

State of Alaska FY2008 Governor's Operating Budget

Department of Health and Social Services Family Preservation Component Budget Summary

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 after 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 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 timely reunification of the child and family safely and appropriately. Services include in-home visits, parent support groups, supervised visitation, and other programs designed to improve parenting skills.

Independent Living services support education, vocational training and life skills of youth in foster care as they enter early adulthood. These youths, 16 years and older, frequently lack the family or financial support and guidance needed to gain self-sufficiency in adulthood. Services provided to help these youths gain self-sufficiency include life skills assessments; transition learning plans; exit plans that identify a youth's goals for education, employment, housing, health care, mental health care, and family/community connections; financial assistance, and identification of additional resources the youth may require.

The Child Advocacy Center (CAC) programs furnish a child friendly environment for multiple agencies to coordinate child sexual abuse investigations. There are currently seven 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 abusing their children relief from the stresses of childcare. Parents are also able to participate in medical and treatment programs.

This component maintains the Children's Justice Act (CJA) federal grant. These grant funds support a State Task Force whose mission is to *"Identify areas where improvement is needed in the statewide response to child maltreatment particularly child sexual abuse, make recommendations and take actions to improve the system."* The grant also 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.

FY2008 Resources Allocated to Achieve Results

FY2008 Component Budget: \$10,440,600	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.

Alignment of OCS grant programs to support families: OCS is leading an effort to conduct a comprehensive assessment and review of the division's grant programs in order to determine if services provided are adequate, appropriate and aligned with current program and practice goals. By bringing together internal and external stakeholders to examine this issue, the result should include a continuum of appropriate services from prevention to early intervention for children and their families.

Enhanced foster parent recruiting efforts will increase the number of available foster homes that are culturally relevant and safe for children in need of placement in both rural and urban settings.

The Independent Living (IL) Program provides services to youth who "age out" of foster care and are often ill prepared to live independently. OCS assesses the needs of each child at the age of 14 to develop individual independent living plans to aid in the transition out of foster care and assist the child towards responsible adulthood. The program continues to identify critical areas where the IL program could improve and expand service delivery and support for youth. Priorities currently identified that will result in positive outcomes include access to educational materials regarding legal arrangements such as conservatorships, guardianships, and financial trusts; a needs assessment of the population exiting care and the service capacity within the State; program revisions that address the additional financial needs of youth with disabilities; increased efforts to plan for the proper disbursement and use of trust funds, in particular Permanent Fund Dividend trust funds; assessments of youth in care that provide information on the use of current mental health services that would provide a baseline for service available in communities for young people; development of educational opportunities for youth in care and out of care on health, nutrition, substance abuse, and reproductive health.

Increasing the Number of Available Foster Homes: OCS must continue to improve its recruitment efforts, especially in rural areas.

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 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.

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 eliminate the need for multiple interviews by including all the pertinent agencies from the beginning of the investigation.

Improve the Handling of Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation Cases: With the Children's Justice Act federal grant, OCS evaluates and makes recommendations on improving the state's response to child abuse and neglect. The Children's Justice Act State Task Force focuses on removing the barriers across disciplines to respond more effectively to child sexual abuse cases. The Children's Justice Act State Task Force is 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, as well as training and policy recommendations.

Significant Changes in Results to be Delivered in FY2008

The OCS has requested a fund source change of (\$650.0) in federal funds to \$650.0 in general funds as a result of the Federal Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 reversal of *Rosales v. Thompson*. This decision negates Ninth Circuit states' ability to claim Title IV-E federal dollars for services provided to eligible children placed in unlicensed relative homes and for children whose eligibility was determined using the home of a relative with whom the child resided within six months of the determination.

This request does not directly affect any specific OCS outcome but does affect the ability to provide funding for grantee services and thus will reduce the services available through Alaska's Native Tribes and private grantees. These services focus on prevention of child abuse and neglect and help children who have suffered under abuse and neglect heal.

Major Component Accomplishments in 2006

Child Protective Childcare Services Supplied: OCS provided funding for Child Protective Services child 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.

Support Child Advocacy Centers: OCS continues to provide support to Child Advocacy Centers in Alaska. These centers perform forensic interviews and medical examinations for victims suspected of child sexual abuse and severe physical abuse.

Family Preservations Grants: OCS administered and managed over 140 outgoing grants to provide services in support of families.

Statutory and Regulatory Authority

AS 47.05.010 Administration of Welfare, Social Services, and Institutions, duties of department.
 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
 Children's Justice Act
 Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act
 Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act

Contact Information

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**Family Preservation
Component Financial Summary**

All dollars shown in thousands

	FY2006 Actuals	FY2007 Management Plan	FY2008 Governor
Non-Formula Program:			
Component Expenditures:			
71000 Personal Services	0.0	0.0	0.0
72000 Travel	64.6	121.3	121.3
73000 Services	1,034.6	1,103.1	1,103.1
74000 Commodities	7.1	0.0	0.0
75000 Capital Outlay	0.5	0.0	0.0
77000 Grants, Benefits	6,822.4	9,216.2	9,216.2
78000 Miscellaneous	0.0	0.0	0.0
Expenditure Totals	7,929.2	10,440.6	10,440.6
Funding Sources:			
1002 Federal Receipts	6,188.7	8,008.0	7,358.0
1004 General Fund Receipts	1,423.1	1,732.7	2,382.7
1007 Inter-Agency Receipts	167.4	699.9	699.9
1092 Mental Health Trust Authority Authorized Receipts	150.0	0.0	0.0
Funding Totals	7,929.2	10,440.6	10,440.6

Estimated Revenue Collections

Description	Master Revenue Account	FY2006 Actuals	FY2007 Management Plan	FY2008 Governor
Unrestricted Revenues				
Unrestricted Fund	68515	0.0	1,732.7	0.0
Unrestricted Total		0.0	1,732.7	0.0
Restricted Revenues				
Federal Receipts	51010	6,188.7	8,008.0	7,358.0
Interagency Receipts	51015	167.4	699.9	699.9
Restricted Total		6,356.1	8,707.9	8,057.9
Total Estimated Revenues		6,356.1	10,440.6	8,057.9

**Summary of Component Budget Changes
From FY2007 Management Plan to FY2008 Governor**

All dollars shown in thousands

	<u>General Funds</u>	<u>Federal Funds</u>	<u>Other Funds</u>	<u>Total Funds</u>
FY2007 Management Plan	1,732.7	8,008.0	699.9	10,440.6
Adjustments which will continue current level of service:				
-Implement Federal Deficit Reduction Act	650.0	-650.0	0.0	0.0
FY2008 Governor	2,382.7	7,358.0	699.9	10,440.6