FUNDING
Financial support comes from federal government grants such as the Department of Education, private foundations such as The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Native Corporations, and individual donations.

STAFF
An all Alaska Native staff, the majority of which are men, provides positive role models for the students in the program to interact with and learn from.

VOLUNTEERS
Many Elders and Elders in training help as assistants in the classes teaching coping skills, constructive problem solving, traditional skills and activities.

PARTNERS
Schools that provide meeting space for classes and refer students into the program. SAVE is the alternative secondary school that has a strong partnership with the Center.

ARTS
Students focus on practicing traditional Native art, while exploring contemporary methods. Students work with Alaska Native artists who share art forms from their Native cultures.

GAMES
Students in the Native Games Class (Arctic Athletics) learn traditional athletic activities that have existed for thousands of years. These games test skills in balance, strength, stamina, endurance to pain and concentration. Students can participate, and compete in the Anchorage Native Youth Olympic Preliminaries and those who make it to the state level will compete and represent Anchorage or their respective area or region.

LANGUAGE
The youth programs incorporate two Alaska Native languages, Inupiaq and Yup’ik, into the lesson plans of the classes. Learning the language enhances cultural pride among youth today because in previous generations, Native languages were not taught in schools. Today, Native languages are now officially recognized by the State of Alaska.

TUTORING
Alumni from our high school program come back to tutor students who are having difficulties in certain classes. This occurs during the afterschool programs.

SOCIAL SKILLS
The Alaska Native Heritage Center will provide workshops on Alaska Native cultures and cross-cultural communication to students of the Alaska Native Heritage Center after school high school program. The intent would be to empower young adults with the tools to recognize prejudice and the means in which to educate the knowing and unknowing perpetrators.

DANCE
Students learn traditional and contemporary methods of drumming, dancing and singing from each of the five main regions of Alaska.

STUDENTS GRADUATE
Increased self esteem and cultural pride results in better academics, and decreases the chance of drop out.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES
Students who participate in the Native games, Art, and Dance classes may have the opportunity to work at the Alaska Native Heritage Center. Students who excel at the Native Games can also compete at the World Eskimo Indian Olympics. Some students who learn Native dance are hired to perform with the well-respected and highly professional Alaska Native Heritage Center Dancers.

SAFE SPACE
Students have a sense of security at the Alaska Native Heritage Center when they might have an unstable home environment. The center provides a safe, welcome, setting where they can maintain their Native cultural values while still being successful outside their natural environment.

SUCCESSFUL ALASKA NATIVE MEN
Young Native Men grow to define what it means to be successful and possess the skills needed to become leaders in their communities.

NATIVE CULTURE UPLIFTED
A Thriving Alaska Native people whose cultures are respected and valued.

GRADUATION RATES INCREASED
Students who participate in Native Art, Dance, and Games are grounded in their culture and able to withstand the rigors of young adulthood and possess the tools for success in any societal environment.

TRADITIONS PRESERVED
Students will recognize and describe what the components of their cultures are. Knowing one’s culture will help students recognize and appreciate the differences in various cultures resulting in meaningful and honest interactions with different peoples from themselves.