

## **Priority IV: Infant Learning Program**

### **BACKGROUND/URGENCY:**

The Infant Learning Program in the State of Alaska received a \$1.3 million increment last year to assist programs in keeping up with increased costs of doing business around the state. After several years of flat funding, programs around the state were struggling to keep their organization in a position to provide services to children and their families. Because of the increment received last year, the Infant Learning Program will not be requesting additional funding at this time. However, AILPA and the Key Coalition of Alaska would like to prepare our Legislators and Administration for a future request for critical regulation change that will happen next year.

Currently, the State of Alaska regulations define Part C eligibility as a 50% delay in one or more areas of development. This means that a child would need to be demonstrating delays of half their age (a 2-year-old able to do skills typical of a 1-year-old). Due to the fact that Part B eligibility is only a 25% delay in any one area means that many children who do not qualify for Part C services fall through the cracks of Part B and do not begin to receive services until they enter kindergarten. It has been consistently demonstrated that the most effective time to establish intervention is between birth and 3 years old. If a child is only eligible for Part B services, they do not receive any services until they age out at 3 years old. This means that crucial time is lost for that child. Such early intervention at such levels of delay clearly saves significant future funding for the state while providing the child with every opportunity for a healthy and successful developmental period of growth and learning.

It is strongly recommended that the current state regulation be changed to align Part C eligibility with Part B eligibility. That would mean changing eligibility for Part C from a 50% delay to eligibility at 25%.

### **ACTION REQUESTED**

**The Key Coalition of Alaska asks the Alaska State Legislature to:**

*Approve the change in the eligibility level for  
Infant Learning Programs (Part C)  
from a 50% delay to a 25% delay*