

State of Alaska FY2009 Governor's Operating Budget

Department of Health and Social Services Foster Care Special Need Component Budget Summary

Component: Foster Care Special Need

Contribution to Department's Mission

The Foster Care Special Needs program is designed to meet special occasional needs of children in state custody as mandated by statute.

Core Services

The Foster Care Special Needs program reimburses providers for pre-approved "one time" or "irregular" expenditures that are not covered by Foster Care Base Rate and that have been assessed on an as-needed basis. Examples of services include licensed childcare to enable foster care providers to work or to attend court hearings, case conferences, or training events; extraordinary clothing for medically fragile children as well as initial clothing for a new placement. The Foster Care Special Needs component also provides funding for contracted services such as drug testing, foster parent training, foster parent fingerprinting, criminal history record checks and Social Security/SSI eligibility.

FY2009 Resources Allocated to Achieve Results

FY2009 Component Budget: \$4,657,100	Personnel:	
	Full time	0
	Part time	0
	Total	0

Key Component Challenges

Increasing Needs of Children in Foster Care: When children enter foster care with a higher level of disturbance, foster parents are required to access a higher level of services to meet their needs. Examples of these services include physical and/or psychological therapy, supervised visits with family members, individual education plans and tutoring. With the increase of parental abuse of drugs and alcohol, children are often exposed to prenatal abuse as well as environmental abuse, all of which affect the child's behavior and increases special needs.

Develop 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 FY2009

Child Care Availability: Children who are involved in the child welfare system are likely to have a number of negative life experiences that put them at risk for problems. Children dealing with this special set of physical and emotional concerns require careful consideration when placed in child care. All child care programs are not equal in terms of quality. Staff training, staff retention, child/staff ratios, and programming may be very uneven. These children need compassionate, well-trained teachers in high quality programs providing for their care.

It has been the policy of the Office of Children's Service for several years to reimburse foster families at one rate that applies regardless of the region of the state the family lives in or the age of the child. Those who are eligible for child care assistance due to low income status, receive child care assistance from Division of Public Assistance (DPA). DPA child care assistance rates are pro-rated by state regions. Foster parents, unlicensed relatives, and biological parents (needing child protective services child care) who are not income eligible for child care assistance through DPA are receiving a lower rate. This creates a disparate system whereby foster parents and unlicensed relatives are receiving unequal support for this expense.

With additional department funding coming to OCS through the Division of Public Assistance in FY 2009, there will be adequate resources to resolve these issues and provide foster children the same access to child care afforded other Alaskan children.

Major Component Accomplishments in 2007

Special Needs funds covered a large spectrum of costs such as damages and loss to foster providers' property, food and dry goods considered essential to maintain a placement in an unlicensed relative's home, parent training, substance abuse treatment services, and other mental health services. Further examples of Foster Care Special Needs purchases include shipping and freight costs to bring a child's personal belongings to a specific placement; special equipment; furniture, such as special cribs, beds, mattresses for persons with disabilities; and travel for children in foster care to visit with their families.

Policy and procedure to utilize special needs funding appropriately and in a manner that provides the most services to the most children began in FY 2007. A new quality assurance unit will allow OCS to make certain special needs are met in the most effective manner through a pre-approval process that will help avoid error and provide alternative resources to special needs funds when available.

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 47.14.100 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.
- Title IV-E of the Social Security Act

Contact Information
<p>Contact: Laura Baker, Budget Chief Phone: (907) 465-1629 Fax: (907) 465-1850 E-mail: Laura.Baker@alaska.gov</p>

Foster Care Special Need Component Financial Summary

All dollars shown in thousands

	FY2007 Actuals	FY2008 Management Plan	FY2009 Governor
Formula Program:			
Component Expenditures:			
71000 Personal Services	0.0	0.0	0.0
72000 Travel	8.8	0.5	0.5
73000 Services	291.2	1,022.6	1,122.6
74000 Commodities	35.0	0.0	0.0
75000 Capital Outlay	0.0	0.0	0.0
77000 Grants, Benefits	4,593.4	2,338.9	3,534.0
78000 Miscellaneous	0.0	0.0	0.0
Expenditure Totals	4,928.4	3,362.0	4,657.1
Funding Sources:			
1002 Federal Receipts	503.7	860.7	847.0
1003 General Fund Match	192.3	192.3	206.0
1004 General Fund Receipts	3,280.4	1,361.1	1,361.1
1007 Inter-Agency Receipts	204.1	200.0	1,495.1
1037 General Fund / Mental Health	747.9	747.9	747.9
Funding Totals	4,928.4	3,362.0	4,657.1

Estimated Revenue Collections

Description	Master Revenue Account	FY2007 Actuals	FY2008 Management Plan	FY2009 Governor
Unrestricted Revenues				
Unrestricted Fund	68515	0.1	0.0	0.0
Unrestricted Total		0.1	0.0	0.0
Restricted Revenues				
Federal Receipts	51010	503.7	860.7	847.0
Interagency Receipts	51015	204.1	200.0	1,495.1
Restricted Total		707.8	1,060.7	2,342.1
Total Estimated Revenues		707.9	1,060.7	2,342.1

**Summary of Component Budget Changes
From FY2008 Management Plan to FY2009 Governor**

All dollars shown in thousands

	<u>General Funds</u>	<u>Federal Funds</u>	<u>Other Funds</u>	<u>Total Funds</u>
FY2008 Management Plan	2,301.3	860.7	200.0	3,362.0
Adjustments which will continue current level of service:				
-IV-E Federal Fund Participation Decrease	13.7	-13.7	0.0	0.0
Proposed budget increases:				
-Increase Child Care Benefits for Child Protective Services	0.0	0.0	1,295.1	1,295.1
FY2009 Governor	2,315.0	847.0	1,495.1	4,657.1