

State of Alaska FY2008 Governor's Operating Budget

Department of Health and Social Services Foster Care Base Rate Component Budget Summary

Component: Foster Care Base Rate

Contribution to Department's Mission

The Foster Care Base Rate program is designed to meet the basic needs of children in foster care.

Core Services

The Foster Care Base Rate program reimburses foster parents for the basic on-going costs of raising a child including: food, clothing, and shelter; daily supervision normally carried out by a parent; personal and grooming items; school supplies and regular school activities; age appropriate games, toys, books, and recreational equipment; general recreation such as picnics, community sports, and movies; usual transportation expenses; allowance; babysitting and child care.

FY2008 Resources Allocated to Achieve Results

FY2008 Component Budget: \$10,245,900	Personnel:	
	Full time	0
	Part time	0
	Total	0

Key Component Challenges

New Foster Care Providers are Needed: The OCS needs more foster parents, especially Native foster parents, to meet the needs of Alaska's foster children. Not having enough appropriate and culturally relevant foster placements impacts the ability of the office to place children in homes where their best interests can be met, increases the likelihood of multiple placements for children and is contradictory to the Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978.

Provide Adequate Funding for Foster Care: The Foster Care Base Rate program is designed to reimburse foster parents for the basic on-going costs of raising a child. The current Foster Care Base Rate is based on 1993 Federal Poverty Guidelines and does not reflect the overall cost of living increases that have occurred since that time.

The State has an obligation to reimburse foster care providers for the cost of care for children in their custody. When the State fails to meet its obligation, foster care providers have no legal obligation to continue to provide care for the children. This may result in foster parents returning children to the Office of Children's Services. This situation will seriously undermine the State's child welfare system and will negatively impact the children that the State is responsible for protecting.

Continued development and updated policy and procedure in line with new processes within the Online Resources for the Children of Alaska's (ORCA).

Significant Changes in Results to be Delivered in FY2008

The Office of Children's Services anticipates it will provide foster care base rate benefits to more than 1,300 children in foster care throughout FY 2008.

Major Component Accomplishments in 2006

Provided foster care services to an average of 1,300 children each day.

Provided foster care providers the training necessary to meet the needs of children in foster care. In recent years, children placed in foster care have more complex needs and issues, and foster parents are often required to have a greater level of specialized knowledge. The Office of Children's Services supplied foster parent training to provide the essential skills needed to successfully deal with the individual behaviors and special needs of the children in their care.

The Department offered limited childcare to working foster parents as a foster parent recruitment and retention effort. This effort had limited success but has prompted on-going discussions with the Division of Public Assistance to incorporate childcare services into foster care.

Statutory and Regulatory Authority

AS 47.05	Administration of Welfare, Social Services, and Institutions, duties of department.
AS 47.10	Children in Need of Aid.
AS 47.14.100	Care of Children.
AS 47.17	Child Protection.
AS 47.40	Purchase of Services.
7 AAC 53, Article 1	Child Care Foster Care Payments.
7 AAC 53, Article 3	Children in Custody or Under Supervision: Needs and Income.
Titles IV-E of the Social Security Act	

Contact Information

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Foster Care Base Rate Component Financial Summary

All dollars shown in thousands

	FY2006 Actuals	FY2007 Management Plan	FY2008 Governor
Formula Program:			
Component Expenditures:			
71000 Personal Services	0.0	0.0	0.0
72000 Travel	0.9	95.8	95.8
73000 Services	88.2	144.4	144.4
74000 Commodities	0.8	0.0	0.0
75000 Capital Outlay	0.0	0.0	0.0
77000 Grants, Benefits	8,558.2	10,005.7	10,005.7
78000 Miscellaneous	0.0	0.0	0.0
Expenditure Totals	8,648.1	10,245.9	10,245.9
Funding Sources:			
1002 Federal Receipts	1,530.3	2,927.4	2,927.4
1003 General Fund Match	3,845.7	3,845.7	3,845.7
1004 General Fund Receipts	1,942.6	1,730.1	1,730.1
1156 Receipt Supported Services	1,329.5	1,742.7	1,742.7
Funding Totals	8,648.1	10,245.9	10,245.9

Estimated Revenue Collections

Description	Master Revenue Account	FY2006 Actuals	FY2007 Management Plan	FY2008 Governor
Unrestricted Revenues				
General Fund Match	68510	0.0	3,845.7	0.0
Unrestricted Fund	68515	0.0	1,730.1	0.0
Unrestricted Total		0.0	5,575.8	0.0
Restricted Revenues				
Federal Receipts	51010	1,530.3	2,927.4	2,927.4
Receipt Supported Services	51073	1,329.5	1,742.7	1,742.7
Restricted Total		2,859.8	4,670.1	4,670.1
Total Estimated Revenues		2,859.8	10,245.9	4,670.1

**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	5,575.8	2,927.4	1,742.7	10,245.9
FY2008 Governor	5,575.8	2,927.4	1,742.7	10,245.9