

Memorandum of Agreement

Early Childhood Education Occupational Endorsement Certificate Support

The City of Valdez Alaska (“City”), a home rule municipality, and Prince William Sound College (“PWSC”) hereby enter into this Memorandum of Agreement for Early Childhood Education Occupational Certificate Support (“Agreement”) 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. One major barrier in the community’s ability to maintain licensed childcare has been a lack of adequately trained staff to serve as center administrators or childcare associates (“CCAs”); and

WHEREAS, the City applied for and received a Community INNOVATION Matching Grant from the State of Alaska through thread in the total amount of \$880,000; and

WHEREAS, \$30,000 of the grant funds were requested specifically for training early educators to work in the community by subsidizing the cost of education for a cohort of 6 to 10 educators. The requested grant amount was based on 8 trainees. The cost estimate was based on 2023 tuition and textbook costs for University of Alaska Anchorage (UAA) for 12 credits of course work. Using the low end of unmet demand for childcare in Valdez identified in the Early Childhood Needs Assessment in 2022, it was estimated that Valdez would need a minimum of 5 qualified CCAs; and

WHEREAS, there is currently an additional \$100,000 in grant funding that is unallocated but intended as a funding mechanism to support the sustainability of future programs. A portion of this funding may be used to support this program’s cost if expenses exceed the \$30,000; and

WHEREAS, all Community INNOVATION Grant funds must be expended by December 31, 2025; and

WHEREAS, the City and PWSC desire to enter into this agreement to facilitate the training of CCAs.

NOW THEREFORE, the parties agree as follows:

AGREEMENT

The City and PWSC agree to create a program based upon the following parameters:

1. Up to 10 students will be admitted to the initial cohort of this program.
2. The initial program will provide financial support to help Valdez residents who are already working in the childcare or education field or those interested in pursuing a future career in early childhood education to earn the UAA Occupational Endorsement Certificate in Infant and Toddler Development (18 credit hours).
3. Participants must satisfy the following requirements to be eligible for this program:
 - a. Residency: Participants must present proof that they reside in Valdez and have a local physical address (Driver's License, Voter Identification, Utility Bill, etc.) or, if residing on campus, participants must be a current PWSC student in good academic standing.
 - b. Age: Participants must be at least 16 years of age or older to enroll in the program- Dual Credit students may enroll.
 - c. Enrollment Eligibility: UAA will require proof of eligibility prior to enrollment.
4. The initial program period shall be the Spring 2025, Summer 2025 and Fall 2025 semesters.
5. The City will pay expenses, as provided herein, for the following UAA classes (with delivery online or to be coordinated in collaboration with PWSC):
 - a. EDEC A105 - Introduction to the Field of Early Childhood Education (3 credits).
 - b. EDEC A106 - Creativity and the Arts in Early Childhood (3 credits).
 - c. EDEC A107 - Child Development and Learning (3 credits).
 - d. EDEC A108 - Health, Nutrition and Wellness for Children Birth-12 (3 credits).
 - e. EDEC A241 - Infant and Toddler Development (3 credits).
 - f. EDEC A242 - Culturally Responsive Family Engagement (3 credits).

6. The City shall pay the following expenses for program participants during the Spring 2025, Summer 2025 and Fall 2025 semesters:
 - a. Tuition.
 - b. Fees.
 - c. Textbooks.
 - d. Cost of required fingerprinting and background checks.
 - e. Child/Infant First Aid CPR Certification, which shall be provided locally.
 - f. Costs associated with meeting course requirements for observation.
7. Costs will be reimbursed to UAA by the City for qualifying program participants at the beginning of each semester. Proof of participant eligibility and enrollment will be included with requests for reimbursement. The City will also reimburse costs incurred by PWSC associated with recruiting and advertising for the program.
8. An invoice accompanied by proof of all reimbursable expenses must be submitted to the City of Valdez Finance Department by November 30, 2025.
9. Total reimbursement for each participant shall not exceed \$7,500.
10. This Agreement may be modified or amended provided that any such modification or amendment is in writing and is signed by the parties to this Agreement.
11. Any civil action arising from this Agreement shall be brought in the trial courts of the State of Alaska in the Third Judicial District at Valdez. The law of the State of Alaska shall govern the rights and duties of parties under this Agreement.
12. Any provision of this Agreement that may be declared invalid or otherwise unenforceable by a court of competent jurisdiction shall be ineffective to the extent of such invalidity without invalidating the remaining provisions of this Agreement.
13. This Agreement shall be governed by the laws of the State of Alaska with venue in the Third Judicial District, State of Alaska at Valdez.

14. The failure of either party at any time to enforce a provision of this Agreement shall in no way constitute a waiver of the provision, nor in any way affect the validity of this Agreement or any part hereof, or the right of said party thereafter to enforce each and every provision hereof.
15. All terms and conditions of this Agreement are embodied herein. No other terms and conditions will be considered a part of this Agreement unless expressly agreed upon in writing and signed by both parties.

[SIGNATURES TO FOLLOW]

PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND COLLEGE

DATE: _____

BY: _____

TITLE: _____

Date: _____

FEDERAL ID #: _____

ATTEST:

Mailing Address

Sheri L. Pierce, MMC, City Clerk

City, State, Zip Code

Date: _____

Signature of Company Secretary or Attest

APPROVED AS TO FORM:
Brena, Bell & Walker, P.C.

Date: _____

Jake W. Staser

Signature of Company Secretary or Attest

Date: _____

CITY OF VALDEZ, ALASKA
APPROVED:

Dennis Fleming, Mayor

