

**Office of Children Services Safety Enhancements to
Offices, Facilities and Equipment**

FY2015 Request: \$94,800
Reference No: 58319

AP/AL: Appropriation **Project Type:** Renewal and Replacement
Category: Health/Human Services
Location: Statewide **House District:** Statewide (HD 1-40)
Impact House District: Statewide (HD 1-40) **Contact:** Jennifer Klein
Estimated Project Dates: 07/01/2014 - 06/30/2019 **Contact Phone:** (907)465-1870

Brief Summary and Statement of Need:

The Office of Children’s Services has taken steps to promote the safety of its employees through assessment of the agency’s current practices as well as the best practices utilized by other child protective services and home visiting organizations. Based on the assessment, technology, office and building improvements, policy revisions, and employee training have been, and are being proposed and implemented.

Funding:	<u>FY2015</u>	<u>FY2016</u>	<u>FY2017</u>	<u>FY2018</u>	<u>FY2019</u>	<u>FY2020</u>	<u>Total</u>
Fed Rcpts	\$94,800						\$94,800
Gen Fund							\$0
Total:	\$94,800	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$94,800

<input type="checkbox"/> State Match Required	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> One-Time Project	<input type="checkbox"/> Phased - new	<input type="checkbox"/> Phased - underway	<input type="checkbox"/> On-Going
0% = Minimum State Match % Required		<input type="checkbox"/> Amendment	<input type="checkbox"/> Mental Health Bill	

Operating & Maintenance Costs:

	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Staff</u>
Project Development:	0	0
Ongoing Operating:	10,700	0
One-Time Startup:	0	
Totals:	10,700	0

Prior Funding History / Additional Information:

Project Description/Justification:

Problem Statement

The realities of child protective services in Alaska and across the nation are clear; we are not doing a good job keeping workers safe. Reports of violence against Office of Children’s Services staff are notable. Through a comprehensive review of reported safety incidents involving employees, focus groups and staff surveys, the department learned that employees of the Office of Children’s Services have been subject to threats of death, physical threats of harm, verbal abuse, and in extreme cases, physical assault by recipients of child protective services.

Proposal

An FY2013 operating supplemental appropriation of \$490,000 has provided significant safety upgrades, including guards, surveillance cameras, notification systems and safety improvements to windows and doors, building access controls and parking lots. Improvements have been

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implemented in the Anchorage Regional Office and partial improvements have been made in Wasilla and Fairbanks. The Office of Children's Services anticipates continued efforts will be an ongoing, multi-year project.

The following will expand safety improvements to Wasilla, Fairbanks and Juneau, and provide statewide training to current and new employees:

Office Safety

Security Cameras/Signage for Juneau: \$65,000 (\$52,600 general fund; \$12,400 federal)

Safety/Security window film for Juneau: \$3,000 (\$2,400 general fund; \$600 federal)

Access Control – card keys for Juneau: \$25,000 (\$19,800 general fund; \$5,200 federal)

Building Safety

Construction - Door and window improvements in Juneau and priority statewide rural offices: \$339,700 (\$269,400 general fund; \$70,300 federal). Estimates are based on available office blueprints with costs loosely based on similar upgrades in Anchorage, Fairbanks and Wasilla. Costs in some rural areas may be higher.

Safety in the Field

Mobile Personal Safety (Global Positioning Systems) allows workers to log in and out of daily tasks, leaving details of their location and the expected duration. If their activity exceeds the time indicated, the service will automatically call the worker to verify their safety. If the worker cannot be reached, a designated respondent will be notified. At this stage an agreed protocol will be followed to verify the worker's safety and location. If a worker feels that their safety has been compromised, they can press a dedicated button on a mobile phone to summon emergency assistance. The service will then record live audio and immediately notify a designated respondent, enabling them to assess the seriousness of the threat and the level of response necessary. The purchase of applications/software is \$25,000 (\$19,800 general fund; \$5,200 federal).

Incident Tracker will allow the Office of Children's Services to track worker reported incidences of violence against Office of Children's Services staff. The Incident Tracker will be used to electronically track incidents of violence or threats of violence that occur towards staff. This tracker is anticipated to be an "off the shelf" tracking system. This data will be used to support continued efforts to enhance the safety of children's protective service workers. The purchase of software is \$100,000 (general fund).

If project will affect the Operating Budget, please explain how and when?

The Mobile Personal Safety (Global Positioning Systems) equipment is estimated to have an annual ongoing operating cost of \$10,700. This will be funded with an 80/20 split of general funds and federal

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funds. Ongoing operating costs will be supported with existing resources. Other potential associated operating costs continue to be researched.

Consequences if not Funded

The Office of Children's Services will move forward with security enhancements in place in some offices, but not all. While not all offices need the same level of security measures, it is the responsibility of the Office of Children's Services to provide workers reasonable safety enhancements.