

**CHUGACHMIUT**  
**Plan FY10-14**  
**Child and Family Welfare**

Community and Family Services Division  
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**Title IV-B 2010-2014 Child and Family Welfare Program Plan**

**2010-2014 Plan Development:**

This plan was developed based on the input of various community stakeholders, consisting of elders, community leaders, family service consumers, community partners and professional staff, including medical providers, who contributed feedback and comments during summer and fall, 2009. Input was elicited through individual interviews, focus groups, and dialogue during community gathering events. Specifically, this included the Nanwalek community's "Search" event, which occurred in October 5-9, 2009. Feedback was also gathered when results of a regional survey were presented to community members in all Chugach communities during September through November, 2009. Lastly, planning for this project occurred through three specific conference calls during July and August, 2009, which included participation from representatives from Chenega Bay, Nanwalek, Port Graham, Seward and Cordova. Because Chugachmiut serves a large region, community input was abstracted and integrated by Chugachmiut's Community and Family service team members including Susan Labelle, Matthew Sena and Michelle Hosford. Title IV-B funding will support the goal of boosting child and family welfare through prevention-focused education activities, culturally responsive, leading to psycho-social and health outcomes.

**Goals, Objectives, and Measures:**

**Goal 1: Reduce the incidence of child abuse and neglect in the Chugach region.**

Objectives

1. Provide parent education workshops and family coaching with emphasis on child development and healthy relationships.
2. Provide training to at risk families on community reinforcement and family therapy aimed at building skills for dealing with family members who use substances as well as skills for reintegrating them after treatment.
3. Ten families will participate in annual curriculum based education workshops on child and infant safety.

**Measure of Progress:** Reduction in the number of child abuse and neglect critical incidents, as measured by self-report from IRA councils. We will aim for a 25% decrease in critical incidence.

**Goal 2: Maintain Chugach children at risk of child abuse and neglect in their parental home.**

**Objectives:**

1. Increase families' knowledge and skills in child protective factors through community-based health, wellness and cultural activities.
2. Annually provide one cultural activity organized by local community members, involving pro-social experiential activities, such as crafts or cultural heritage events, in a safe and sober environment for 10 families to interact with children.
3. Two Chugach child protection team stakeholders will participate in professional trainings, such as at conferences or symposia, annually, aimed at increasing communities' local capacity for promoting family wellness.
4. Ten home visits will be provided annually, by existing Chugachmiut behavioral health providers, to provide coaching on family safety planning. Tangible resources, including brochures or other objects such as phone cards, will also be disseminated according to need

**Measure of Progress:** Children removed from their parental home will be tracked on a yearly basis. We will aim for a 25% decrease in the frequency rate of children removed from households, over the five year project period.

**Goal 3: Increase the regional level of family support and preservation through providing regular access to supportive resources related to service referrals, parent education, and family coaching for emergent needs.**

**Objectives:**

1. A web-portal will be established, via Chugachmiut's website, providing content and links to information on child and family welfare, leading to increased resource awareness and access.
2. IWCA workers in each of the villages will assist families in accessing services and provided referrals to services which reduce the risk of child abuse and neglect.

**Measure of Progress:** Participant families will also complete brief post test surveys, indicating their outcomes of satisfaction and perceived support and a summary of the collected data will be provided on a yearly basis.

Chugachmiut's 2010-2014 Title IV-B Child and Family Welfare Program Plan will be evaluated based on idiographic methods, involving pre-and post frequency comparisons, and

qualitative narratives reports. This evaluation procedure is justified based on practical resources constraints as well as conceptual scientific nuances related to the reduction ambiguity for indexing child and family welfare outcomes. Nonetheless, if resources for objective evaluation become available, Chugachmiut's evaluation data will be archived for further analysis. Chugachmiut will provide annual summaries of project outcome data, compiling overall trends during the 2014 administration year.

### **Service Description:**

During the 2010-2014 program period, Chugachmiut will provide child and family welfare program services related to Child Welfare Services, subpart 1. Child welfare services will include the provision of child welfare and safety information during trainings, as related to Goals 1 and 2. The information presented during trainings will include cultural knowledge as well as publications based from empirically supported findings. Chugachmiut will also provide child and family welfare services related to IV-B, subpart. Such services will relate to Goal 3, aimed at maintaining support and providing resources. All services will be directed at achieving program goals, and activities will fall within objective areas, where Chugachmiut accomplishes several objectives each fiscal year.

### **Consultation and Coordination:**

Several stakeholders will be involved in the implementation of the Child and Family Services Plan during FY2010 through 2014. In addition to the personnel within Chugachmiut's Community and Family Services and Health Services Division, stakeholders will include village-based employees, including service providers, council members and families at large. Additionally, stakeholders of the program will include several community based organizations who have established partnerships with Chugachmiut, such as the Cordova Family Resource Center, and South Peninsula Haven House. This program will also coordinate with tribally operated ICWA programs in improving child welfare activities, aligning with the recently awarded ICWA compliance project when appropriate. The project will seek consultation with State and Federal representatives in overcoming challenges, improving services and exchanging successes. Such consultation will occur through reports as well as verbal interactions, anticipated to occur on a quarterly basis.

### **Health Care Services:**

Chugachmiut will be responsive to participant's primary health care needs through the existing village health care clinics. Chugachmiut staffs a family practice physician, nurse practitioner, pharmacist and dental hygienist who rotate monthly among the communities of Seward, Nanwalek, Port Graham, Tatitlek and Chenega Bay. Participants of Valdez receive health services through Providence Medical Center. Participants of Cordova receive health services through the Native Village of Eyak's Illanka Health Center. Standard procedures exist for faxed internal and external referrals. Participants are always advised about health conditions or risks they may have, treatment options they have. Their questions are also readily addressed. If participants need surgical referrals, or needs outside Chugachmiut's primary care scope, they will be referred to the Alaska Native Medical Center.

**Collaboration between Tribes and State:**

Chugachmiut will assist IRA councils with communication and collaboration needs with the State of Alaska. This may be accomplished through meetings with IRA councils and the State for relevant case reviews. Chugach IRA ICWA workers will also maintain working relationships with local Office of Children's Services representatives. The State of Alaska is responsible for the 422 protections.

**Disaster Plans:**

Chugachmiut has updated tribal disaster response plans from the Chugach communities served under this program, included as an attachment. Chugachmiut provides an emergency response protocol for consumers of village-based health centers, as specified in the Community Health Aide Manual. The emergency response protocol pertains to the roles of community health aides, within Port Graham, Chenega Bay, Tatitlek and Nanwalek, specifying their management and availability to triage emergencies around the clock through health centers within each village.

**Program Support:**

At the current time, there are no new research or evaluation activities taking place, or projects in planning, specifically focusing on child welfare. Regarding updates on the information management system, Chugachmiut has been implementing a central records management system over the past five years. Currently this infrastructure exists for physical records, though its future state will involve the management of electric records. Village IRA's, programs and departments that have utilized the central records infrastructure have benefitted from professional, readily accessible data, cutting down on information searches and inefficiencies associated with lost documents. The central records management has not been adopted by all Chugachmiut departments or programs, and has not been widely embraced by all village IRA's. Though it is not a mandatory requirement, it is expected that village councils and child welfare workers will utilize the system, actualizing the benefits of increased efficiency and effectiveness in professionally administered information management.

**Technical Assistance:**

To date, the Chugach communities served under this program have not requested technical assistance with respect to child welfare. However, Chugachmiut is requesting technical support on its role to manage State compliant child welfare information as an intermediary consortium organization between village IRA's and the State of Alaska.

**Plan availability:**

A written copy of Chugachmiut's Child and Family Services Plan will be provided to State of Alaska constituents, as well as local stakeholders via IRA councils. The plan will be posted on Chugachmiut's website, listed under the Community and Family Services Division at [www.chugachmiut.org](http://www.chugachmiut.org).