



# BEST BEGINNINGS

## Alaska's Early Childhood Investment



### Alaska prospers when its families are thriving...

Alaska families thrive when they get all of the tools and information they need to help their young children start school ready to succeed. Through partnerships with organizations, volunteers, and the Alaska Department of Education & Early Development, Best Beginnings promotes and puts into action the tenets of the Alaska State Literacy Blueprint and is guided by research and best practices in building early language and literacy; strong children, parents, and families; and community awareness and support in Alaska.

#### Early Language & Literacy

- ✓ Technical and funding support to Alaska Imagination Libraries
- ✓ Develop and provide free educational materials
- ✓ Free interactive literacy - focused take-home materials

#### Strong Children, Parents, & Families

- ✓ Educational family engagement events and activities
- ✓ Free Early Learning Activity Guides available in 3 languages
- ✓ Babies On Track - educational board book, DVD combo

#### Community Awareness & Support

- ✓ Public education and awareness campaigns
- ✓ Community presentations
- ✓ Robust partnerships for increased impact

## Impact

FY 2016



**261,801** new, age-appropriate books mailed to Alaska children at no cost to their families

**23,378** children enrolled in Imagination Library received a book each month in the mail

**90%** of parents responding to a survey reported receiving Imagination Library books increased the amount of time they spent reading with their child

**12,802** individuals attended family engagement events and activities put on by Best Beginnings and Imagination Libraries serving children across Alaska

**93%** of parents responding to family engagement event surveys reported increased knowledge of parenting and child development

**7,172** unique Alaska individuals accessed educational resources and information through the Best Beginnings website





# Investing in Alaska's most valuable resource - its children

Alaska Imagination Libraries spent \$548,407 on books and postage in FY 2016.



Estimated market value of books distributed through Imagination library in Alaska is \$1,617,930.

**\$1,000,000 in cost savings was realized delivering high-quality books into the hands and homes of tens of thousands of Alaska children through Imagination Library.**

Community support moves the mission forward faster and farther.

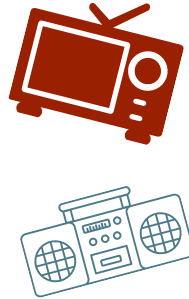


Imagination Library in Alaska is powered by volunteers committed to seeing the youngest among us succeed. More than 187 volunteers donated their time and talent through Alaska Imagination Libraries in FY 2016.

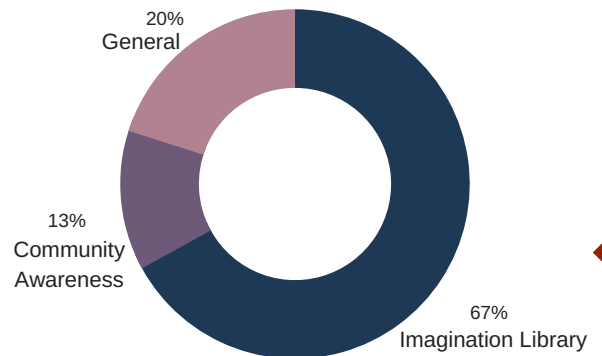
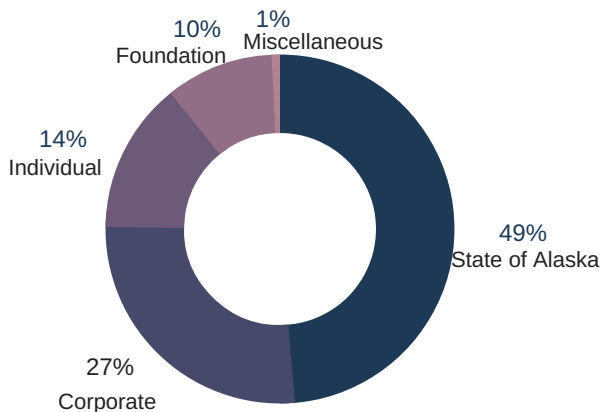
Thousands of volunteer hours donated at a value of \$23.56 per hour ensure more children and families are served.

Local and statewide media outlets donate time on television and radio to air educational public service announcements.

This provides greater reach and more opportunities for families and communities to get the tools and information they need to help their children be prepared for school and set for life.



## Best Beginnings Financial Summary FY 2016



State of Alaska	\$320,000
Corporate	\$174,759
Individual	\$92,267
Foundation	\$65,935
Miscellaneous	\$5,102

Imagination Library	\$461,861
Community Awareness	\$89,245
General	\$135,400

\*Additional funding provided through multi-year grant