

# **State of Alaska FY2006 Governor's Operating Budget**

## **Department of Health and Social Services Rural Services and Suicide Prevention Component Budget Summary**

**Component: Rural Services and Suicide Prevention**

**Contribution to Department's Mission**

The mission of this component is to encourage and support regional and community-based efforts to address the problems of suicide, self-destructive behavior and substance abuse.

**Core Services**

Programs funded through this component include the Community-Based Suicide Prevention Program (CBSPP), which provides small grants directly to communities; and the Rural Human Services System Project (RHSSP) which provides funds to regional agencies to hire, train and supervise village-based counselors. These counselors provide integrated substance abuse and mental health outpatient, aftercare and support services as well as prevention and education activities. The RHSSP training program is administered by the University of Alaska, College of Rural Alaska and an additional part of the mission is to encourage rural Alaskans to pursue higher degrees in human services fields.

Both the Community-Based Suicide Prevention Program and the Rural Human Services System Project focus on ensuring that needed services are both available in and culturally appropriate to the villages and towns of rural Alaska. CBSPP coordinators provide a wide range of prevention and intervention services. RHS trained village-based counselors provide a full range of para-professional services from screening to aftercare under the supervision of more advanced practitioners. They also provide prevention and education programs in their communities.

**FY2006 Resources Allocated to Achieve Results**

<b>FY2006 Component Budget: \$2,901,100</b>	<b>Personnel:</b>	
	Full time	0
	Part time	0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>

**Key Component Challenges**

The Rural Human Services System Project does not yet serve every region of the state and there are still many villages without trained counselors. The Project needs to grow to fill in these gaps. The Project also needs to continue to work with the University to explore ways of assisting Rural Human Services graduates to pursue higher education and move into positions of increasing responsibility in their agencies. Another major challenge is coordinating with the new Behavioral Health Aide program to ensure there is no duplication and to enhance the efforts of each group.

The Community-Based Suicide Prevention Project needs to develop new ways to enhance training for project coordinators and establish and/or broaden links among projects.

The Division needs to continue to work to insure that programs funded in this component are aligned with the statewide suicide prevention program and are effective in reducing suicide in Alaska.

**Significant Changes in Results to be Delivered in FY2006**

During FY06 this component will see a number of changes as we move to a more integrated behavioral health system of care for the state of Alaska. Currently, the suicide and rural human services programs function somewhat separately from the other community-based behavioral health grant programs. During FY06 we intend to better integrate the services offered through this component into the overall Prevention and Early Intervention Services section of the Division of Behavioral Health, recognizing that all of the health and wellness issues we deal with are interrelated and impact each

other. For example, we know that alcohol use and abuse is often a factor in suicide attempts and successes. We also know that suicidal ideations are very prevalent among youth and young adults with disabilities resulting from prenatal exposure to alcohol. By focusing on a more integrated and comprehensive approach to all substance abuse and mental health concerns, we can begin working toward health and wellness promotion, as well as prevention of these issues.

### Major Component Accomplishments in 2004

During FY04, the Community-Based Suicide Prevention Program (CBSPP) awarded over \$700,000 in grants to 53 communities around the state. Grant awards ranged in value from \$10,000 to \$20,000, with the average award approximately \$15,000. In FY04 an additional five communities participated in the program, which includes training and ongoing technical assistance, using funds from other sources.

The program continued its work with all communities, urban and rural, to provide training, information and public education about suicide and how we can develop support systems to prevent suicidal outcomes and to promote healthier individuals, families and communities.

In FY03 the Rural Human Services System Project awarded 12 grants that ranged in value from \$12,000 to \$464,735. Grantees included 7 regional Health Corporations and 5 sub-regional mental health and substance abuse agencies. They helped support 96 village-based counselors working in 89 different rural communities.

The 30 credit RHS training program is now offered at four rural campuses: Interior/Aleutian Campus at University of Alaska Fairbanks; Kuskokwim Campus in Bethel; Northwest Community Campus in Nome; and Chukchi Campus in Kotzebue. The program is also newly available at the University of Alaska Anchorage where it focuses on students who work or plan to work providing services to individuals who have relocated to the City of Anchorage from rural communities.

Since its inception, approximately 200 people have either completed or are in the process of completing the RHS program.

### Statutory and Regulatory Authority

AS 47.30.470-500      Mental Health  
7 AAC 78              Grant Programs

Contact Information
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**Rural Services and Suicide Prevention  
Component Financial Summary**

*All dollars shown in thousands*

	<b>FY2004 Actuals</b>	<b>FY2005 Management Plan</b>	<b>FY2006 Governor</b>
<b>Non-Formula Program:</b>			
<b>Component Expenditures:</b>			
71000 Personal Services	65.5	0.0	0.0
72000 Travel	8.7	0.0	0.0
73000 Services	346.5	501.0	501.0
74000 Commodities	2.3	0.0	0.0
75000 Capital Outlay	0.0	0.0	0.0
77000 Grants, Benefits	2,257.3	2,400.1	2,400.1
78000 Miscellaneous	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>Expenditure Totals</b>	<b>2,680.3</b>	<b>2,901.1</b>	<b>2,901.1</b>
<b>Funding Sources:</b>			
1002 Federal Receipts	235.0	500.0	500.0
1004 General Fund Receipts	305.8	285.9	285.9
1037 General Fund / Mental Health	158.4	128.4	128.4
1180 Alcohol & Other Drug Abuse Treatment & Prevention Fund	1,981.1	1,986.8	1,986.8
<b>Funding Totals</b>	<b>2,680.3</b>	<b>2,901.1</b>	<b>2,901.1</b>

**Estimated Revenue Collections**

<b>Description</b>	<b>Master Revenue Account</b>	<b>FY2004 Actuals</b>	<b>FY2005 Management Plan</b>	<b>FY2006 Governor</b>
<b>Unrestricted Revenues</b>				
None.		0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>Unrestricted Total</b>		<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>
<b>Restricted Revenues</b>				
Federal Receipts	51010	235.0	500.0	500.0
<b>Restricted Total</b>		<b>235.0</b>	<b>500.0</b>	<b>500.0</b>
<b>Total Estimated Revenues</b>		<b>235.0</b>	<b>500.0</b>	<b>500.0</b>

**Summary of Component Budget Changes  
From FY2005 Management Plan to FY2006 Governor**

*All dollars shown in thousands*

	<u>General Funds</u>	<u>Federal Funds</u>	<u>Other Funds</u>	<u>Total Funds</u>
<b>FY2005 Management Plan</b>	<b>414.3</b>	<b>500.0</b>	<b>1,986.8</b>	<b>2,901.1</b>
<b>FY2006 Governor</b>	<b>414.3</b>	<b>500.0</b>	<b>1,986.8</b>	<b>2,901.1</b>