



Alaska Commission On Aging

Aging With Dignity And Independence

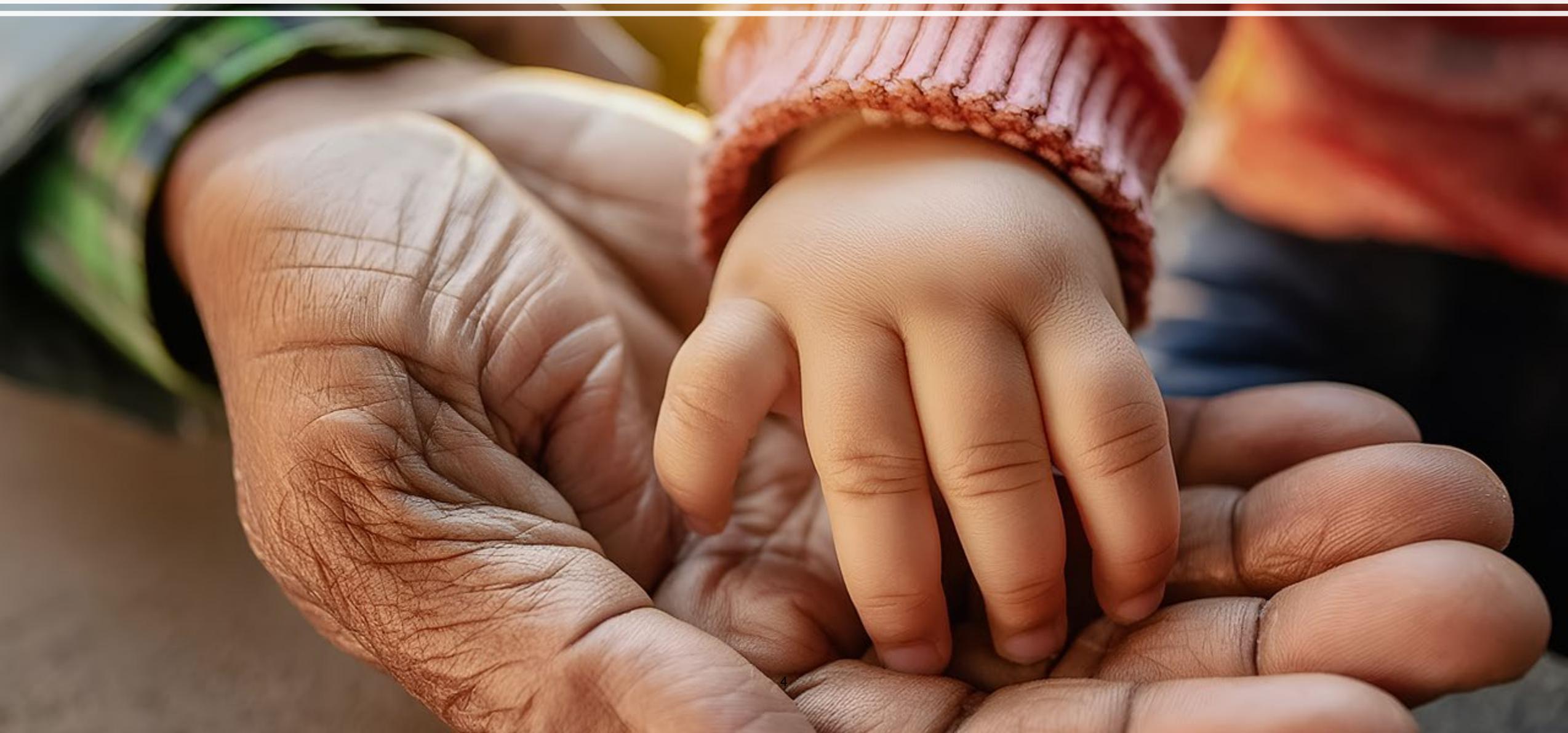
Marty Lange – Executive Director

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren

- Children of Beneficiaries
- Parents of Beneficiaries
- Outcomes

The human side of the story



Alaska Statistics

15,306 Grandparents responsible for their grandchildren

7,000 children being raised by grandparents

739 being raised by kin via the Foster system

Foster care = up to \$1,415 per child

Non-foster care = TANF \$452 (+150) per child, based on income status

Why do Grandparents do it?

- Grandchild's parent has substance abuse issues, mental health issues or incarceration.
- Love and sense of duty/responsibility to family
- Preserve family heritage and culture
- Desire to provide stability
- Avoid foster care or adoption
- Hope of recovery for the parent
- Hope for the child's future



Why it's complicated

- Seniors can lose housing and/or senior services eligibility due to taking in the child(ren)
- Legal guardianship can be complicated and expensive
- Education and Health systems can be difficult to navigate
- Unanticipated cost of feeding & clothing grandchildren
- Parents can take back their child at any time



What kind of help is needed?

- Consulting
- Legal
- Financial
- Emotional
- Support groups
- Overcoming Stigma

Recommendations

- Continued support of UReCares program (Alaska Impact Alliance)
- Support efforts to raise the TANF
- Sponsor an information campaign
- Consider offering Mini-grants



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