

## Memorandum of Agreement

### **Valdez Early Childhood Education Facility Design Collaboration**

The City of Valdez Alaska (“City”), a home rule municipality, and Chugachmiut, Inc. (“Chugachmiut”), hereby enter into this Memorandum of Agreement (“Agreement”) to further collaboration on the development and design of an early childhood education facility in Valdez effective the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2025.

#### **RECITALS**

WHEREAS, The Valdez City Council has recognized the lack of licensed high-quality childcare in our community as a barrier to fostering economic stability and healthy families; and

WHEREAS, one major barrier in the community’s ability to maintain licensed child care has been the lack of available high-quality programing and an additional issue has been no appropriate space for an early education facility in the community; and

WHEREAS, \$3 million in federal discretionary funding was appropriated to the City in 2024 for the express purpose of renovating an existing building to serve as a child care facility; and

WHEREAS, the Valdez City Council has allocated an additional \$400,000 in City funds to support the initial design process; and

WHEREAS, an additional \$200,000 in Community INNOVATION Grant funds are available to purchase fixtures and furnishing for a facility; and

WHEREAS, extensive analysis has gone into site selection for a child care center in Valdez, yet a major barrier in the facilities planning process has been the lack of a qualified operator; and

WHEREAS, due to changes in federal eligibility requirements Chugachmiut is able to receive a Head Start grant to serve the Valdez area for the first time; and

WHEREAS, Chugachmiut Head Start Program in Valdez requires a facility that can accommodate two Early Head Start classrooms and one Head Start classroom; and

WHEREAS, the City and Chugachmiut are both committed to supporting early education opportunities in Valdez and desire to enter into this agreement to facilitate the collaborative design of a high-quality early learning facility

NOW THEREFORE, the parties agree as follows:

#### **AGREEMENT**

**The City and Chugachmiut agree to collaborate on the design of an early learning facility in Valdez (“Facility”) under the following conditions:**

1. The parties commit to designing a Facility that provides high-quality child-development services with safe indoor and outdoor learning environments.

2. The parties commit to ensuring the Facility includes least three age-appropriate learning environments and associated outdoor environments that meet all requirements of the federal Head Start Program Performance Standards and the State of Alaska Child Care Licensing requirements as outlined in Title 7, Chapter 57 of Alaska Administrative Code.
3. The parties commit to regularly sharing information related to changes in program needs and ongoing timelines for design and construction of the Facility.
4. The Facility will be developed in the existing administrative building (District Office) located on the Hermon Hutchens Elementary School Campus.
5. The City will be responsible for overall project management, including ongoing management of and communication with contractors and Valdez City Schools administration.
6. The City will retain all ownership rights to the property where the Facility is located during and after construction is completed.
7. Chugachmiut commits to advising on the design of the Facility and assigning a knowledgeable staff member to actively participate throughout the design and construction process.
8. The parties commit to negotiating a long-term lease of the Facility and, upon completion of construction, Chugahmiut will operate their Valdez Head Start program at the Facility for the duration of their federal grant funding in Valdez.
9. The City commits to ensuring that the terms of a future lease are beneficial to the financial sustainability of the program and will maintain responsibility for overall maintenance of the Facility.

**CHUGACHMIUT, INC.**

BY: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_

FEDERAL ID #: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mailing Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip Code

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Company Secretary or Attest

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Company Secretary or Attest

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**CITY OF VALDEZ, ALASKA**

**APPROVED:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dennis Fleming, Mayor

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**ATTEST:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sheri L. Pierce, MMC, City Clerk

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**APPROVED AS TO FORM:**

Brena, Bell & Walker, P.C.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jake W. Staser