

ALASKA RESILIENCE INITIATIVE



Network Description

The Alaska Resilience Initiative (ARI) is a network of nonprofit, tribal and state government organizations, schools, businesses and community coalitions working toward our shared goal:

Mobilizing Alaska to end child maltreatment, intergenerational and systemic trauma through healing and strategic advocacy.

We are approaching this by:

- Growing & strengthening the network of people & organizations already doing work statewide to reduce childhood trauma & build resilience
- Amplifying existing efforts
- Using our collective power to exert pressure on key areas of policy or system change

MARC Objectives & Activities

NETWORK: Build a strong, diverse statewide network that connects existing local-level networks with efforts across the state using a Collective Impact framework.

- Conduct gaps analysis to expand & diversify ARI membership
- Engage in statewide strategic planning & community engagement
- Build infrastructure for statewide & local-to-local communication

COMMUNICATIONS: Educate Alaskans about brain architecture, Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), cultural and collective trauma, and how to build resilience through a statewide communications plan.

- Develop community toolkit & communications strategy
- Gather input among Alaska Native & other groups
- Improve & expand train-the-trainers process & curriculum

POLICY: Make policy changes in legislation and institutions (e.g. education, health care, social service, child protection).

- Identify potential key policy priorities
- Form statewide policy workgroup

TRAUMA-INFORMED SYSTEMS: Disseminate promising strategies through shared tools and reporting of results.

- Form statewide trauma-informed systems workgroup
- Support local coalitions to test strategies
- Create tools for sharing resources statewide
- Lead & advocate for trauma-informed system change efforts in education

Key Learnings

Our key learnings to date include:

- Build participation, transparency and equity in from the beginning through language, processes and leadership. "Inclusion" alone is not enough; through shared leadership and decision-making, we can create effective and equitable approaches to ACEs and resilience.
- In some communities, coalitions and organizations, all that is needed for momentum is helping to bring people together and asking the right questions, spurring them to move forward on their own with only minor support and accountability from the network. These low-cost/time investment opportunities are important to pair with the higher-cost/time investments to get momentum and organic growth happening.
- All trauma-informed change efforts should be "trauma-informed, culturally-responsive" to truly create safety, empowerment, etc. and to address disparities in ACEs and their outcomes. This can be a harder sell in some communities and institutions, but it is essential for the ACEs movement to be equitable, to gain the trust of communities of color and LGBTQ communities, and to decrease historical and ongoing systemic trauma.
- Understanding and respecting the existing work happening on ACEs, historical trauma, and resilience is essential for trust and for effectiveness. The network must find ways to connect and amplify the existing work and to offer only what is needed to fill in gaps. Even so, there may be turf issues; relationship management needs attention at all times.



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