

Front Line Worker Safety and Support Equipment**FY2001 Request:****\$202,100****Reference No:****32446****AP/AL:** Appropriation**Project Type:** Equipment**Category:** Health/Human Services**Location:** Statewide**Contact:** Larry Streuber**House District:** Statewide (HD 1-40)**Contact Phone:** (907)465-1870**Estimated Project Dates:** 07/01/2000 - 06/30/2003**Brief Summary and Statement of Need:**

Project would provide funds for non-information systems equipment needed by Department to enhance security, improve program efficiency and replace aging or dysfunctional equipment for the Department's statewide operations. There is an urgent need for this equipment so that DFYS social workers, Juvenile Justice detention and probation officers and Public Health nurses can perform their duties safely and effectively. Failure to fund some equipment purchases will mean that they may not be able to do their job or may be placed in danger. In any case, delays in procurement of needed equipment will mean that workers will not be able to do their jobs as well as they should and could.

Funding:	FY2001	FY2002	FY2003	FY2004	FY2005	FY2006	Total
AHFC Div	\$163,200						\$163,200
Fed Rcpts	\$38,900						\$38,900
Total:	\$202,100	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$202,100

<input type="checkbox"/> State Match Required	<input type="checkbox"/> One-Time Project	<input type="checkbox"/> Phased - new	<input type="checkbox"/> Phased - underway	<input checked="" 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:	0	0
One-Time Startup:	0	
Totals:	0	0

Additional Information / Prior Funding History:

This project has not received previous funding.

Project Description/Justification:

This project includes a broad range of equipment needed for the Department's operations. The intent is that adequate funds will be made available for the acquisition of equipment needed to improve security for youth corrections facilities, youth probation officers, family and youth services staff, and staff and clients at all facilities operated by the Department. Funds would also be available for items such as needed clinical equipment at public health centers, laboratory equipment, kitchen equipment at youth facilities, transportation equipment, beds and furnishings at youth facilities. Building related replacement equipment for the Department's facilities will also be included, for example, replacement of archaic, energy wasting, lighting fixtures and ballasts, replacement or repair of emergency generators, etc.

The amounts requested represent the minimum safety and support equipment needed for Department staff to function. The items in this request are urgently needed. Worker safety and efficiency demand that staff be adequately equipped. While many needs can be postponed, the current request involves items that are simply needed for workers to function safely and effectively.

A. Division of Family and Youth Services (\$202.0 GF, 38.9 Fed)

The Division of Family and Youth Services has a variety of equipment needs to manage the safety, security and efficiency of field offices statewide. Over the last 15 years DFYS has not requested sufficient equipment budgets to replace aging faxes, copiers, cell phones, phone systems, office security enhancements or vehicles. These become issues for staff

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safety when communication between offices is interrupted due to broken machines or routine safety protocols are not followed because equipment is not available.

For example, every field office in DFYS should have a system of silent alarms, bullet proof glass, adequate furniture (with offices that can be wired for effective communication and where furniture legs are not broken and drawers work) because staff can be the target of threats or violence due to the work that they perform.

This request is separated in to two sub-requests:

Vehicles: \$62.4 to continue to replace aging vehicles in three regions. DFYS social workers routinely have to travel to perform investigations and home visits. Often these situations can be tense or potentially turn violent and workers need to have reliable transportation to go to and from these situations. Older vehicles break down and are often not reliable. There are a number of problems that exist if individual social workers use their own vehicles consistently for state work. The FY2001 request is for 3 vehicles for the following field offices:

Cordova	Current field office vehicle is 15 years old and needs replacement
Wrangell	Field office currently does not have a vehicle
King Salmon	Is currently using a 1985 vehicle

Safety Office Equipment, furniture and replacement of dysfunctional equipment: \$178.5 to provide safety equipment, furniture and replacement equipment in the following regions:

Anchorage	Furniture, safety, equipment & replacement of field office equipment
Southcentral	Furniture, safety, equipment & replacement of fieldoffice equipment
Northern	Furniture, safety, equipment & replacement of field office equipment
Southeastern	Furniture, safety, equipment & replacement of field office equipment

B. Division of Juvenile Justice (\$78.6 GF)

The Division requires a variety of equipment to improve safety, security and efficiency for its facilities in the Southcentral Region, including radios, vehicles, maintenance equipment. In particular, much of the equipment at McLaughlin Youth Center (MYC) is dysfunctional and reaching the end of its useful life.

Radios

- **MYC Replacement Radios, \$12.4** - Handheld radios for staff in the cottages. Radios used in emergency situations such as escape attempts, during resident escort between buildings, and during phone outages.

Vehicles

- **Southcentral Probation Vehicles, \$24.8** - Two vehicles are needed. The Juvenile Probation Officer in Valdez does not currently have a vehicle, which is a major impediment to performance of the functions of that position. Three staff in Dillingham are currently sharing a single vehicle (assigned to the Division of Family and Youth Services); an additional one is desperately needed.

- **Mat-Su Facility Vehicle, \$16.6** - The detention facility currently under construction in the Mat-Su is funded for furnishings, but does not have the funds earmarked for an operational vehicle.

Maintenance Equipment

- **MYC Snow Removal and Grounds Maintenance Equipment, \$16.5** - The present equipment is more than 10 years old. A small tractor serves as the facility's snow blower, post hold digger, loader, and sidewalk/parking brush machine.

- **Mat-Su Shop and Grounds Equipment, \$8.3** - The detention facility currently under construction in the Mat-Su is funded for furnishings, but does not have funds for equipment necessary for a maintenance shop. Equipment needed includes lawn mowers, snow blowers, a small plow, and shop tools.

C. Division of Public Health (\$45.8 GF)

This request for 45.8 in FY 01 will allow the purchase and installation of phone systems for the Kenai and Ketchikan Public Health Centers:

• Ketchikan Public Health Center

The health center is in need of a new phone system to replace the current system that was installed in 1991. The health center has had repeated problems with the system since 1996 with significant repairs required approximately 2 - 4 times a year. Despite a recommendation by GTE in 1997 that the system be replaced, DOA Information Technology Group personnel have helped the center cope with the problems. However, replacement parts are no longer available for this system and it may fail at any time. Because the Ketchikan Health Center's ability to serve clients depends so heavily on telephone service it is important that the system be replaced before it fails entirely. The estimated cost for a new phone system is \$14.6 in FY 01.

• Kenai Public Health Center

A phone system is also needed for the new Kenai Public Health Center. The Kenai Peninsula Borough was granted funds to build the center, however the grant does not include money for equipment or furnishings. A phone system for the Kenai Public Health Center is estimated to cost \$31.2 in FY 01.