

Announcing the Arctic Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) Regional Training Center (RTC)!

In late 2008, the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) awarded the [Center for Behavioral Health Research and Services \(CBHRS\)](#) a three-year grant of more than \$1 million to develop an FASD Regional Training Center (RTC). The Arctic FASD RTC seeks to increase FASD practice competence among medical and allied healthcare practitioners and students through developing and disseminating rurally-relevant and culturally-competent educational curricula, materials, and campaigns that will lead to increased knowledge, changed behavior, and modified training and licensure guidelines to make FASD highly visible in training program and healthcare settings.

The Arctic FASD RTC will train healthcare professionals, including social workers, speech and language therapists, physicians, nurses, and psychologists, as well as students in these health professions. All resources, once developed, will be made available at no cost to providers and educators in the region. The Arctic FASD RTC will build upon past and current efforts in Alaska:

- FASD CDC Surveillance Project
- Alaska State Office of FAS (5-year Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration [SAMHSA] Grant)
- FASD prevention, diagnostic, and intervention services
- FASD Summits
- FASD Prevention Collaborative Partnerships
- And many more statewide efforts

Goals

The Arctic FASD RTC has three primary goals:

- 1) Awareness: to increase awareness, knowledge, and behavior change among medical and allied healthcare practitioners and students, sensitive to a rural and cultural context
- 2) Resource Development: to develop rurally tailored and culturally competent educational curricula, materials, and campaigns that will lead to increased knowledge, changed behavior, and modified training and licensure guidelines, making FASD highly visible in training program and healthcare settings across this vast region
- 3) Resource and Information Dissemination: to disseminate education and resources throughout the region to reach a maximum number of stakeholders who can help us realize the prevention of FASD and reduction of FASD risk behaviors, with sensitivity to rural/frontier realities and an understanding of cultural diversity.

To meet these goals, over the course of the next three years, the Arctic FASD RTC will:

- conduct needs assessments and other preparation activities
- identify academic and professional areas in need of FASD content
- review and develop locally-tailored curriculum and training modules
- deliver lectures, trainings, and train-the-trainer workshops
- develop a website, brochures, and training materials
- create television and print notices, and flyers for healthcare agencies
- plan community events about FASD and work toward project sustainability