

The **Alaska LEND Without Walls** (Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and related Disabilities) aims to improve the health of children who experience disabilities and their families by preparing professionals to assume interdisciplinary roles.

Since the beginning of the Alaska LEND Program in 2011, 79 fellows from the disciplines of social work, nursing, family, psychology, medicine, speech language pathology, public health, occupational therapy, and special education have completed the program. The LEND alumni represent 16 communities and serve in leadership positions across the state. The settings for the leadership positions are diverse.

Key elements of the *Alaska LEND Without Walls* include:

- Building on existing community services
- Maximizing distance-delivered educational resources
- Strengthening community and academic partnerships to expand statewide capacity

LEND alumni provide a collective voice to sustain and strengthen partnerships through multiple activities like:

- Engagement in statewide leadership activities addressing children with disabilities (e.g., 2015 Autism Services Planning Summit)
- Continued involvement with LEND Program activities (e.g., offering clinical experiences, presenting at seminars, resource sharing and dissemination, and informal recruitment)
- Ongoing collaboration with LEND faculty, including practice-based review and evaluation of LEND curriculum, and affiliate faculty appointments



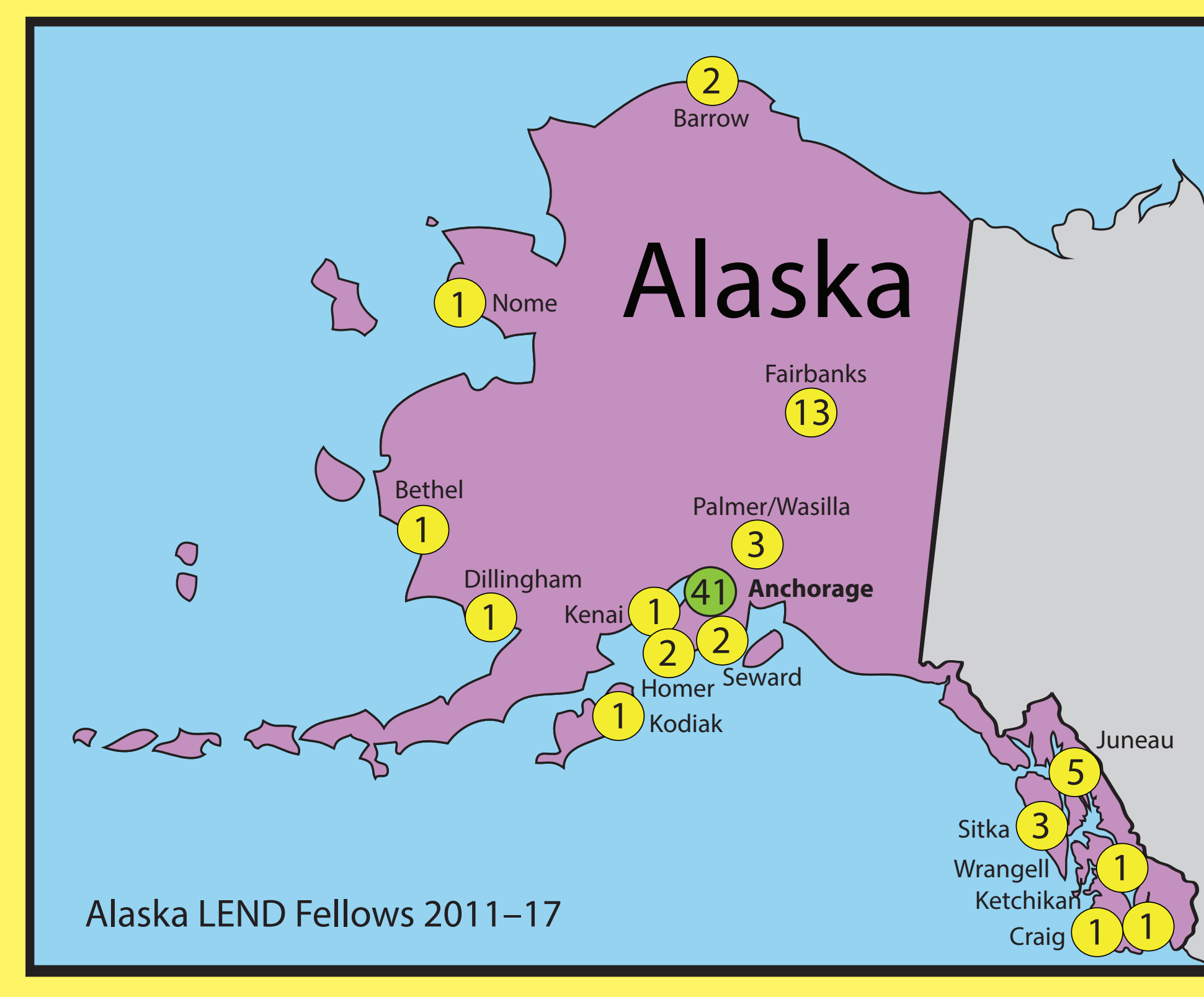
Collective Voices: Sustaining and Strengthening Robust Statewide Partnerships

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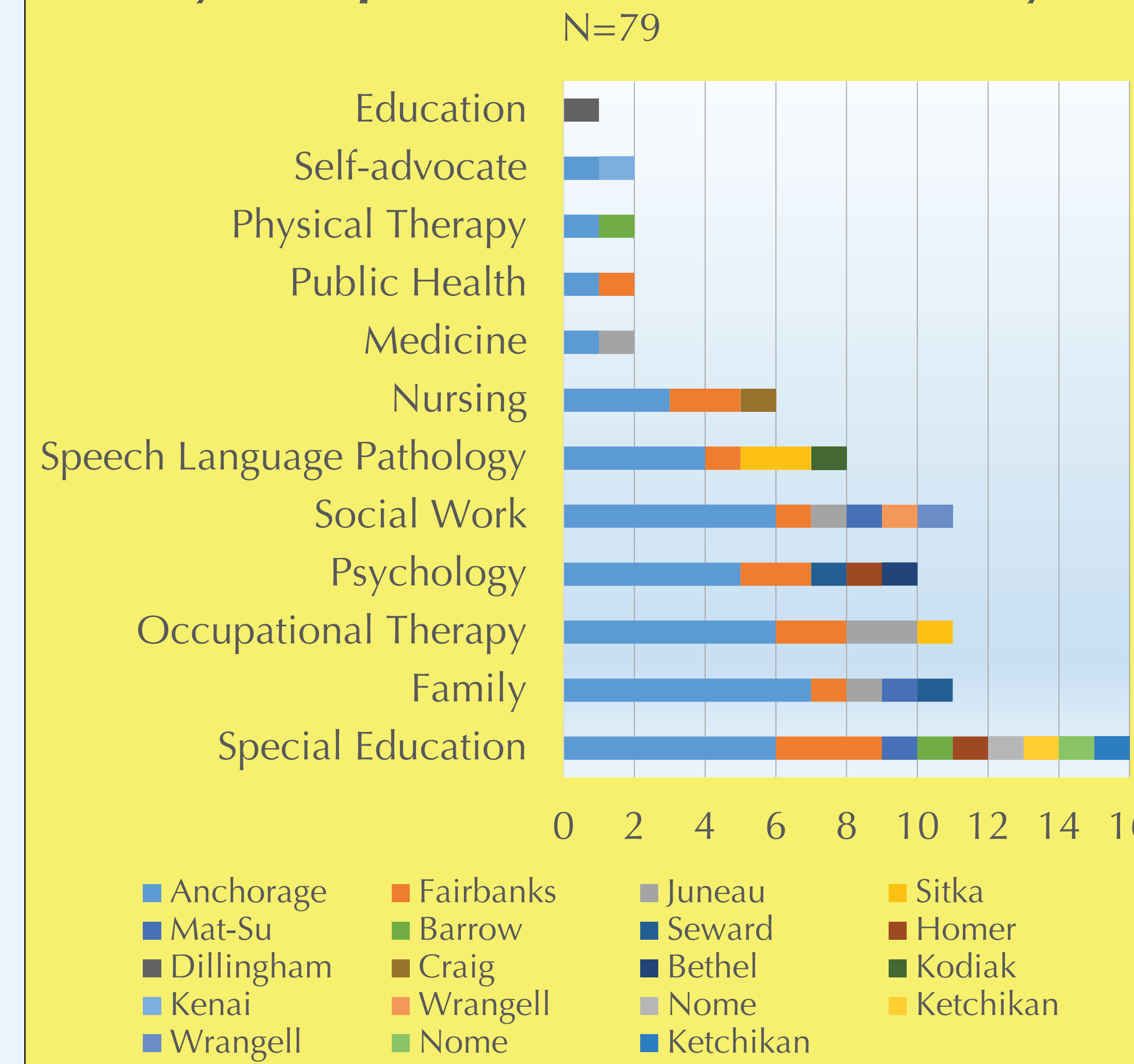
Program Impact

Since the Alaska LEND began in 2011, 79 LEND fellows successfully completed the program.



LEND alumni currently serve in leadership positions across the state in settings such as infant learning programs, tribal organizations, school districts, universities, medical centers, pediatric clinics, and community organizations.

Leadership Positions of LEND Alumni by Discipline and Alaska Community



Key Factors for Sustaining Partnerships

- Celebrating successes of collaboration (e.g., Camp Yes in Fairbanks)
- Fostering a community of practice for services for children and their families

Future Directions

- Maintain *Alaska LEND* as a coordinating hub for interdisciplinary partnerships statewide
- Promote ongoing involvement with LEND faculty on service and research projects
- Help strengthen a community of practice with alumni reunion meetings targeting state and local initiatives for improving services for families