

Cultural Resource Guide & Cultural Support Provider Program

Alaska Tribal Child Welfare 2024



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





Adding Cultural Services to the parent's case plan to initiate services

OCS Case Planning Policy 2.9

PARENTAL RESILIENCE

The ability to cope and bounce back from challenges as a parent.

Make healthy choices;
Practice traditional values and activities;
Don't dwell on the past;
Create balance in your life;
Rely on spiritual strength.

KNOWLEDGE OF PARENTING & CHILD DEVELOPMENT

Information about raising children and what they can do at different ages.

Teach children right from wrong;
Always provide unconditional love;
Help children to learn;
Make sure children know you're there for them;
Spend time playing with children.

CONCRETE SUPPORT IN TIMES OF NEED

Access to food, housing, health services, education, counseling and other needed services.

Help others when they need it;
Use community resources;
Know where to go.

SOCIAL CONNECTIONS

Positive friends, family and community who provide emotional support, assistance, and safety.

Have get-togethers;
Volunteer yourself to help in your community; be good role models;
Connect with Elders; Find someone to talk to.

SOCIAL & EMOTIONAL COMPETENCE OF CHILDREN

Children feel love, a sense of belonging and can get along with others, and feel safe.

Know your family tree;
Encourage and praise children;
Know your children's needs;
Spend quality time with each of your children;
Believe in trial and error.

•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.



Thank you!

Questions and Comments

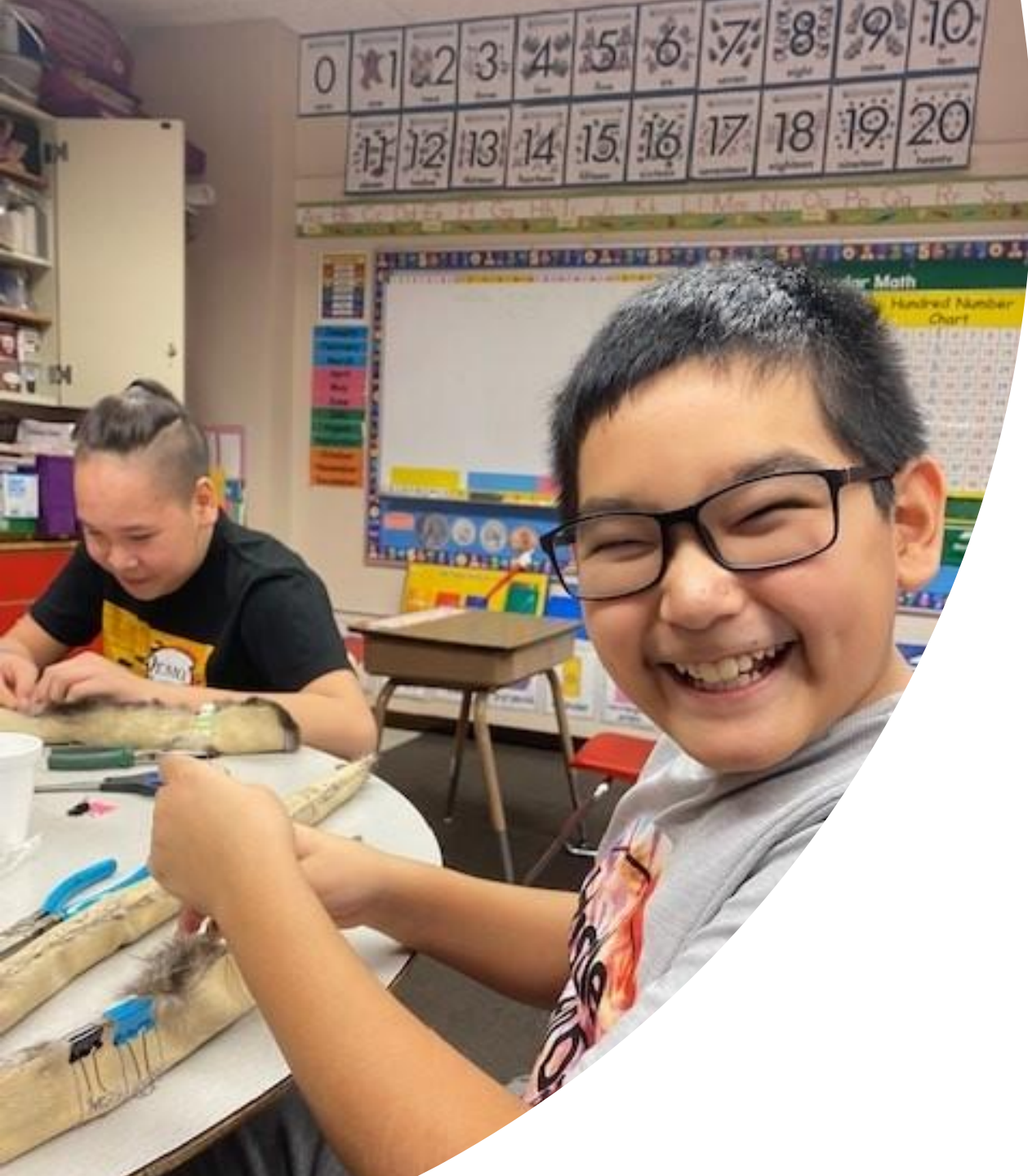
Culture Kits

Diane Selanoff



Keeping Families in Care Connected to Culture





Opportunities for
Cultural connection

The image shows four grey felt slippers arranged in a row on a wooden surface. Each slipper has a different embroidered design on the top: a white flower, a white flower, a blue flower, and a blue flower. A semi-transparent dark blue overlay covers the top half of the image, featuring four overlapping white circles. Each circle contains a step in a process: 'Materials', 'Setting intentions', 'Taking care of tools', and 'Creating'.

Materials

Setting
intentions

Taking
care of
tools

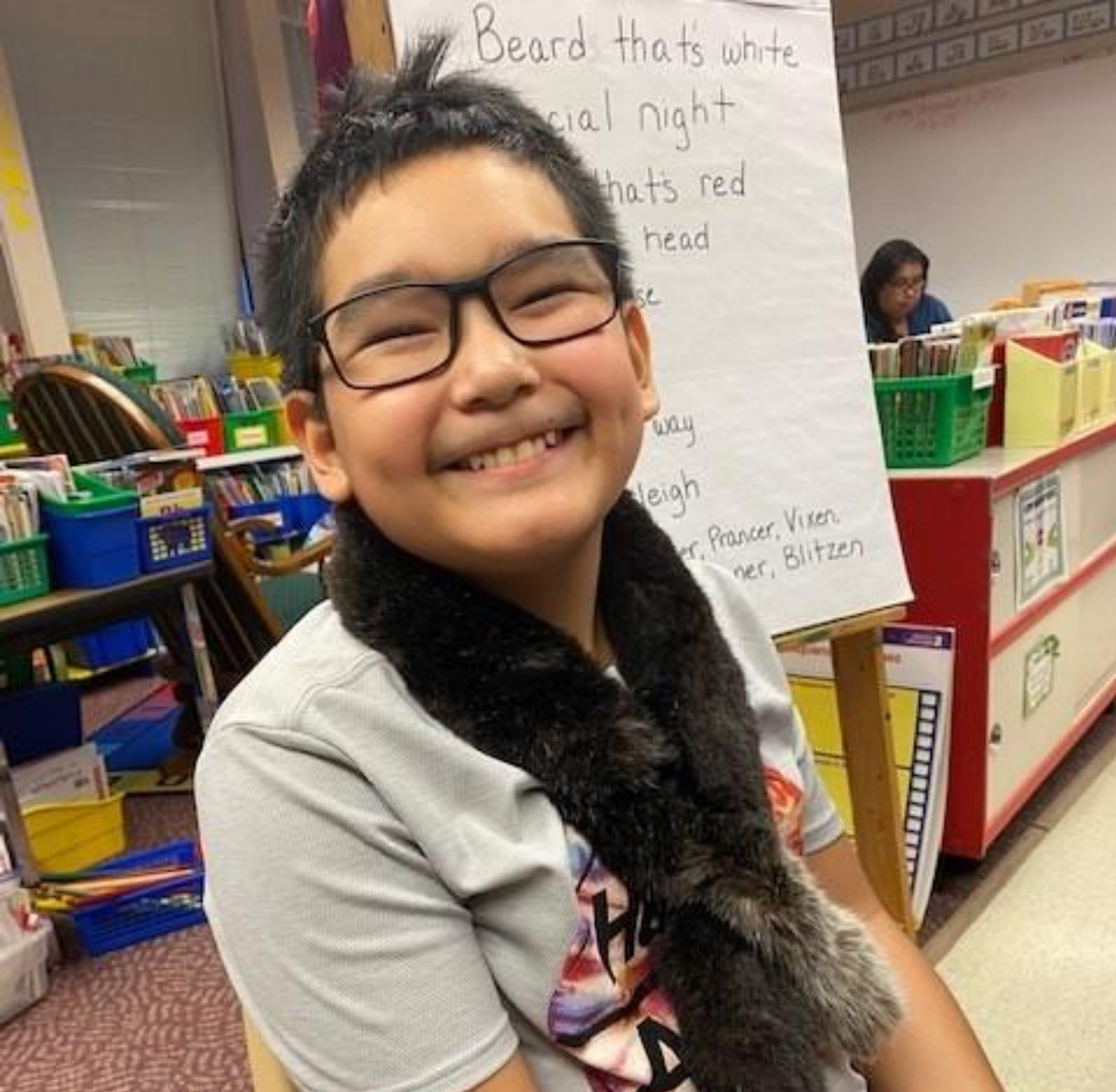
Creating



Materials

Setting an intention





Taking Care of
our tools



A close-up photograph of a dark grey, fuzzy hat with a large, vibrant red ribbon bow. The hat is positioned on a light-colored wooden surface. The text "Thank You" is overlaid in white, bold, sans-serif font on the left side of the hat.

**Thank
You**