

**State of Alaska
FY2003 Governor's Operating Budget**

**Department of Health and Social Services
Family Preservation
Component Budget Summary**

Component: Family Preservation

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Component 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.

Component Services Provided

The Division provided funding for Family Support, Family Preservation, and Time-Limited Family Reunification grants. Family Support services are community-based preventive activities designed to increase the strength, stability and the well being of children and families (including adoptive, foster and extended families). These services also serve to increase parents' confidence and competence in their parenting abilities, to afford children a stable and supportive family environment, and to otherwise enhance child development.

Family Preservation provides services developed to help children and families (including adoptive, foster, and extended families) at risk or in crisis. Support services include intensive pre-placement services to help children at risk of foster care placement remain safely with their families. Family Preservation services also include programs that provide follow-up care to families to whom a child has been returned after a foster care placement or after a child abuse and neglect investigation has been substantiated.

The Family Preservation component also provides funding for Child Protective Services child care services which provide parents at risk of abusing or neglecting their children relief from the stresses of child care. Parents are also able to take part in medical and treatment programs and get help for their problems. The child receives child development opportunities and socialization skills in a licensed child care facility by providers in a secure, stable enriched environment. Child care providers help address developmental delays and acting-out behaviors in children, and assist in monitoring for signs of abuse and neglect in the child.

DFYS implemented the Early Intervention for Family Support or Dual Track pilot program in the Mat-Su Valley area in FY1999 in response to an unacceptably high rate of "low priority" (Priority Three) reports of harm that went uninvestigated. The Early Intervention for Family Support program provides Family Preservation grant funds to a non-profit community agency to perform intervention and follow-up work for cases that the Division has assessed as being low risk. This program has enabled the Division to focus more social worker staff resources on investigating higher priority reports of harm. The pilot program provides a differential response to child protection. Without this program many of these cases would go uninvestigated, potentially resulting in further harm to children.

Time-Limited Family Reunification services are provided in cases where a child has been removed from the parents and placed in foster care or in a child care institution. These services facilitate the reunification of the child safely and appropriately in a timely fashion. Services provided include in-home visits, parent support groups, supervised visitation, and other programs designed to improve parenting skills.

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.

Component Goals and Strategies

1) KEEP FAMILIES INTACT, STRENGTHEN FAMILIES, REDUCE THE NUMBER OF OUT-OF-HOME PLACEMENTS, REUNITE FAMILIES, AND REDUCE THE RISK TO CHILDREN IN OUT-OF-HOME CARE:

- Although the safety of children is paramount to DFYS, the Division also focuses on offering support services to families in an effort to safely maintain children in their own home. If removal is necessary, the Division makes every effort to reunify the family by eliminating the issues which placed the child at risk of harm. To accomplish these efforts, the Division offers Family Preservation, Family Support, and Time-Limited Family Reunification services.
- The Family Preservation component purchases services that cannot be provided directly by DFYS staff. Services are purchased through grants and contracts in the following general areas: family support services, family preservation services, time-limited family reunification services, child protective services day care, and development of partnership grants with community agencies for support services.
- Family Preservation, Family Support and Time-limited Family Reunification include 20 different services for families. These include therapeutic services for children and families, parenting classes, life skills training, anger management, and supervised visitation. Providers also access additional services for parents to include drug and alcohol treatment and other mental health intervention services. The services focus on "preserving" the family unit and offering support to families, while also speaking to the need to insure safety for the children in the home.
- Continue community grants including the Early Intervention for Family Support grant program for the Mat-Su Valley area to assess and interview low-risk referrals made to the Division. This collaboration allows for earlier intervention that minimizes the risk to the children and often negates the need for out-of-home placement or further agency intervention. In FY2001, the Early Intervention for Family Support program received 397 referrals from the Division, and the number of workload adjusted cases by DFYS was ZERO. Due to the success of the Early Intervention for Family Support pilot program in the Mat-Su Valley, the Department is requesting an increment of \$975.0 to expand the program to Fairbanks, Bethel, and Kenai. In FY2000, 715 priority 3 reports of harm were not investigated in these three areas. Priority 3 reports of harm not investigated in Fairbanks, Bethel and Kenai for FY2001 were 670.
- Under Federal Title IV-B, the Federal government provides funding to support non-profit grantees that provide preservation and support services. The Division provides matching funds to support the Federal funds designated for these programs.

Key Component Issues for FY2002 – 2003

- 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.
- Services to children and families are critical in attempting to remedy the situation and problems that brought them to the attention of DFYS. Parents often have to wait to access these services.
- Parental substance abuse 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. The Division needs Family Support and substance abuse treatment services to provide reasonable efforts.
- Federal Title IV-B funding for Family Support services has been declining. Federal Title -funds are allocated to the State as a whole. Alaska Tribes and Tribal organizations are also eligible to apply directly for Title IV-B funding. Title IVB funds allocated to the State through the Department of Health & Social Services are reduced by the funds granted directly to the Tribes and Tribal organizations. Currently the Department receives approximately 50% of the total allotment for Alaska.

- The Department proposes to implement the Relative Navigators project. This project provides assistance to regional staff and workers in locating adult relatives of children who are in state custody, and will work with these relatives in becoming foster and adoptive families. The Relative Navigator would be dedicated solely to identifying possible relatives, locating and contacting them, and wherever appropriate, helping to place the children in relatives' homes. Children who are placed in relative care would find a more stable, long-term placement, thereby decreasing the average number of placements per child in Alaska's custody. Children will reach relative homes sooner, thereby reducing the need for foster care.
- 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.
- The Department proposes to establish Family Visitation Centers in Anchorage, Fairbanks, Mat-Su, Kenai, Juneau, and Bethel. Supervised visitation is needed in any situation that may place a child at risk. Supervised visitation programs provide a safe, friendly environment that maintains and fosters the relationship between the 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, and a more secure attachment between the child and parents. Additional benefits are an increased likelihood of positive development on the child, more information to the courts regarding the parent/child relationship, and increased number of visits between the child and the parents.

Major Component Accomplishments in 2001

1) FAMILY PRESERVATION, FAMILY SUPPORT AND TIME-LIMITED FAMILY REUNIFICATION GRANTS:

The Division of Family and Youth Services worked with 26 different non-profit service providers located across the state and provided funding for 31 Family Preservation, Family Support and Time-Limited Family Reunification grants. Through these contracted services, the Division delineated 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 were provided. DFYS social workers utilized these grantees and referred 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).

In FY2001 the Division in compliance with the Adoptions and Safe Families Act, continue to emphasis "time-limited family reunification" as an approach for service providers. The Division provided Time-limited Family Reunification grants designed to facilitate reunification of children with their families when the children had been placed in foster care. The services and activities provided by these grantees occur only during a 15-month period that begins on the date that the child enters foster care.

2) CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES DAYCARE:

During FY2001 the Department, through 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. The child receives child development opportunities and socialization skills in a licensed child care facility by child care providers in a secure, stable enriched environment. Care providers also help in addressing developmental delays and acting out behaviors in children, and assist in monitoring for abuse and neglect signs for children in care.

3) EARLY INTERVENTION FOR FAMILY SUPPORT (DUAL TRACK):

The Early Intervention for Family Support or Dual Track program enables the Department to refer Priority 3 (low risk) reports of harm to a community-based non-profit social services agency. In FY2001 the Division issued a grant with the

non-profit agency the Children's Place to continue Early Intervention for Family Support services in the Mat-Su area. The grantee provided services to help families meet the health and safety needs of their children and provided referral services to a wide range of available support services. This collaboration allowed for earlier intervention that minimizes the risk to the children and often negates the need for out-of-home placement or further agency intervention.

Having a community agency respond to these referrals is beneficial in several ways. The primary services provided to families is identification of problems or concerns within the family, based on an assessment and the report of harm, making appropriate referrals to community agencies, and helping the family access those services provided by the community agencies. The approach used can be one of advocacy and short-term case management that is hopefully perceived as less threatening by parents than involving DFYS through an investigation. The purpose is to reduce the likelihood of future and more serious abuse and neglect to the child and identifying children who are at higher risk than indicated in the initial report. Also, early intervention with some families will keep their children at home and out of the foster care system.

In FY2001, the Early Intervention for Family Support program received 397 referrals from the Division. Again the number of workload adjusted cases by DFYS was ZERO.

4) INDEPENDENT LIVING PROGRAMS IMPLEMENTED:

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.

In FY2001 DFYS awarded a number of Independent Living Program grants. One, the Independent Youth Task Force grant, provided continued support and access to higher education and vocational training in six Alaskan communities. Additional FY2001 grants were awarded in Anchorage and Juneau for the Foster Youth Mentoring programs. Through the Independent Living Program foster care clients were provided daily living skills, training and employment services, tuition waivers at the University of Alaska and support programs and career information designed to target youth who have left or are about to leave the foster care system.

Statutory and Regulatory Authority

AS 47.05	Administration of Welfare, Social Services, and Institutions.
AS 47.10	Children in Need of Aid.
AS 47.17	Child Protection.
7 AAC 50	Community Care Licensing.
7 AAC 51	Child Placement Agencies.
7 AAC 53	Social Services.

Titles IV-B and IV-E of the Social Security Act

Family Preservation
Component Financial Summary

All dollars in thousands

Non-Formula Program:	FY2001 Actuals	FY2002 Authorized	FY2003 Governor
Component Expenditures:			
71000 Personal Services	0.0	0.0	0.0
72000 Travel	23.6	124.3	124.3
73000 Contractual	873.8	786.0	1,786.0
74000 Supplies	0.0	0.0	0.0
75000 Equipment	0.0	0.0	0.0
76000 Land/Buildings	0.0	0.0	0.0
77000 Grants, Claims	3,804.0	8,136.8	8,196.4
78000 Miscellaneous	0.0	0.0	0.0
Expenditure Totals	4,701.4	9,047.1	10,106.7
Funding Sources:			
1002 Federal Receipts	2,534.4	4,941.2	5,941.2
1004 General Fund Receipts	1,869.4	3,355.9	3,615.5
1007 Inter-Agency Receipts	297.6	300.0	300.0
1092 Mental Health Trust Authority Authorized Receipts	0.0	450.0	250.0
Funding Totals	4,701.4	9,047.1	10,106.7

Estimated Revenue Collections

Description	Master Revenue Account	FY2001 Actuals	FY2002 Authorized	FY2002 Cash Estimate	FY2003 Governor	FY2004 Forecast
Unrestricted Revenues						
None.		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Unrestricted Total		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Restricted Revenues						
Federal Receipts	51010	2,534.4	4,941.2	4,941.2	5,941.2	5,941.2
Interagency Receipts	51015	297.6	300.0	300.0	300.0	300.0
Mental Health Trust Authority Auth.Rec.	51410	0.0	450.0	450.0	250.0	250.0
Restricted Total		2,832.0	5,691.2	5,691.2	6,491.2	6,491.2
Total Estimated Revenues		2,832.0	5,691.2	5,691.2	6,491.2	6,491.2

Family Preservation

Proposed Changes in Levels of Service for FY2003

- Child Advocacy Centers: Using \$1,000.0 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. 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 and 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.
- Early Intervention for Family Support (Dual Track): Due to the success of Early Intervention for Family Support program in the Mat-Su valley, the Division proposes to introduce this method of responding to priority 3 reports of harm in Bethel, Fairbanks, and Kenai.
- Funding for Rural Designated BRU grants is transferred to the re-established Designated BRU/components.

Summary of Component Budget Changes

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	3,355.9	4,941.2	750.0	9,047.1
Adjustments which will continue current level of service:				
-Reestablishment of Designated BRU's	-1,465.4	0.0	0.0	-1,465.4
Proposed budget decreases:				
-Reduce MHTAAR Funding for Support Parenting/Family Support to Parent Beneficiaries	0.0	0.0	-200.0	-200.0
Proposed budget increases:				
-Child Protection: Family Assessment Response Project	975.0	0.0	0.0	975.0
-Child Protection: Additional Federal Funding for Child Advocacy Centers	0.0	1,000.0	0.0	1,000.0
-Child Protection: Family Visitation Centers	750.0	0.0	0.0	750.0

	<u>General Funds</u>	<u>Federal Funds</u>	<u>Other Funds</u>	<u>Total Funds</u>
FY2003 Governor	3,615.5	5,941.2	550.0	10,106.7