

# **State of Alaska FY2022 Governor's Operating Budget**

## **Department of Health and Social Services Juvenile Justice Results Delivery Unit Budget Summary**

## Juvenile Justice Results Delivery Unit

### Contribution to Department's Mission

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.

### Results

(Additional performance information is available on the web at <https://omb.alaska.gov/results>.)

### Core Services

- Probation
- Detention
- Treatment

### Measures by Core Service

(Additional performance information is available on the web at <https://omb.alaska.gov/results>.)

1. Probation
2. Detention
3. Treatment

### Major RDU Accomplishments in 2020

The Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) is committed to the safety of all juveniles under its care and to the standards of the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA). All facilities are audited annually to ensure compliance.

All Division of Juvenile Justice facilities participate in the Performance Based Standards (PbS) system improvement program to identify, monitor and improve conditions and rehabilitation services provided to youths using national standards and outcome measures.

In FY2020, the DJJ continued its efforts to increase efficiencies while improving services and strengthening juvenile justice in Alaska through system improvements.

There have been increased efforts to strengthen the division's work to be a trauma responsive juvenile justice system including:

- Statewide training, policy and implementation of the trauma and resiliency screening tool to assist staff in identifying youth trauma and resiliency. This information is incorporated into case planning and activities promoting positive interactions with staff and success of youth.
- Trauma Informed Effective Reinforcement system (TIERs) training expanded to Fairbanks Youth Facility and Johnson Youth Center with initial work to implement TIERs at the Bethel Youth Facility.
- A Moodle training on TIERs was developed for staff.
- A comprehensive quality assurance process implemented for all DJJ TIERs programs. The TIERs is trauma responsive and has been very effective when working with youth exhibiting challenging behaviors such as aggression, self-harm, and cognitive deficits.

The division continued to utilize a federal mental health and substance abuse grant to review, realign and strengthen services statewide for both facility and probation services. Senior managers have identified effective and efficient

evidence-based programming that supports the significant safety and security needs within DJJ. System improvement programs that are under development include:

- Intensive Substance Abuse Treatment at McLaughlin Youth Center Boys Treatment
- Mental Health Clinicians providing Neurofeedback to statewide secure facility youth
- Community outreach collaborative program with Anchorage Probation and McLaughlin Youth Center in an effort to decrease detention populations and better support youth with challenging behaviors in the community
- Girls Treatment was relocated to Johnson Youth Center in Juneau on 7/1/2020

The division successfully implemented new video technology (Zoom) to improve visitation opportunities for the families of youth in DJJ detention and treatment facilities. For families located in remote communities, access to communication with youth in facilities can be challenging. Increased video technology capabilities improved access while also allowing treatment teams to work on family counseling and supports, which better support reintegration upon release. An unexpected benefit of this accomplishment was keeping parents and youth connected during suspended visitation due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The division implemented Verbal Judo training which is a verbal de-escalation curriculum providing staff with tools and graduated responses to help manage a variety of challenges in working with at-risk youth. These skills can also be used in communications with co-workers, subordinates, and supervisors. The response to the training has been overwhelmingly positive from the staff who have attended.

In addition, the division is in the initial implementation phase of an Electronic Health Records Management Information System which is expected to streamline workflow, improve access to patient data, and provide remote access to records.

The division senior management team moved swiftly to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic with frequent meetings to:

- Respond to changing guidelines and mandates
- Ensure every facility, probation office and state office had adequate personal protective equipment supplies and sanitizing materials
- Develop statewide screening guidelines and policies
- Identify, develop, and implement COVID-19 specific training

Frequent emails were sent to all staff summarizing the briefings and important COVID-19 issues impacting DJJ. The DJJ public website was updated as needed to include division steps to mitigate COVID-19 and a SharePoint site was created with updated COVID-19 information for all DJJ staff to access.

The division also collaborated with Norton Sound Health Corporation in Nome to obtain a lease for the use of the secure side of the Nome Youth Facility to support health care community response needs during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Despite COVID-19 limitations, all division facilities devised a plan to safely participate in the PbS annual review to ensure that DJJ facilities continue to monitor and improve conditions and rehabilitation services provided to youth using national standards and outcome measures. Facilities report PbS information twice annually, receive ratings and implement improvement plans to address specific deficiencies.

The McLaughlin Youth Center was chosen for the 2020 PbS Barbara Allen-Hagen award for their comprehensive work to improve workplace culture and to reduce staff fear for safety at the facility. Mat-Su Youth Facility was a runner up within the detention category with a focus on emergency planning.

## **Key RDU Challenges**

Navigating the COVID-19 pandemic created many challenges on both a leadership and direct-care level. The division has striven to follow all Center for Disease Control (CDC) recommended guidelines in the necessary modification of its practices, regarding communication, working conditions, and policies and directives that have been implemented. Division leadership has worked hard to improve communication with these entities including participation in requested meetings and Labor Management Committees (LMC). Defense counsel raised many questions at the onset of the pandemic about practices and safety procedures requiring staff and leadership to participate in hearings to help educate defense counsel and court judges on how the division was keeping youth in its care safe and healthy.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the overall training plan and delivery of new training has been significantly altered and delayed some system changes that were in process. Keeping staff certified in essential trainings has become a larger logistical concern with cancellations and smaller class sizes.

With the closure of the Nome Youth Facility, the division worked to locate an alternative location for the Nome Juvenile Probation offices. With limited lease options in Nome, the division worked closely with Department of Administration leasing staff to identify space, electrical and data needs and to create a space for temporary holds of juvenile offenders. The first potential option fell through due to high build-out costs. The second option was still under negotiation at the time this was written with possible occupation by February 2021.

Recruiting qualified applicants for facilities, probation, and support positions throughout division continues to be a challenge. This challenge extends to rural facilities / probation offices and to leadership positions throughout the division. In an effort to address this challenge, the division has increased the number of ongoing recruitment postings on Workplace Alaska, worked to recruit strong candidate pools and coordinated our efforts with the department's human resources personnel to expedite the approval and job offer process for the selected candidates. The division is working to develop leadership training for staff interested in moving into leadership positions within the division.

## **Significant Changes in Results to be Delivered in FY2022**

The division continues to engage in a system improvement project to develop new specialized programming for youth with dual diagnoses of substance abuse and mental health, youth with violent offenses and youth with acute mental and behavioral health diagnoses. Specialized programs will provide targeted, evidence-based programming to focused groups of youth paired with more specialized training for staff to better meet the needs of these populations.

The DJJ staff will be working to make necessary compliance adjustments required by the federal Juvenile Justice Reauthorization Act of 2018. Changes to this law outlining juvenile justice practices will require youth who have committed automatic waiver offenses to be held, both pre-conviction and post-conviction, in Alaska DJJ facilities until the age of majority or other statutory designation. In addition to potential statutory changes, this will require collaboration with the Department of Corrections, Department of Public Safety and the Alaska Court System in an effort to meet federal compliance standards.

The division continues to address the high recidivism rate for the Alaska Native youth population and the issues related to successful transition home after treatment. The division's relationship with tribes and tribal villages is considered an important factor in making improvements in these areas and DJJ continues to work with tribal communities to develop diversion programs as an early intervention to keep youth who commit lower level offenses in their communities. The division will continue to develop and strengthen the rural diversion system.

The division intends to centralize new and renewal criminal background checks and relative placement checks to centralized positions to provide for better management and control of this protected and confidential information.

The division hopes to have the Nome probation office moved out of the Nome Youth Facility in FY2021, creating an opportunity for the State of Alaska to divest the property in FY2022.

**Contact Information**

**Contact:** Sylvan Robb, Division Director  
**Phone:** (907) 465-1630  
**E-mail:** sylvan.robbs@alaska.gov

**Juvenile Justice  
RDU Financial Summary by Component**

*All dollars shown in thousands*

	FY2020 Actuals				FY2021 Management Plan				FY2022 Governor			
	UGF+DGF Funds	Other Funds	Federal Funds	Total Funds	UGF+DGF Funds	Other Funds	Federal Funds	Total Funds	UGF+DGF Funds	Other Funds	Federal Funds	Total Funds
<b>Formula Expenditures</b> None.												
<b>Non-Formula Expenditures</b>												
McLaughlin Youth Center	18,174.3	659.4	6.6	18,840.3	17,832.7	671.4	20.0	18,524.1	17,627.0	647.0	20.0	18,294.0
Mat-Su Youth Facility	2,656.6	49.0	0.8	2,706.4	2,580.5	60.0	10.0	2,650.5	2,597.0	60.0	10.0	2,667.0
Kenai Peninsula Youth Facility	2,008.6	33.6	0.7	2,042.9	2,086.0	30.0	10.0	2,126.0	2,098.3	30.0	10.0	2,138.3
Fairbanks Youth Facility	4,380.5	55.6	1.3	4,437.4	4,713.7	74.8	10.0	4,798.5	4,738.5	74.8	10.0	4,823.3
Bethel Youth Facility	5,492.5	0.0	1.2	5,493.7	5,544.2	0.0	10.0	5,554.2	5,582.1	0.0	10.0	5,592.1
Johnson Youth Center	4,525.8	0.0	1.7	4,527.5	4,596.9	0.0	10.0	4,606.9	4,625.3	0.0	10.0	4,635.3
Probation Services	16,458.0	275.9	175.6	16,909.5	17,067.9	231.8	306.6	17,606.3	16,587.8	191.3	307.8	17,086.9
Delinquency Prevention	0.0	122.4	297.3	419.7	0.0	250.0	1,155.0	1,405.0	0.0	250.0	1,155.0	1,405.0
Youth Courts	455.2	0.0	0.0	455.2	533.2	0.0	0.0	533.2	445.4	0.0	0.0	445.4
Juvenile Justice Health Care	1,380.1	0.0	0.0	1,380.1	1,368.6	0.0	0.0	1,368.6	1,368.6	0.0	0.0	1,368.6
<b>Totals</b>	<b>55,531.6</b>	<b>1,195.9</b>	<b>485.2</b>	<b>57,212.7</b>	<b>56,323.7</b>	<b>1,318.0</b>	<b>1,531.6</b>	<b>59,173.3</b>	<b>55,670.0</b>	<b>1,253.1</b>	<b>1,532.8</b>	<b>58,455.9</b>

**Juvenile Justice**  
**Summary of RDU Budget Changes by Component**  
**From FY2021 Management Plan to FY2022 Governor**

*All dollars shown in thousands*

	<u>Unrestricted Gen (UGF)</u>	<u>Designated Gen (DGF)</u>	<u>Other Funds</u>	<u>Federal Funds</u>	<u>Total Funds</u>
<b>FY2021 Management Plan</b>	<b>56,323.7</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>1,318.0</b>	<b>1,531.6</b>	<b>59,173.3</b>
<b>One-time items:</b>					
-Probation Services	0.0	0.0	-81.6	0.0	-81.6
<b>Adjustments which continue current level of service:</b>					
-McLaughlin Youth Center	105.0	0.0	1.3	0.0	106.3
-Mat-Su Youth Facility	16.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	16.5
-Kenai Peninsula Youth Facility	12.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	12.3
-Fairbanks Youth Facility	24.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	24.8
-Bethel Youth Facility	37.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	37.9
-Johnson Youth Center	28.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	28.4
-Probation Services	81.9	0.0	41.1	1.2	124.2
-Youth Courts	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4
<b>Proposed budget decreases:</b>					
-McLaughlin Youth Center	-310.7	0.0	-25.7	0.0	-336.4
-Probation Services	-562.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-562.0
-Youth Courts	-88.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	-88.2
<b>FY2022 Governor</b>	<b>55,670.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>1,253.1</b>	<b>1,532.8</b>	<b>58,455.9</b>