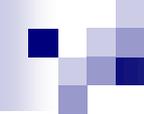


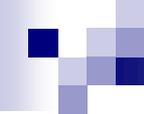
# EARLY CARE & EDUCATION

*Alaska's Children: Alaska's Business*



# Overview

- Science provides the framework for education and workforce investment
- Economic impact and workforce trends
- Comprehensive system of Early Care & Education
- Early Care & Education works so families can work



“Alaska’s children deserve to start school with the best possible opportunities for success. But this issue isn’t only about doing right by children, better educated Alaskans will result in a stronger state and economy.”

Governor Palin, Governor’s Summit on Early Learning, Dec. 2007

“Child development is a foundation for community development and economic development, as capable children become the foundation of a prosperous and sustainable society.”

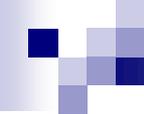
The Science of Early Childhood Development, (2007)

National Scientific Council on the Developing Child

# Early Years are Critical Years

“...Early experiences affect children’s brain development, and brain development, in turn, shapes lifelong learning.”





## Wise investments in the early years...

- return a lifetime of productivity and responsible citizenship.
- avoid costs associated with greater numbers of school children who need special education and more adults who are under-employable, unemployable, or incarcerated.

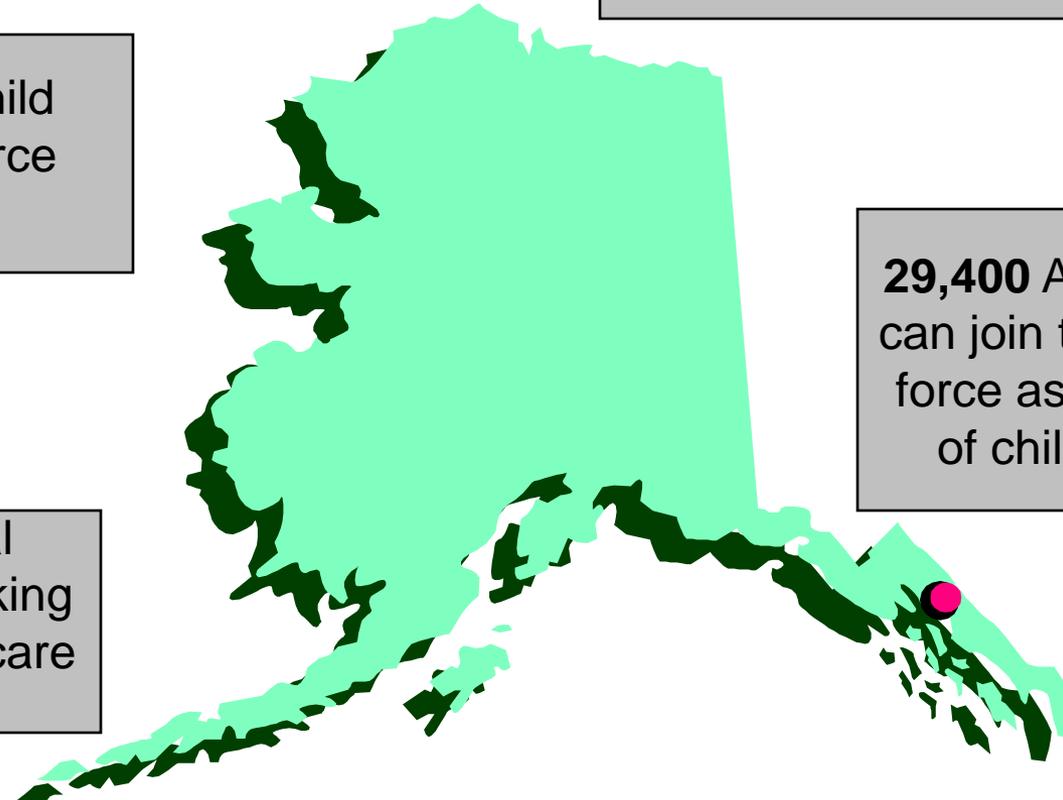
# Economic Impact

**6,500** workers in direct care workforce

**\$124M** in child care workforce payroll

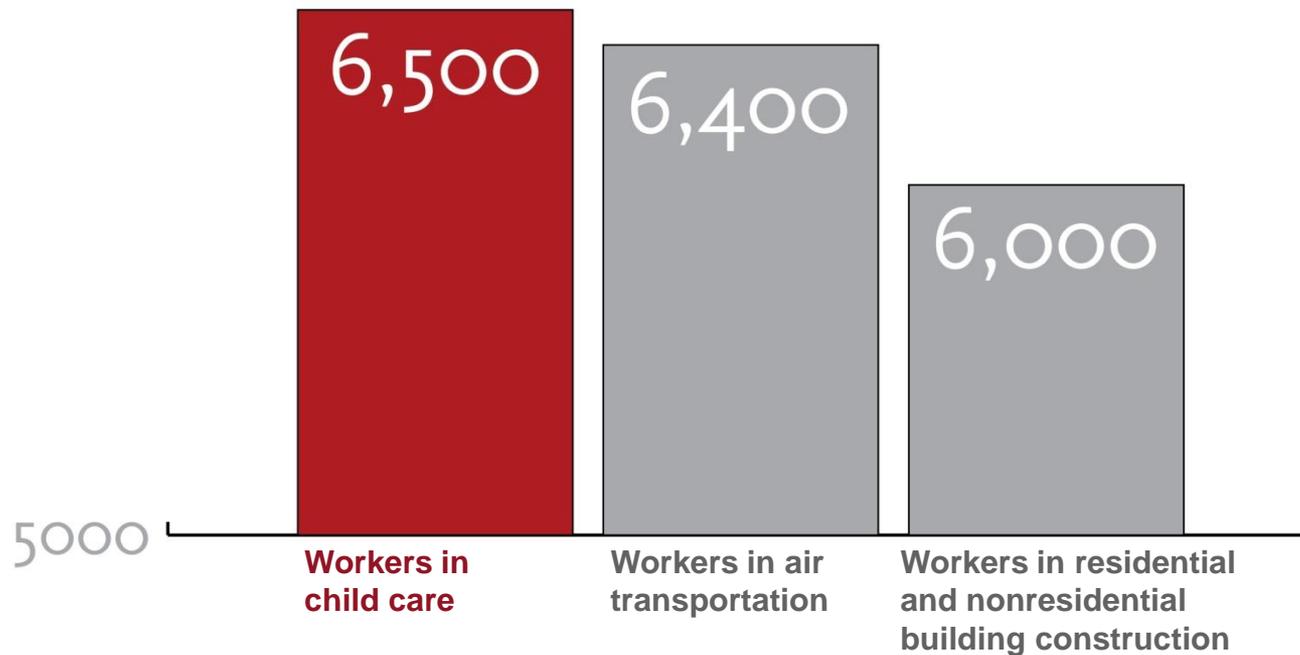
**29,400** Alaskans can join the workforce as a result of child care

**\$850M** in annual wages paid to working families with child care



**36%** of households with children under 6 report that cost/availability of child care restricted the number of hours that could be worked

# Comparable Alaskan Industries

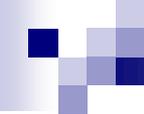


# Diversity of Programs & Workforce

- In-Home family services
- Out of home
- Preschools
- Center-based care
- School-Aged Care



**Faith-based  
For-profit  
Non-profit  
Corporate  
State regulated  
Tribal regulated  
Head Start**



# Profile of the Workforce

- Gain training and education on the job
- Low entry wage contributes to turnover
- Compensation increases with experience & advancement
- Disproportionately high number of older workers
- Significant number of ESL learners

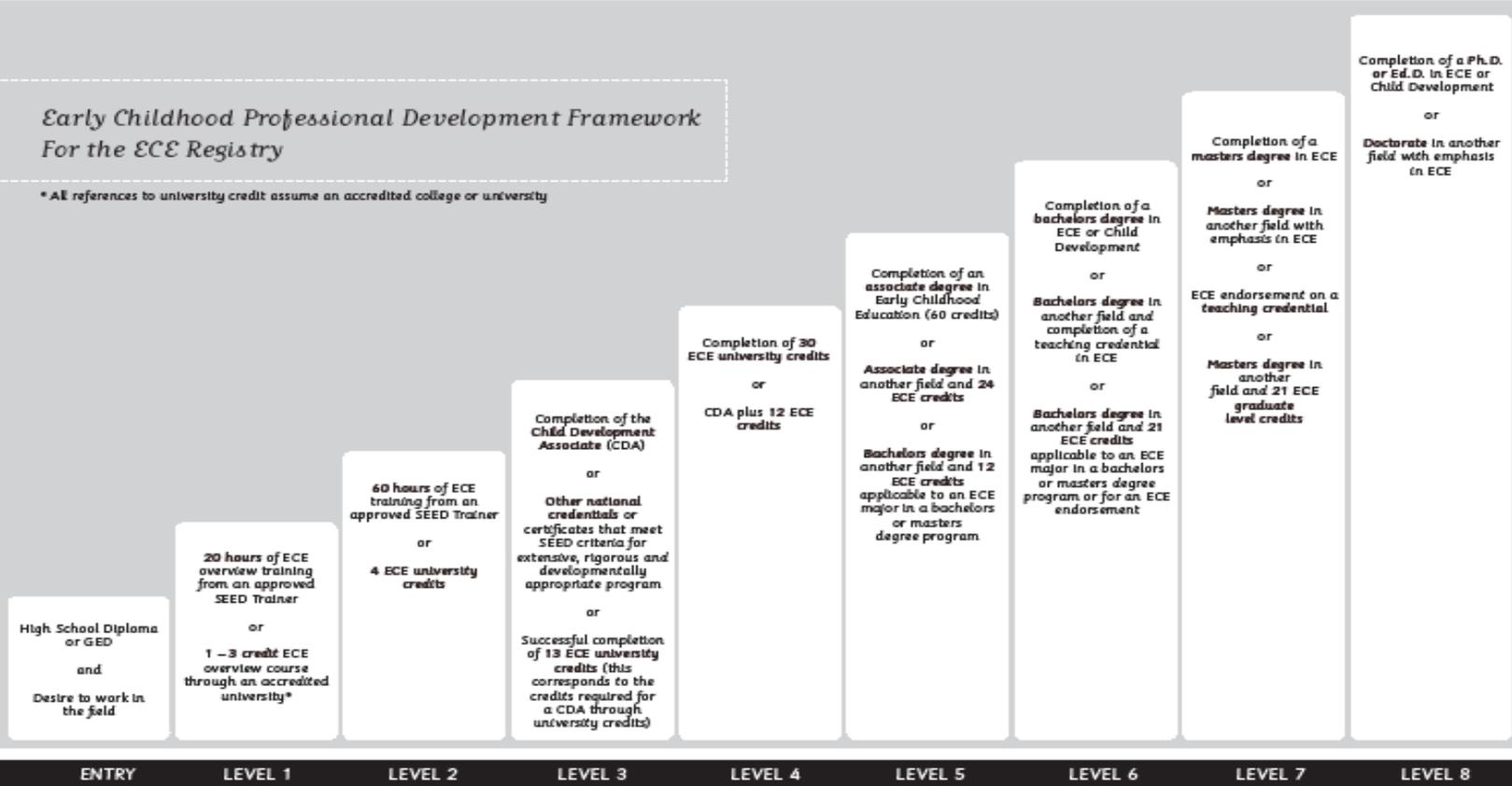
# Early Childhood Career Pathway

Alaska's Early Childhood Professional Development Framework: A Career Ladder for Early Childhood Education Professionals  
 Alaska SEED Project (System for Early Education Development)  
 University of Alaska Southeast

907.563.1966  
<http://seed.alaska.edu>

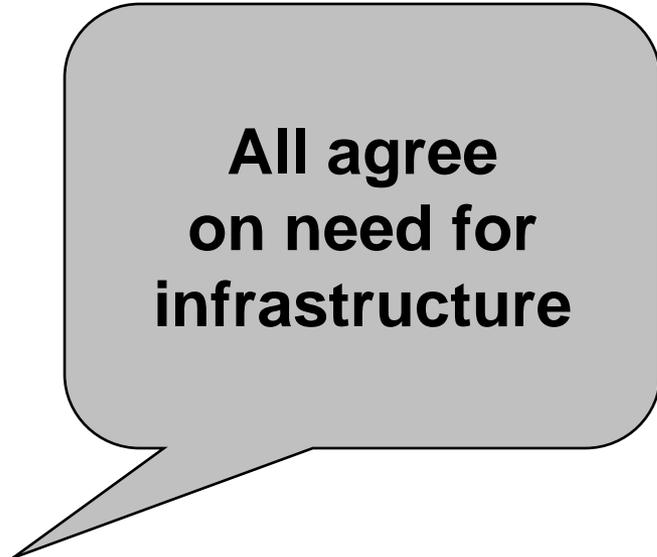
## Early Childhood Professional Development Framework For the ECE Registry

\* All references to university credit assume an accredited college or university



# Partners in a Comprehensive System

- Families and communities
- State government
- Higher education
- Health care
- Private
- Industry



**All agree  
on need for  
infrastructure**



# New Partnerships in Voc Ed

## Tech Prep pilot - distance delivery

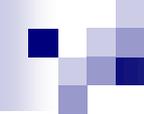
- UA Tech Prep Consortium
- School districts
- One-Stops and Youth Programs

# Putting Alaskans to Work

- Recruitment to field of Early Care & Education
- Capacity building where HG/HD jobs are located

“Prospective workers may also require other types of supportive services while in training or apprenticeships. These services can be as small as a referral for child care services...”

*AGIA Training Strategic Plan, Strategic Element 2.5, pg.26*

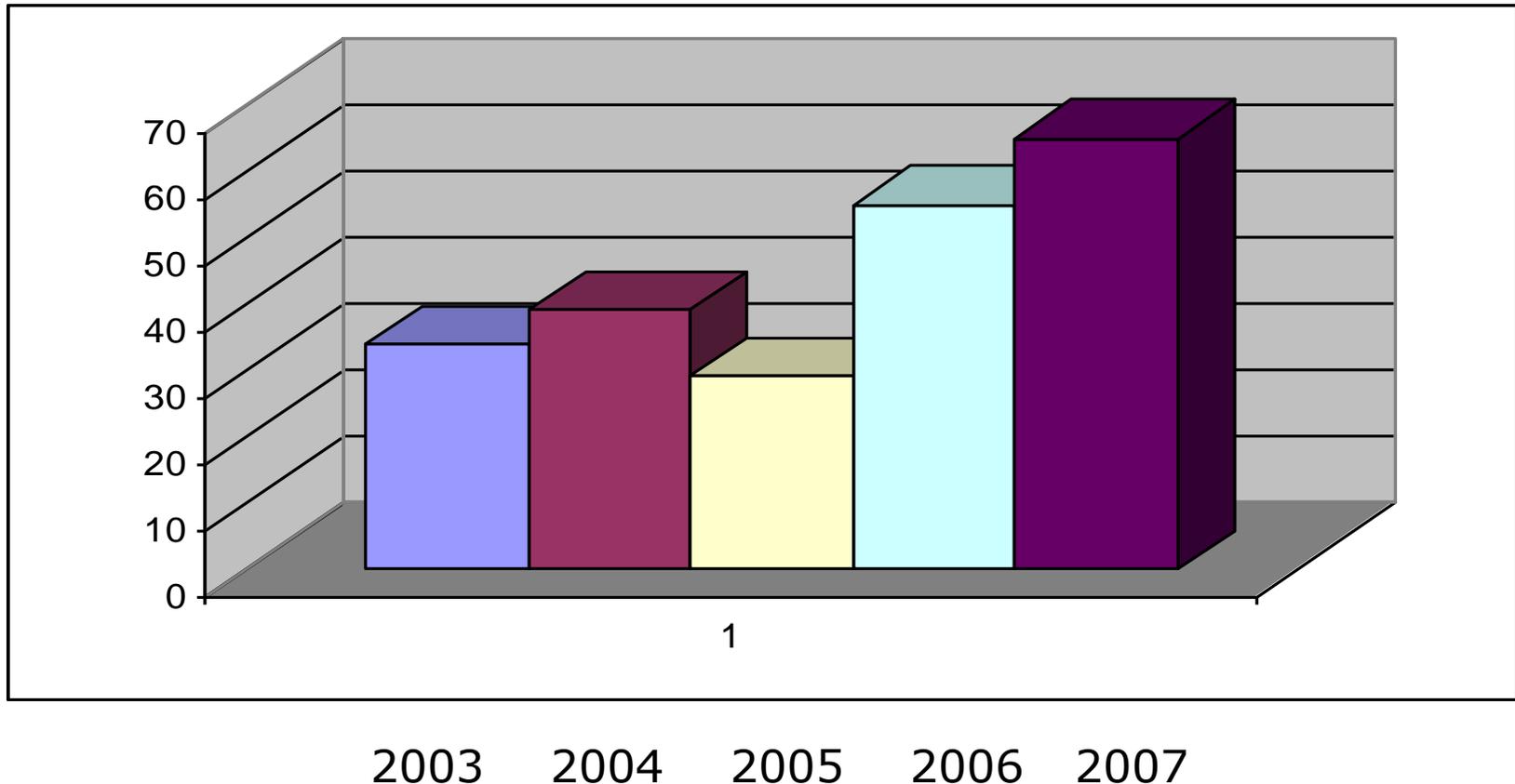


# Child Care Capacity in State Licensed Facilities

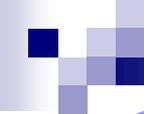
- Statewide and regional trends
- Impact on employers and labor force

... and tribal child care

# Highly Qualified Early Ed Teachers



Early Childhood Education Graduates in UA System



# Competing Demands for Resources

Policy and practice informed by the research in early childhood brain development and economic investment.

How do we target policy changes...

- school readiness?
- cost-benefit analysis?
- supporting the Alaskan workforce?

**Thank  
you!**



## **Alaska's Children: Alaska's Business**

Distance Early Childhood Education AAS Program  
UAF/College of Rural & Community Development  
University of Alaska Southeast