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New grantee for child care assistance program announced for the Fairbanks service area

'thread' takes over from Fairbanks North Star Borough

FAIRBANKS, Alaska — Effective July 1, 2011, the Fairbanks North Star Borough no longer provides Child Care Assistance Eligibility Services.

The Child Care Program Office — part of the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services, Division of Public Assistance — announces the new grantee for the Fairbanks service area will be “thread,” Alaska’s Statewide Child Care Resource and Referral Network.

Because it was not feasible to have the new grantee up and running by July 1, the Child Care Program Office, Child Care Assistance Program, team will temporarily continue processing all applications, renewals, and report of change for families and providers in the Fairbanks service area until Sept. 1, 2011. More information will be provided as available to ensure a smooth transition.

“thread is excited for these expanded services in Fairbanks,” said Stephanie Berglund, thread’s CEO/Executive Director. “Child Care Assistance is yet another way that thread supports families and early educators in accessing affordable and quality child care.” For more information about thread, go to www.threadalaska.org.

thread is one of 47 Child Care Resource and Referral Networks across the nation. The Alaska Child Care Resource and Referral Network was formally established in July 2008, and was branded and named thread in August 2009.

thread will be sub-granting to Thrivalaska, which has a strong presence in the Fairbanks community. Thrivalaska operates the summer food program; thread resource and referral for Interior/Northern Alaska; Head Start birth to 5; and a school-age program.

Thrivalaska will begin administering the Fairbanks area Child Care Assistance Program effective Sept. 1, 2011. For more information regarding Thrivalaska, email thread@thrivalaska.com or call 907-479-2214 or toll-free 866-878-2273.

How to get your child care assistance program applications, renewals and reports of change to the Child Care Program Office:

1. **In-person:** Fairbanks Child Care Licensing Office at 542 4th Ave., Suite 212, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m.–noon or 1 p.m.–4:30 p.m. The office closes for one hour at lunch time. An office mail slot can be used 8 a.m.–5 p.m. (No after-hours drop box is available.)
2. **By fax:** Fairbanks Child Care Licensing Office at 451-3196 or toll-free at 1-888-451-3196.
3. **By mail:** Fairbanks Child Care Licensing, 542 Fourth Ave., Suite 212, Fairbanks, AK 99701

For specific questions regarding child care assistance or provider eligibility, email dpaccp@alaska.gov.

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