

State of Alaska
FY2003 Governor's Operating Budget

Department of Health and Social Services
Purchased Services
Budget Request Unit Budget Summary

Purchased Services Budget Request Unit

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BRU Mission

The mission of the Division of Family and Youth Services (DFYS) is to protect children who are abused and neglected or at risk of abuse and neglect.

BRU Services Provided

The Department, through the Purchased Services BRU, provides a continuum of services from prevention of out-of-home placement to permanency planning including adoptions and guardianships. The Purchased Services BRU is composed of eight integral components including Family Preservation, Foster Care Base Rate, Foster Care Augmented Rate, Foster Care Special Needs, Foster Care AYI, Subsidized Adoption & Guardianship, Residential Child Care, and Court Orders and Reunification Efforts.

The Family Preservation component provides grants to non-profit agencies located across the State to provide family support services, family preservation services, and time-limited family reunification services. This component also provides grant funding to pay for Child Protective Services day care and to provide grants to non-profit community services agencies so they can provide support services. Through these grants and contracted services, the Division delineates the types of services to be provided, the number and types of clients to be served, the referral process, and the process for insuring that quality programs are provided. DFYS social workers utilize these grantees and refer clients for crisis intervention; parenting skills; prevention of out-of-home placement; and other services to support children in DFYS custody and their families (including foster and adoptive families).

The Department, through the Residential Child Care component, issues Residential Care grants to non-profit agencies on a competitive basis to provide high quality, time limited residential treatment services for abused, neglected, and delinquent children. Services in this component are directed at providing 24-hour care for children who are unable to remain in their own home or who need more structure and treatment than can be provided in foster care. The Department provides a continuum of five levels of residential treatment ranging from day treatment to psychiatric treatment center services. Children and youth placed in residential care often present severe and complex treatment problems such as sexual abuse, sexually aggressive behavior, substance abuse, severe emotional disorders, delinquent behavior, and other dysfunctional behavior. When the necessary level of care is not available within the state, services are purchased from out-of-state providers. Out-of-state providers are approved Alaska Medicaid providers of residential psychiatric treatment in both secure and non-secure settings.

The Subsidized Adoption & Guardianship component provides permanent homes for children that have been placed in permanent custody of the State. Without this program, many of these children would be subjected to long-term placement in foster care. The Subsidized Adoption & Guardianship program relieves these children from the prospect of being in foster care for many years and provides them with a permanent home thereby reducing the possibility of further trauma caused by multiple foster care placements. This program has been very successful due to increased emphasis on permanency planning and State initiatives such as Project SUCCEED and the Balloon Project. From FY1992 to FY2001 the number of children removed from the foster care system to a permanent home increased from 338 to 1,515. Meeting the continuing caseload growth continues to be the most significant accomplishment of this program. At the close of FY2001, there were 1,515 children in the Subsidized Adoption & Guardianship program. The Department anticipates the number of children in this program to increase by 14% to 1,727 in FY2002, with an additional 14% growth to 1,969 in FY2003.

The Independent Living Program focus is on providing education and vocational training and support to youth in the custody of DFYS who will be entering young adulthood. This statewide program supports youth 16 years of age and older who do not have the benefit of preparing for adulthood with parental support and guidance. To ensure their success the state focuses on high school graduation or completion; post-high school education; vocational training; employment internships and mentor programs; life skills training to include housing, budgeting, food and nutrition. Additionally, the Independent Living Program provides employment guidance and support to allow these young adults to successfully enter the work force.

BRU Goals and Strategies

1) PROVIDE A CONTINUUM OF CARE OPTIONS TO PROTECT CHILDREN IN THE STATE FROM CHILD ABUSE, NEGLECT AND EXPLOITATION:

- AS 47.14.020 mandates the Department to "accept all minors committed to the custody of the department...and provide for the welfare, control, care, custody, and placement of these minors..." To accomplish this mandate, the Division maintains approximately 387 positions, including 254 social workers and social services associates, located in the DFYS Central Office, four regional offices and 29 field offices spanning from Ketchikan to Barrow.
- The Department, through the Purchased Services BRU, provides funding for a continuum of services from prevention of out-of-home placement to permanency planning including adoptions and guardianships. The Purchased Services BRU is composed of the following eight components: Family Preservation, Foster Care Base Rate, Foster Care Augmented, Foster Care Special Needs, Foster Care AYI, Subsidized Adoption & Guardianship, Residential Child Care, and Court Ordered and Reunification Efforts.

Key BRU Issues for FY2002 – 2003

- Family Preservation: Children and families referred or mandated to receive services are presenting more severe behaviors and experiences which require much more intensive intervention in order to preserve or support the family unit. Alaska's child welfare law, along with new Federal laws, require services be delivered in a manner that is time-limited. This increases the intensity of services required and minimizes the amount of time parents can take to ameliorate the issues placing their children at risk. Parental substance abuse also greatly impacts the success of intervention. With the increase in the use of drugs and/or alcohol by parents, intervention and support services are not as effective which results in the removal of children or failed efforts at family reunification.
- Family Preservation Continuation of the Early Intervention for Family Support or Dual Track project: During FY 2001 the Department was able to implement the Early Intervention for Family Support pilot program in the Mat-Su Valley. The program is designed to use a non-profit community agency to be responsible, with DFYS support, for response services to low-risk reports of harm. This project has demonstrated a successful impact of community ownership and intervention in the abuse and neglect of children. It has led to a reduction of the need for more official, costly intervention by the Department, while also allowing for the prevention of future harm to the children involved. Due to the success of the program in the Mat-Su valley, the Division plans to expand the project to Bethel, Fairbanks, and Kenai.
- Family Preservation Tribal Pass Through: The Department has been working with four tribal organizations including Kawerak, Tlingit-Haida Central Council, Tanana Chiefs Conference, and Cook Inlet Tribal Council to assist them in receiving Federal IV-E reimbursement for Indian child welfare services. The objective of this project is to increase the capacity of tribal organizations to provide case management services to Alaska Native children who are in foster care or at risk of foster care placement. To accomplish this objective, DFYS will claim IV-E reimbursement for a share of the tribal organization's administrative and training costs and pass this reimbursement through to the tribal organization. The reimbursement will be used by the tribal organizations to enhance services to children and families. The Department requests an increment of federal authority to implement this project.
- Foster Care Base Rate: The Foster Care Base Rate program is designed to reimburse foster parents for the basic ongoing costs of raising a child. Such costs include food, clothing replacement, and shelter; daily supervision normally carried out by a parent; personal and grooming items; school supplies and regular school activities; age appropriate games, toys, books, and recreational equipment; general recreation such as picnics, community sports, and movies; usual transportation expense; allowance; babysitting and child care. The standard foster care base rate is based on the US poverty income guidelines for an Alaskan family of one. The current Foster Care Base Rate is based on 1993 Federal Poverty Guidelines and does not reflect the overall cost of living increase of 23.45% that has occurred since that time. The Department is requesting to increase the daily base rate to the 1997 poverty guidelines, an increase of 13.5% over the 1993 level. Even with this modest increase foster care providers will receive a mere 90.1% of the 2001 federal poverty guidelines, 9.9% less than the current poverty guidelines.

- Foster Care Augmented Rate: The Foster Care Augmented, or difficulty of care program, reimburses foster care providers for extraordinary costs and for higher levels of supervision not otherwise covered by the Foster Care Base Rate program. In FY2001, 30.6% of the children in foster care received an augmentation to their base rate. The Department anticipates that the percentage of augmented cases will remain constant for the next two years. Although the Department expects the foster care augmented caseload to remain steady for FY2002 and FY2003, a \$63.0 increment is requested to cover underfunding in the Foster Care Augmented program.
- Foster Care Special Needs: The Foster Care Special Needs program is designed to reimburse foster care providers for "one time" or "irregular" expenses authorized by statute that are not covered in the Foster Care Base Rate and are not being paid by the Foster Care Augmented program. The Department has requested an increment of \$595.3 to cover the cost of the FY2003 foster care caseload underfunding.
- Case Plan Reviews at Case Conference: Shortly after a child is taken into custody, the social worker meets with the parents to develop a case plan. The case plan documents the goal for the child and what needs to occur in order for the child to be safe in their home. The case plan also indicates when Departmental involvement with the family is no longer necessary. The case plan is reviewed at case conferences. For children who are placed outside their home, a case conference is held within 90 days of when custody was assumed, at six and nine months, and each time the plan's goal is changed. In addition, subsequent conferences are held every six months while the child remains in custody and in out-of-home placement. Federal law requires the six-month case conference. States are encouraged to have members of the public participate in the conferences as impartial and objective participants in the decision process. Department policy is to include a community member in the conference when individuals are interested or available. The Department is therefore working on increasing community member participation. The cost includes recruiting and training public citizens and reimbursing their travel costs, telephone costs, and stipends.
- Foster Care AYI: The Alaska Youth Initiative (AYI) program provides a unique support/placement option using local resources for severely emotionally disturbed (SED) youth whose other option would be institutionalization in either in-state or out-of-state residential care facilities. This program also focuses on transitioning children or youth back into their local communities from institutionalized care. The Division of Family and Youth Services and the Division of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities jointly fund the individualized services provided to the severely disturbed children served by this specialized program. The Department of Education and Early Development provides funding for education related costs. In order for the program to be effective, all elements of programming and funding must be present.
- Subsidized Adoption & Guardianship: The Department administers the Subsidized Adoption and Guardianship program to meet the State and Federal mandates to increase the emphasis on permanency planning and to move quickly to find permanent homes for children in custody. A child must have special needs to qualify for the subsidy program. Special needs categories include physical or mental disease, age, membership in a sibling group, racial or ethnic factors, or any combination of these conditions. The program has been a huge success. From FY1992 to FY2001, the number of children removed from the foster care system and placed in a permanent home increased from 338 to 1,515. The Department anticipates the number of children in the Subsidized Adoption & Guardianship program to increase 14% in FY2002 and FY2003. An increment has been requested for FY2003 to ensure the continuity of subsidy payments and the continued success of the program.
- Residential Child Care: The current foster care system has many foster care children that experience severe emotional and behavioral problems. These children often fail in foster home settings, resulting in multiple placements for children and often the loss of foster homes. For many of these children group care, a treatment environment with 24-hour professional staff, is a more appropriate placement. In FY 2002, the Department has purchased 312 in-state residential care facility beds providing for a range of supervision to children in DFYS custody.
- Residential Child Care: The Division has requested a increment of \$650.0 to fund the Mental Health Stabilization Home program. This short-term residential option will serve as a step-down program from acute hospital care or secure residential psychiatric treatment. It may also serve as an interim placement for severely disturbed children who are difficult to place. These homes will expand available options to allow families and providers to develop a safe and appropriate community placement.

Major BRU Accomplishments in 2001

1) THE DEPARTMENT PROVIDES FAMILY PRESERVATION/FAMILY SUPPORT AND TIME-LIMITED REUNIFICATION SERVICES TO FAMILIES:

- For FY2001, the Department issued 31 grants to 26 non-profit service providers located across the state to provide Family Preservation/Family Support and Time-Limited Family Reunification services. The Department also provided funding for child protective services day care grants and community partnership grants. These grants included continuation of the Early Intervention for Family Support or Dual Track program in the Mat-Su area to provide a differential response to reports of harm that have been assessed by DFYS as being low risk.
- DFYS social workers utilize these grantees and refer clients for crisis intervention, parenting ,prevention of out-of-home placement, and other services to support children in DFYS custody and their families (including foster and adoptive families).
- During FY2001 the Family Preservation component provided over \$300.0 in grant funding for Child Protective Services day care. Child Protective Services day care enables parents at risk of abusing or neglecting their children relief from the stresses of child care responsibilities and/or to take part in medical and treatment programs and get help for their problems.

2) IN FY2001 THE DIVISION PROVIDED FOSTER CARE SERVICES TO AN AVERAGE OF 1,141 CHILDREN EACH DAY:

- Foster Care: The Department, through the Division of Family & Youth Services, provided a continuum of foster care programs to meet the needs of children in State custody including the Foster Care Base Rate, Foster Care Augmented, Foster Care Special Needs, and Foster Care AYI programs. Foster care provided these children with an opportunity to enjoy a stable home life with basic essential needs such as food, shelter, and clothing. These programs provide care for children that have been removed from situations of abuse or neglect and that are at risk of further abuse and neglect. When these children cannot be safely maintained in their own home, it is much better for these children to be placed in a foster home.
- Although the number of children in foster care continues to increase, the foster care caseload growth is beginning to level out. The foster care caseload increased 16.8% in FY1998 and 16.4% in FY1999 compared to 5.8% in FY2000. In FY2001 the foster care caseload decreased 6.2%. The reduction in the foster care caseload growth rate is, in part, a reflection of the success of State permanency planning initiatives Project SUCCEED and the Balloon Project to move children out of foster care and into permanent homes. The Department anticipates the foster care caseload to remain constant in FY2002 and FY2003.

3) OVER 1,515 CHILDREN HAVE BEEN REMOVED FROM THE FOSTER CARE SYSTEM AND HAVE BEEN PLACED IN PERMANENT HOMES:

- The Subsidized Adoption & Guardianship program provides permanent homes for children that have been placed in permanent custody of the State. This program has been very successful due to increased emphasis on permanency planning and the State initiatives Project SUCCEED and the Balloon Project. From FY1992 to FY2001 the number of children removed from the foster care system and placed in a permanent home increased 348% from 338 to 1,515.
- The Balloon Project provides funding for DFYS and partner legal agencies including the Department of Law, the Public Defender Agency and the Office of Public Advocacy to focus on moving children on the "transition list" that have been in custody the longest from the foster care system and into permanent homes. One measure of the Balloon Project's success can be seen in the reduction of the growth of the foster care caseload due to children transitioning to permanent homes. In FY1999 the foster care caseload increased by 16.4%. In FY2000, the foster care growth rate decreased to 5.8%. The foster care caseload decreased 6.2% in FY2001. Long-term benefits of the Balloon Project include moving children that have lingered in the foster care system into permanent homes; savings from reduced foster care caseloads and increased compliance with Federal and State permanency planning laws. Prevention of a backlog of cases, continued collaboration between DFYS and the State legal entities to process child protective services cases on a timely basis, more efficient operations, timely client case handling helps to prevent "problem" cases are additional benefits.

- Meeting the continuing caseload growth continues to be a significant accomplishment of the Subsidized Adoption & Guardianship component. At the close of FY2001, there were 1,515 children in the program. The Department anticipates the number of children in the Subsidized Adoption & Guardianship program to increase by 14% to 1,727 in FY2002 with an additional 14% growth to 1,969 in FY2003.

4) THE RESIDENTIAL CHILD CARE COMPONENT PROVIDES FIVE LEVELS OF TREATMENT TO MEET THE NEEDS OF CHILDREN IN STATE CUSTODY:

- Residential Child Care: The Department, through the Residential Child Care component, issues Residential Care grants to non-profit agencies on a competitive basis to provide high quality, time limited residential treatment services for abused, neglected, and delinquent children. Services in this component are directed at providing 24-hour care for children in the custody of the Department who are not able to remain in their own home or who need more structure and treatment than can be provided in foster care.

Key Performance Measures for FY2003

Measure:

The number of children substantiated as abused or neglected and the number of children unconfirmed as abused or neglected by region.

Sec 79(b)(1) Ch 90 SLA 2001(HB 250)

Alaska's Target & Progress:

1) The number of children substantiated as abused or neglected:

FY1997	3,267 of 7,563 (43.2%) children substantiated as abused or neglected
FY1998	3,690 of 8,128 (45.4%) children substantiated as abused or neglected
FY1999	3,568 of 7,592 (47.0%) children substantiated as abused or neglected
FY2000	3,266 of 6,598 (49.5%) children substantiated as abused or neglected
FY2001	4,122 of 8,865 (46.5%) children substantiated as abused or neglected

The recommended baseline year is FY1997.

2) The number of children substantiated as abused or neglected by region:

FY2001	
Anchorage Region	1,338 of 3,249 children
Southcentral Region	1,232 of 2,335 children
Northern Region	1,246 of 2,361 children
Southeast Region	<u>306 of 920 children</u>
FY2001 Total	4,122 of 8,865 children

3) The number of children unconfirmed as abused or neglected by region:

FY2001	
Anchorage Region	1,700 of 3,249 children
Southcentral Region	908 of 2,335 children
Northern Region	879 of 2,361 children
Southeast Region	<u>448 of 920 children</u>
FY2001 Total	3,935 of 8,865 children

Background and Strategies:

Workers conclude every assigned investigation with a determination that the report of harm was substantiated, unconfirmed, or invalid. A substantiated report of harm is one where the available facts indicate a child has suffered harm as a result of abuse or neglect as defined by AS 47.10.011. An unconfirmed report of harm is one where, based

on the available facts, the worker is unable to determine if a child has suffered harm as a result of abuse or neglect. An invalid report is one where there are no facts to support the allegation that a child has suffered abuse or neglect.

This measure is also required for the Federal Review. The Federal Review is conducted by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, which is authorized by the 1994 amendments to the Social Security Act to review every State's child and family service programs in order to ensure substantial conformity with the State plan requirements in titles IV-B and IV-E of the Social Security Act. The Federal Review assesses the State's conformity in providing child protection services, foster care, adoption, family preservation and family support, and independent living services.

The Federal Review measure most related to this State measure is *Disposition of Child Abuse and Neglect Reports*. This measure is based on the disposition or finding of any child who was the subject of an investigation in a particular report, and includes the number and percentages of reports and of children. The division recommends that the same measure for the Federal Review be used for this State measure in the future.

- *Increase the division's ability to respond to reports of harm.* By responding to all legitimate reports of harm, even reports which represent "lower levels of risk" to a child, children are safer, and families are provided an opportunity to remedy the situation sooner. The Early Intervention for Family Support or Dual Track grant program is one example of reaching at-risk children and families sooner and diverting them from state custody. Community grant programs receive referrals from the division of children and families that present "lower levels of risk". It also enables social workers have more time to investigate higher priority reports of harm.
- *Implementation of Child Advocacy Centers.* These centers help create specialized teams to investigate abuse and neglect, which targets workers time and energy on the cases that need the most time.

Measure:

The incidence of child abuse or neglect in foster care.
Sec 79(b)(2) Ch 90 SLA 2001(HB 250)

Alaska's Target & Progress:

The Division's target is zero incidences of child abuse or neglect in foster care.

Review of the preliminary data indicated that the data was not reliable. The Division is continuing to analyze and collect this data.

Background and Strategies:

The Federal Review also includes this same measure. It is defined as follows: Of all children who were served in foster care during the reporting period, what percentage was the subject of substantiated or indicated (unconfirmed in Alaska) maltreatment by a foster parent or facility staff? Both the percentage and total number of children are provided. This group also includes relatives who are caring for children in state custody.

The only way to obtain this information in Alaska is to complete a file review. We are currently conducting this file review and will have information available for this measure by December 1, 2001.

- *Continue the APSIN Flag program.* This program is a collaborative, on-going effort between the Department of Public Safety and the Division of Family and Youth Services. All licensed caregivers are entered into APSIN and if there is ever a police response to the home, the division is immediately notified.
- *Provide Foster Parents and Relative CareGivers the support and information they may need.* Essential to meeting this strategy is a effective training program for caregivers. The division offers training to all licensed caregivers and tracks the amount of training each foster parent receives annually.

Measure:

The length of time in state custody before achieving adoption.
Sec 79(b)(4) Ch 90 SLA 2001(HB 250)

Alaska's Target & Progress:

The target for this measure is 6 months from termination of parental rights.

FY1997	17.4 months
FY1998	19.8 months
FY1999	14.5 months
FY2000	15.1 months
FY2001	12.0 months

The recommended baseline is FY1997.

Background and Strategies:

This measures the length of time in months to achieve adoption from the point in time when both parents' rights have been terminated or when they relinquish their rights to the point in time when the adoption is final.

- Continue Project Succeed and the Adoption Placement Program (Balloon Project).* To reduce the length of time in state custody before achieving permanent placement the Department has dedicated resources and implemented initiatives including Project SUCCEED and the Balloon Project to move children waiting in the system to a permanent home. The Balloon Project workers focus on the "transition list" of children who have been in custody the longest.
- Promote the Alaska Adoption Exchange.* The Alaska Adoption Exchange promotes earlier identification of children in the system waiting for permanent homes and potential families wanting them. The Exchange also lists potential adoptive families who are considered for placements of special needs children. This also includes children who are not legally free but have termination of parental rights planned and the Division has court approval to register them on the Exchange.
- Provide training for adoptive parents with special needs children.* Provide training for adoptive parents of special needs children to develop the skills they need to successfully deal with the special needs of their adoptive children.
- Implement SNAP, the Simple New Adoption Process.* SNAP, an adoption re-engineering process, will help speed up and streamline the adoption process. SNAP will simplify adoption approval, use technology to expedite the process, and create a team with the Guardian Ad Litem and the Attorney General's office to prepare for termination of parental rights.
- Continue the Homestudy Project.* The Homestudy Project focus is on completing homestudies for children who are in custody but not yet legally free for adoption. The project prepares the family for the adoption so that when the child is legally free, the adoption can be pursued quickly.

Measure:

The average length of time in state custody before achieving reunification.
Sec 79(b)(5) Ch 90 SLA 2001(HB 250)

Alaska's Target & Progress:

The target for this measure is to maintain FY2001 timeframe of 9.6 months..

FY1999	9.3 months
FY2000	9.9 months
FY2001	9.6 months

Benchmark Comparisons:

The Federal Review has a related measure that is a comparison across States. The measure is defined as follows: Of all children who were reunified with their parents or caretakers at the time of discharge from foster care, what percentage was reunified in less than 12 months from the time of the latest removal from home. The division

recommends that the same measure for the Federal Review be used for this State measure in the future. It is crucial that proposed actions to establish family visitation centers to maintain this timeframe or even to improve the current time frame.

Background and Strategies:

Many factors contribute to when reunification can or should occur. Workers consider progress and change on the part of the family members in remedying the situation that caused the child to be removed when considering reunification. A premature reunification can lead a child back into custody and placement outside of his or her home, so it is important that the timing is right for the family. Likewise, a delay in reunification can lead to frustration and a loss of any progress made by the parents or family members.

- *Continue Family Support Services.* The Division provides family support services to the child and to the parents to enable the safe return of the child to the family home. Family services include counseling, substance abuse treatment, mental health services, assistance to address domestic violence, visitation with family members, parenting classes, in-home services, temporary child care services, and transportation.
- *Support Child and Family Visitation Centers.* The Division is requesting funding to support family visitation centers. These centers help maintain critical links while parent and child are separated.

Measure:

The number of child-days that foster homes were found to be beyond license capacity by location.
Sec 79(b)(7) Ch 90 SLA 2001(HB 250)

Alaska's Target & Progress:

The target for this measure is 0 child-days.

In FY2001 only one foster home was beyond license capacity:

Anchorage: 1 foster home beyond capacity for 9 days

The recommended baseline year is FY2001.

Background and Strategies:

Licensing requirements specify no more than two children in each foster home is allowed. However, there are instances where variance or exemptions are made to this requirement. It mostly occurs when groups of siblings are placed together. Any licensed foster home with more than two children receives special variance or exemption.

There is no related measurement for the Federal Review, although, the Review will look for instances where siblings are not placed together. There should be well-documented reasons for not placing siblings together.

- *Continue Foster A Future campaign.* The "Foster A Future" media campaign was developed with emphasis on recruiting foster parents statewide, in collaboration with community agencies and tribal organizations, churches, children's conference organizers, and foster parent support groups.

Measure:

Children awaiting permanent placement for 2 years or more. (Governor's Indicator)

Alaska's Target & Progress:

The target for this measure is no child waits 2 years or more for a permanent placement.

In FY2001 there were 506 of 1,795 children (31.2 %) in custody waiting for a permanent placement 2 years or longer.

Background and Strategies:

The Federal Review has a related measure that is defined as follows: Median length of stay in foster care. The division is working on developing this data and it will be available by the end of January 2002. If the division is successful in gathering valid data, it is recommended that the federal measure be used for the State measure in the future.

- *Continue Project Succeed and the Adoption Placement Program (Balloon Project).* To reduce the length of time in state custody before achieving permanent placement the Department has dedicated resources and implemented initiatives including Project SUCCEED and the Balloon Project to move children waiting in the system to a permanent home. The Balloon Project workers focus on the "transition list" of children who have been in custody the longest.
- *Promote the Alaska Adoption Exchange.* The Alaska Adoption Exchange promotes earlier identification of children in the system waiting for permanent homes and potential families wanting them. The Exchange also lists potential adoptive families who are considered for placements of special needs children. This also includes children who are not legally free but have termination of parental rights planned and the Division has court approval to register them on the Exchange.
- *Provide training for adoptive parents with special needs children.* Provide training for adoptive parents of special needs children to develop the skills they need to successfully deal with the special needs of their adoptive children.
- *Implement SNAP, the Simple New Adoption Process.* SNAP, an adoption re-engineering process, will help speed up and streamline the adoption process. SNAP will simplify adoption approval, use technology to expedite the process, and create a team with the Guardian Ad Litem and the Attorney General's office to prepare for termination of parental rights.
- *Continue the Homestudy Project.* The Homestudy Project focus is on completing homestudies for children who are in custody but not yet legally free for adoption. The project prepares the family for the adoption so that when the child is legally free, the adoption can be pursued quickly.
- *Continue Family Support Services.* The Division provides family support services to the child and to the parents to enable the safe return of the child to the family home. Family services include counseling, substance abuse treatment, mental health services, assistance to address domestic violence, visitation with family members, parenting classes, in-home services, temporary child care services, and transportation.
- *Support Child and Family Visitation Centers.* The Division is requesting funding to support family visitation centers. These centers help maintain critical links while parent and child are separated.

Purchased Services
BRU Financial Summary by Component

All dollars in thousands

Formula	FY2001 Actuals				FY2002 Authorized				FY2003 Governor			
	General Funds	Federal Funds	Other Funds	Total Funds	General Funds	Federal Funds	Other Funds	Total Funds	General Funds	Federal Funds	Other Funds	Total Funds
Expenditures												
Foster Care Base Rate	7,118.2	1,632.9	0.0	8,751.1	7,470.9	2,540.2	0.0	10,011.1	8,380.4	2,889.2	0.0	11,269.6
Foster Care Augmented Rate	2,177.8	351.4	0.0	2,529.2	2,209.9	396.2	1,079.4	3,685.5	2,272.9	396.2	1,079.4	3,748.5
Foster Care Special Need	2,805.6	886.6	50.0	3,742.2	2,623.3	525.9	50.0	3,199.2	3,218.6	525.9	550.0	4,294.5
Foster Care AYI	815.5	0.0	0.0	815.5	550.0	0.0	0.0	550.0	550.0	0.0	0.0	550.0
Subsidized Adoptions/Guardians	8,356.5	3,997.9	414.0	12,768.4	8,105.4	4,862.8	0.0	12,968.2	11,151.2	5,458.9	0.0	16,610.1
Court Orders/Reunification Eff.	500.0	0.0	0.0	500.0	500.0	0.0	0.0	500.0	500.0	0.0	0.0	500.0
Non-Formula Expenditures												
Family Preservation	1,869.4	2,534.4	297.6	4,701.4	3,355.9	4,941.2	750.0	9,047.1	3,615.5	5,941.2	550.0	10,106.7
Residential Child Care	11,502.6	609.2	1,969.9	14,081.7	11,622.9	625.0	875.0	13,122.9	11,672.9	625.0	7,562.8	19,860.7
Totals	35,145.6	10,012.4	2,731.5	47,889.5	36,438.3	13,891.3	2,754.4	53,084.0	41,361.5	15,836.4	9,742.2	66,940.1

Purchased Services

Proposed Changes in Levels of Service for FY2003

- Subsidized Adoption & Guardianship: Participation in the projects such as Project SUCCEED and the Adoption Exchange requires additional work on the part of workers in the field and in the adoption and guardianship unit. Under Federal law - the acceleration of the permanency planning process (the Adoptions and Safe Families Act, 1997) and the institution of programmatic changes (the Multi-Ethnic Placement Act of 1994 and the Interethnic Adoption Provision modifications in 1996) - and under subsequent state law (AS 47.10.080 as modified by HB 375 in 1998), subsidies must be in place more quickly than ever before. In addition, the Division is anticipating a 14% caseload increase in FY2003 for a cost of \$3.6 million total.
- Child Advocacy Centers: Using \$1 million in federal funds, the Department proposes to establish Child Advocacy Centers, a designated neutral facility, with designated staff from either a non-profit organization or from a government agency. The Center will provide on-site medical evaluation and mental health services or referral to these services, training for Center staff, case tracking, multidisciplinary case review and joint investigations designed to reduce the number of victim interviews and improve case coordination. Staff from local law enforcement, child protection and prosecution agencies as well as local advocates, mental health centers or medical facilities will work together on child maltreatment cases, identify what confidential information they will share, and determine what resources they will commit to their effort.
- Family Visitation Centers: The Department proposes to implement Family Visitation Centers in Anchorage, Fairbanks, Mat-Su, Kenai, Juneau, and Bethel for a cost of \$750.0. Supervised visitation is needed when there is any situation that may place a child at risk. The purpose of supervised visitation programs is to provide a safe, friendly environment that maintains and fosters the relationship of a child with his/her parents. The positive impacts of Family Visitation Centers include shortened duration of the family's involvement in the system, frequent reunification, the child maintaining a secure attachment with the parents. Additional benefits are an increased likelihood of positive development on the child, providing courts with more information regarding the relationship and the child, and increasing the frequency of visits between the child and the parents.
- Foster Care Daily Rate Increase of \$3.02: The Department proposes to increase the Foster Care Base Rate daily rate by \$3.02, for a cost of \$1,258.5. The current Foster Care Base Rate set in 1998 is based on the federal poverty guidelines of 1993, and does not reflect overall cost of living increase of 23.45% that has occurred since that time. The Department intends to increase the daily base rate to the 1997 poverty guidelines, an increase of 13.5% over the 1993 level. Even with this modest increase foster care providers will receive a mere 90.1% of the 2001 federal poverty, or 9.9% less than the current poverty guidelines. The daily rate increase will raise the base rate from the FY2000 and FY2001 average of \$22.34 per day to \$25.36 per day, an increase of \$3.02 per day.
- Foster Care Augmented Rate: Although the Department anticipates the foster care caseload will remain steady in FY2003, \$63.0 is requested to cover the cost of underfunding in the Foster Care Augmented Rate program. In FY2001, 30.6% of the children in foster care received an augmentation to their base rate. The Department anticipates the percentage of augmented cases will continue at 30.6% in FY2002 and FY2003.
- Foster Care Special Needs: Although the Department anticipates the foster care caseload will remain steady in FY2003, \$595.3 is requested to cover underfunding of the Foster Care Special Needs program. For the past several years, the Department's foster care programs have been short-funded and supplemental appropriations have been necessary to cover the cost of under-funded caseload growth. Based on projected special needs costs, the Department sees the need for a \$595.3 increase to cover program costs in FY2003.
- Mental Health Stabilization Home: The Division proposes to use \$650.0 to establish the Mental Health Stabilization Home program. This short-term residential option will serve as a step-down program from acute hospital care or secure residential psychiatric treatment. It may also serve as an interim placement for severely disturbed children who are difficult to place. These homes will expand available options to allow families and providers to develop a safe and appropriate community placement.

Purchased Services
Summary of BRU Budget Changes by Component
From FY2002 Authorized to FY2003 Governor

All dollars in thousands

	<u>General Funds</u>	<u>Federal Funds</u>	<u>Other Funds</u>	<u>Total Funds</u>
FY2002 Authorized	36,438.3	13,891.3	2,754.4	53,084.0
Adjustments which will continue current level of service:				
-Family Preservation	-1,465.4	0.0	0.0	-1,465.4
Proposed budget decreases:				
-Family Preservation	0.0	0.0	-200.0	-200.0
Proposed budget increases:				
-Family Preservation	1,725.0	1,000.0	0.0	2,725.0
-Foster Care Base Rate	909.5	349.0	0.0	1,258.5
-Foster Care Augmented Rate	63.0	0.0	0.0	63.0
-Foster Care Special Need	595.3	0.0	500.0	1,095.3
-Subsidized Adoptions/Guardians	3,045.8	596.1	0.0	3,641.9
-Residential Child Care	50.0	0.0	6,687.8	6,737.8
FY2003 Governor	41,361.5	15,836.4	9,742.2	66,940.1