

By: Finance Department  
Amended: November 30, 2021  
Adopted: November 30, 2021  
Yes: Brown, Graham, Harvey, Sullivan-Leonard, Velock  
No: None  
Absent: Johnson

**City of Wasilla  
Resolution Serial No. 21-30(AM)**

**A Resolution Of The Wasilla City Council Awarding A COVID-19 Relief And Recovery Grant In An Amount Not To Exceed \$750,000 To Thread For Assistance To Childcare Facilities Program.**

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WHEREAS, through Resolution Serial No. 20-24 and Ordinance Serial No. 20-28, the City of Wasilla (City) accepted \$18,690,897.67 for Coronavirus relief funds through the Alaska Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development for costs that are for necessary expenditures incurred due to the public health emergency with respect to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19); and

WHEREAS, Childcare Facilities have been economically impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, Thread has agreed to administer, for a \$10,000 administrative fee, childcare facilities grant program to assist approximately sixteen childcare providers.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Wasilla City Council approves granting \$750,000 to Thread for the Childcare Facilities Program and directs Administration to administer a memorandum of agreement for the administration of the grant by Thread.

IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, the source of funding for the Childcare Facilities Program grant is a transfer from one project account to another within the same accounting fund as follows:

Appropriation of Funds. The funds are appropriated to the following:

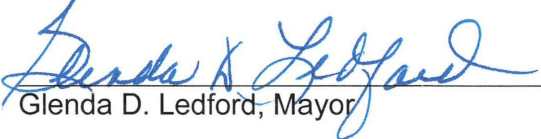
|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| 110-4181-499-45-15 Small Business Grant | \$750,000 |
|---|-----------|

Source of Funds.


110-4181-499-45-18 City Resiliency and Recovery \$750,000

Effective Date. This resolution takes effect upon adoption.

ADOPTED by the Wasilla City Council on November 30, 2021.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Glenda D. Ledford, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Sarah Stanifer, MMC, Deputy City Clerk

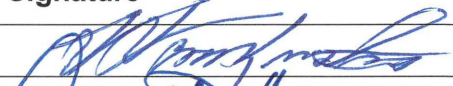

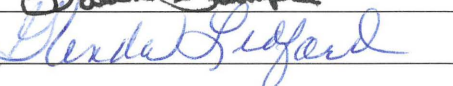
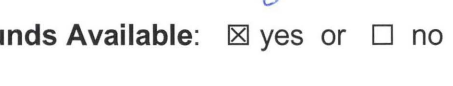
[SEAL]

**City of Wasilla  
Legislative Staff Report  
Resolution Serial No. 21-30**

**A Resolution Of The Wasilla City Council Awarding A COVID-19 Relief And Recovery Grant In An Amount Not To Exceed \$750,000 To Thread For Assistance To Childcare Facilities Program.**

Originator: Troy Tankersley, Finance Director  
Date: 11/23/2021

Agenda of: 11/20/2021

| Route to: | Department Head      | Signature  | Date     |
|-----------|----------------------|--|----------|
| X         | Finance Director     |  | 11-24-21 |
| X         | Deputy Administrator |  | 11/24/21 |
| X         | City Clerk           |  | 11-24-21 |
| X         | Mayor                |  | 11-24-21 |

**Fiscal Impact:**  yes or  no

**Funds Available:**  yes or  no

**Account name/number:** 110-4181-499-45-15 Small Business Grant

**Attachments:** Resolution Serial No. 21-30 (2 pages)  
thread letter, dated November 24, 2021 (2 pages)  
thread, "Licensed Child Care is Essential for Alaska (2 pages)  
thread, "COVID-19 Child Care Stabilization Grant Program Application (draft) (8 pages)  
Child care provider listing (1 page)

**Summary Statement:** Since June 2020, the City of Wasilla has offered five different phases to assist the community with Coronavirus relief and recovery. The programs offered have been small business grants, personal protective equipment grants, housing relief (mortgage and rental assistance), utility relief, and WASI's meals-on-wheels program. Along with these grant programs, the City has expended funds allowed through the CARES Act federal grant program to mitigate and recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.

thread, a non-profit assistance provider to childcare facilities has agreed to administer a program on behalf of the City of Wasilla, for a \$10,000 administrative fee to administer funds to sixteen childcare facilities. The amount each facility could receive is calculated at \$740.74 per each facilities capacity number. The estimated at capacity total is 999, which if all funds would be expended would be \$740,000. Total grant amount proposed would not exceed \$750,000. Should funding not be fully expended through thread, unspent funds would be returned to the City of Wasilla.

Should no further grant funds be required for economic or hardship relief, the Finance Department estimates that approximately \$2,000,000 will remain available by December 31, 2021, the close date of the CARES Act funding, and would require the City to return any excess funds to the State of Alaska.

Funding in support of Resolution Serial No. 21-30 requires the transfer from one account to another account within the same fund as allowed through WMC 5.04.150.

If adopted, Administration would require Thread to attest to the need of this funding through a memorandum of agreement or similar document before the funds would be granted to Thread.

**Proposed Action:** Adopt Resolution Serial No. 21-30.

November 24, 2021

Dear City of Wasilla Council Members,

**thread**, Alaska's Child Care Resource & Referral Network, thanks you for your leadership during the COVID-19 pandemic. **As our communities continue to experience challenges related to COVID-19, thread urges you to give financial support to licensed child care, a critical community infrastructure needed to support working families safely and responsibly. Specifically, we urge you to invest CARES Act funding to support licensed child care in your community.**

Licensed child care is an essential state infrastructure and a vital part of our economic recovery. Working families cannot continue to go to work or return to the workplace without it. A lack of licensed child care is a significant barrier to businesses being open.

While child care has been on the frontlines of the pandemic, nearly 50% of licensed child care programs were temporarily closed. Today, while most are open, they are not at full capacity and are continuing to operate on razor-thin margins. The COVID-19 pandemic has pushed many of these small businesses to the brink of permanent closure.

We must ensure child care is there to support Alaska's families and businesses. To do this safely and responsibly, it requires child care programs to:

- Implement new health and safety measures for the physical and mental health, well-being of children, staff, and their families.
- Hire and train new staff to replace those exiting the field due to health concerns.
- Increase staffing to cover substitutes needed for employees who are out and accommodate for static groups and additional sanitizing and health checks.
- Provide smaller group sizes and more space per child to ensure physical distancing.
- Have access to necessary supplies (e.g., cleaning supplies, diapers, etc.).
- Be able to support parents transitioning their children back to care.

These are only a few of the *many* factors child care programs are considering to stay open or reopen. This situation is stressing an already fragile system by increasing the cost of care for programs and families.

**thread understands that child care in the City of Wasilla needs financial support. thread recommends the city allocate CARES resources to licensed child care to pay for necessary expenditures incurred due to the public health emergency, COVID-19.**

**thread** is available to partner with the City to administer financial support. **thread** is available to work directly with qualifying licensed child care programs to ensure resources are awarded for mitigation and recovery efforts. **thread** will require a complete and qualifying application such as: <https://thread.tfaforms.net/86> In addition, all recipients will sign verification of funds only being used for business expenses affected by the COVID-19 emergency and eligible expenses such as:

- Payroll costs and expenses;
  - Payment of any short term (less than 24 months) or credit card debt incurred by the applicant to support the applicant's business during the emergency;
- Rent or mortgage payments (unless otherwise waived by lessor/lender);
- Utilities payments;
- Personal protective equipment for employees;
- Business related equipment; and
- Expenses incurred to replenish inventory or other necessary re-opening expenses.

**thread** understands that any funds must be expended by December 31, 2021, and in compliance with State and Federal Law. **thread** will have all applicant and award recipients sign and verify awareness of:

- Liability for Misuse of Funds under Regulation 3 AAC 104.110.
- Agreement to maintain a complete record of all transactions funded for a minimum period of 3 years from funding (3 AAC 104.130).
- Understanding of being subject to audit and/or review by **thread**, City of Wasilla or State/Federal authority related to CARES funding.

Investing in child care will help to ensure children are healthy and safe, and child care survives. We are happy to be a resource in your decision making and thank you for making child care a priority for stabilizing our economy and community infrastructure for families.

Sincerely,



Stephanie Berglund, MSW | CEO of **thread**  
(907) 265-3101 | [sberglund@threadalaska.org](mailto:sberglund@threadalaska.org)

## Licensed Child Care is Essential for Alaska

Child care is an essential state infrastructure and a vital part of Alaska's economy. Alaska's response to the COVID-19 pandemic must include the early childhood education sector. Prior to COVID-19, this sector was fragile, with child care programs operating on razor-thin margins and a workforce getting by on poverty level wages. Many child care programs have now been pushed to the brink of permanent closure due to the pandemic's interruption to business. **Access to affordable, high-quality child care programs is needed for businesses and families to return to work successfully. thread recommends a minimum local investment of 10% of the federal CARES Act funding for licensed child care programs.** Without this investment, Alaska will struggle to fully reopen and recover.

### ! The Challenges

Alaska's child care sector is facing serious challenges in the wake of the coronavirus.

**Business interruption:** The demand for child care is fluctuating as families grapple with returning to the workplace safely or unemployment. Without steady enrollment, child care programs are faced with uncertain or reduced income revenue and growing expenses to stay open and operate safely.

**Elevated health and safety requirements:** Child care programs must enforce an intensified level of health and safety protocols and procedures for ongoing mitigation, screening, and sanitation. This requires more supplies, staff time, and training.

**Physical distancing:** Child care must support physical distancing within the program, which results in smaller group sizes and ratios, and the need for more staff.

**Supplies:** Child care programs need cleaning and disinfecting supplies and equipment, personal protective equipment, screening equipment, and sanitizing solutions to protect the staff and children they serve.

**Labor:** The demands on the early childhood workforce are increasing with new ratio recommendations, health and safety protocols, and the health risks. Programs are having to offer higher compensation and flexibility to support staff. Additionally, some early educators are not returning to the classroom due to the health risk which is leaving positions vacant and more staff needed.

**Behavioral Health:** Child care programs need access to early childhood mental health consultation and other behavioral health supports and services to support children, families and staff experiencing trauma during this time.

All of these factors are challenging child care's survival. Financial support is needed now for programs to open, remain solvent, and be available for our community.

### 📈 Desired Impact

An investment in Alaska's child care system will produce the following results:

#### For Families

- Return to their workplace
- Reduced cognitive load trying to figure out child care
- Reduced stress because they have access to safe and healthy child care programs

#### For Employers

- Increased availability of workers
- Reduced absenteeism
- Higher productivity due to less distractions from trying to solve child care struggles

#### For Community

- Reduced coronavirus transmission within child care
- Families and businesses contributing to the economy

#### For Licensed Child Care Programs

- Business resilience and program stabilization
- Operating safely and effectively
- Support for social and behavioral health concerns of staff and children

#### For Children

- Safe, healthy, learning and loved
- More predictable routines, which adds resiliency during traumatic times
- School readiness



# Recommendation: Provide Child Care Funding Relief

**thread** recommends investing a minimum 10% of the federal CARES Act funding allocated to local governments by the Alaska State Legislature to support open, licensed child care programs in local communities. Licensed child care programs are regulated by the State of Alaska, and provide safe and healthy learning environments for young children. Providing funding will help licensed child care programs to continue to operate safely and effectively in response to the COVID-19 public health emergency. **thread** is providing two potential funding models for consideration in local decision making.

## Funding Model 1: Program Block Grant Based on Program Type/Capacity

Distributes the funding based on the type and size of the program, specifically using the child care program's licensed capacity number. This allows programs to strengthen and stabilize their business based on the licensed capacity (or the total number of children that can be served). It also assumes programs with multiple sites will receive funding for each licensed site. For example:

| Program Block Grant Proposed Funding Model* |            |                         |                               |
|---|------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Child Capacity                              | # Programs | Monthly Payment/Program | Total 6-Month Payment/Program |
| 1-12  | 5          | \$12,500                | \$375,000                     |
| 13-45                                       | 5          | \$20,000                | \$600,000                     |
| 46-74                                       | 1          | \$35,000                | \$35,000                      |
| Over 75                                     | 1          | \$45,000                | \$45,000                      |

\*Model does not represent actual programs.

## Funding Model 2: Program Grant Based on Licensed Capacity

Distributes the funding using a per child flat rate based on the child care program's licensed capacity number. **thread** recommends a minimum investment of \$500 per child per month. For example:

| Program Grant Based on Licensed Capacity Proposed Funding Model* |                 |  |                               |
|--|-----------------|--|-------------------------------|
| Child Capacity   | Flat Rate/Child | Monthly Program Payment (Capacity x Flat Rate/Child) | Total 6-Month Program Payment |
| 10   | \$500           | \$5,000  | \$30,000                      |

\*Model does not represent actual programs.

In both models the following funding guidelines are recommended:

### Purpose funding for COVID-19 related costs and expenses under two categories:

- o Costs related to business interruption caused by COVID-19; and
- o Costs related to compliance with the State of Alaska and the Center for Disease Control (CDC) public health guidelines relating to COVID-19.

**Structure funding guidelines for flexibility and ease of access.** Each child care program is facing unique business challenges. Programs need flexibility in determining how best to address their particular needs within the proposed two categories. Specific recommendations to provide flexibility with the funding are:

- o Allow expenditures to go towards any purpose within the two proposed categories.
- o Award funding either one time or on a monthly basis.
- o Allow for multi-year expenditure (at a minimum 2020, 2021) of the funds to address the long-term work needed to stabilize programs.
- o Allow eligibility regardless of application or receipt of other federal, state, or local COVID-19 funding.

### CONTACTS

Southcentral Alaska:  
Stephanie Berglund  
sberglund@threadalaska.org

Northern/Interior Alaska:  
Alicia Berka  
aberka@thrivalaska.com

Southeast Alaska:  
Joy Lyon  
jlyon@aeyc-sea.org





## COVID-19 CHILD CARE STABILIZATION GRANT PROGRAM APPLICATION

thread is excited to partner with the State of Alaska Child Care Program Office to offer the **COVID-19 Child Care Stabilization Grant**. The funding for this grant is possible through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), with the State of Alaska's Child Care Program Office as the lead agency and thread as the intermediary for grant distribution.

### Application/Spanish Translation Instructions

To apply for this grant:

- Please complete and sign the application below. Questions with an (\*) require a response.
- Programs with multiple sites must submit an application for each licensed site.
- Use a computer desktop or laptop with the Google Chrome web browser for best results. [Download Chrome here.](#)
- Have the IRS Form W9 completed and ready to upload. [Download the W9 form here.](#)
- Please read the acknowledgement statement and follow the instructions for completing the application signature process.

To translate the application to Spanish/other language:

1. Open the application using Google Chrome web browser. [Download Chrome here.](#)
2. Anywhere on this form, right click for a drop-down menu.
3. From the drop-down menu, select "Translate to."
4. Choose the preferred translation language.

Para traducir el formulario al español u otro idioma:

1. Abra el formulario con el navegador web Google Chrome. [Descarga Chrome aquí.](#)
2. En cualquier lugar de este formulario, haga clic con el botón derecho y verá un menú desplegable.
3. Selecciona "Traducir a".
4. Elija el idioma al que le gustaría que se tradujera.

### PART 1: APPLICANT & PROGRAM INFORMATION

#### A. Contact Information

Name of Person Completing Application \*

Program Administrator/Owner Name (if different than person completing the application)

Legal Business Name of Program \*

Please use the legal business name as listed on the current business license issued by the State of Alaska. Financial support will be issued to the legal business name/program and not an individual.

Program Name (if different than legal business name)

Program ICCIS Number \*

Program Mailing Address \*

City \*

Zip Code (5-digit) \*

Email \*

Telephone \*

**B. Demographics (This information is a federal requirement for this grant application.)**

Program Administrator/Owner Gender \*

- Male
- Female
- Other

Program Administrator/Owner Race \*

- American Indian/Alaska Native
- Asian
- Black/African American
- Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander
- White
- Multiracial
- Other

**Program Administrator/Owner Ethnicity \***

- Latino
- Not Latino

**C. Program Status**

**Current Child Care Facility License Type \***

- Licensed Child Care Center
- Licensed Group Home
- Licensed Family Child Care (Please select if your program is a licensed home.)
- Licensed Afterschool / School-age Program
- Approved Relative or In-Home Care
- None

**What is the current program status today? \***

- Open
- Temporarily closed but planning to reopen

Does the program serve/participate in (check all that apply): \*

- Infant Toddler
- Learn & Grow
- Child Care Assistance
- Children with Disability
- Non-traditional hours (Example: 7 pm - 6am, and/or weekends)
- None

**D. Program Technology**

What device does the Program Administrator/Owner use most for business and communication? \*

- Smart phone
- Computer desktop
- Computer laptop
- Tablet

**PART 2: PROGRAM CAPACITY**

What is the licensed capacity (#) of the program? \*

What is the current enrollment (#) of the program? \*

What is the desired capacity (#) of the program? \*

Reasons why the program is not at desired capacity (check all that apply):

- Staff shortage
- Low child enrollment
- Health and safety practices and mitigation
- Personal health concerns
- Change in operations (time, schedule, etc)
- Other

**PART 3: PROGRAM EXPENSES** (This information is a federal requirement for this grant application.)

Estimated total monthly program expenses (\$) at full capacity? (Monthly expenses include mortgage/rent, utilities, staff, insurance, supplies etc.) \*

In addition to monthly income, what amount of funding (\$) is needed to stabilize the program over the next 12 months? \*

If future funding is available, what frequency of future payments will help the program improve long-term stability? \*

- One (single) payment
- Multiple payments while funding is available
- Other

Based on the program's current situation, is the Program Owner/Administrator concerned about the possibility of needing to close in the next 6-12 months? \*

Yes

No

Does the Program Administrator/Owner currently get paid? \*

Yes

No

**PART 4: USE OF FUNDS**

These funds may only be used for one or more of the purposes below. Please choose the top 3 categories the program will use this funding for: \*

- COVID-19 related expenses incurred Jan 31, 2020-March 11, 2021
- Rent or mortgage, utilities, facility maintenance and improvements, or insurance
- Personnel costs, benefits, premium pay, recruitment, retention
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), cleaning & sanitation supplies and services, or training professional development related to health and safety practices
- Purchases of or updates to equipment and supplies to respond to COVID-19
- Goods and services necessary to maintain or resume child care services
- Mental health supports for children and employees
- Investment in technology
- Other

**PART 5: IRS FORM W9**

Did the program receive thread's COVID-19 Quality Initiative 2 in 2020? \*

Yes

No

**PART 6: ACKNOWLEDGMENT STATEMENT**

By submitting and signing this application:

- I agree to use the funds only for the categories and purposes outlined in Part 4 of this application. Note: The program does not need to spend the grant within any specified time period, and can move funds between categories without prior approval.
- I understand that it is my responsibility to maintain records and other documentation to support the use of the funds received.
- I understand that this grant may impact the program's taxable income. I will seek assistance as necessary from the IRS.gov, a tax consultant or the small business development center for guidance.
- I understand that this grant is subject to audit, and monitoring via surveys, focus groups, etc. I agree to participate in these activities as necessary or requested.
- I understand that the "grant period" is one (1) month from the date of the program receiving the funds.
- During the one (1) month "grant period," I certify that:
  1. CDC Guidelines: When open and providing services, I will implement policies in line with guidance and orders from corresponding state, territorial, tribal, and local authorities and, to the greatest extent possible, implement policies in line with guidance from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

2. **Workforce:** For each employee (including lead teachers, aides, and any other staff who are employed by the program to work in transportation, food preparation, or other type of service), I must continue paying at least the same amount of weekly wages and maintain the same benefits (such as health insurance and retirement) for the duration of the grant period. I understand that I may not involuntarily furlough employees from the date of application submission through the duration of the grant period.
3. **Tuition/Copayments:** I will provide relief from tuition payments and copayments for the families enrolled in the program, to the extent possible, and will prioritize such relief for families struggling to make either type of payment.

#### Instructions to Submit the Application

1. Click "submit" button below. This will take you to the summary and signature page.
2. Review your application answers then sign at the bottom of the page.
3. Click "submit signed response" button. This will submit your signature and send you an email to verify your signature.
4. **Open verification email.**
5. **In verification email, click the link in the email to complete the signature process. Important note: Your application will not be submitted until this step is complete.**

Submit



| Inside City | Current | Facility Status | Provider Name   | Address                          | Zip Code | City    | Facility Type       | Capacity | Phone        | Administrator  | Previous Cares<br>Act Funding COW |
|-------------|---------|-----------------|---|----------------------------------|----------|---------|---------------------|----------|--------------|----------------|-----------------------------------|
| YES         | YES     | Open            | A TOUCH OF HOME CHILDCARE & LEARNING CENTER           | 260 E Nelson Ave                 | 99654    | WASILLA | Licensed Center     | 65       | 907-232-7947 | Ruth Sanchez   | -                                 |
| YES         | YES     | Open            | ALASKA CHILDREN'S ACADEMY II, LLC                     | 2731 E Beech Way                 | 99654    | WASILLA | Licensed Center     | 30       | 907-414-8277 | Ashley Brown   | -                                 |
| YES         | YES     | Open            | ALASKA CHILDREN'S ACADEMY, LLC                        | 2731 E Beech Way                 | 99654    | WASILLA | Licensed Group Home | 12       | 907-414-9332 | April Brown    | -                                 |
| YES         | YES     | Open            | CCS EARLY LEARNING - WASILLA CENTER                   | 2100 E. Foundry                  | 99654    | WASILLA | Licensed Center     | 130      | 907-373-7795 | Neva Lancaster | -                                 |
| YES         | YES     | Open            | CCS EARLY LEARNING- EARLY HEAD START CENTER (Wasilla) | 2060 E. Foundry Way              | 99654    | Wasilla | Licensed Center     | 48       |              |                | -                                 |
| YES         | YES     | Open            | DENALI GYMNASTICS & FITNESS INC. ROOM 8               | 300 E Kalli Circle               | 99654    | WASILLA | Licensed Center     | 22       | 907-373-3547 | Adam Barrett   | -                                 |
| YES         | YES     | Open            | DENALI GYMNASTICS & FITNESS, INC.                     | 300 E. Kalli Circle              | 99654    | WASILLA | Licensed Center     | 150      | 907-373-3547 | Adam Barrett   | -                                 |
| YES         | YES     | Open            | EDGE PRESCHOOL  | 961 South Enterprise Drive       | 99654    | WASILLA | Licensed Center     | 24       | 907-376-3343 | Alina Rubio    | -                                 |
| YES         | YES     | Open            | GREAT PLACES EARLY LEARNING CENTER                    | 300 W Swanson Ave                | 99654    | WASILLA | Licensed Center     | 82       | 907-414-4855 | Natalie Bailey | 7,500                             |
| YES         | YES     | Open            | LITTLE ANGELS CHILDCARE                               | 700 W Wilder Ave                 | 99654    | WASILLA | Licensed Group Home | 12       | 907-230-9674 | Deanna Scott   | 7,500                             |
| YES         | YES     | Open            | LITTLE EXPLORERS CHILDCARE                            | 861 Goldendale Drive             | 99654    | WASILLA | Licensed Home       | 8        | 907-775-5320 | Tracie Atwell  | -                                 |
| YES         | YES     | Open            | MY FAVORITE PRESCHOOL                                 | 1265 S. Seward Meridian, Suite G | 99654    | WASILLA | Licensed Center     | 20       | 907-373-2922 | Cheri Francis  | 30,000                            |
| YES         | YES     | Open            | NEW GENERATIONS CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER              | 611 S Knik Goosebay Rd Suite F   | 99654    | WASILLA | Licensed Center     | 81       | 907-373-3118 | Teresa Nelson  | 20,000                            |
| YES         | YES     | Open            | RISING STAR CHILD CARE & LEARNING CENTER              | 1405 North Wasilla-Fishhook Road | 99654    | WASILLA | Licensed Center     | 142      | 907-373-4875 | Nicole Smith   | -                                 |
| YES         | YES     | Open            | LITTLE LEARNERS ACADEMY                               | 245 East Nelson Ave              | 99687    | WASILLA | Licensed Center     | 47       | 907-357-1188 | Monica Jackson | 2,500                             |
| YES         | YES     | Open            | BRIGHT MINDS LEARNING CENTER LLC                      | 172 South Lamont Circle          | 99623    | WASILLA | Licensed Center     | 126      | 907-357-2600 | Kerrie Spain   | 5,000                             |