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## **Cook Inlet Native Head Start Secures Grants and Begins Work on New Facility**

[Anchorage, Alaska, October 9, 2019] Cook Inlet Native Head Start (CINHS) has recently purchased land in Anchorage for their new Head Start facility addition, which is currently under design.

CINHS purchased an undeveloped 3.8-acre lot in Anchorage near 16<sup>th</sup> and C Street, on which they will construct a new Head Start facility. The site is located adjacent to the Chester Creek multiuse trail, allowing for easy access to the trail, surrounding greenbelt, and nearby Valley of the Moon Park.

CINHS is partnering with MCG Alaska, Coffman Engineers, and Cadence General Contractors to design and construct the new 17,000 square foot facility, which will support CINHS's mission to "Build Strong Foundations with Alaska Native Families through Alaska Native Cultures and Education." The facility will create a sense of Alaska Native cultures, place, safety, and belonging through integration of all five Alaska Native cultural groups. The building design will be inclusive of multi-generational, non-nuclear families, and will be designed sustainably to exhibit care and response for the natural environment.

"We're excited for the opportunities our children and families will have to learn and interact in an environment that incorporates traditional indigenous structures and elements into a contemporary Native educational facility," said Ethan Petticrew, Executive Director of CINHS.

The new facility will have eight classrooms to serve Head Start children from six weeks to five years of age. A CINHS community gathering space will be an integral part of the building design. Construction is scheduled to begin this fall, with the building being completed and occupied during Winter 2020. Funding for the new facility was provided through two grants from the Office of Head Start. One grant added 32 slots for babies 6 weeks to 3 years old, and the other changed slots from part-day classes to full day.

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