

State of Alaska FY2005 Governor's Operating Budget

Department of Health and Social Services Family Preservation Component Budget Summary

Contents

<i>Component: Family Preservation</i>3
Component Financial Summary.....	7
Summary of Component Budget Changes.....	8

Component: Family Preservation

Contribution to Department's Mission

Family Preservation delivers services that help children and families at risk or in crisis. Support services include intensive pre-placement services to help children at risk of foster care placement remain safely in the family home. Family Preservation services also comprise follow-up care to families following a foster care placement or after a child abuse and neglect investigation has been substantiated.

Core Services

The Family Preservation component provides 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.

Time-Limited Family Reunification grants serve families with a child in foster care or in a child care institution. This program facilitates the reunification of the child and family safely and appropriately in a timely fashion. Services include in-home visits, parent support groups, supervised visitation, and other programs designed to improve parenting skills.

The Independent Living Program delivers education, vocational training and support to youth in the custody of OCS who are entering young adulthood. This statewide program supports youth 16 years of age and older who may lack parental support and guidance as they prepare for adulthood. To ensure the greatest success the primary focus is on high school completion; post-high school education; vocational training; employment internships and mentor programs; and life skills training include housing, budgeting, food and nutrition.

The Child Advocacy Center (CAC) programs furnish a child friendly environment for multiple agencies to coordinate child sexual abuse investigations. There are currently six CAC's in Alaska funded with federal Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention funds.

The Family Preservation component also funds Child Protective Services child care to furnish parents at risk of abuse to their children relief from the stresses of childcare. Parents are also able to participate in medical and treatment programs.

This component also maintains the Children's Justice Act (CJA) federal grant. This grant is designed to improve the handling of child abuse and neglect cases, particularly cases of child sexual abuse and exploitation, in a manner that limits additional trauma to the child victim.

The Community Based Family Resource and Support Programs (CBFRS) deliver support to develop, operate, expand, and enhance a network of community-based, prevention-focused, family resource and support programs. Within Alaska there are currently five CBFRS network agencies and six CBFRS Family Resource Programs. These programs offer assistance to families; provide early, comprehensive support for parents; promote the development of parenting skills, especially in young parents and parents with very young children; increase family stability; improve family access to other formal and informal resources and opportunities for assistance available within communities; support the additional needs of families with children with disabilities through respite care and other services; and decrease the risk of homelessness. Additionally, the networks foster the development of a continuum of preventive services for children and families through State and community-based public and private partnerships.

FY2005 Resources Allocated to Achieve Results		
FY2005 Component Budget: \$9,285,600	Personnel:	
	Full time	0
	Part time	0
	Total	0

Key Component Challenges

Provide Services Within Legal Time Limits: 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.

Alcohol and Drug Treatment for Parents: Parental substance abuse significantly 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. This frequently leads to the removal of the child or failed family reunification efforts. The provision of substance abuse treatment services is essential to the success of other efforts.

Supported Parenting Demonstration Project: Providing family-centered care to parents with special needs is important for the healthy development of the child. With the right types of services and supports, parents with special needs and their families can remain together. The Mental Health Trust has made funding available for beneficiaries who experience mental illness; mental retardation or similar disabilities; chronic alcoholism with psychosis; or Alzheimer's disease or related dementia.

To Develop a Partnership With the Anchorage Youth: The development of a faith based partnership between the Anchorage Youth for Christ, foster families, children and OCS workers will provide families and workers with support services such as mediation or intervention services for resource families during times of high stress; role modeling for foster children; school shadowing and academic assistance when necessary; life skills for children in care; and support for social and celebratory events as requested by the OCS social worker and/or foster family.

Minimize Trauma to the Child: The OCS aims to minimize the trauma related to sexual or severe physical abuse through its Child Advocacy Centers. These Child Advocacy Centers provide a comfortable atmosphere for purposes of a taped interview and if necessary a sexual abuse medical examination. They will eliminate the need for multiple interviews by including all the pertinent agencies from the beginning.

Improve the Handling of Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation Cases: With the Children's Justice Act federal grant, OCS intends to improve the handling of child abuse and neglect cases. This program's focus is on managing cases of child sexual abuse and exploitation in a manner which limits additional trauma to the child. This program will also concentrate on the handling of cases of suspected child abuse or neglect related fatalities, and the investigation and prosecution of cases of child abuse and neglect, particularly child sexual abuse and exploitation.

Establishment of a Children's Justice Act State Task Force: The OCS supports the establishment of a Children's Justice Act State Task Force, responsible for undertaking a comprehensive review and evaluation of law, policy and the investigative, administrative and judicial handling of cases of child abuse and neglect and to make training and policy recommendations.

Significant Changes in Results to be Delivered in FY2005

The Office of Children's Services intends to increase services to children and families by:

Establishing a Children's Justice Act State Force.

Improving the handling of child sexual abuse and exploitation cases.

Major Component Accomplishments in 2003

Furnished Family Preservation, Family Support and Time-Limited Family Reunification Services to Children and Families: The OCS worked with non-profit service providers across the state and funded 45 Family Preservation, Family Support and Time-Limited Family Reunification grants. OCS 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 OCS custody and their families (including foster and adoptive families).

Web Site for Alaska Children Involved in Foster Care: The OCS funded a grant involving a pilot project to establish and operate a web site for children involved in foster care. The web site will provide age-appropriate chat rooms and opportunities for individual "chats" with professional therapists. The site will also furnish a variety of information useful to children in foster care, including community events and resources.

Child Protective Daycare Services Supplied: OCS provided funding for Child Protective Services day care that enabled parents at risk of abusing or neglecting their children relief from the stresses of childcare. Parents also participated in medical and treatment programs.

Furthered Independent Living Programs: OCS awarded a grant for services to youth in the Anchorage area that provided case management to youth in OCS custody as well as those youth that have aged out of foster care. Services included a transition plan for the youth leaving foster care, assistance to young adults over 18 that were in need of shelter, food, clothing, health care and job training. An Independent Living mentoring grant was continued to furnish young people with 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.

The Independent Living Program also obtained an amendment to the Chafee Foster Care Independence Program. The amendment, entitled "Educational and Training Vouchers for Youth Aging Out of Foster Care" targets additional resources specifically to meet the education and training needs of youth aging out of the foster care system.

Developed Six Child Advocacy Centers: OCS supported the development of six Child Advocacy Centers in Alaska. Three of these centers are still under development and not yet seeing clients. The other three are operational and have performed forensic interviews and medical examinations for victims of child sexual abuse and severe physical abuse. During the first six months of FY2003 the Child Advocacy Center staff saw over 1,300 children at their centers.

Supported Community Based Family Resource Networks Services: Issued CBFRS grants and supported community services that are prevention-oriented, child-centered, family focused, and neighborhood based. The CBFRN addressed the needs of families and their children who have been identified as being at risk of child abuse and neglect and have a family centered approach.

Implemented the Children's Justice Act Grant and Coordinated the State Task Force: OCS implemented the Children's Justice Act grant in FY2003. These funds were used, in part, to coordinate the Children's Justice Act State Task Force. This vital task force is undertaking a comprehensive review and evaluation of law, policy and the investigative, administrative and judicial handling of cases of child abuse and neglect. The task force also concentrated on training and policy recommendations.

With the State Task Force medical examination training on identifying child sexual abuse for medical professionals, forensic interview training and multidisciplinary team development training became available. The State Task Force contracted with Professional Growth Systems for a strategic planning process and now has a blueprint for the year. Additionally they contracted with Dittman Research to conduct a survey of stakeholders in the field of child abuse to identify areas of need for training and system improvement.

Eliminated Workload Adjusted Reports of Harm in the MatSu Area: The successfully functioning Early Intervention for Family Support program in the Mat-Su area has essentially eliminated workload adjusted reports of harm as reports assessed as low risk are responded to by a private organization. This service 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.

Statutory and Regulatory Authority

AS 47.05 Administration of Welfare, Social Services, and Institutions.

12/15/03 2:44 PM

FY2005 Governor
Department of Health and Social Services

Released December 15th
Page 5

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

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Family Preservation Component Financial Summary			
	<i>All dollars shown in thousands</i>		
	FY2003 Actuals	FY2004 Authorized	FY2005 Governor
Non-Formula Program:			
Component Expenditures:			
71000 Personal Services	0.0	0.0	0.0
72000 Travel	14.5	124.3	121.3
73000 Contractual	1,318.0	2,183.2	1,113.1
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	8,632.8	7,498.0	8,051.2
78000 Miscellaneous	0.0	0.0	0.0
Expenditure Totals	9,965.3	9,805.5	9,285.6
Funding Sources:			
1002 Federal Receipts	6,328.4	7,191.2	7,003.0
1004 General Fund Receipts	2,997.6	2,064.3	1,732.7
1007 Inter-Agency Receipts	406.2	300.0	299.9
1092 Mental Health Trust Authority Authorized Receipts	233.1	250.0	250.0
Funding Totals	9,965.3	9,805.5	9,285.6

Estimated Revenue Collections				
Description	Master Revenue Account	FY2003 Actuals	FY2004 Authorized	FY2005 Governor
Unrestricted Revenues				
None.		0.0	0.0	0.0
Unrestricted Total		0.0	0.0	0.0
Restricted Revenues				
Federal Receipts	51010	6,328.4	7,191.2	7,003.0
Interagency Receipts	51015	406.2	300.0	299.9
Restricted Total		6,734.6	7,491.2	7,302.9
Total Estimated Revenues		6,734.6	7,491.2	7,302.9

Summary of Component Budget Changes From FY2004 Authorized to FY2005 Governor				
	<i>All dollars shown in thousands</i>			
	General Funds	Federal Funds	Other Funds	Total Funds
FY2004 Authorized	2,064.3	7,191.2	550.0	9,805.5
Adjustments which will continue current level of service:				
-Transfer Out GF to CSM for Healthy Families AK Agreement-Formerly RSA	-60.0	0.0	0.0	-60.0
-Transfer Out Federal Funds to CSM for CAC, CJA & Indep Living Agreement-Formerly RSAs	0.0	-186.3	0.0	-186.3
Proposed budget decreases:				
-Department-wide travel reduction	-1.0	-1.9	-0.1	-3.0
-Medicaid Targeted Case Management for Family Preservation Services	-270.6	0.0	0.0	-270.6
FY2005 Governor	1,732.7	7,003.0	549.9	9,285.6