

State of Alaska FY2008 Governor's Operating Budget

Department of Health and Social Services Youth Courts Component Budget Summary

Component: Youth Courts

Contribution to Department's Mission

This component provides funding for statewide youth court grants across the state. These youth courts provide early intervention and serve as a community based diversion program to youth who have been referred to juvenile probation for misdemeanor charges or District Court for status offenses. The mission of the Division of Juvenile Justice is to hold juvenile offenders accountable for their behavior, promote the safety and restoration of victims and communities, and assist offenders and their families in developing skills to prevent crime. Youth courts assist the Division in carrying out this mission.

Core Services

Youth courts perform a critical function in the state's juvenile justice service array. The number of youth referred to youth courts during FY06 continued to be approximately 11% of the total number of referrals received by the Division. In FY05, 615 youth were referred to youth courts by the Division.

Youth court grantees include:

- Anchorage Youth Court
- Delta Youth Court
- Juneau Youth Court
- Kenai Peninsula Youth Court
- Ketchikan Youth Court
- King Cove Community Panel
- Kodiak Teen Court
- Mat-Su Youth Court
- Nome Youth Court
- North Star Youth Court
- Sitka Youth Court
- St. Michael Community Panel
- Valdez Youth Court
- Wrangell Youth Court
- United Youth Courts of Alaska
- Emmonak Elder Panel

Youth courts provide the following services to the State of Alaska:

- First and second-time misdemeanor cases are diverted from the state's juvenile probation services, enabling juvenile probation officers to devote their time to more serious cases warranting court intervention and intensive monitoring.
- Juvenile alcohol and tobacco cases are diverted from District Court, expediting the court appearances and allowing judges and staff to devote more time to more serious cases.
- Community work service ordered by Youth Court is monitored by Youth Court.
- Restitution payments ordered by Youth Court are monitored by Youth Court.
- Youth Courts provide youth with volunteer opportunities and training on the legal, court and juvenile justice systems.
- Victim services such as mediation, community work service, restitution are offered by some sites.
- Offending youth receive timely consequences for offenses they have committed.
- Offending youth make timely restoration to the victim and/or community.
- Youth courts make appropriate referrals for drug and alcohol education classes.
- Adult community volunteers are actively involved in mentoring youth (lawyers, judges, educators, parents and other community members).
- Youth courts provide community based training and technical assistance to Division staff and other community partners.
- Youth courts provide schools with alternatives to suspension.
- Youth courts provide communities with a forum to deal with curfew violations.

➤ Youth courts coordinate the annual statewide Youth Court Conference for youth and adult volunteers and other community partners.

FY2008 Resources Allocated to Achieve Results		
FY2008 Component Budget: \$848,000	Personnel:	
	Full time	0
	Part time	0
	Total	0

Key Component Challenges

An additional influx of federal dollars (hard earmark) has given the youth court program the opportunity to expand and increase training and technical assistance. The major challenge continues to be how to expand upon the existing services and build infrastructure while ensuring sustainable services with this one-time federal grant. Developing sustainable resources for youth courts in rural communities has been difficult.

Significant Changes in Results to be Delivered in FY2008

Review and refine measured outcomes obtained from youth courts in Alaska and expand the ability to provide a similar service in rural locations across the state.

Major Component Accomplishments in 2006

In FY06 the Division's Youth Court and Community Panel Grant Program provided funding for 15 youth courts and community panels around the state, as well as funding for technical assistance and training through the United Youth Courts of Alaska. Youth courts and community panels provided services in Anchorage, Delta Junction, Juneau, Kenai/Homer, Ketchikan, Emmonak, Kodiak, Mat-Su, Nome, Fairbanks, St. Michael, Sitka, King Cove, Valdez and Wrangell. These fifteen communities handled a total of 636 delinquency cases and over 300 status offense cases. Youth courts and community panels received referrals from the Division of Juvenile Justice for first and second time non-violent misdemeanor cases. They also received an increasing number of referrals from the District Court as part of a diversion effort for first time violators of the Minor Consuming Alcohol statute.

The statewide Youth Court Conference, held in Fairbanks, hosted over 220 participants with 30 North Star Youth Court members helping to coordinate the conference.

The direct benefit of utilizing youth courts and community panels as a diversionary program can be seen in both the Division and the District Court through an increased level of offender accountability, a reduction in non-compliant episodes, and a reduction in adjustments with letters to non-violent misdemeanants.

Division staff involvement in the development, training and sustainability of youth courts has increased.

The Division of Juvenile Justice Youth Court Program Manager and three local Youth Court Directors serve as members of the National Youth Court Association planning committee.

Statutory and Regulatory Authority

- AS 47.05.010(7) Administration of Welfare, Social Services & Institutions
- AS 47.12 Delinquent Minors
- AS 47.14.030 Juvenile Institutions
- 7AAC 78 Grant Programs

Contact Information

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**Youth Courts
Component Financial Summary**

All dollars shown in thousands

	FY2006 Actuals	FY2007 Management Plan	FY2008 Governor
Non-Formula Program:			
Component Expenditures:			
71000 Personal Services	45.8	0.0	0.0
72000 Travel	5.8	50.0	50.0
73000 Services	1.5	50.0	50.0
74000 Commodities	0.6	0.0	0.0
75000 Capital Outlay	0.0	0.0	0.0
77000 Grants, Benefits	548.1	748.0	748.0
78000 Miscellaneous	0.0	0.0	0.0
Expenditure Totals	601.8	848.0	848.0
Funding Sources:			
1002 Federal Receipts	322.6	568.5	568.5
1004 General Fund Receipts	279.2	279.5	279.5
Funding Totals	601.8	848.0	848.0

Estimated Revenue Collections

Description	Master Revenue Account	FY2006 Actuals	FY2007 Managem nt Plan	FY2008 Governor
<u>Unrestricted Revenues</u>				
None.		0.0	0.0	0.0
Unrestricted Total		0.0	0.0	0.0
<u>Restricted Revenues</u>				
Federal Receipts	51010	322.6	568.5	568.5
Restricted Total		322.6	568.5	568.5
Total Estimated Revenues		322.6	568.5	568.5

**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	279.5	568.5	0.0	848.0
FY2008 Governor	279.5	568.5	0.0	848.0