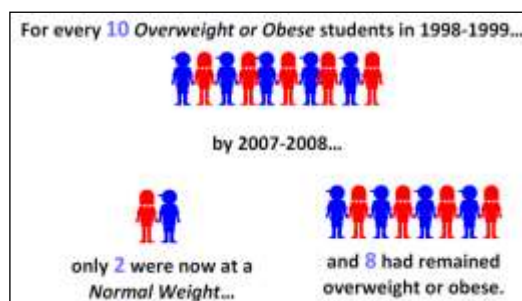
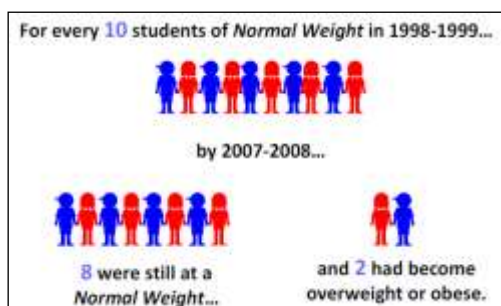
### Overweight and Obesity Levels

In March of 2011 a multi-year study was released by the Alaska Division of Public Health. The report was titled, "Prevalence of Overweight and Obesity among Matanuska-Susitna Borough School District Students, 2003-2010." During this time period the study analyzed routinely collected height and weight measurements for students in grades K, 1, 3, 5, and 7. Some of the findings from this report include:

- At the end of the 7-year time period in 2009-2010, 2% of students were underweight, 71% were at a healthy weight, 14% were overweight, and 12% were obese.
- Of students entering kindergarten or first grade in 2009-2010, 22% were overweight or obese.
- The trend in weight status among MSBSD students over the past 7 years is positive. Over that time period, the percentage of students who were above a healthy weight (BMI >85<sup>th</sup> percentile) decreased from 32% in 2003-2004 to 26% in 2009-2010, representing a 19% decline in the percent of students above a healthy weight.

In February of 2009 a similar study was conducted in the Anchorage School District. Some of the findings from this report include:

- At the end of the ten-year time period in 2007-2008, 2% of students were underweight, 62% were at a normal weight, 18% were overweight, and 18% were obese.
- Of students entering kindergarten or first grade in the 2007-2008 academic year, 32% were overweight or obese (combined).
- A total of 926 students had valid height and weight data in both the 1998-1999 and 2007-2008 school years. Tracking the BMI's of this cohort of students allows for a finer examination of changes in weight status in both directions, which is depicted in the two figures below. Due to the higher proportion of students in 1998-1999 being of normal weight (71%), the net changes result in an additional 9% of students being overweight or obese (combined) at the end of the 10 years. Overall, obesity prevalence nearly doubled, from 12% in 1998-1999 to 22% in 2007-2008 among this subset of students.



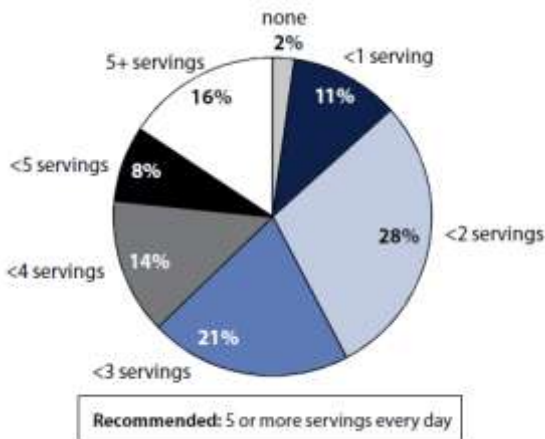
- The trend in Anchorage School District student weight status over the past 10 years has moved in the wrong direction. Over that time period, the percentage of students who were at a normal weight decreased significantly, from 68% in 1998-1999 to 62% in 2007-2008. Looking more closely, it appears that much of this reduction was due to an increase in obesity, and that this increase may have reached a plateau.

The fact that a high percentage of students are overweight or obese when they enter school in both of these studies indicates that prevention efforts cannot wait until children enter the school system.

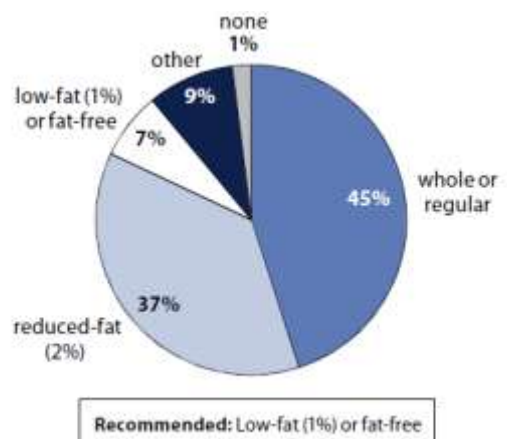
**Nutrition**

- In general children in Alaska of all ages eat fewer fruits and vegetables and drink less milk than the national average. In turn the national averages are much lower than what health care professionals say should be occurring. Part of the reason for this is that the selection of fruits and vegetables in Alaska are limited and many are only seasonally available – and therefore are quite expensive. We also are limited in the types and quantities of fruits and vegetables that we can produce locally. The charts below show several nutritional statistics for Alaskan youth.

**Number of Servings of Fruits and Vegetables Consumed Daily Among High School Youth (Alaska YRBS, 2007)**



**Usual Type of Milk Consumed Among Two Year-Olds (Alaska CUBS, 2006)**



Indicator	Alaska 2003	Nation 2003	Healthy People 2010 Goal
Percentage of high school student's grades 9-12 who consume at least 5 daily servings of fruits and vegetables	16.1%	22.0%	30%
Percentage of high school students that consume $\geq 3$ glasses of milk per day	11.9%	17.1%	---

Source Women's Children's & Family Health Title V Needs Assessment: Special Series Fact Sheets April 2005

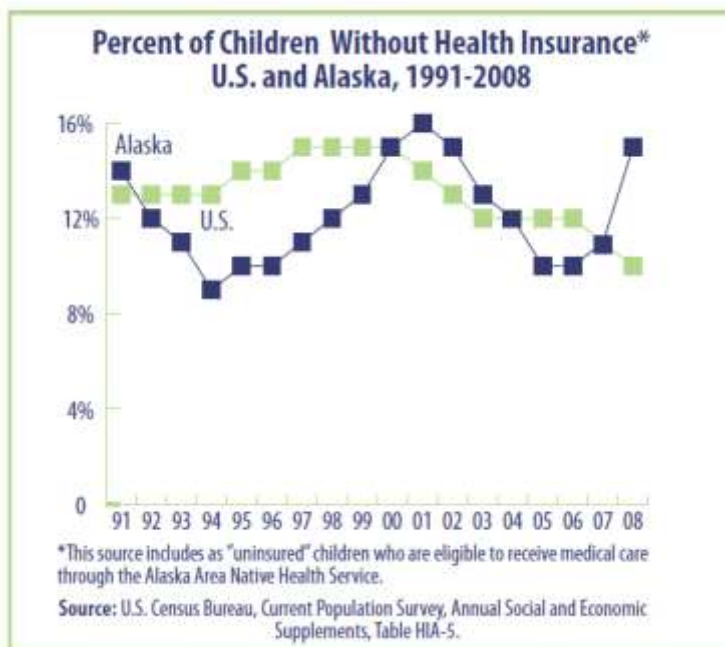
### Mental Health

- In Alaska, an unpublished analysis of Medicaid billing claims from 1998-2002 found that each year approximately 10% (5,700) of the Medicaid-eligible children ages 0-14 years had billing claims for mental disorders, including 1.2% (100) of infants less than one year of age, 5.6% (945) of children 1-4 years of age, 11% (2,045) of children 5-9 years of age, and 16% (2,609) of children 10-14 years of age.

Source *Women's Children's & Family Health Title V Needs Assessment: Special Series Fact Sheets April 2005*

### Insurance

- Generally speaking Alaskan children tend to be insured at about the same levels as children nationwide. The major differences however are found in the ways that children either receive their healthcare or the sources that they receive their insurance benefits. Alaskan children are much less likely to receive medical care through private health insurance and more likely to receive care from other sources.



Source *KidsCount Alaska 2010*

### **Health-Care Coverage for Children (17 and Under), Alaska and U.S., 2008**

	Private Insurance	Medicaid	Medicare	Military	None
<b>Alaska</b>	63%	22%	0.5%	16%	12%
<b>U.S.</b>	64%	30%	0.8%	3%	10%

Note: Totals add to more than 100% because some people have more than one type of coverage.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey

Source *KidsCount Alaska 2010*

- **Prevalence of Disabilities in Alaskan Children**

The most recent prevalence study for the State of Alaska was done in December of 2004. This study looked at the numbers and percentages of children with disabilities being served at that time. From those numbers they were able to estimate what the rates and prevalence of child disability in various communities would be. It should be noted that this study was for Part C children, which

encompasses ages 0-3. There has not been a recent study that shows this same data for the age range we work with. However, we believe that the percentages from this study would be very similar to that of our target population.

**Index:** The index is computed by dividing the percentage of children served (Child Count divided by total population) for each community against the summary percentage of the selected variables. The highest index value is selected as the universal index and is applied to the summed variables for each community. For the indexed community with the highest value, the result when multiplied by the population should yield the same as the percentage of children currently in service.

Area	Summary %	12/1/2003 Child Count	Index	Estimated Prevalence % (Universal Summary Index x the Summary Percentage)
Anchorage	34.7%	2.6%	.0744	4.60%
Matanuska Susitna	41.0%	1.6%	.0386	5.50%
State of Alaska	39.9%	2.3%	.0572	5.30%

Source: State of Alaska Prevalence Study 12/04

The estimate then from this data is that approximately 4.6% of the children in Anchorage, ages 0 – 3, and 5.5% of children in the Mat-Su would qualify to receive Part C services. The eligibility criteria for Part C are:

- Children who have a diagnosed medical or physical condition
- Children experiencing developmental delays
- Children at-risk of experiencing a substantial delay

If we apply those percentages to our estimate of how many children live in the municipality of Anchorage and in the Mat-Su Borough (see below) we come up with approximately 391 children in Mat-Su and 1,047 children in Anchorage for a total of 1,438. This would be an estimate of how many children under the age of 5 would be expected to meet at least one of the criteria listed above.

Identifying specific types of disabilities is very difficult due to the fact that many children cross over into multiple categories and many times the cause of the disability cannot be identified. Based on conversations with local providers it appears that just under half of the disabilities children are treated for in our area are speech related. Approximately forty percent are treated for global developmental or early childhood developmental delays. These may be due to premature birth, fetal drug or alcohol exposure, neglect, other health impairments, or due to unknown causes. Children are also treated for Autism, Down syndrome, hearing impairments, vision impairments, orthopedic impairments, and neurological impairments.

- **Eligible Un-Served Children**

This statistic for the Matanuska-Susitna Borough is based on a combination of data from the 2010 Census and the 2009 American Community Survey. We use the following formula for calculating the number of eligible Head Start children:

1. Number of children under 5 multiplied by the poverty rate of families with children under 5:  
 $7,116 \times 15.5\% = 1,067$
2. Number of children under 5 in poverty divided by number of age groups:  
 $1,067 \div 5 = 213$
3. Number eligible per age group times number of age groups served by each program:  

Early Head Start $213 \times 3 = 640$	Head Start $213 \times 2 = 426$
---------------------------------------	---------------------------------
4. Actual children currently served by program:  

Early Head Start = 49	Head Start = 210
-----------------------	------------------
5. Percentage of eligible population served:  

Early Head Start = 8%	Head Start = 49%
-----------------------	------------------

These statistics show that CCS is currently funded to serve 210 Head Start children in the Matanuska-Susitna Borough, which is approximately 49% of the eligible (based on income) population. When the same calculations are applied to Early Head Start we find that we are able to provide services to 49 children which is approximately 8% of the eligible (based on income) population. These estimates are very conservative because we are allowed to enroll families that are over income up to 10% of our slots. We also are allowed to enroll children from families in the 100% - 130% of poverty as income eligible if we can demonstrate that the under 100% of poverty population is being served. These children and the over income children are not taken into account in our formula above.

One must be careful, however, to differentiate between eligible and available. Children may be eligible, but the service might not be available for a variety of reasons, the most obvious being geographic distance and availability of transportation. In the case of small communities where there are some eligible children, there may not be enough eligible and available children for a Head Start classroom or full program.

Since the rule of thumb is that the service area is saturated when Head Start is serving approximately 85% of the total number of *eligible and available children*, we can deduce that our current Head Start and Early Head Start services fall far short of the actual need in the Mat-Su Borough. Our current services are provided in the population centers of the borough. As the population in this core area has more than doubled over the past 20 years – the number of children we serve has not.

The equivalent data for Chugiak-Eagle River is not yet broken down by Anchorage by Census Designated Place (CDP). We do, however, know that Chugiak-Eagle

River is a more affluent area than Anchorage, as a whole. If we apply the same formula to Anchorage as for Mat-Su, we get the following result:

1. Number of children under 5 multiplied by the poverty rate of families with children under 5:  
 $22,762 \times 9.6\% = 2,185$
2. Number of children under 5 in poverty divided by number of age groups:  
 $2,185 \div 5 = 437$
3. Number eligible per age group times number of age groups served by each program:  

Early Head Start $437 \times 3 = 1311$	Head Start $437 \times 2 = 874$
--	---------------------------------
4. Actual children currently served by programs in the Municipality:  

Early Head Start = 35	Head Start = 630
-----------------------	------------------
5. Percentage of eligible population served by programs in the Municipality:  

Early Head Start = 3%	Head Start = 72%
-----------------------	------------------

The funded enrollment in 2011 for children served in Anchorage was calculated as follows:

	Head Start	Early Head Start
CCS Early Learning (Chugiak/ER)	50	11
Kids' Corps, Inc. (Region X)	361	16
Cook Inlet Native Head Start (AI/AN)	219	8
Total	630	35

For Head Start it appears that the three grantees are serving approximately 72 percent of the eligible (based on income) population in Anchorage. For Early Head Start only 3 percent of the eligible (based on income) population is being served. Again these estimates are very conservative for the reasons listed above.

- **Under Served Communities**

We are defining *under-served* communities as those where CCS Head Start services are currently available but we are not serving all income-eligible children. We can only assume that the demand for our services will increase as the population continues to increase. The table on the next page compares the number of families on Alaska Temporary Assistance in areas that we serve to the number of children that we serve in these same areas.

<b>Current CCS Services</b>	<b>Communities Served</b>	<b># of families on ATAP (FY 10 Avg)</b>	<b>child slots divided by # of ATAP families*</b>	<b>Determination</b>
Wasilla Head Start 100 children	Wasilla	389	44%	Under served
Wasilla Early Head Start 27 children				
Meadow Lakes Head Start 60 children	Wasilla			
	Big Lake	36		
Meadow Lakes Early Head Start 11 children	Houston	22		
Palmer Head Start 50 children	Palmer	159	38%	Under served
Palmer Early Head Start 11 children				
Chugiak Head Start 50 children	Chugiak	23	107%	Adequate level of services
Chugiak Early Head Start 11 children	Eagle River	34		

Data on ATAP Families provided by the Division of Public Assistance

\* This calculation is used for comparison purposes only to help determine the need in various areas. In reality each ATAP family will have multiple children and a portion of the currently enrolled Head Start children will not be part of an ATAP family. Therefore this calculation is not an actual look at the level of need in these areas. Rather, it is just a way to compare the level of need against where and how much services we provide.

The following table shows the number of three and four year olds on the income-eligible wait list at each of our four centers as of February, 2011. We know that our waiting list is not a truly accurate way of determining the community need. Many families choose not to put themselves on the waiting list after discovering how large it is. We also do not have all eligible families in our current communities inquiring about our services. However, the waiting list does give us an accurate idea of how

many additional children are available and interested in receiving Head Start services.

Children on wait list	Chugiak		Meadow Lakes		Palmer		Wasilla		Entire Agency	
	3yr	4yr	3yr	4yr	3yr	4yr	3yr	4yr	3yr	4yr
	5	7	23	0	9	3	43	23	24	9

• **Un-served Communities**

We are defining *un-served* communities as those where there is no Head Start program, but where residents have expressed a desire for these services or where there might be enough eligible children to open a Head Start program. Communities we have looked at in the past include Sutton, Willow, Trapper Creek, and Talkeetna.

	Families w/related children under 5 in Poverty (2000 Census)*	Percentage Population Increase 2000-2010	Percentage of Students receiving Free or Reduced Lunch (3/11)
Sutton**	0.0% (0)	34%	70%
Talkeetna	24.2% (15)	13%	43%
Trapper Creek	25% (5)	14%	84%
Willow	50% (38)	27%	57%

\*2010 Census data with this level of detail has not yet been released.

\*\*The US Census 2000 reports 17.4% of families in poverty (12) with children under 18 years in Sutton but 0% for this category.

Community	Families on ATAP (FY 10 Average)
Sutton	7
Talkeetna/Trapper Creek	9
Willow	16

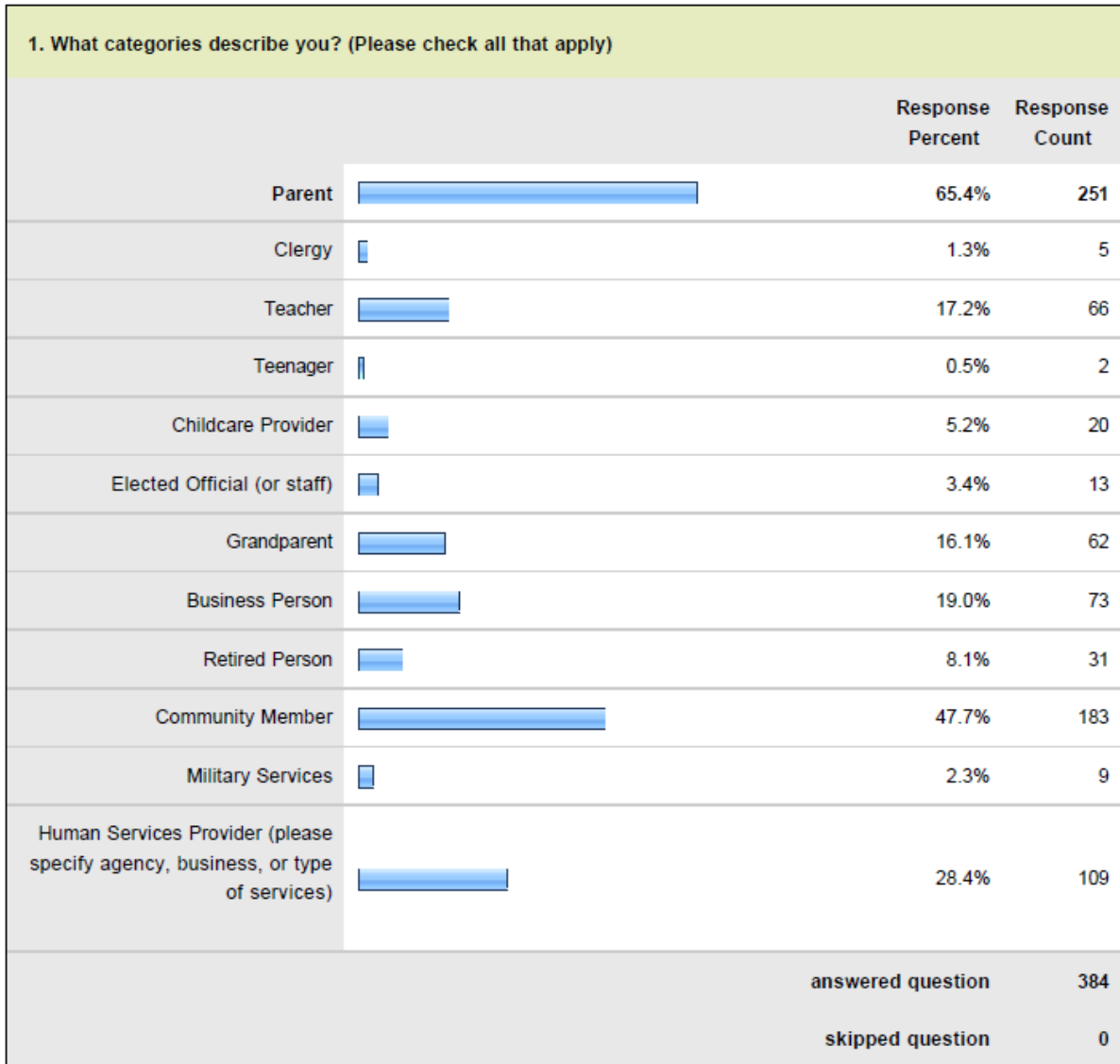
The data above appears to indicate that there are certainly a number of children who would be eligible for Head Start or Early Head Start services in each of these areas. Whether all of these children/families would indeed be interested in services and able to enroll and attend is unknown.

## ASSESSMENT OF COMMUNITY NEEDS

CCS utilized an online survey instrument to collect responses to our community survey. We distributed this survey through local businesses, chambers of commerce, staff members, community councils, and to families enrolled in our program. We had a grand total of 384 individuals respond.

The greatest percentage of respondents identified themselves as “parents” at 65 percent. This was followed by “community member” at 48 percent and “Human Services Provider” at 28 percent. Each person taking the survey could choose multiple categories so some duplication in this question was expected. (See Figure 1)

**Figure 1**

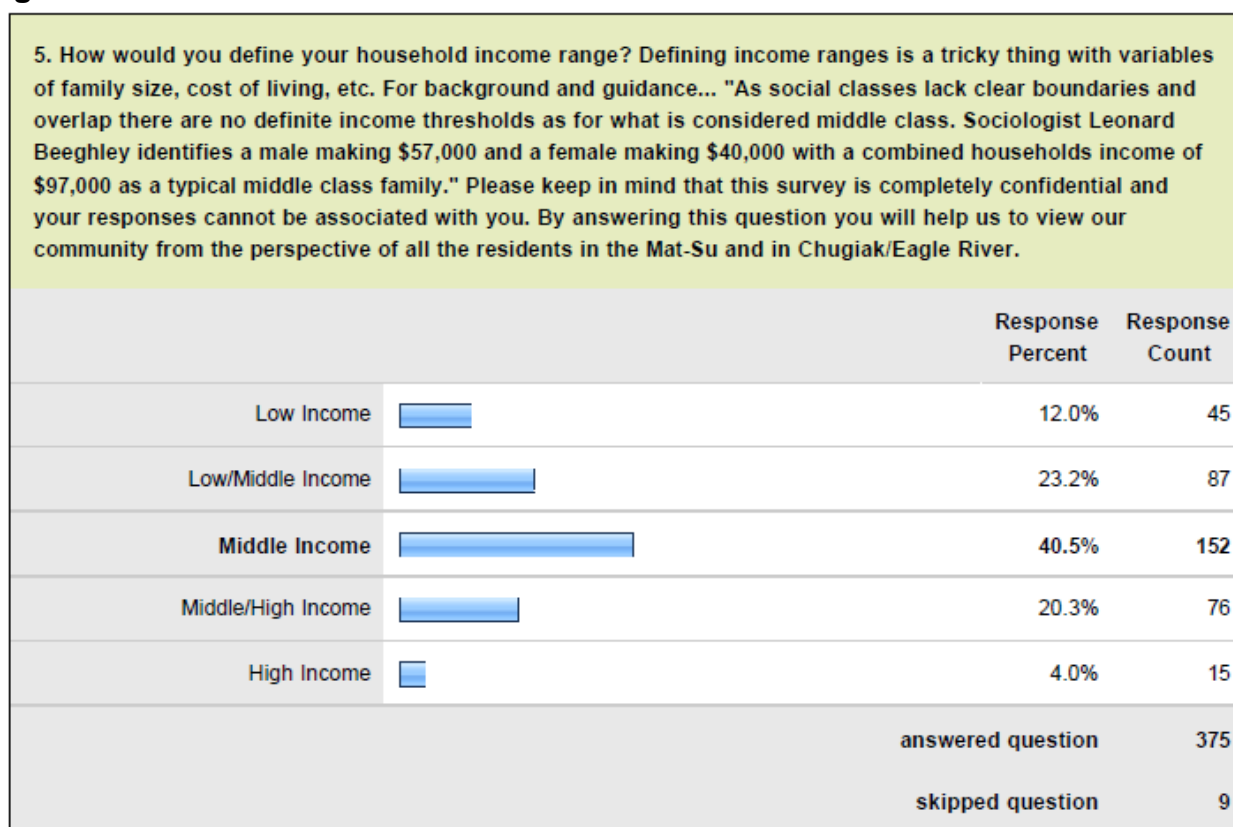


We received responses from every census area in our service area (larger than the state of West Virginia) except for two, which were Chickaloon and the Montana Creek/Y areas.

The greatest number of responses naturally came from the areas with a higher percentage of the population. Wasilla had the highest response rate, followed by Palmer, Big Lake/Meadow Lakes, and Chugiak/Eagle River.

Survey respondents were asked to place themselves in an income range – their responses are below in figure 2. The responses were slightly weighted towards Low Income. This might be due to our own parents/families being a major source of this distribution, but it also could be a natural reflection of our local area. In any case, we did have the ability, and indeed did look at, how responses varied between specific groups of respondents. Our primary reason for this comparison is that the vast majority of our agency services are provided to this lower income group and we wanted to make sure we looked at our community from their perspective.

**Figure 2**



We also asked respondents that identified themselves as a “parent” what the current ages of their children were – and how many children they had. The reported age of children was widely distributed with responses from N/A (46) and 0-2 (42) all the way to 25 and over (112). In response to, “how many children do you have” 34 percent choose 2 children. This was almost double the response of any other category – the next most popular answer was 3 children at 34%. We also had 12 percent of respondents answer each of these two questions with N/A. Both of these questions began with “If you are a parent...” and a good number of individuals skipped these questions which might also be an indication that they had no children.

At this point in our survey we began to ask questions about the community. Our first question is below in Figure 3 and shows the 5 community characteristics that were rated as being the best or “strongest” using the rating scale.

**Figure 3 (Strongest Characteristics)**

6. Please rate the following characteristics of your community:								
	Very Strong	Strong	Average	Weak	Very Weak	I'm Not Sure	Rating Average	Response Count
Outdoor Recreation	25.3% (89)	<b>42.3%</b> <b>(149)</b>	22.7% (80)	7.4% (26)	1.7% (6)	0.6% (2)	2.17	352
Environment	12.6% (44)	35.3% (123)	<b>42.5%</b> <b>(148)</b>	5.5% (19)	1.7% (6)	2.3% (8)	2.47	348
Support of Friends and Neighbors	13.3% (47)	35.3% (125)	<b>37.6%</b> <b>(133)</b>	9.3% (33)	3.1% (11)	1.4% (5)	2.53	354
Religious Involvement	12.9% (45)	28.0% (98)	<b>38.9%</b> <b>(136)</b>	8.0% (28)	4.6% (16)	7.7% (27)	2.60	350
School Involvement	8.3% (29)	28.2% (99)	<b>47.3%</b> <b>(166)</b>	9.1% (32)	2.3% (8)	4.8% (17)	2.67	351
Same Question (Strongest Characteristics - Low/Middle Income Responses Only)								
Outdoor Recreation	25.9% (21)	<b>40.7%</b> <b>(33)</b>	23.5% (19)	8.6% (7)	1.2% (1)	0.0% (0)	2.19	81
Environment	9.9% (8)	35.8% (29)	<b>48.1%</b> <b>(39)</b>	3.7% (3)	0.0% (0)	2.5% (2)	2.47	81
Religious Involvement	11.3% (9)	35.0% (28)	<b>36.3%</b> <b>(29)</b>	6.3% (5)	5.0% (4)	6.3% (5)	2.56	80
Support of Friends and Neighbors	13.6% (11)	<b>33.3%</b> <b>(27)</b>	<b>33.3%</b> <b>(27)</b>	12.3% (10)	4.9% (4)	2.5% (2)	2.61	81
Family Support	13.8% (11)	31.3% (25)	<b>35.0%</b> <b>(28)</b>	16.3% (13)	2.5% (2)	1.3% (1)	2.62	80

Clearly, a majority of the individuals taking the survey believed that outdoor recreation was one aspect of our community that they liked the best. This was followed by a closely related answer, “environment.” The next three answers all were about supportive friends, neighbors, churches and schools. These items seem to communicate that most individuals feel that they live in an area where the schools and the community partner and work together to support families.

It is interesting to note that when this question was filtered to just look at the answers received from our Low/Middle Income respondents the order of the answers changed. Religious Involvement and Support of Friends and Neighbors swapped rankings and Family Support showed up as the fifth item. School Involvement was no longer ranked in the top five; in fact it dropped into a tie for seventh with “Health,” with a rating of 2.71. While we don’t know the specific reasons for these differences it would appear that low/middle income respondents feel that school involvement is more of an average community characteristic rather than a strong characteristic as their higher income respondents rate it.

Figure 4 below shows the lowest rated items from the same question. These “weakest” community characteristics were transportation, entertainment opportunities, employment opportunities, indoor recreation activities, and child care. When filtered to look at just the lower income responses the ranking remained the same. These choices reinforce some facts related to this area. The first fact is that our communities are separated by great distances and transportation is a challenge for many individuals and families. Public transportation infrastructure is slowly being built but it still does not meet the needs of most individuals that could benefit from having it. Also reflected in these responses is the fact that many families have one or more individuals that commute into Anchorage or to other locations in the state for employment, and that well paying local employment is often difficult to find.

The population in our service area also has grown quite rapidly over the past 20 years and there is a widely held view that most entertainment and indoor recreation opportunities are still only to be found by driving into Anchorage. It is also worth noting that respondents do not believe that child care is available, or if it is - they do not feel it is among the best attributes in their community. This opinion is a very commonly expressed view in the local community – and in fact across most of our state.

**Figure 4 (Weakest Characteristics)**

6. Please rate the following characteristics of your community:								
	Very Strong	Strong	Average	Weak	Very Weak	I'm Not Sure	Rating Average	Response Count
Transportation	2.6% (9)	7.7% (27)	27.1% (95)	35.1% (123)	26.0% (91)	1.4% (5)	3.75	350
Entertainment Opportunities	2.3% (8)	9.4% (33)	28.4% (100)	43.2% (152)	15.3% (54)	1.4% (5)	3.61	352
Employment Opportunities	1.4% (5)	9.9% (35)	38.6% (136)	34.7% (122)	13.4% (47)	2.0% (7)	3.50	352
Indoor Recreation Activities	3.1% (11)	14.5% (51)	31.0% (109)	34.7% (122)	14.8% (52)	2.0% (7)	3.44	352
Childcare	3.4% (12)	14.9% (52)	41.5% (145)	18.3% (64)	8.3% (29)	13.5% (47)	3.15	349

The next question in the survey asked, “In which of the following areas do families in your community face the greatest challenge?” Figure 5 shows the responses that most individuals selected as being the greatest challenges. Those respondents that answered, “I’m not sure” were not weighted at all and didn’t factor into the rating average.

**Figure 5 (Greatest Family Challenges)**

7. In which of the following areas do families in your community face the greatest challenge?							
	This is not a challenge	This is a low challenge	This is an average challenge	This is a big challenge	This is a huge challenge	I'm Not Sure	Rating Average
Substance Abuse (Alcohol/Drugs)	2.9% (10)	3.2% (11)	11.8% (41)	33.2% (115)	<b>39.6%</b> (137)	9.2% (32)	4.14
Supervised Teen Activities	1.7% (6)	2.9% (10)	15.8% (55)	<b>35.5%</b> (124)	32.7% (114)	11.5% (40)	4.07
Affordable Medical Care	0.9% (3)	3.7% (13)	28.5% (100)	28.2% (99)	<b>32.5%</b> (114)	6.3% (22)	3.94
Transportation	3.2% (11)	4.6% (16)	24.1% (84)	<b>34.2%</b> (119)	29.3% (102)	4.6% (16)	3.86
Affordable Activities for Children	1.4% (5)	4.6% (16)	29.4% (103)	<b>35.4%</b> (124)	24.0% (84)	5.1% (18)	3.80
Child Abuse or Neglect	2.3% (8)	4.9% (17)	24.1% (84)	<b>30.7%</b> (107)	23.9% (83)	14.1% (49)	3.80

The areas listed above were rated as the greatest challenges for families in our communities by all survey respondents. Many of these issues have received community attention before in various surveys and assessments. Substance Abuse, Affordable Medical Care, and Transportation challenges were the top three issues in community assessments conducted by the Mat-Su Agency Partnership in 2002 and in 2005.

Likewise, the family challenges listed above have regularly been listed in the previous CCS Early Learning community assessments. In our 2008 assessment the top three reported challenges were identical to this year. The fourth ranked challenge in 2008 was Affordable Quality Childcare and the fifth ranked family challenge was Child Abuse. In our current survey Affordable Quality Childcare (rating of 3.75) fell to the eighth spot behind the issues listed above and Tobacco Use (rating of 3.76).

When our responses were filtered to just include those who identified themselves as Low/Middle Income we found interesting changes which are demonstrated in Figure 6 below. The largest difference was the lower ranking given to Substance Abuse. It dropped to third overall and the rating went from 4.14 (overall population) to 3.96 (just Low/Middle Income). Affordable Housing also climbed into the top 5 ranking when just

looking at the responses of the lower income group. This area was rated at 3.65 in the overall survey but at 3.78 for those identifying themselves as Low/Middle Income.

**Figure 6 (Greatest Family Challenges – Low/Middle Income Responses Only)**

7. In which of the following areas do families in your community face the greatest challenge?							
	This is not a challenge	This is a low challenge	This is an average challenge	This is a big challenge	This is a huge challenge	I'm Not Sure	Rating Average
Supervised Teen Activities	2.5% (2)	5.0% (4)	17.5% (14)	22.5% (18)	<b>37.5% (30)</b>	15.0% (12)	4.03
Affordable Medical Care	0.0% (0)	2.5% (2)	32.5% (26)	25.0% (20)	<b>33.8% (27)</b>	6.3% (5)	3.96
Substance Abuse (Alcohol/Drugs)	5.1% (4)	2.5% (2)	16.5% (13)	31.6% (25)	<b>32.9% (26)</b>	11.4% (9)	3.96
Affordable Housing	2.5% (2)	8.9% (7)	22.8% (18)	<b>30.4% (24)</b>	27.8% (22)	7.6% (6)	3.78
Transportation	5.0% (4)	5.0% (4)	20.0% (16)	<b>38.8% (31)</b>	23.8% (19)	7.5% (6)	3.77
Child Abuse or Neglect	2.5% (2)	8.9% (7)	20.3% (16)	<b>35.4% (28)</b>	20.3% (16)	12.7% (10)	3.71

The three items listed in Figure 7 below were those that were lowest rated family challenges from all respondents. It is interesting to note that by a very wide margin safety does not appear to be something that most respondents saw to be a challenge for families. These rankings were identical across income groups.

**Figure 7 (Lowest Rated Family Challenges)**

7. In which of the following areas do families in your community face the greatest challenge?							
	This is not a challenge	This is a low challenge	This is an average challenge	This is a big challenge	This is a huge challenge	I'm Not Sure	Rating Average
Safety	5.2% (18)	14.4% (50)	<b>54.2% (188)</b>	16.4% (57)	4.9% (17)	4.9% (17)	3.02
Literacy	5.2% (18)	7.8% (27)	<b>45.4% (158)</b>	20.1% (70)	6.9% (24)	14.7% (51)	3.19
Consistent Work Schedules	3.2% (11)	9.5% (33)	<b>37.5% (130)</b>	25.6% (89)	8.4% (29)	15.9% (55)	3.32

Our next question asked those taking the survey to rate how adequate services in the community were. Figure 8 below shows the services that respondents rated the highest and also those that were rated as being poor or not available in our community. These responses were largely consistent across income groups and also from the perspective of those respondents who identified themselves as, “Human Service Providers.”

**Figure 8 (Community Services That Are Best)**

8. Please indicate how adequate the following services are in your community.							
	Excellent	Good	Average	Poor	Not Available	I'm Not Sure	Rating Average
Community and Church Organizations	13.1% (43)	37.8% (124)	<b>38.1%</b> (125)	4.9% (16)	0.3% (1)	5.8% (19)	2.38
Public Schools	7.0% (23)	30.9% (102)	<b>49.4%</b> (163)	8.5% (28)	1.8% (6)	2.4% (8)	2.66
Emergency Assistance	5.7% (19)	30.7% (102)	<b>38.9%</b> (129)	13.6% (45)	1.2% (4)	9.9% (33)	2.71
Dental Services	6.3% (21)	24.8% (82)	<b>41.7%</b> (138)	16.0% (53)	5.4% (18)	5.7% (19)	2.89
<b>(Community Services That Are Worst Or Are Not Available)</b>							
Access to Transportation	0.9% (3)	5.1% (17)	18.4% (61)	<b>58.3%</b> (193)	11.5% (38)	5.7% (19)	3.79
Legal Aid	0.3% (1)	3.0% (10)	28.7% (95)	<b>30.8%</b> (102)	10.0% (33)	27.2% (90)	3.65
Substance Abuse Treatment	0.9% (3)	4.8% (16)	25.4% (84)	<b>38.1%</b> (126)	7.6% (25)	23.3% (77)	3.61
Youth Clubs	0.6% (2)	6.1% (20)	30.0% (99)	<b>40.0%</b> (132)	8.8% (29)	14.5% (48)	3.59

The next question in the survey asked what perceived barriers were present that prevented families from receiving the services that they needed. On this question we compared the responses of those providing the services (Human Service Providers) to the responses from Low/Middle income respondents. Two pieces of data should be looked at in comparing responses from these two groups. The first is how they are ranked in order, the second is the difference in the rating, or the “amount” of barrier they each perceive that each item is. Transportation is the most obvious difference in both ranking and rating.

**Figure 9 (Human Service Provider Respondents)**

9. What do you consider to be the major barriers that prevent families from receiving the services they need?							
	Not a barrier	Somewhat of a barrier	May be a barrier	A barrier	Major barrier	I'm Not Sure	Rating Average
Transportation is not available	1.0% (1)	5.1% (5)	16.3% (16)	24.5% (24)	<b>48.0%</b> (47)	5.1% (5)	4.19
Waiting lists are too long	2.1% (2)	5.2% (5)	21.6% (21)	25.8% (25)	<b>32.0%</b> (31)	13.4% (13)	3.93
Families are not aware of existing services	2.1% (2)	9.4% (9)	<b>33.3%</b> (32)	29.2% (28)	20.8% (20)	5.2% (5)	3.60
Insufficient federal, state, or local funding for needed services	6.2% (6)	16.5% (16)	22.7% (22)	22.7% (22)	<b>26.8%</b> (26)	5.2% (5)	3.50
Agencies are too far away from people's homes	3.1% (3)	18.4% (18)	<b>29.6%</b> (29)	24.5% (24)	20.4% (20)	4.1% (4)	3.43
Rules and eligibility exclude people who need services	6.3% (6)	16.7% (16)	22.9% (22)	<b>25.0%</b> (24)	16.7% (16)	12.5% (12)	3.33
<b>(Same Question – Low/Middle Income Respondents Only)</b>							
Waiting lists are too long	6.7% (5)	4.0% (3)	22.7% (17)	16.0% (12)	<b>34.7%</b> (26)	16.0% (12)	3.81
Families are not aware of existing services	4.1% (3)	8.2% (6)	24.7% (18)	26.0% (19)	<b>27.4%</b> (20)	9.6% (7)	3.71
Rules and eligibility exclude people who need services	8.2% (6)	12.3% (9)	13.7% (10)	20.5% (15)	<b>30.1%</b> (22)	15.1% (11)	3.61
Transportation is not available	12.0% (9)	10.7% (8)	14.7% (11)	22.7% (17)	<b>32.0%</b> (24)	8.0% (6)	3.57
Insufficient federal, state, or local funding for needed services	12.2% (9)	13.5% (10)	20.3% (15)	17.6% (13)	<b>27.0%</b> (20)	9.5% (7)	3.37
Agencies are too far away from people's homes	10.8% (8)	17.6% (13)	20.3% (15)	<b>21.6%</b> (16)	<b>21.6%</b> (16)	8.1% (6)	3.28

Transportation is also seen as the greatest barrier among all survey respondents – as well as just those who identified themselves as Human Service Providers (above). However,

Low/Middle Income respondents have a different perspective. They report that the major barriers include waiting lists, awareness of services, and narrow eligibility guidelines. They rate transportation as the fourth major barrier and they give it a significantly lower rating (.62 less). The same comparison was done in Figure 10 below for the issues that are least seen as barriers. While many of the individual items below are the same (and remain in the “least” list) the rating assigned in the same area is sometimes quite different.

**Figure 10 (Least Perceived Barriers – Human Service Provider Respondents Only)**

9. What do you consider to be the major barriers that prevent families from receiving the services they need?							
	Not a barrier	Somewhat of a barrier	May be a barrier	A barrier	Major barrier	I'm Not Sure	Rating Average
Agency staff do not speak consumers' language	25.5% (25)	16.3% (16)	35.7% (35)	10.2% (10)	5.1% (5)	7.1% (7)	2.49
Agency staff appear rude or are not sensitive to consumer needs	24.7% (24)	14.4% (14)	28.9% (28)	11.3% (11)	7.2% (7)	13.4% (13)	2.56
Agencies are not open at convenient times	24.5% (24)	15.3% (15)	28.6% (28)	15.3% (15)	6.1% (6)	10.2% (10)	2.59
Agency staff do not seek or listen to consumer input about improving services	17.3% (17)	19.4% (19)	28.6% (28)	15.3% (15)	3.1% (3)	16.3% (16)	2.61
Agencies do not provide clear information about the services available	13.4% (13)	12.4% (12)	38.1% (37)	17.5% (17)	12.4% (12)	6.2% (6)	3.03
<b>(Least Perceived Barriers – Low/Middle Income Respondents Only)</b>							
Agency staff do not speak consumers' language	31.1% (23)	13.5% (10)	25.7% (19)	10.8% (8)	2.7% (2)	16.2% (12)	2.29
Agencies are not open at convenient times	30.1% (22)	11.0% (8)	26.0% (19)	9.6% (7)	11.0% (8)	12.3% (9)	2.55
Agency staff appear rude or are not sensitive to consumer needs	18.1% (13)	13.9% (10)	19.4% (14)	20.8% (15)	11.1% (8)	16.7% (12)	2.92
Agency staff do not seek or listen to consumer input about improving services	17.6% (13)	13.5% (10)	21.6% (16)	13.5% (10)	16.2% (12)	17.6% (13)	2.97
Childcare is not available	12.2% (9)	13.5% (10)	25.7% (19)	20.3% (15)	16.2% (12)	12.2% (9)	3.17

The next three questions asked the respondent about their own family needs, family goals, and what community resources were necessary to help meet these goals. Figure 11 outlines the areas that were most frequently cited for all respondents – and then those items most often cited by the Low/Middle Income respondents. The questions dealing with family goals and community resources were answered in the respondent's own words so we have tried to group these responses together under similar and related categories.

**Figure 11 (All Respondents)**

<b>Please identify the top four needs in your own family.</b>	<b>What are your family's goals for the future</b>	<b>What community support, resources, or conditions are needed to help meet your family goals</b>
1. No Present Needs	1. Be debt free and obtain financial independence. Be able to retire and maintain current standard of living	1. Local year-round employment. More professional, higher wage opportunities.
2. Family Time	2. Be happy, productive, and involved in our families and community	2. Support for public schools, college opportunity, and financial aid.
3. Family Activities	3. Education, want children to be college graduates, want high school students prepared for college	3. Community recreation facilities, public gym, affordable recreation activities, children's activities, etc
4. Local Employment	4. Improve housing: buy, upgrade, repair, add on	4. Affordable medical and dental services. Health and dental insurance
5. Health/Dental Insurance	5. Be healthy, improve health and wellness	5. Affordable housing, energy assistance, assistance for first time home buyers

**(Same Question – Low/Middle Income Respondents Only)**

<b>Please identify the top four needs in your own family.</b>	<b>What are your family's goals for the future</b>	<b>What community support, resources, or conditions are needed to help meet your family goals</b>
1. Reliable Transportation	1. Improve housing: buy, upgrade, repair, add on	1. Support for public schools, college opportunity, and financial aid.
2. Local Employment	2. Education, want children to be college graduates, want high school students prepared for college	2. Community recreation facilities, public gym, affordable recreation activities, children's activities, etc
3. Family Activities Family Time (tie)	3. Be debt free and obtain financial independence. Be able to retire and maintain current standard of living	3. Local year-round employment. More professional, higher wage opportunities.
4. Health/Dental Insurance	4. Be happy, productive, and involved in our families and community	4. Affordable housing, energy assistance, assistance for first time home buyers
5. Consistent Employment	5. Recreation, entertainment, sports, travel	5. Affordable medical and dental services. Health and dental insurance

The final question in our community survey asked respondents to identify what factors were most important to them in choosing a child care center or a school facility for their children. The top three answers had a rating average that clearly stood out from the rest of the responses. They are shown in Figure 12 below.

**Figure 12 (Most Important Aspects)**

13. What aspects are (or were) most important to you in choosing a quality child care or school facility for your children?				
	Most Important	Very Important	Important	Rating Average
Curriculum and activities	<b>60.7% (142)</b>	32.1% (75)	7.3% (17)	1.47
Friendliness of staff	<b>59.6% (133)</b>	30.9% (69)	9.4% (21)	1.50
Staff qualifications	<b>59.2% (135)</b>	28.9% (66)	11.8% (27)	1.53
Location (how close to where you live or work)	<b>43.8% (98)</b>	35.3% (79)	21.0% (47)	1.77
Schedule (Summer Activities, Flexible Hours, Etc)	<b>42.4% (84)</b>	34.8% (69)	22.7% (45)	1.80
<b>(Same Question – Least Important Aspects)</b>				
Child transportation	19.7% (35)	28.7% (51)	<b>51.7% (92)</b>	2.32
Cost for services	29.8% (62)	<b>39.9% (83)</b>	30.3% (63)	2.00
Opportunities for parent participation	30.8% (62)	<b>44.3% (89)</b>	24.9% (50)	1.94
On going staff training	35.0% (69)	<b>43.1% (85)</b>	21.8% (43)	1.87
Environment (elements like trees, playgrounds, facilities, etc)	37.3% (76)	<b>44.6% (91)</b>	18.1% (37)	1.81

## **SUMMARY OF FINDINGS**

### **The demographic make-up of Head Start eligible children, including number, location, and ethnic and racial composition.**

The estimated total number of Head Start and Early Head Start eligible children in the Mat-Su Valley is 1,066. CCS is currently funded to serve 259 children in the Matanuska-Susitna Borough. Our funded enrollment equates to only 24 percent of the estimated number of eligible children. The majority of these children are located in the core area where we are currently providing services. A smaller number of Head Start eligible children are located in the outlying areas. The ethnic and racial composition of families in the Mat-Su Borough is overwhelmingly Caucasian with an estimated 85 percent categorized in this way.

In the Chugiak/Eagle River area these numbers are harder to break out as this area and its statistics are included within the Municipality of Anchorage. The estimated total number of Head Start and Early Head Start eligible children in the Municipality is 2,185. The funded enrollment of the three grantees in this area is 665. This equates to 30 percent of the estimated number of eligible children. The majority of unserved children are located in Anchorage where the population is concentrated and where poverty tends to be more common. Our service area is located within a bedroom community which tends to be more affluent. While Anchorage as a whole tends to be very diverse – the specific part of the Municipality that we serve is much less so. The ethnic and racial composition of this area is also predominately Caucasian, with 84 percent of individuals falling into this category.

### **Other child development programs serving Head Start eligible children**

The State of Alaska recently funded a pilot pre-K program in several parts of the state. One of these pilot programs does operate in Anchorage but not in our specific service area. The only other programs that are in operation are school district programs designed to meet the needs of children with special needs and private child care centers or child care homes. These facilities are classified as either licensed or approved. These designations are only obtained if a center or home wishes to be eligible to receive state child care assistance funds. There are many private homes and relatives that also care for children “underground” where the vast majority of children are safely cared for. However, we have no way of tracking this data because they are not regulated or tracked in any way. The latest data indicates that there are approximately 62 licensed child care providers in the Mat-Su Borough. These providers have the ability to care for 1,757 children. Our Head Start facilities account for 262 of these. There are also 77 Approved Child Care facilities in this area. Each Approved facility is allowed to care for up to 5 children. This would allow child care for an additional 385 children if each of these facilities were full.

In Chugiak and Eagle River the latest data indicates that there are approximately 32 licensed child care providers. These providers have the ability to care for 871 children. Our Chugiak Head Start facility accounts for 60 of these. There are also 17 Approved

Child Care facilities in this area. This would allow child care for an additional 85 children if each of these facilities were full.

A current list of licensed and approved child care programs in our service area is attached as Appendix D.

### **The estimated number of children with disabilities**

The most recent State of Alaska Disability prevalence study estimates that approximately 1,047 children in Anchorage and 391 children in the Mat-Su Borough, age 0-5, will be diagnosed with disabilities.

Identifying specific types of disabilities is very difficult due to the fact that many children cross over into multiple categories and many times the cause of the disability cannot be identified. Based on conversations with local providers it appears that just under half of the disabilities children are treated for in our area are speech related. Approximately forty percent are treated for global developmental or early childhood developmental delays. These may be due to premature birth, fetal drug or alcohol exposure, neglect, other health impairments, or due to unknown causes. Children are also treated for Autism, Down syndrome, hearing impairments, vision impairments, orthopedic impairments, and neurological impairments.

### **Data regarding the education, health, nutrition and social service needs of Head Start eligible children.**

Our community wide survey indicated several areas that clearly were seen as high priority needs in our community. The top five areas that respondents indicated were challenges for families in our community were:

- Substance Abuse (Alcohol/Drugs)
- Supervised Teen Activities
- Affordable Medical Care
- Transportation
- Affordable Activities for Children  *tied with*  Child Abuse/Neglect

In addition the following data was documented in our community assessment:

- Children in families with low incomes have 5 times more untreated decay than children in higher income families
- Sixty-five percent of Alaska third graders who participated in an open mouth assessment by dental professionals in 2004-2005 had caries experience (treated/restored and untreated tooth decay) and 28% had untreated caries.
- Of Mat-Su students entering kindergarten or first grade in 2009-2010, 22% were overweight or obese.
- Of Anchorage students entering kindergarten or first grade in the 2007-2008 academic year, 32% were overweight or obese (combined).
- In general children in Alaska of all ages eat fewer fruits and vegetables and drink less milk than the national average.

**The education, health, nutrition and social service needs of Head Start eligible children, as defined by their families and community institutions.**

When we examine the question, “In which of the following areas do families in your community face the greatest challenge,” using just lower income responses we see different priorities listed. The Low Income respondents rated the following areas as their top five:

1. Supervised Teen Activities
2. Substance Abuse (Alcohol/Drugs)
3. Affordable Activities for Children
4. Affordable Medical Care
5. Employment tied with Mental Health

Looking at just the Low/Middle Income respondents in the above question, we find very similar responses to the ones the community as a whole reported. The top five responses from Low/Middle Income respondents were:

1. Supervised Teen Activities
2. Affordable Medical Care tied with Substance Abuse (Alcohol and Drugs)
3. Affordable Housing
4. Transportation
5. Child Abuse/Neglect

Looking at just the responses from those who identified themselves as “Human Service Providers” in the above question, we find very similar responses to the ones the community as a whole reported. The top five responses from these respondents were:

1. Substance Abuse (Alcohol and Drugs)
2. Supervised Teen Activities
3. Affordable Medical Care
4. Transportation
5. Affordable Activities for Children tied with Mental Health

Responses across all groups were very consistent about the areas that they thought were best about the community. This question indicates community strengths, but by looking at the answers that were not chosen we can also determine areas that there is a perceived gap in our community. The least chosen answers by far were:

1. Transportation
2. Entertainment Opportunities
3. Employment Opportunities
4. Indoor Recreation Activities

**Resources available in the community.**

We have updated both of our community resource directories and included these as Appendix C. All staff members have these documents available to use when working with families, and each of our enrolled families has been provided a copy. We also provide them to other community agencies when requested or when we see the need.

Another project to assist in this area was first organized by CCS in 2007 and has been done annually ever since. We initiated a community agency fair that brought many service providers together for a morning to set up tables that showed what services they provided. This effort was intended to give all community agency employees the opportunity to learn about what programs and services are available and to network with other providers.

## USING THE DATA

After careful and thorough collection and analysis of the data contained in our community assessment our Board of Directors and Policy Council has made the following determinations:

### **Determination of the program's philosophy and long range and short range program objectives**

#### Learning Philosophy. Our children will...

- develop and maintain positive feelings about themselves and their abilities to learn and create.
- expand their awareness of the world around them through many sensory experiences by interacting with their environment and community.
- develop their language as a basis for increasing communication, thinking and reading readiness skills.
- develop maximum physical growth and health through gross and fine motor activities and proper nutrition.
- grow in understanding of and acceptance of their emotions, strengths and limitations so that they may cope with successes, failures and changes.
- express verbal and nonverbal feelings such as joy, happiness, fear and anger in acceptable ways.
- see themselves as part of mankind who shows respect and concern for the rights, properties and cultures of others.
- become self-directing with the ability to use freedom by being provided with the opportunities to explore, create and make choices.
- develop good nutritional habits through practicing, instructions and examples.

All families and their children will participate in the program according to their own level of growth, development, cognitive, affective and intellectual abilities.

#### Family Philosophy. We will offer our families...

- an environment of equality and respect in which to develop partnerships with staff and community.
- an opportunity to grow and develop with the support of the staff.
- continued resources to their own families, other families, and to the communities in which they live.
- encouragement to share their cultural heritage with children, parents and staff so that ALL are enriched.
- opportunities to contribute to community building through volunteering at home, and the center, or as advocates for their children. We believe that working families are building a community.
- opportunity to collaborate with programs which advocate for fair, responsive and accountable services.
- opportunities to avail themselves of formal and informal resources to support their development.

- programs that are flexible and responsive to emerging family and community issues.
- evolving opportunities to experience planning and policy decision making through membership on the Board of Directors, Policy Council, Parent Center Committee and other governing entities.

Our long-term goal:

To be Alaska's premiere child and family development program

Our short-term goals:

1. To increase the amount of unrestricted cash on hand to a minimum of \$200,000
2. To continue strengthening our current mission-based programs
3. To increase and improve efforts in staff and volunteer development and support
4. To strengthen collaborative relationships with school district personnel and other community service programs

**Determination of the type of services and program option(s) to be provided**

<b>Center</b>	<b>2010/2011</b>	<b>2011/2012</b>
Early Head Start	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 16 Center Based (Wasilla)</li> <li>• 44 Home based (11 each at Wasilla, Palmer, Meadow Lakes, Chugiak)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No Changes</li> </ul>
Chugiak HS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 50 Center Based Head Start Slots</li> <li>• 10 Preschool Child Care Slots</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No Changes</li> </ul>
Meadow Lakes HS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 60 Center Based Head Start Slots</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No Changes</li> </ul>
Palmer HS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 50 Center Based Head Start Slots</li> <li>• 7 Preschool Child Care Slots</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No Changes</li> </ul>
Wasilla HS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 100 Center Based Head Start Slots</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No Changes</li> </ul>

**Determination of the recruitment area of the program**

The recruitment or service area for each community is established annually based on the findings of the most recent community assessment. The determined recruitment area for Head Start centers and for Early Head Start Home Based services is listed below. Early Head Start Home Based services are not bound by these geographic areas but will follow them as closely as possible to limit the expense and additional time required for Home Visitors to work outside these boundaries:

Chugiak: Eklutna to Hiland Road

Palmer: The Butte to Trunk Road

Wasilla: Trunk Road to point where Parks Highway passes over the train tracks as well as Knik-Fairview

Meadow Lakes: Parks Highway at train overpass to Miller’s Market in Houston and the Big Lake Community Council boundaries as well as Knik-Fairview

Early Head Start Center Based: This program is open to any family that lives within our service area.

**Determination of the locations of centers and home-based programs**

The determination is that our current center based delivery model should remain in place at our current facility locations. These locations are at:

<u>Location</u>	<u>Services Offered</u>
Chugiak Center 18530 Old Glenn Hwy Chugiak, AK 99567	Chugiak Head Start Chugiak Early Head Start – Home Based
Meadow Lakes Center 7362 West Parks Hwy #752 Wasilla, AK 99654	Meadow Lakes Head Start Meadow Lakes Early Head Start – Home Based
Palmer Center 2238 S. Inner Springer Loop Palmer, AK 99645	Palmer Head Start Palmer Early Head Start – Home Based
Wasilla Center 2100 E. Foundry Way Wasilla, AK 99654	Wasilla Head Start Wasilla Early Head Start – Center Based
Wasilla Swanson Building 124 W. Swanson Ave, Unit B Wasilla, AK 99654	Wasilla Early Head Start – Home Based

**Determination of the criteria that defines the types of children and families that will be given priority for recruitment and selection**

The criteria for defining the types of children and families that will be given priority for recruitment and selection was discussed and determined by Policy Council on January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2011. This is attached as Appendix E.

**APPENDIX A**





















**COMMUNITY SURVEY RESULTS**

2011 CCS Early Learning Community Assessment



1. What categories describe you? (Please check all that apply)			Response Percent	Response Count
Parent		65.5%	252	
Clergy		1.3%	5	
Teacher		17.1%	66	
Teenager		0.5%	2	
Childcare Provider		5.2%	20	
Elected Official (or staff)		3.4%	13	
Grandparent		16.1%	62	
Business Person		19.0%	73	
Retired Person		8.1%	31	
Community Member		47.8%	184	
Military Services		2.3%	9	
Human Services Provider (please specify agency, business, or type of services)		28.6%	110	
			<b>answered question</b>	<b>385</b>

CCS Early Learning Community Assessment 2011

2. Please indicate the specific area in which you live.			Response Percent	Response Count
Big Lake			7.0%	27
Houston			1.3%	5
Butte			2.1%	8
Chickaloon			0.0%	0
Chugiak			5.5%	21
Eagle River			4.2%	16
Birchwood			1.8%	7
Lazy Mountain			1.0%	4
Glacierview			0.5%	2
Point Mackenzie			0.3%	1
Trapper Creek			0.8%	3
Montana Creek/Y			0.0%	0
Hatcher Pass			1.8%	7
Eklutna			0.5%	2
Knik-Fairview			4.4%	17
Meadow Lakes			5.5%	21
Palmer			19.2%	74
Sutton			2.1%	8
Talkeetna			1.8%	7
Wasilla			37.4%	144
Willow			2.6%	10
Other (please specify)			3.6%	14
			<b>answered question</b>	<b>385</b>
			<b>skipped question</b>	<b>0</b>

CCS Early Learning Community Assessment 2011






3. If you are a parent, what are the ages of your children. Please select all that apply.

		Response Percent	Response Count
N/A		12.6%	46
0-2		11.7%	43
3-5		19.9%	73
6-10		24.0%	88
11-14		18.6%	68
15-18		18.6%	68
19-24		23.8%	87
25 and over		30.6%	112
		<b>answered question</b>	<b>366</b>
		<b>skipped question</b>	<b>19</b>

4. If you are a parent, how many children do you have?

		Response Percent	Response Count
N/A		12.3%	44
1		16.7%	60
2		34.3%	123
3		18.4%	66
4		9.5%	34
5		2.5%	9
6		2.5%	9
7		1.4%	5
8 or more		2.5%	9
		<b>answered question</b>	<b>359</b>
		<b>skipped question</b>	<b>26</b>

5. How would you define your household income range? Defining income ranges is a tricky thing with variables of family size, cost of living, etc. For background and guidance... "As social classes lack clear boundaries and overlap there are no definite income thresholds as for what is considered middle class. Sociologist Leonard Beeghly identifies a male making \$57,000 and a female making \$40,000 with a combined households income of \$97,000 as a typical middle class family." Please keep in mind that this survey is completely confidential and your responses cannot be associated with you. By answering this question you will help us to view our community from the perspective of all the residents in the Mat-Su and in Chugiak/Eagle River.

		Response Percent	Response Count
Low Income		12.0%	45
Low/Middle Income		23.4%	88
Middle Income		40.4%	152
Middle/High Income		20.2%	76
High Income		4.0%	15
		answered question	376
		skipped question	9

CCS Early Learning Community Assessment 2011

6. Please rate the following characteristics of your community:								
	Very Strong	Strong	Average	Weak	Very Weak	I'm Not Sure	Rating Average	Response Count
Religious Involvement	13.1% (46)	27.9% (98)	38.7% (136)	8.0% (28)	4.6% (16)	7.7% (27)	2.60	351
School Involvement	8.2% (29)	28.1% (99)	47.4% (167)	9.1% (32)	2.3% (8)	4.8% (17)	2.67	352
Community Involvement	6.8% (24)	24.1% (85)	48.2% (170)	15.3% (54)	3.1% (11)	2.5% (9)	2.83	353
Transportation	2.6% (9)	7.7% (27)	27.1% (95)	35.3% (124)	25.9% (91)	1.4% (5)	3.75	351
Environment	12.6% (44)	35.2% (123)	42.4% (148)	5.7% (20)	1.7% (6)	2.3% (8)	2.48	349
Supportive Relatives	12.3% (43)	19.9% (70)	31.6% (111)	16.8% (59)	11.4% (40)	8.0% (28)	2.95	351
Safety	5.4% (19)	30.6% (108)	47.0% (166)	12.7% (45)	2.0% (7)	2.3% (8)	2.75	353
Health	3.9% (14)	20.5% (73)	57.0% (203)	12.4% (44)	3.4% (12)	2.8% (10)	2.90	356
Employment Opportunities	1.4% (5)	9.9% (35)	38.8% (137)	34.6% (122)	13.3% (47)	2.0% (7)	3.49	353
Outdoor Recreation	25.2% (89)	42.2% (149)	22.9% (81)	7.4% (26)	1.7% (6)	0.6% (2)	2.18	353
Housing	3.4% (12)	13.4% (47)	56.3% (198)	19.0% (67)	6.3% (22)	1.7% (6)	3.12	352
Childcare	3.4% (12)	14.9% (52)	41.7% (146)	18.3% (64)	8.3% (29)	13.4% (47)	3.15	350
Family Support	10.2% (36)	27.7% (98)	37.6% (133)	15.5% (55)	4.0% (14)	5.1% (18)	2.74	354
Support of Friends and Neighbors	13.2% (47)	35.2% (125)	37.5% (133)	9.6% (34)	3.1% (11)	1.4% (5)	2.53	355
Entertainment Opportunities	2.3% (8)	9.3% (33)	28.6% (101)	43.1% (152)	15.3% (54)	1.4% (5)	3.61	353
Indoor Recreation Activities	3.1% (11)	14.7% (52)	30.9% (109)	34.6% (122)	14.7% (52)	2.0% (7)	3.44	353
							<b>answered question</b>	<b>356</b>
							<b>skipped question</b>	<b>29</b>

CCS Early Learning Community Assessment 2011

7. In which of the following areas do families in your community face the greatest challenge?								
	This is not a challenge	This is a low challenge	This is an average challenge	This is a big challenge	This is a huge challenge	I'm Not Sure	Rating Average	Response Count
Safety	5.2% (18)	14.4% (50)	54.0% (188)	16.4% (57)	4.9% (17)	5.2% (18)	3.02	348
Vocational/Job Training	2.3% (8)	8.6% (30)	28.4% (99)	36.5% (127)	13.8% (48)	10.3% (36)	3.57	348
Mental Health	2.6% (9)	4.3% (15)	32.1% (111)	26.9% (93)	19.4% (67)	14.7% (51)	3.66	346
Affordable Activities for Children	1.4% (5)	4.6% (16)	29.3% (103)	35.3% (124)	23.9% (84)	5.4% (19)	3.80	351
Supervised Teen Activities	1.7% (6)	2.9% (10)	15.7% (55)	35.4% (124)	32.6% (114)	11.7% (41)	4.07	350
Child Abuse or Neglect	2.3% (8)	4.9% (17)	24.1% (84)	30.7% (107)	23.8% (83)	14.3% (50)	3.80	349
School Dropout	2.3% (8)	3.7% (13)	26.1% (91)	33.9% (118)	16.1% (56)	17.8% (62)	3.70	348
Tobacco Use	2.6% (9)	4.9% (17)	26.4% (92)	29.9% (104)	23.3% (81)	12.9% (45)	3.76	348
Affordable Housing	1.1% (4)	6.0% (21)	35.3% (123)	33.0% (115)	18.1% (63)	6.3% (22)	3.65	348
Employment	1.4% (5)	7.2% (25)	32.8% (114)	33.6% (117)	20.7% (72)	4.3% (15)	3.68	348
Substance Abuse (Alcohol/Drugs)	2.9% (10)	3.2% (11)	11.8% (41)	33.1% (115)	39.5% (137)	9.5% (33)	4.14	347
Consistent Work Schedules	3.2% (11)	9.5% (33)	37.4% (130)	25.6% (89)	8.3% (29)	16.1% (56)	3.32	348
Teen Pregnancy	3.4% (12)	4.0% (14)	29.0% (101)	31.6% (110)	11.8% (41)	20.1% (70)	3.55	348
Affordable Quality Childcare	1.7% (6)	6.0% (21)	25.7% (90)	32.3% (113)	20.9% (73)	13.4% (47)	3.75	350
Health and Nutrition	1.7% (6)	5.7% (20)	45.6% (159)	28.9% (101)	10.3% (36)	7.7% (27)	3.44	349
Literacy	5.2% (18)	7.7% (27)	45.3% (158)	20.1% (70)	6.9% (24)	14.9% (52)	3.19	349
Delinquency	3.8% (13)	4.9% (17)	32.9% (114)	26.3% (91)	13.3% (46)	18.8% (65)	3.50	346
Affordable Medical Care	0.9% (3)	3.7% (13)	28.4% (100)	28.1% (99)	32.4% (114)	6.5% (23)	3.94	352
Transportation	3.2% (11)	4.6% (16)	24.1% (84)	34.1% (119)	29.2% (102)	4.9% (17)	3.86	349
Other Community Challenges or Comments?								20
answered question								352
skipped question								33

CCS Early Learning Community Assessment 2011

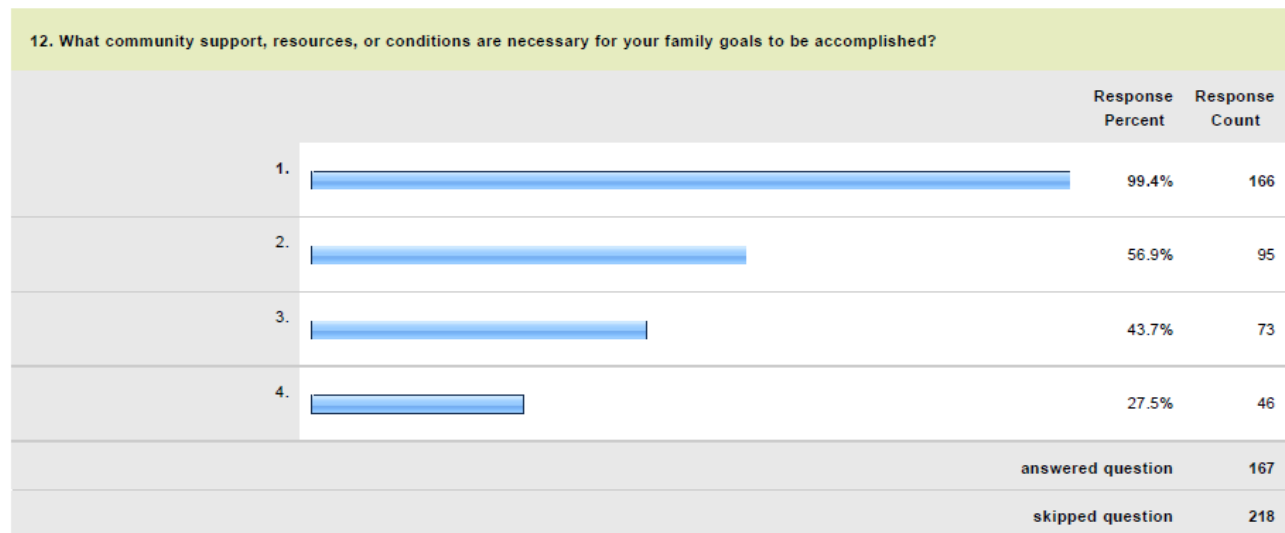
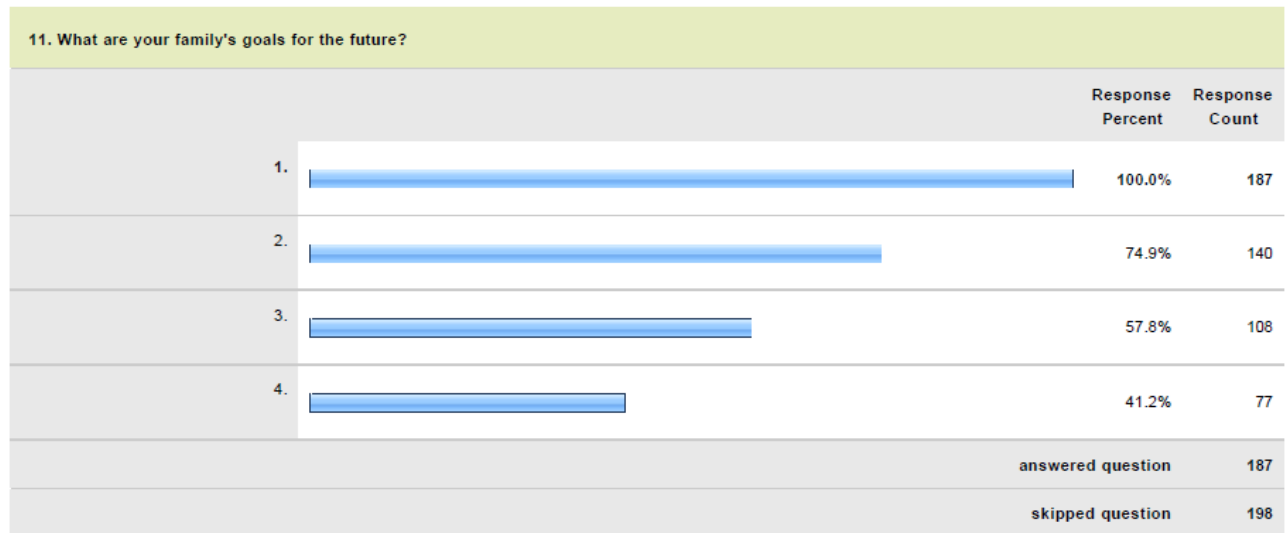
8. Please indicate how adequate the following services are in your community.								
	Excellent	Good	Average	Poor	Not Available	I'm Not Sure	Rating Average	Response Count
Childcare and Early Development	3.3% (11)	17.3% (57)	41.5% (137)	22.4% (74)	2.1% (7)	13.3% (44)	3.03	330
Community and Church Organizations	13.1% (43)	37.8% (124)	38.1% (125)	4.9% (16)	0.3% (1)	5.8% (19)	2.38	328
Private Schools	2.1% (7)	14.2% (47)	34.8% (115)	17.9% (59)	8.2% (27)	22.7% (75)	3.20	330
Culture and Art	1.5% (5)	12.4% (41)	27.9% (92)	43.9% (145)	7.9% (26)	6.4% (21)	3.47	330
Dental Services	6.3% (21)	24.8% (82)	41.7% (138)	16.0% (53)	5.4% (18)	5.7% (19)	2.89	331
Parenting Classes	0.3% (1)	6.9% (23)	27.1% (90)	31.9% (106)	6.3% (21)	27.4% (91)	3.51	332
Early Childhood Training	3.0% (10)	17.9% (59)	38.5% (127)	18.2% (60)	3.9% (13)	18.5% (61)	3.03	330
Assistance for People with Disabilities	2.1% (7)	15.3% (51)	36.3% (121)	22.5% (75)	3.0% (10)	20.7% (69)	3.11	333
Health and Wellness	1.8% (6)	14.8% (49)	53.6% (177)	19.7% (65)	2.1% (7)	7.9% (26)	3.06	330
Access to Transportation	0.9% (3)	5.1% (17)	18.4% (61)	58.3% (193)	11.5% (38)	5.7% (19)	3.79	331
Public Schools	7.0% (23)	30.9% (102)	49.4% (163)	8.5% (28)	1.8% (6)	2.4% (8)	2.66	330
Emergency Assistance	5.7% (19)	30.7% (102)	38.9% (129)	13.6% (45)	1.2% (4)	9.9% (33)	2.71	332
Child Welfare Services	1.2% (4)	8.5% (28)	38.5% (127)	28.2% (93)	4.8% (16)	18.8% (62)	3.33	330
Criminal Justice	1.8% (6)	9.9% (33)	46.4% (154)	19.9% (66)	4.5% (15)	17.5% (58)	3.19	332
Crisis Intervention and Counseling	0.6% (2)	7.5% (25)	34.0% (113)	30.4% (101)	6.0% (20)	21.4% (71)	3.43	332
Adult Education and Literacy	1.5% (5)	6.4% (21)	39.0% (128)	23.2% (76)	5.2% (17)	24.7% (81)	3.32	328
Employment and Vocational Training	1.8% (6)	10.9% (36)	35.6% (118)	35.3% (117)	6.3% (21)	10.0% (33)	3.37	331
Family Support (e.g. family services, counseling)	1.5% (5)	13.6% (45)	38.1% (126)	25.7% (85)	4.5% (15)	16.6% (55)	3.22	331
Mental Health	0.9% (3)	8.1% (27)	36.7% (122)	28.0% (93)	6.0% (20)	20.2% (67)	3.38	332
Legal Aid	0.3% (1)	3.0% (10)	28.7% (95)	30.8% (102)	10.0% (33)	27.2% (90)	3.65	331
Substance Abuse Treatment	0.9% (3)	4.8% (16)	25.4% (84)	38.1% (126)	7.6% (25)	23.3% (77)	3.61	331
Youth Clubs	0.6% (2)	6.1% (20)	30.0% (99)	40.0% (132)	8.8% (29)	14.5% (48)	3.59	330
Local Government	2.1% (7)	13.7% (45)	57.1% (188)	16.7% (55)	3.0% (10)	7.3% (24)	3.05	329
						Other Services or Comments?		12
						<b>answered question</b>		<b>334</b>
						<b>skipped question</b>		<b>51</b>

CCS Early Learning Community Assessment 2011

9. What do you consider to be the major barriers that prevent families from receiving the services they need?								
	Not a barrier	Somewhat of a barrier	May be a barrier	A barrier	Major barrier	I'm Not Sure	Rating Average	Response Count
Families are not aware of existing services	3.1% (10)	8.3% (27)	29.6% (96)	22.5% (73)	25.6% (83)	10.8% (35)	3.66	324
Agencies are too far away from people's homes	7.1% (23)	14.1% (46)	27.6% (90)	23.3% (76)	16.0% (52)	12.0% (39)	3.31	326
Agencies are not open at convenient times	18.2% (59)	11.7% (38)	29.6% (96)	13.9% (45)	7.7% (25)	18.8% (61)	2.77	324
Agency staff do not speak consumers' language	23.9% (78)	14.7% (48)	26.7% (87)	10.4% (34)	4.0% (13)	20.2% (66)	2.45	326
Rules and eligibility exclude people who need services	6.5% (21)	10.6% (34)	21.2% (68)	22.1% (71)	20.6% (66)	19.0% (61)	3.49	321
Social stigma associated with utilizing services	7.4% (24)	14.2% (46)	32.3% (105)	21.5% (70)	12.0% (39)	12.6% (41)	3.19	325
Agency staff appear rude or are not sensitive to consumer needs	18.7% (60)	13.4% (43)	22.7% (73)	13.4% (43)	7.2% (23)	24.6% (79)	2.69	321
Insufficient federal, state, or local funding for needed services	7.4% (24)	11.0% (36)	22.7% (74)	19.6% (64)	25.5% (83)	13.8% (45)	3.52	326
Waiting lists are too long	4.0% (13)	4.9% (16)	21.0% (68)	21.9% (71)	25.3% (82)	22.8% (74)	3.77	324
Transportation is not available	4.6% (15)	6.7% (22)	21.6% (71)	26.7% (88)	29.8% (98)	10.6% (35)	3.79	329
Childcare is not available	9.2% (30)	11.0% (36)	25.8% (84)	23.3% (76)	14.7% (48)	16.0% (52)	3.28	326
Agencies' fees are too high	7.1% (23)	9.0% (29)	23.8% (77)	18.2% (59)	11.4% (37)	30.6% (99)	3.26	324
Agencies do not provide clear information about the services available	10.2% (33)	13.3% (43)	31.5% (102)	18.2% (59)	11.4% (37)	15.4% (50)	3.09	324
Agency staff do not seek or listen to consumer input about improving services	13.8% (45)	13.2% (43)	24.2% (79)	13.8% (45)	8.0% (26)	27.0% (88)	2.85	326
Other Barriers or Comments?								19
<b>answered question</b>								<b>331</b>
<b>skipped question</b>								<b>54</b>

CCS Early Learning Community Assessment 2011

10. Please identify the top four needs in your own family					
	Top Family Need	Second Family Need	Third Family Need	Fourth Family Need	Response Count
Reliable Transportation	23.3% (17)	17.8% (13)	30.1% (22)	28.8% (21)	73
Child Care	26.8% (11)	24.4% (10)	17.1% (7)	31.7% (13)	41
Health/Dental Insurance	44.3% (35)	26.6% (21)	17.7% (14)	11.4% (9)	79
Medical Care	20.3% (12)	39.0% (23)	20.3% (12)	20.3% (12)	59
Dental Care	14.6% (6)	24.4% (10)	39.0% (16)	22.0% (9)	41
Safe Neighborhood	32.8% (20)	23.0% (14)	21.3% (13)	23.0% (14)	61
Consistent Employment	42.9% (24)	28.6% (14)	20.4% (10)	8.2% (4)	49
Family Activities	17.4% (16)	34.8% (32)	33.7% (31)	14.1% (13)	92
Child Activities	11.7% (7)	31.7% (19)	28.3% (17)	28.3% (17)	60
Housing	35.7% (15)	35.7% (15)	16.7% (7)	11.9% (5)	42
Counseling (Family, Child, Drug, Alcohol, etc)	21.4% (3)	14.3% (2)	28.6% (4)	35.7% (5)	14
Family Time	41.5% (39)	19.1% (18)	18.1% (17)	21.3% (20)	94
Utility Assistance	13.9% (5)	22.2% (8)	33.3% (12)	30.6% (11)	36
Adult Education (Literacy, GED, Vocational, College)	8.0% (2)	16.0% (4)	36.0% (9)	40.0% (10)	25
Local Employment	34.9% (29)	31.3% (26)	19.3% (16)	14.5% (12)	83
No Present Needs	67.0% (69)	4.9% (5)	4.9% (5)	23.3% (24)	103
			Other needs or comments? (please specify)		21
			answered question		312
			skipped question		73






CCS Early Learning Community Assessment 2011

13. What aspects are (or were) most important to you in choosing a quality child care or school facility for your children?					
	Most Important	Very Important	Important	Rating Average	Response Count
Environment (elements like trees, playgrounds, facilities, etc)	37.3% (76)	44.6% (91)	18.1% (37)	1.81	204
Cost for services	29.8% (62)	39.9% (83)	30.3% (63)	2.00	208
Schedule (Summer Activities, Flexible Hours, Etc)	42.4% (84)	34.8% (69)	22.7% (45)	1.80	198
Curriculum and activities	60.7% (142)	32.1% (75)	7.3% (17)	1.47	234
On going staff training	35.0% (69)	43.1% (85)	21.8% (43)	1.87	197
Opportunities for parent participation	30.8% (62)	44.3% (89)	24.9% (50)	1.94	201
Location (how close to where you live or work)	43.8% (98)	35.3% (79)	21.0% (47)	1.77	224
Staff qualifications	59.2% (135)	28.9% (66)	11.8% (27)	1.53	228
Friendliness of staff	59.6% (133)	30.9% (69)	9.4% (21)	1.50	223
Child transportation	19.7% (35)	28.7% (51)	51.7% (92)	2.32	178
			Other Aspects or Comments?		37
			answered question		259
			skipped question		126

14. Please let us know where or how you received this survey	
	Response Count
	242
answered question	242
skipped question	143

CCS Early Learning Community Assessment 2011

15. Would you like to receive other information from CCS Early Learning via e-mail?			
		Response Percent	Response Count
Just the survey results please		71.9%	110
Please add me to your list for future community surveys		26.8%	41
Please send me periodic updates or newsletters about CCS programs, services, and events.		31.4%	48
			answered question
			153
			skipped question
			232

16. E-mail address (optional - only if you would like one of the items above)		Response Count
		127
		answered question
		127
		skipped question
		258

17. Thank you for your time and input. Do you have any last comments or questions?		Response Count
		53
		answered question
		53
		skipped question
		332