



ALASKA SELECTED AS A TACSEI STATE: DRIVERS NEEDED!

Dear Colleague:

Social, emotional and behavioral competence has been shown to be at least as important as cognitive competence in facilitating a young child's success in school. Early childhood personnel report that problems in social competence and the presence of challenging behavior is their biggest challenge. In recognition of the importance of social, emotional, and behavioral competence, the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) of the US Department of Education requires states to report on progress in improving the social, emotional and behavioral outcomes of young children served under IDEA.

The Technical Assistance Center on Social Emotional Interventions (**TACSEI**) is funded by OSEP in partnership with the Office of Child Care and Office of Head Start. The focus of TACSEI is training and technical assistance (T/TA) on evidence-based approaches for supporting the social emotional competence and preventing and addressing challenging behavior of young children with or at risk for delays or disabilities; The Pyramid Model. Training and technical assistance includes providing intensive T/TA to two states per year. **Alaska is one of these two states recently selected to participate in a partnership with TACSEI.** TACSEI and CSEFEL (Center on the Social Emotional Foundations for Early Learning), an original partner, have been assisting states using evidence-based practices to support early care and learning programs throughout the country.

Alaska is embarking on a great adventure to build a comprehensive early childhood social emotional development system for the state. Part of this statewide initiative is to build a cadre of trainers, coaches, and support staff in the area of social-emotional development. Over the years many early childhood educators, early interventionists, and related specialists have requested more training and support in the area of social-emotional development. The opportunity to respond with quality training and ongoing supports is before us!

We would like to invite you to be part of this exciting partnership initiative by becoming an Alaska TACSEI Pyramid Partnership Master Cadre Member/External Coach, Demonstration Site, Internal Coach and/or Trainer.

Join with us to build capacity for promoting young children's social and emotional competence and address challenging behaviors. The following entities make up Alaska's State TACSEI Pyramid Partnership Leadership Team: State of Alaska Infant Learning Program, Department of Education & Early Development, State of Alaska Child Care Programs Office, Office of Children's Services, Behavioral Health, [thread](#) - Child Care Resource and Referral, Alaska Head Start Association, Best Beginnings, Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Grant, Council of Athabascan Tribal Governments Education Department, Center for Human Development, University of Alaska Anchorage, and the Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education.

Our Primary Purpose: to Train Master Cadre Members, External Coaches, Demonstration Sites, Internal Coaches, and Trainers on how to implement the Pyramid Model to fidelity.

There are 5 major components of the Alaska TACSEI Pyramid Partnership necessary to realize our primary purpose.

- ▲ Provide TACSEI Pyramid Model train-the-trainer events in February and April 2010.
- ▲ Coordinate and work with a team of TACSEI Pyramid Model Master Cadre Members, Coaches and/or Trainers to help programs in their locale implement the Alaska TACSEI Pyramid Partnership.
- ▲ Work with programs state-wide as Pyramid Model Demonstration Sites.
- ▲ Work with the Alaska TACSEI Pyramid Partnership Leadership Team to strengthen policies and systems to sustain evidence-based practices such as the Pyramid Model at the local level.
- ▲ Collect data on the effectiveness of the initiative.

Please note that the opportunity to become a Master Cadre Member/External Coach, Demonstration Site, Coach, and/or Trainer is being made available to a limited number of people. This is an opportunity for you to receive advanced training in the Pyramid Model approach and practices, and to be a resource to your community, Alaska, and other states.

The application process for all interested persons is as follows.

To become a Master Cadre Member/External Coach : The Alaska TACSEI Pyramid Partnership Coordinator will solicit applications for individual and professional providers and organizations (including but not limited to parent organizations, mental health/behavioral health, school districts, early care and learning , university, etc.) and the Alaska TACSEI Pyramid Partnership Leadership Team and Steering Committee. From the applications received, 7-8 individuals will be selected from the individual and

professional provider organizations, and 6-7 individuals will be selected from the Leadership Team. The Alaska TACSEI Pyramid Partnership Coordinator and the Master Cadre Member/External Coach Working Group will make the selections and announce the selections in mid-January 2010.

To become a Demonstration Site/Internal Coach: The Alaska TACSEI Pyramid Partnership Leadership Team has partnered with DHSS Grants and Contracts to solicit Letters of Intent/competitive bids to organizations (EILP programs, school districts, early childhood pre-school/Pre K/Head Start, child care, etc) interested in becoming a Demonstration Site. The Demonstration Sites must select their own Internal Coach to guide and coach the Pyramid Model to fidelity. The solicitation will be available mid-December 2009. Interested Demonstration Sites will be required to submit a Letter of Intent and attend the Phase I training on February 23-25, 2010. Following the training, Demonstration Sites that continue to have interest may then apply. Selection will be via a Program Evaluation Committee (PEC) consisting of state-level Alaska TACSEI Pyramid Partnership Leadership Team members and be completed by spring 2010.

To become a Trainer: The Alaska TACSEI Pyramid Partnership in coordination with the Department of Health and Social Services Child Care Office will solicit a Reimbursable Services Agreement (RSA) for recruitment of Alaska TACSEI Pyramid Model Trainers. The expectation will be that recruitment includes trainers from a cross-section of disciplines and degrees. Recommendations for selection of trainers will be made by **thread** (Child Care Resource and Referral) in Juneau, Anchorage, and Fairbanks and forwarded to the Alaska TACSEI Pyramid Partnership Coordinator and the Trainer Working Group. Trainers will be selected based on their application and resume as well as geographic distribution and cross-section of disciplines. In some instances an applicant may meet the qualifications to serve as a trainer and coach (*coordination with the Demonstration Site will be essential*). Other applicants may be selected to act in a training capacity only.

For more information about the TACSEI Pyramid Model approach visit <http://www.vanderbilt.edu/csefel/> and www.challengingbehavior.org.

If necessary, the Alaska TACSEI Pyramid Partnership Coordinator will host a meet-me teleconference to include both an informational session and time for questions from potential applicants. Please send inquiries to Alaska TACSEI Pyramid Partnership Coordinator, Charlie Johanson-Adams at aktacsei@gmail.com.

Sincerely,

The Alaska TACSEI Pyramid Partnership Leadership Team

Charlie Johanson-Adams, Coordinator

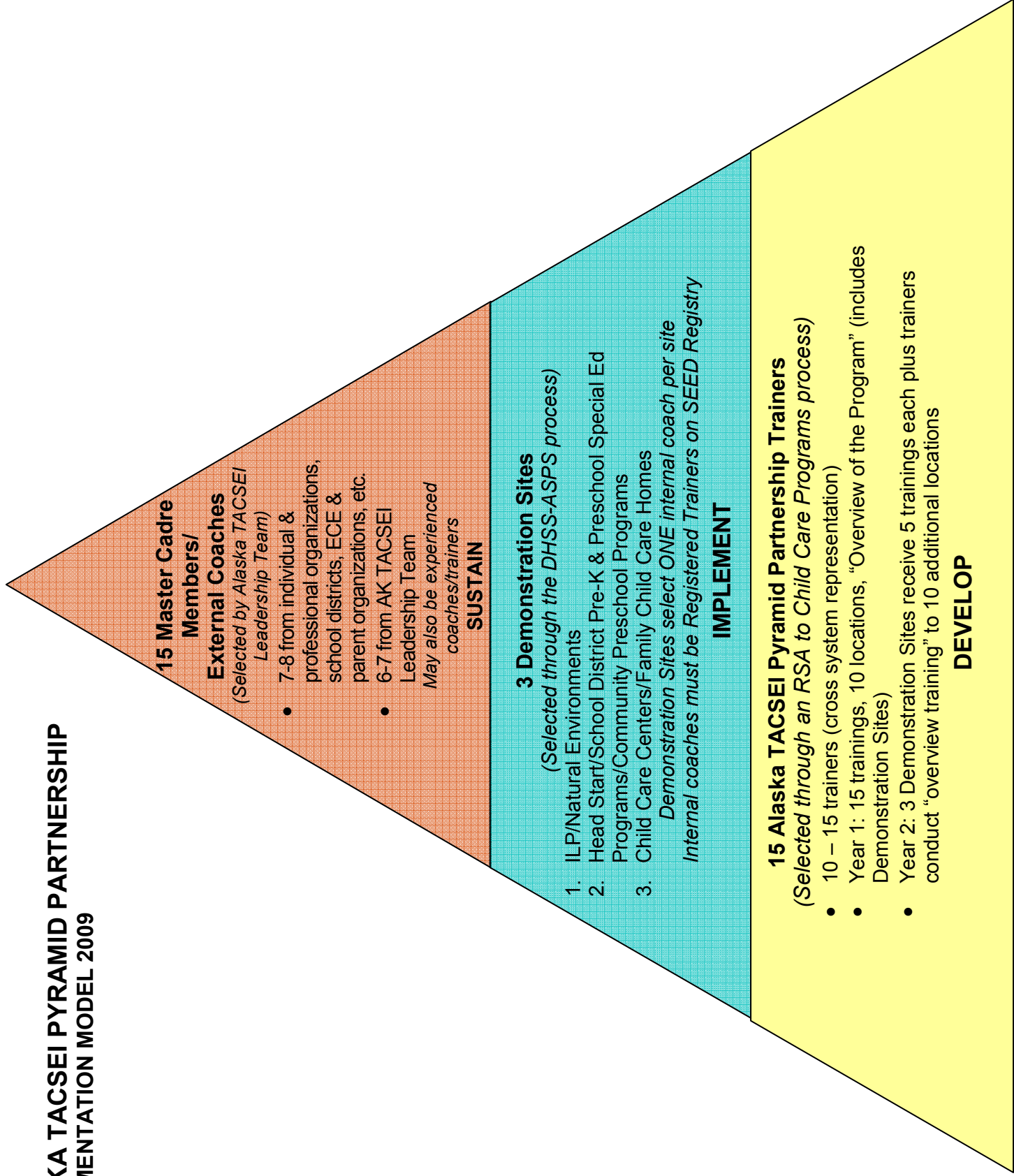


ALASKA TACSEI PYRAMID PARTNERSHIP VISION & MISSION STATEMENT

OUR VISION is that all Alaskan environments for young children and their families have strong social and emotional foundations enhanced and strengthened through a caring network of professionals, parents and community members.

OUR MISSION for the Alaska TACSEI Pyramid Partnership is to design, implement and sustain the Pyramid Model, a system of professional development practices for Early Learning professionals that consistently and collaboratively address the social and emotional needs of all Alaskan children birth-five and their families.

ALASKA TACSEI PYRAMID PARTNERSHIP IMPLEMENTATION MODEL 2009





Letter of Invitation for Master Cadre Members/ External Coaches

The Alaska TACSEI Pyramid Partnership is seeking applications from individuals who meet the criteria outlined below and who are willing to make at least a three-year commitment to become part of a statewide Master Cadre Member/External Coach of Pyramid Model Training and Technical Assistance (T/TA) Providers. Applications must be submitted by email to Charlie Johanson-Adams, Alaska TACSEI Pyramid Partnership Coordinator at aktacsei@gmail.com. Applications are due on or before December 30, 2009.

The Master T/TA Cadre will be limited to no more than 15 experienced training and technical assistance providers who will be responsible for training other trainers and coaches as the state scales up and sustains implementation of the Pyramid Model following the state's two-year involvement as a TACSEI state partner. An example of the type of professional selected might be members (employees/consultants) of organizations and school districts or private consultants that currently provide T/TA to early childhood programs in the state and want to add Pyramid Model training, coaching, and model program sustainability to their scope of work.

Master Cadre Member/External Coach activities over the next two years will include the following.

- Monthly contact with the TACSEI TA staff through conference calls and training events.
- Attendance at all training events (*see training commitments below*).
- Review background readings and training materials from TACSEI.
- Plan future training events with TACSEI guidance.
- Assist in the development of a training plan for state training activities.
- Implement training plan and Pyramid Model to fidelity.
- Provide train the trainer events to build state training capacity.
- Provide coach training events to build coaching capacity.
- Conduct program-wide implementation events to build the capacity of program-wide adoption of leadership teams.
- Provide ongoing, sustainable consultation and guidance to trainers and coaches within the state.

Master Cadre Member/External Coach Criteria

1. Documented experience with:

- Leading and participating on collaborative teams.
- Providing Technical Assistance as well as training across diverse early childhood settings.
- Working in early care and education settings (at least 5 years experience).
- Providing environmental quality assessments.
- Leading and participating in planning and implementation of program improvement activities.

2. Time commitment and Education

- Must show a significant agency commitment to sustaining the implementation of the Pyramid Model (between .15-.25 FTE) in perpetuity.
- Individual must be willing to commit to at least 10-15 days of Pyramid Model training and teleconferences between February 1, 2010 and August 31, 2010.
- Must provide documentation of university training in early childhood education (at least 6 credits).

3. Preferred qualities include:

- Experience with Positive Behavioral Supports/Pyramid Model.
- Masters Degree in ECE, ECSE or related field (Level 11 on SEED Registry) or Alaska Teaching Certification with ECE or ECSE endorsement.

Attachments:

1. Master Cadre Member/External Coach Application Form (*pages 12-13*)
2. Year One 2010 Training Calendar (*page 14*)



**Alaska TACSEI Pyramid Partnership
Master Cadre Member/External Coach**

MASTER CADRE MEMBER/EXTERNAL COACH QUALIFICATIONS

PREFERRED QUALITIES INCLUDE:

- Experience with Positive Behavioral Supports
- Knowledge of Early Childhood
- Related experience in social/emotional development of young children

PROGRAM SETTINGS

Alaska TACSEI Pyramid Partnership Leadership Team will select 15 Master Cadre Members/External Coaches to serve within the following early learning program settings:

- **Infant Learning Program:** Part C services in the natural environments. Master Cadre Members/External Coach(s) will be involved with a team of professionals who provide Part C services and work within an organization that provides active supervision, collaborative teaming, family support, and professional development.
- **Head Start/School District Pre-K/Special Education Pre-School Setting:** Master Cadre Members/External Coach(s) will be involved in a building level program, a cluster of classrooms (e.g.: Early Childhood Special Education – ECSE classrooms placed at school districts guided by a specialist or coordinator) or early childhood program comprised of multiple centers and classrooms guided by an organizational unit that provides active supervision, collaborative teaming, and professional development.
- **Child Care Center/Family Child Care Home:** Master Cadre Members/External Coach(s) will be involved in child care center with the following configurations:
 - **Large Child Care Center:** 80 + children enrolled multiple centers and classrooms.
 - **Medium Child Care Center:** 50-80 children enrolled one-two centers and multiple classrooms.
 - **Small Child Care Center:** Fewer than 50 children enrolled one center and one-four classrooms.
 - **Family Child Care Home:** Small, licensed, home with fewer than 10 children attending.

Child Care Center/Family Child Care Home will be guided by an organizing unit (and/or business owner) that provides active supervision, collaborative teaming, embedded Strengthening Families Protective Factors practices and professional development.

MASTER CADRE MEMBER/EXTERNAL COACH COMMITMENTS

Training Commitments

- Master Cadre Members/External Coaches will attend two Alaska TACSEI Pyramid Partnership training events: Phase I -February 23-25, 2010 and Phase II-April 7-9, 2010, held in Anchorage, Alaska. If necessary, costs for travel, hotel and per diem may be covered.
- Following Phase I and Phase II training, Master Cadre Members/External Coaches will begin implementing the initiative (by July 1, 2010).
- Web-based training conducted by TACSEI mentor. Five, 2-hour sessions.
- Program-Wide Implementation Training, June 2-4, 2010: 2.5 day workshop and meeting for Demonstration Site Leadership Teams. If necessary, costs for travel, hotel and per diem may be covered.
- Follow-up sessions, two 1 day meetings (mid-year and end of year) with Demonstration Site Leadership Teams, Behavior Specialists, and Master Cadre Members/External Coaches to review data, share progress, and problem solve.
- For Master Cadre Members/External Coaches interested in Behavior Specialist training: Minimum of 4, 2 hour web training sessions (with follow-up implementation activities). Additional sessions might be provided as needed or desired.

YEAR ONE (commitments in addition to training commitments)

- Master Cadre Member/External Coach must have their organization's/school's commitment (0.15 to 0.25 FTE) to sustain implementation of the Pyramid Model. (http://www.challengingbehavior.org/do/pyramid_model.htm)
- External coaches work with organizations that provide technical assistance to a program for the adoption of an innovation or new practices.
- Understanding of the five Strengthening Families Protective Factors and how to embed the factors into early learning practices.
- Master Cadre Members/External Coaches will provide ongoing consultation and guidance in social and emotional development of young children to trainers and coaches within the state.
- Master Cadre Members/External Coaches will work with the Alaska TACSEI Pyramid Partnership Leadership Team to strengthen policies and systems to sustain the Pyramid Model at the local level. Monthly meetings as a Master Cadre Member/External Coach team with the Alaska TACSEI Pyramid Coordinator to guide implementation.
- Master Cadre Members/External Coaches will assist with the collection of data on the effectiveness of the initiative and use evaluation for data-based decision-making.

YEAR TWO (commitments in addition to Year One and training commitments)

- Master Cadre Members/External Coaches will assist the Alaska TACSEI Pyramid Leadership Team with the development of and implementation of a sustainable training plan, provide train the trainer and coach training events to build state training capacity.
- Conduct program-wide implementation events to build the capacity of program-wide adoption.
- Willingness to present the Alaska TACSEI Pyramid Partnership and the Master Cadre Member/External Coach component at local and state conferences (publication of this initiative is a possibility).

BENEFITS OF BEING A MASTER CADRE MEMBER/EXTERNAL COACH

- Alaska TACSEI Pyramid Partnership Leadership Team will select 15 Master Cadre Members/External Coaches:
 - 7-8 individuals from individual and professional provider organizations such as mental/behavioral health, school districts, early childhood programs, EILP, SESA, Stone Soup Group, etc. and,
 - 6-7 individuals from the Alaska TACSEI Leadership Team.
- Master Cadre Member/External Coach will receive training and individualized support that represents over \$10,000 of in-kind support from Alaska TACSEI, with support from the Alaska TACSEI Pyramid Partnership Leadership Team that will provide:
 - training to Master Cadre Members/External Coaches who will support Demonstration Sites;
 - consultation to program administrators and how to work with Master Cadre Members/External Coaches;
 - follow-up materials and print/web-based resources;
 - processing of evaluation data and reports back to Master Cadre Member/External Coach team; and
 - opportunity to attend CSEFEL National Training Institutes.

MASTER CADRE MEMBER/EXTERNAL COACH EVALUATION RESPONSIBILITIES

After receiving training, the Master Cadre Member/External Coach program will assist the TACSEI Pyramid Model Demonstration Sites to high-fidelity with guidance and support, and participate in Alaska TACSEI Pyramid Partnership evaluation activities.

Data Collection/Evaluation

- Assist with the quarterly reporting to be submitted by the Demonstration Site to the Alaska TACSEI Pyramid Partnership Coordinator. Evaluation and reporting will include:
 - evaluations of Pyramid training events;
 - follow-up electronic survey of trainers and their trainings/coaching, including barriers and supports to providing training and coaching;

- pre-post observation measures including the Teaching Pyramid Observation Tool (TPOT) and the Teaching Pyramid Infant Toddler Observation Scale (TPITOS) for one classroom/setting;
 - coaching log – what support have they provided to sites, time commitments etc;
 - others possible measures, e.g. behavior incidence ratings (BIR), Benchmarks of Quality;
 - TPOT and TPITOS on bi-annual interval; and
 - child measures will include SSIS (Social Skills Intervention System), ASQ-SE or equivalent measures to track child outcomes.
- Data will be shared across sites to inform decision-making and allow program modifications as necessary.

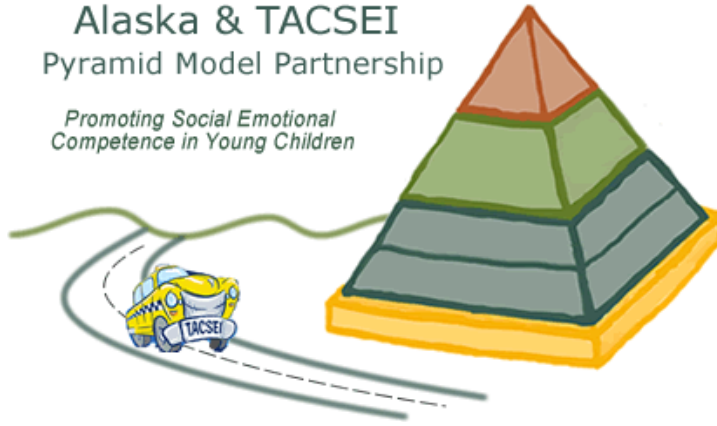
MASTER CADRE MEMBER/EXTERNAL COACH SELECTION CRITERIA

Documented experience in diverse early care & learning programs by:

- early childhood education coursework (at least 6 credit hours);
- related field experience in social/emotional development of young children;
- leading & participating on collaborative teams;
- providing training on early care and learning;
- being a registered trainer with the SEED Registry;
- assessing environmental quality of a program;
- participating in program improvement and/or program implementation activities;
- providing technical assistance on the implementation of the Pyramid Model;
- ongoing consultation and guidance to provider organizations; and
- ability to provide sustainable efforts following the two year involvement of the National TACSEI Training and Technical Assistance.

Alaska & TACSEI
Pyramid Model Partnership

*Promoting Social Emotional
Competence in Young Children*



**Alaska TACSEI Pyramid Partnership
Master Cadre Member/External Coach**

**Applications are due on or before Wednesday, December 30, 2009 by email to:
Charlie Johanson-Adams, Alaska TACSEI Pyramid Partnership Coordinator
aktacsei@gmail.com**

APPLICATION – PAGE 1 of 2

Name: _____

Center, School District,
or Program Name _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Fax: _____

Email: _____

We have read the information in this document in full regarding the opportunity to become a Master Cadre Member/External Coach for the Alaska TACSEI Pyramid Partnership. Our names below indicate our program's commitment to meeting the expectations outlined in the previous pages.

Applicant

Date

Program or Center Director,
Board Chair or School Principal

Date

APPLICATION – PAGE 2 of 2

- Attached is a copy of my resume and a one-and a half pages summary describing my experience in the following areas:
- Leading and participating on collaborative teams
 - Providing Technical Assistance as well as training across diverse early childhood settings
 - Working in early care and education settings (at least 5 years experience)
 - Any related field experience in the social/emotional development of young children
 - Providing environmental quality assessments
 - Leading and participating in planning and implementation of program improvement activities
 - Positive Behavior Support or Pyramid Model training/implementation to fidelity

Are you willing to become a registered trainer with the SEED Registry? Yes No

- Also attached is a letter of support from my Program (or Center) Director/Supervisor/Board Chair or school principal indicating an understanding of the training commitment I will be required to fulfill as well as a commitment on the part of my agency to assist with ongoing activities to sustain the Pyramid Model training and implementation in Alaska.

- I understand that if selected as a Master Cadre Member/External Coach I will be required to participate in at least 10.5 days of face-to-face training in Anchorage and a minimum 20 hours of web-based training sessions and teleconferences pertaining to the Pyramid Model. I also understand that I will be expected to fulfill additional training requirements in year two of the project and that I will be responsible to provide train-the-trainer and coach training events and collect evaluation data to help build training capacity and program-wide adoption and implementation of the Pyramid Model in Alaska.



Year One | 2010 Master Cadre Member/External Coach Training Calendar

Monthly Teleconferences	Dates to be scheduled during the February training <i>(please bring your calendars/schedules).</i>
Web-based Trainings	Dates to be scheduled during the February training <i>(please bring your calendars/schedules).</i>
February 23 – 25, 2010:	Alaska TACSEI Pyramid Partnership Phase I Training Anchorage, Alaska
April 7 - 9, 2010:	Alaska TACSEI Pyramid Partnership Phase II Training Anchorage, Alaska
June 2 – 4, 2010:	Program-wide Implementation Training Anchorage, Alaska