

Cultural Resource Guide: Connecting Parents & Honoring Community Supports



Alaska Tribal Child Welfare
Conference

Thursday September 28, 2023



Cultural Resources for Alaska Families



CULTURALLY SPECIFIC SERVICES

Alaska Native groups come from different eco-regions, speak different languages, and have diverse cultures; however, they share a commonality of living well on the land.

The 'Alaskan style' of living well encompasses traditional health-based practices which are similar throughout the state. These practices consist of:

Providing	Hunting, fishing, and trapping.
Gathering	Flowers, berries, greens, roots, and beach foods. (Plants for food and medicinal use.)
Growing	Cultivating natural spaces, community gardens, and covered growing.
Sharing	Sharing food, medicine, time, and made items are significant cultural actions.
Learning	Language classes, Elders' teachings on traditional ecological knowledge, cultural presentations, storytelling, and other educational offerings.
Getting Ready	Preparing food, gathering and chopping wood, mending nets, making and mending outdoor gear, cleaning and repairing hunting and trapping gear, home and yard maintenance, land management, and walking the land.
Craftsmanship (Art)	Weaving, carving, painting, beading, sewing, leather tanning, basket making, regalia making, and building.
Community Gatherings	Storytelling, song, dance, games, competitions, ceremonies, women's and men's houses, feasts, and the potlatch.
Community Support Systems	Elder advisors, leaders, mentors, culture bearers, community doers, and volunteer networks.
Rites Of Passage	Birth, puberty, first harvest/catch, marriage, death, burial, and memorial. Teaching roles and expectations as a member of society.

Traditional Resiliency Strategies- building resilience for the next 10,000 years.

Traditional Healing methods are an integral part of living well in Alaska. These are provided by a trained traditional healer.

Traditional Talk Therapies

Women's and men's house, culturally appropriate debriefing, and listening/talking circles.

Traditional Healing Services

Guidance, spiritual counseling, massage, bone setting, energy work, reflexology, counseling, ceremony, plant medicine, prayer, and nutritional counseling.

Specialized Traditional Therapies

Cryotherapy, steam bath (sweat lodge), fasting, journeys, cleansing, blessing, and ceremony.

Cultural Support Services

- ❖ OCS can compensate Community Support Providers that are willing to provide cultural services to parents who have a case plan.
- ❖ If you have identified an Elder or other natural support person, please contact the OCS ICWA Specialist in your region so they can be added as a provider and a request for funds can be issued for compensation.
- ❖ Please note that services are to be formally authorized prior to the services being delivered.



Honoring time and space

- How systems offer help to parents
- Recognizing the importance of meeting needs in a meaningful way
 - Being open minded and creative with how we do that
- Honoring the richness that exist in communities
 - Changing the perception that resources and services are limited



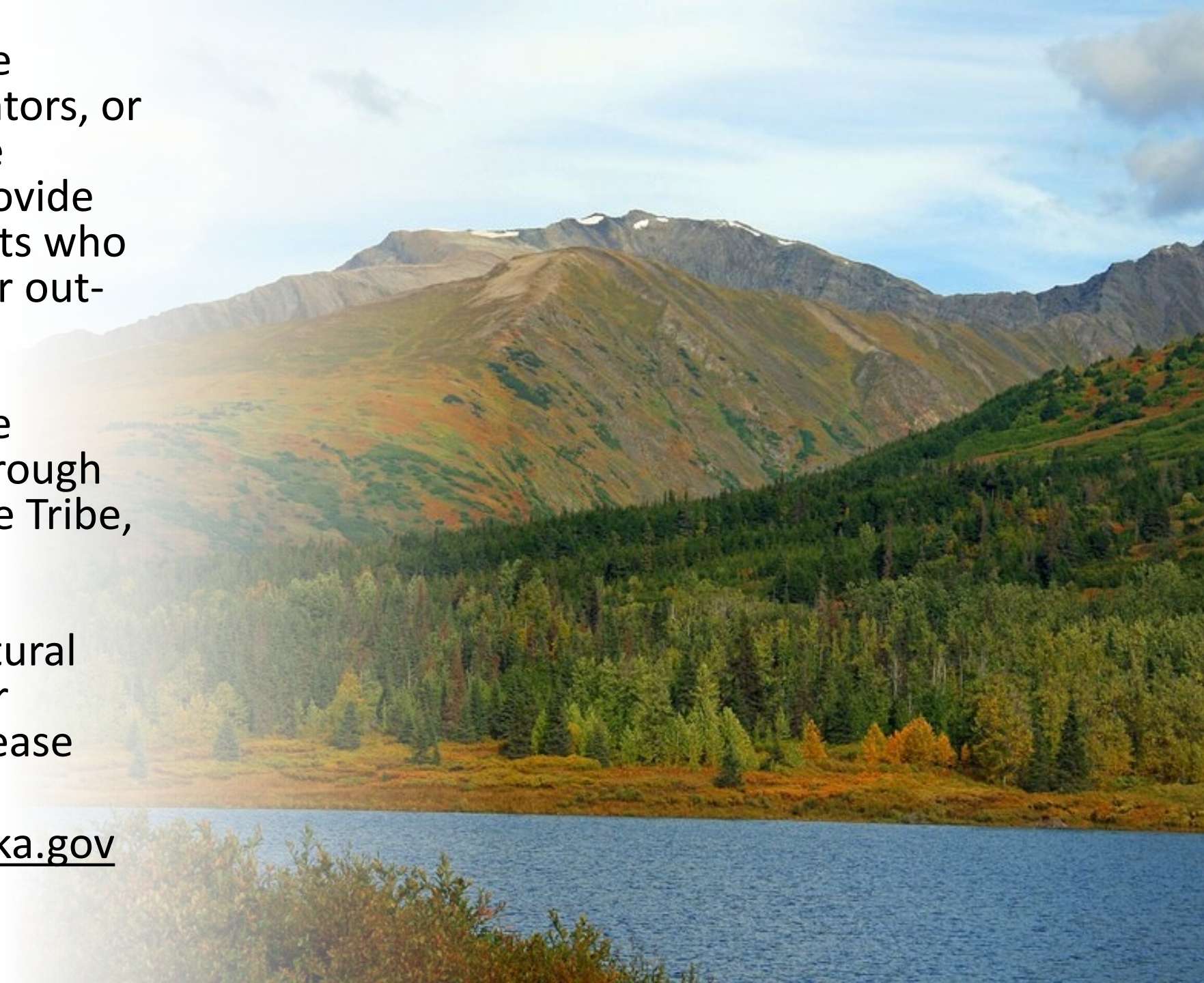
“Cultural Support Services” are time spent between the Cultural Support Services Provider and parent during sessions.

- Cultural Support Service Providers are Elders, mentors, or other individuals who are identified as willing to provide cultural services to parents who have an active in-home or out-of-home OCS case plan.

- Cultural Support Service Providers are selected through coordination between the Tribe, parent, and OCS.


- Once a prospective Cultural Services Support Provider completes a W9 form, please submit this form to

Tasha.yatchmeneff@alaska.gov





Case Example: Utilizing local Traditional/Cultural Health Based Practices to enhance parental protective factors

PROTECTIVE FACTOR	GROWTH AREA: GOAL	CULTURAL ACTIVITY OR SERVICE
 PARENTAL RESILIENCE	The mother will consistently identify and meet her own physical and emotional care needs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Connect with friends and family.Spend time with an elder advisor.Make and attend traditional healing services support appointment.Attend a traditional talk therapy event.
 KNOWLEDGE OF PARENTING & CHILD DEVELOPMENT	The mother will meet her child's needs by teaching them activities that will help them grow.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Attend community events with her child (story time, family nights, etc.)Go berry picking with her child and give away berries to an elder.Start beading with her child and finish 2 projects to give away.
 CONCRETE SUPPORT IN TIMES OF NEED	The mother will meet her child's needs by teaching them about the types of food to hunt and gather during each season of the year to provide for their family.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Learn from an elder about where to fish, gather eggs or shellfish, and gather berries or roots.Meet with Tribal TANF to complete family assessment and apply for appropriate benefits.

- After services are provided the Cultural Support Services Provider submits this invoice form to the Regional ICWA Specialist or Statewide ICWA Coordinator.

- The Regional ICWA Specialist or Statewide ICWA Coordinator will submit the invoice to Provider Payments Unit who will then issue payment to the Cultural Support Services Provider.



Invoice for Cultural Support Services Provided to Parents
(To be completed by the Provider or Tribe/Tribal Organization)

Provider Information

"Providers" are Elders, mentors, or individuals working with parents who have already been identified in collaboration between the Tribe, parent, and OCS.

Provider Name	
Mail Address	
City, State, Zip	
Telephone Number	

Services Provided

"Services" are time spent between the "provider" and parent during sessions.

Name of Parent Receiving Services	
Date Service Provided	Description of Services Provided
Number of Sessions	
Rate/Cost per Session	\$60.00 per session
Total Amount (Number of Sessions x Rate)	\$
Notes:	

Cultural Support Services



Which families are eligible? Eligibility is for all parents with an active OCS case plan (whose children are either living in the home with an open-for services case, or temporarily residing outside of the home due to an open custody case).

Who can receive payment? Elders or other natural supports who are identified as willing to provide cultural services to parents meeting the eligibility above. Individuals should be selected through coordination between the Tribe, parent, and OCS.

Elder or other Cultural Support Service Provider is identified as outlined in criteria above.

For new providers, complete the W9 and notify the [Statewide ICWA Coordinator](#) and [Provider Payments Unit](#). Provider Payments Unit will add the individual as a Provider in ORCA and notify the Statewide ICWA Coordinator.

PS Specialist adds cultural services to the parent's case plan to initiate services.

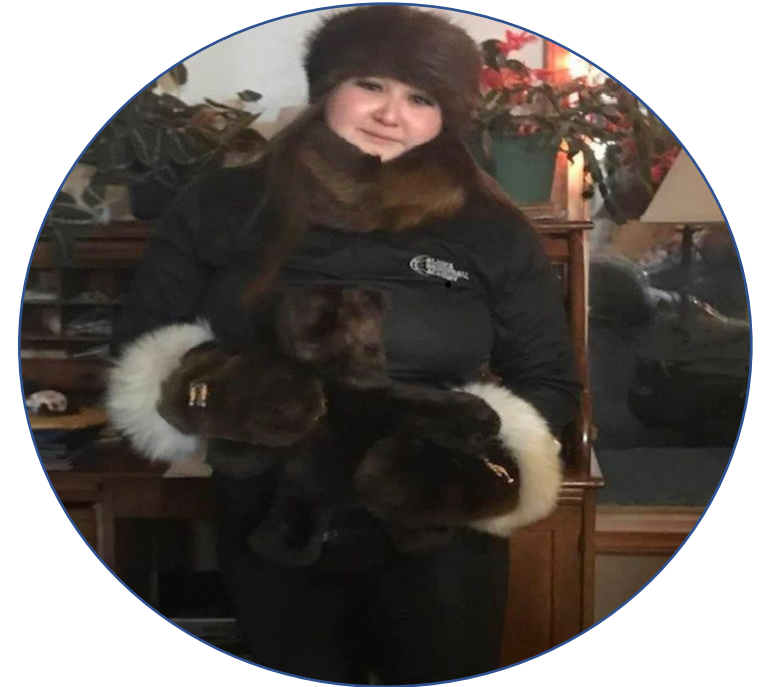
PS Specialist or Regional ICWA Specialist submits a Request for Funds in ORCA for pre-authorization of services.

After services are provided the Cultural Support Services Provider Invoice form is submitted to the Regional ICWA Specialist or Statewide ICWA Coordinator.
Invoices can be submitted following each service or at the end of each month that services are provided.

The Regional ICWA Specialist or Statewide ICWA Coordinator will submit invoices to Provider Payments Unit.
Payment will be issued to the Elder or Cultural Support Provider.

Culture Kits

Diane Selanoff



Keeping Families in Care Connected to Culture





Opportunities for
Cultural connection

The image shows four embroidered shoes arranged in a row on a wooden surface. Each shoe has a different embroidery design on the toe. The shoes are dark-colored with a lighter-colored toe patch. The first two shoes have a purple trim around the toe patch, while the last two have a blue trim. The text overlays are white circles containing black text, positioned above each shoe. The background is a wooden surface with a blue patterned cloth on the left side.

Materials

Setting
intentions

Taking
care of
tools

Creating



Materials

Setting an intention





Taking Care of
our tools





**Thank
You**