

State of Alaska FY2004 Governor's Operating Budget

Department of Public Safety Batterers Intervention Program Component Budget Summary

Component: Batterers Intervention Program

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Component Mission

To provide for the planning and coordination of services to perpetrators of domestic violence.

Component Services Provided

- (1) Develop, implement, maintain, and monitor community-based batterers' intervention programs;
- (2) Develop and implement a standardized data collection system for state-approved batterers' intervention programs;
- (3) Receive and dispense state money by awarding grants and contracts to qualified local community entities for batterers' intervention programs;
- (4) Oversee and audit all state-approved batterers' intervention programs; and
- (5) Provide fiscal and technical assistance to batterers' intervention programs.

Component Goals and Strategies

- (1) Hold batterers accountable for their actions and decrease their criminal activity.
 - (a) Provide community-based batterers' intervention program services to offenders;
 - (b) Continue to approve and monitor batterers' intervention programs in partnership with the Department of Corrections;
 - (c) Establish clear measures for effectiveness of batterers' intervention programs by determining outcome measures and developing on-going research tools;
 - (d) Increase the understanding of how batterers' intervention programs fit into the process of breaking the cycle of violence through interdisciplinary training;
 - (e) Monitor batterers' compliance to court orders; and
 - (f) Develop strategies to ensure a continuum of offender sanctions.
- (2) Through a common vision, create a strong network among individuals working to assist victims of domestic violence and sexual assault and maintain a coordinated community response in holding offenders accountable for their behavior.
 - (a) Improve the criminal justice response to offender accountability by promoting more uniform sentencing requirements, supervising offenders on probation, and expediting the response to the violation of a court order or probation;
 - (b) Work with offender programs to explore all available resources for funding to make offender programs financially self-supporting; and
 - (c) Assist with training opportunities for batterers' intervention program staff, Department of Corrections'

personnel, prosecutors, and judges.

- (3) Develop and implement a comprehensive educational prevention effort about domestic violence and sexual assault, which moves people toward a common philosophy of zero tolerance.
 - (a) Increase public awareness and knowledge of the extent of domestic violence and sexual assault and its consequences for victims, perpetrators, and communities; and
 - (b) Educate the public that violence is unacceptable, and offenders will be held accountable for their behavior.

Funds appropriated for this program are administered by the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault.

Key Component Issues for FY2003 – 2004

Requiring batterers to attend intervention programming as a condition of probation or as a consequence of committing the crime of domestic violence is becoming an integral part of many community responses to domestic violence. These programs have been developed to affect change and break the cycle of violence; however, they cannot deter domestic violence in isolation. A strong coordinated criminal justice response is needed. The combined impact of arrest, incarceration, and adjudication must hold batterers accountable for their abusive behavior.

Batterers' intervention programs are part of a coordinated community response to end violence. Many organizations have roles to this end. Victim advocates monitor victim safety, assess lethality, and assist victims in navigating through the criminal justice system. Judges sentence perpetrators and require them to attend batterers' intervention programs as part of conditions of release. Strong and effective legislation and philosophically sound programs that work with batterers are also important to effectively impact the rate of domestic violence.

Batterers use violence to demonstrate power and achieve control. Certain factors are associated with battering: low self-esteem, a history of childhood abuse, narcissistic personalities, lack of value of women, sense of male privilege, and exposure to male role models who have shown hostile attitudes toward women. To change these long-held patterns, men must acknowledge the destructive nature of their present behavior and accept responsibility for their actions. To best support change, the batterer must be held fully accountable for his use of violence by a community that establishes and enforces consequences for continued acts of abuse. One important step in achieving this goal is to require perpetrators to attend batterers' intervention programs. This provides a clear message that battering is not acceptable, that there are consequences to this behavior and that there are alternative ways of behaving that are not violent.

Alaska is on its way to providing a strong community response to battering throughout the state. Victim services programs, batterers' intervention programs, court personnel, prosecutors, and police departments are coordinating efforts to build effective intervention strategies for communities. Through the joint efforts of the Council and Department of Corrections, there are fourteen active state-approved community batterers' intervention programs. The Council reviews all submissions for compliance with regulations, provides technical assistance to programs as needed and monitors programs for on-going compliance. These programs vary in approach although the primary goals of victim safety and batterers' accountability are paramount. These programs work with the local community, court system, probation, victim services, and police departments to coordinate services to be provided as well as to monitor and coordinate the batterers' compliance and success within the program. Last fiscal year, there were 598 batterers admitted to community-based batterers' intervention programs throughout the state. These numbers represent one full fiscal year of data and only include batterers admitted to Council funded programs. There are several non-Council funded programs that do not submit data to the database.

This is an important beginning to increasing community responses to battering. But there are many things left to accomplish. To provide a more effective approach to domestic violence there needs to be:

- Increased number of batterers' intervention programs to provide service statewide;
- Research and evaluation of the effectiveness of programs;
- Stronger support from court systems with consequences for non-compliance; and
- Increased understanding of the issue of domestic violence and the limitations of batterers' intervention program.

Major Component Accomplishments in 2002

BATTERERS' INTERVENTION PROGRAMS

Community-based Batterers' Intervention Program: 598 offenders participated in community-based batterers' intervention programs funded by CDVSA.

REGULATION OF PROGRAMS FOR REHABILITATION OF PERPETRATORS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Under the Domestic Violence Prevention and Victim Protection Act of 1996, community-based batterers' intervention programs must meet the Department of Corrections' regulations prior to receiving court referrals of offenders. The Department of Corrections, in collaboration with the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (the Council), drafted and approved regulations of programs providing intervention services to perpetrators of domestic violence. The Council provides continued technical assistance and training to programs which are operating or seeking to operate batterers' programs.

VICTIM INFORMATION AND NOTIFICATION EVERYDAY (VINE)

In fulfilling its obligation under the Domestic Violence Act, the Department of Corrections implemented the VINE system, a computer program, which provides victims of crime continuous access to vital inmate information over the phone. By calling the VINE telephone number, a crime victim can determine the current custody status of a person who victimized them. Victims can also register with the VINE program to be automatically notified of the release, transfer or escape of a specific inmate.

CENTRAL REGISTRY OF PROTECTIVE ORDERS

To improve victim safety by tracking protective orders, the Department of Public Safety developed and is maintaining a central registry of protective orders issued by or filed with the court, including out of state protective orders. The registry was implemented in the existing Alaska Public Safety Information Network (APSIN) which provides 24-hour, seven days a week availability. The registry includes emergency, ex parte, and protection orders and historical data for all three order types is retained. Alaska is also a participant in the federal Protection Order File contained in the FBI's National Crime Information Center (NCIC).

Prosecutors now have access to information about current and past civil orders which provides the history of the offender with current and former partners. The information is essential to courts when determining conditions of release (pretrial and post conviction) in order to coordinate effective protection mechanisms for victims and their family members. Probation and parole officers also access this information to improve their ability to monitor offenders and increase victim safety.

COMMUNITY COLLABORATIONS

As the lead agency for the Violence Against Women Act STOP Project, the Planning Committee developed a collaborative statewide effort with law enforcement, prosecution, courts, victim advocates and service providers, and achieved the following:

Victim Services: Continued the Legal Advocacy Project which provided training and legal consultation to victim advocates, provided legal representation to immigrant battered women, provided a pro-bono attorney program, increased access to translators in the court system, and developed a legal information and referral hotline for victims.

Prosecution: Conducted a statewide conference for prosecutors and paralegals on cyberstalking, date rape drugs, and forensic science advancements, provided a paralegal coordinator to mentor and train paralegals in assisting domestic violence and sexual assault clients, worked with CRIMES case management system, and translated victims rights brochures into Spanish.

Law Enforcement: Continued statewide training of law enforcement officers on the dynamics of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking; expanded training to dispatchers on responding to domestic violence calls; provided funding for sexual assault response trainings; and reprinted information booklets for victims of domestic violence.

Judicial: Trained judges, magistrates, and other court personnel on domestic violence dynamics; developed telephonic interpreter services; and implemented court case coordination in Anchorage.

Statutory and Regulatory Authority

- (1) Child Protection and Training (AS 47.17.022)
- (2) Child Protection- Duties of department in domestic violence cases (AS 47.17.035)
- (3) Claims- Presentation of claims required (2 AAC 25.010)
- (4) Conflict of Interest- Report of financial and business interests (AS 39.50.020)
- (5) Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (13 AAC 90.010-190)
- (6) Department of Corrections- Duties of the department (AS 44.28.020)
- (7) Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (AS 18.66.010-990)
- (8) Domestic Violence Training (AS 18.65.510)
- (9) Grant Administration- Audit requirements (2 AAC 45.010)
- (10) Grant Programs (13 ACC 95.010-900)
- (11) Health and Safety Education- Curriculum (AS 14.30.360)
- (12) Permanent Fund- Public Notice (AS 43.23.028)
- (13) Sentencing and Probation-day fines (AS 12.55.036)
- (14) Termination of state boards and commissions (AS 44.66.010)

Batterers Intervention Program
Component Financial Summary

All dollars in thousands

	FY2002 Actuals	FY2003 Authorized	FY2004 Governor
Non-Formula Program:			
Component Expenditures:			
71000 Personal Services	0.0	0.0	0.0
72000 Travel	0.0	0.0	0.0
73000 Contractual	0.0	0.0	0.0
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	320.0	320.0	200.0
78000 Miscellaneous	0.0	0.0	0.0
Expenditure Totals	320.0	320.0	200.0
Funding Sources:			
1004 General Fund Receipts	120.0	120.0	0.0
1050 Permanent Fund Dividend Fund	200.0	0.0	0.0
1171 PF Dividend Appropriations in lieu of Dividends to Criminals	0.0	200.0	200.0
Funding Totals	320.0	320.0	200.0

Batterers Intervention Program

Proposed Changes in Levels of Service for FY2004

There is an expected reduction in the FY2004 Governor's Budget to Batterers' Intervention services due to \$120.0 elimination of General Funds. This 38% reduction in BIP funding will result in a reduction of prevention and intervention services through non-profit organizations for more than 340 court ordered domestic violence abusers in Alaska in communities that last year supported 1,238 women and children at shelters. Batterers' intervention programs through for-profit agencies may be able to provide some of the services previously provided by the non-profits.

Summary of Component Budget Changes

From FY2003 Authorized to FY2004 Governor

All dollars in thousands

	<u>General Funds</u>	<u>Federal Funds</u>	<u>Other Funds</u>	<u>Total Funds</u>
FY2003 Authorized	120.0	0.0	200.0	320.0
Proposed budget decreases:				
-Eliminate General Funds for Batterers' Intervention Program	-120.0	0.0	0.0	-120.0
FY2004 Governor	0.0	0.0	200.0	200.0