

State of Alaska FY2025 Governor's Operating Budget

Department of Family and Community 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.

Core Services

- Probation
- Detention
- Treatment

Major RDU Accomplishments in 2023

The Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) was successful in navigating the Department of Health and Social Services bifurcation and had numerous accomplishments this year under the newly formed Department of Family and Community Services. DJJ has increased collaboration with the newly formed Complex Care Unit and are seeing positive results in case management and information sharing.

The continued development and implementation of specialized treatment programs has allowed the Division to provide better services to youth. The four areas of specialized programming are substance abuse, female programming, violent offender rehabilitation, and treatment for youth with neurobehavioral disorders. At the time of this report, all four units are operational in their programming. Division staff and youth continue to see promising results with neurofeedback treatment designed to reinforce positive behaviors which leads to improved long-term outcomes for participants.

Probation continued to focus on overall system improvements. Workgroups have continued efforts towards refining best practices for youth on probation. A strategic plan was approved by leadership and will guide Division improvements over the next three years. The University of Alaska Anchorage's Justice Center validated the Youth Level of Services/Case Management Inventory in FY2022 and the Division implemented recommended changes and trainings over the course of FY2023.

All DJJ secure facilities participate in the Performance Based Standards (PbS) system improvement program to identify, monitor, and improve conditions and rehabilitation services provided to youth using national standards and outcome measures. Facilities report PbS data twice annually, receive ratings, and implement improvement plans to address identified deficiencies. Reporting demonstrates Alaska continues to be a leader in national outcome measures.

The Division created three work groups to focus on recruitment, retention, and wellness. The Division of Personnel and Labor Relations began their analysis of the Juvenile Justice Officer salary study with a completion date of FY2024. The Division continues to take action to meet the needs of the changing workforce.

Key RDU Challenges

The Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) continues to respond to unprecedented vacancies. Two facilities have critical staffing levels resulting in combined detention and treatment units and staff working significant overtime. Additional vacancies across the Division have negatively impacted staff wellness, programs, administration, and mental health programming. The Division continues efforts to improve recruitment, retention, new employee onboarding, supervision practices, training, and benefits for staff with the goal of improving Division culture.

DJJ facilities and probation offices continue to manage the increase in acutely mentally ill juveniles and those impacted by severe trauma who cannot find appropriate community or residential placement. These youth have

mental health needs that cannot be met by Division services alone. The Department and Division are making efforts to address these complex cases; however, service availability continues to be the primary challenge.

Following the COVID-19 pandemic, referrals from law enforcement have increased resulting in detention unit overcapacity. The Division has begun efforts to expedite adjudication and disposition times, resulting in shorter placements for youth. System improvements and less restrictive alternatives continue to be evaluated as possible solutions.

Juvenile sexual offenders continue to see a significant shortage of available services to include risk assessors and treatment providers. Historically, there have been limited providers throughout the state who are trained to work with juvenile sex offenders. This has a significant impact on time to adjudication and placement in treatment for these youth.

Significant Changes in Results to be Delivered in FY2025

The Division is partnering with the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority (Trust) to support occupational therapy services where needed. These services will provide individual and group occupational rehabilitative therapy to youth with mental health disorders or disabilities. The partnership will bolster programming and services for Trust beneficiaries in the juvenile justice system.

The Division continues to address the high recidivism rate for the Alaska Native youth population and the issues related to a successful transition home after treatment. The Division's partnership with the Alaska Native Justice Center provides support services to Alaska Native youth transitioning back into communities. The Division's relationship with tribes and tribal communities is an important factor in making improvements in these areas. The Division 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 work on racial and ethnic disparity, including engagement with state law enforcement and regulatory agencies to educate and train officers. This includes ongoing data collection, strengthening rural diversion programs, and continued partnership with RurAL Cap who provides targeted cultural services focused on delinquency prevention.

Probation leadership will continue efforts to develop and implement a victim services training statewide to improve its work with victims and prioritize identifying sex offender treatment providers who have experience working with youth. This will include the development of standards of care in place for the providers in urban and rural Alaska. Juvenile Probation Officers will expand their work with providers to ensure they have the experience, training, and education to work with juveniles displaying sexual offending behaviors.

With the capital improvement project underway at the Fairbanks Youth Facility, there will be programmatic changes needed throughout the remodel. The Division will carefully evaluate the youth and what can be done to minimize program changes as well as the overall impact on the youth and staff.

Contact Information
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**Juvenile Justice
RDU Financial Summary by Component**

All dollars shown in thousands

	FY2023 Actuals				FY2024 Management Plan				FY2025 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
Formula Expenditures None.												
Non-Formula Expenditures												
McLaughlin Youth Center	17,617.6	605.8	2.1	18,225.5	18,461.5	599.9	20.0	19,081.4	19,163.4	604.3	20.0	19,787.7
Mat-Su Youth Facility	2,745.5	65.6	0.4	2,811.5	2,847.5	70.0	10.0	2,927.5	2,964.0	70.0	10.0	3,044.0
Kenai Peninsula Youth Facility	2,401.1	28.6	0.3	2,430.0	2,421.3	30.0	10.0	2,461.3	2,515.5	30.0	10.0	2,555.5
Fairbanks Youth Facility	4,306.8	65.4	0.7	4,372.9	4,803.2	74.8	10.0	4,888.0	4,960.8	74.8	10.0	5,045.6
Bethel Youth Facility	5,834.3	0.0	0.5	5,834.8	6,088.7	0.0	10.0	6,098.7	6,353.0	0.0	10.0	6,363.0
Johnson Youth Center	4,233.1	87.9	0.6	4,321.6	4,850.3	143.7	10.0	5,004.0	5,010.1	146.3	10.0	5,166.4
Probation Services	17,484.2	75.3	253.2	17,812.7	17,898.6	155.4	330.7	18,384.7	18,521.8	255.4	341.2	19,118.4
Delinquency Prevention	0.0	210.2	451.8	662.0	0.0	146.7	1,155.0	1,301.7	0.0	146.7	1,155.0	1,301.7
Youth Courts	412.4	0.0	0.0	412.4	448.2	0.0	0.0	448.2	449.7	0.0	0.0	449.7
Juvenile Justice Health Care	1,723.2	0.0	0.0	1,723.2	1,488.6	0.0	0.0	1,488.6	1,488.6	0.0	0.0	1,488.6
Totals	56,758.2	1,138.8	709.6	58,606.6	59,307.9	1,220.5	1,555.7	62,084.1	61,426.9	1,327.5	1,566.2	64,320.6

Juvenile Justice
Summary of RDU Budget Changes by Component
From FY2024 Management Plan to FY2025 Governor

All dollars shown in thousands

	<u>Unrestricted</u> <u>Gen (UGF)</u>	<u>Designated</u> <u>Gen (DGF)</u>	<u>Other Funds</u>	<u>Federal</u> <u>Funds</u>	<u>Total Funds</u>
FY2024 Management Plan	59,307.9	0.0	1,220.5	1,555.7	62,084.1
Adjustments which continue current level of service:					
-McLaughlin Youth Center	701.9	0.0	4.4	0.0	706.3
-Mat-Su Youth Facility	116.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	116.5
-Kenai Peninsula Youth Facility	94.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	94.2
-Fairbanks Youth Facility	157.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	157.6
-Bethel Youth Facility	264.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	264.3
-Johnson Youth Center	159.8	0.0	2.6	0.0	162.4
-Probation Services	623.2	0.0	100.0	10.5	733.7
-Youth Courts	1.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.5
FY2025 Governor	61,426.9	0.0	1,327.5	1,566.2	64,320.6