

State of Alaska FY2002 Governor's Operating Budget

Department of Health and Social Services
Family Preservation
Component

Component: Family Preservation

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Component Mission

The mission of the Division of Family and Youth Services is to protect children who are abused and neglected or at risk of abuse and neglect.

Component Services Provided

The Division provided funding for Family Support, Family Preservation, and Time-Limited Family Reunification grants. Family Support services are community-based preventive activities designed to increase the strength, stability and the well-being of children and families (including adoptive, foster and extended families) to increase parents' confidence and competence in their parenting abilities, to afford children a stable and supportive family environment, and to otherwise enhance child development. Family Preservation provides services for DFYS-referred clients designed to help children and families (including adoptive, foster, and extended families) at risk or in crisis. Support services include intensive pre-placement services designed to help children at risk of foster care placement remain safely with their families. Family Preservation services also include programs designed to provide follow-up care to families to whom a child has been returned after a foster care placement or after a child abuse and neglect investigation has been substantiated. Time-Limited Family Reunification services are provided in cases where a child has been removed from the parents and placed in foster care or in a child care institution in order to facilitate the reunification of the child safely and appropriately and in a timely fashion. Services provided include: in-home visits, parent support groups, other programs designed to improve parenting skills, and supervised visitation.

The Family Preservation component also provides funding for Child Protective Services child care services which enables parents at risk of abusing or neglecting their children to be provided relief from the stresses of child care responsibilities and/or to take part in medical and treatment programs and get help for their problems. The child receives child development opportunities and socialization skills in a licensed child care facility. Child care providers provide a secure, stable enriched environment, help in addressing developmental delays and acting out behaviors in children, and assist in monitoring for abuse and neglect signs for children in care.

DFYS implemented the Dual Track pilot program in the Mat-Su Valley area in FY1999 in response to an unacceptably high rate of "low priority" (Priority Three) reports of harm that went uninvestigated. The Dual Track program provides Family Preservation grant funding to a non-profit community partner agency to perform intervention and follow-up work for cases that DFYS has assessed as being low risk. This program has enabled the Division to focus more social worker staff resources on investigating higher priority reports of harm. The Dual Track pilot program provides a differential response to child protection. Without this program many of these cases would go uninvestigated, potentially resulting in further harm to children.

Component Goals and Strategies

- 1) KEEP FAMILIES INTACT, STRENGTHEN FAMILIES, REDUCE THE NUMBER OF OUT-OF-HOME PLACEMENTS, REUNITE FAMILIES, AND REDUCE THE RISK TO CHILDREN IN OUT-OF-HOME CARE:

- Although the safety of children is paramount to the Division of Family and Youth Services, the Division also focuses on offering support services to families in an effort to safely maintain children in their own home. If removal is necessary, the Division makes every effort to reunify the family by eliminating the issues which previously placed the child at risk of harm. To accomplish these efforts, the Division offers Family Preservation, Family Support, and Time-Limited Family Reunification services.
- The Family Preservation component purchases services that cannot be provided directly by DFYS staff. Services are purchased through grants and contracts in the following general areas: family support services, family preservation

services, time-limited family reunification services, child protective services day care, and development of partnership grants with community agencies for support services.

· Family Preservation, Family Support and Time-limited Family Reunification include 20 different services for families. These include therapeutic services for children and families, parenting classes, life skills training, anger management, and supervised visitation. Providers also access additional services for parents to include drug and alcohol treatment and other mental health intervention services. The services focus on "preserving" the family unit and offering support to families, while also speaking to the need to insure safety for the children in the home.

· Continue community grants including the Dual Track pilot grant program for the Mat-Su Valley area to assess and interview low-risk referrals made to the Division. This collaboration allows for earlier intervention that minimizes the risk to the children and often negates the need for out-of-home placement or further agency intervention.

· Under Federal Title IV-B, the Federal government provides funding to support non-profit grantees that provide preservation and support services. The Division provides matching funds to support the Federal funds designated for these programs.

Key Component Issues for FY2001 – 2002

· Children and families referred or mandated to receive services are presenting more severe behaviors and experiences. This requires more intensive intervention in order to preserve or support the family unit.

· The Adoptions and Safe Families Act requires that services be delivered in a manner that is time-limited. This increases the intensity of services required and minimizes the amount of time parents can take to ameliorate the issues placing their children at risk.

· Services to children and families are critical in attempting to remedy the situation and problems that brought them to the attention of DFYS. Parents often have to wait to access these services.

· Parental substance abuse greatly impacts the success of intervention. With the increase in the use of drugs and/or alcohol by parents, intervention and support services are not as effective, which results in the removal of children or failed efforts at family reunification. The Division still needs Family Support and substance abuse treatment services to provide reasonable efforts.

· Federal Title IVB funding for Family Support services has been declining. Federal Title IVB funds are allocated to the State as a whole, and Alaska Tribes and Tribal organizations are also eligible to apply directly for Title IVB funding. Title IVB funds allocated to the State through the Department of Health & Social Services are reduced by the funds granted directly to the Tribes and Tribal organizations. Currently the Department receives approximately 50% of the total allotment for Alaska.

Major Component Accomplishments for FY2000

1) FAMILY PRESERVATION, FAMILY SUPPORT AND TIME-LIMITED FAMILY REUNIFICATION GRANTS:

The Division of Family and Youth Services worked with twenty-six different non-profit service providers located across the state and provided funding for 31 Family Preservation, Family Support and Time-Limited Family Reunification grants. Through these contracted services, the Division delineated the types of services to be provided, the number and types of clients to be served, the referral process, and the process for insuring that quality programs were provided. DFYS social workers utilized these grantees and referred clients for crisis intervention; parenting skills; prevention of out-of-home placement; and other services to support children in DFYS custody and their families (including foster and adoptive families).

Beginning in FY2000, the Division, in compliance with the Adoptions and Safe Families Act, implemented "time-limited family reunification" as an approach for service providers. The Division provided Time-limited Family Reunification grants that were designed to facilitate reunification of children with their families when the children had

been placed in foster care. The services and activities provided by these grantees occur only during a 15-month period that begins on the date that the child enters foster care.

2) CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES DAYCARE:

During FY2000 the Department, through the Family Preservation component, provided over \$300.0 in grant funding for Child Protective Services day care. Child Protective Services day care enables parents at risk of abusing or neglecting their children to be provided relief from the stresses of child care responsibilities and/or to take part in medical and treatment programs and get help for their problems. The child receives child development opportunities and socialization skills in a licensed child care facility. Child care providers provide a secure, stable enriched environment, help in addressing developmental delays and acting out behaviors in children, and assist in monitoring for abuse and neglect signs for children in care.

3) DUAL TRACK:

The Dual Track program enables the Department to refer Priority 3 (low risk) reports of harm to a community-based non-profit social services agency. In FY2000 the Department initiated a grant to the non-profit agency The Children's Place to conduct a Dual Track pilot program in the Mat-Su Valley area. The grantee provided services to help families meet the health and safety needs of their children and provided referral services to a wide range of available support services. This collaboration allows for earlier intervention that minimizes the risk to the children and often negates the need for out-of-home placement or further agency intervention. This project continues with an evaluation component to check its progress.

In FY2000, the Division's Mat-Su Field Office received 346 Priority 3 reports of harm. DFYS social workers investigated 24 of these ROH, and 322 were referred to the Children's Place. The number of cases that were workload adjusted in FY2000 was ZERO. Thus far in FY2001 (through September 26, 2000), 89 priority three reports of harm have been referred to the Children's Place, and ZERO have been workload adjusted.

Statutory and Regulatory Authority

- AS 47.05 Administration of Welfare, Social Services, and Institutions.
- AS 47.10 Children in Need of Aid.
- AS 47.17 Child Protection.
- 7 AAC 50 Community Care Licensing.
- 7 AAC 51 Child Placement Agencies.
- 7 AAC 53 Social Services.

Titles IV-B and IV-E of the Social Security Act

Key Performance Measures for FY2002

Measure: The performance measure for this component is set up at the BRU level. Please see the performance measures under the Purchased Services BRU.
(Not yet addressed by Legislature.)

Benchmark:

The performance measure for this component is set up at the BRU level. Please see the performance measures under the Purchased Services BRU.

Status of FY2001 Performance Measures

<i>Achieved</i>	<i>On track</i>	<i>Too soon to tell</i>	<i>Not likely to achieve</i>	<i>Needs modification</i>
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Component — Family Preservation

	<i>Achieved</i>	<i>On track</i>	<i>Too soon to tell</i>	<i>Not likely to achieve</i>	<i>Needs modification</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">The performance measure for this component is set up at the BRU level. Please see the performance measures under the Purchased Services BRU.			X		

Family Preservation
Component Financial Summary

All dollars in thousands

	FY2000 Actuals	FY2001 Authorized	FY2002 Governor
Non-Formula Program:			
Component Expenditures:			
71000 Personal Services	0.0	0.0	0.0
72000 Travel	5.0	124.3	124.3
73000 Contractual	721.7	786.0	786.0
74000 Supplies	0.0	0.0	0.0
75000 Equipment	0.0	0.0	0.0
76000 Land/Buildings	0.0	0.0	0.0
77000 Grants, Claims	3,680.0	4,121.4	5,171.4
78000 Miscellaneous	0.0	0.0	0.0
Expenditure Totals	4,406.7	5,031.7	6,081.7
Funding Sources:			
1002 Federal Receipts	1,931.3	2,841.2	3,441.2
1004 General Fund Receipts	978.7	1,890.5	1,890.5
1007 Inter-Agency Receipts	1,496.7	300.0	300.0
1092 Mental Health Trust Authority Authorized Receipts	0.0	0.0	450.0
Funding Totals	4,406.7	5,031.7	6,081.7

Estimated Revenue Collections

Description	Master Revenue Account	FY2000 Actuals	FY2001 Authorized	FY2001 Cash Estimate	FY2002 Governor	FY2003 Forecast
Unrestricted Revenues						
None.		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Unrestricted Total		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Restricted Revenues						
Federal Receipts	51010	1,931.3	2,841.2	2,841.2	3,441.2	3,441.2
Interagency Receipts	51015	1,496.7	300.0	300.0	300.0	0.0
Mental Health Trust Authority Auth.Rec.	51410	0.0	0.0	0.0	450.0	0.0
Restricted Total		3,428.0	3,141.2	3,141.2	4,191.2	3,441.2
Total Estimated Revenues		3,428.0	3,141.2	3,141.2	4,191.2	3,441.2

Family Preservation

Proposed Changes in Levels of Service for FY2002

· The Federal Adoptions and Safe Families Act requires that efforts be made to ameliorate issues which caused children to be removed from their homes or continue to interfere with reunification. These services, however, must now be done within a certain time period which speaks to the "child's sense of time". This greatly enhances the level of service provision required in a briefer amount of time. Beginning in FY2000, the Department provides grants to non-profit social services agencies to provide Time-Limited Family Reunification services. The grantees provide services to clients referred by DFYS and are designed to facilitate reunification of children with their families when the children have been placed in foster care.

· The Federal Adoptions and Safe Families Act was renamed the Promoting Safe and Stable Families program, and funding was earmarked for four service areas: Adoption assistance, Reunification, family preservation and family support. A new grant cycle for Family Preservation, Family Support, and Time-Limited Family Reunification services will start in FY 2002. The expectations on delivery of services from grantees will be concentrated on Family Preservation and Time Limited Family Reunification.

Summary of Component Budget Changes

From FY2001 Authorized to FY2002 Governor

All dollars in thousands

	<u>General Funds</u>	<u>Federal Funds</u>	<u>Other Funds</u>	<u>Total Funds</u>
FY2001 Authorized	1,890.5	2,841.2	300.0	5,031.7
Proposed budget increases:				
-Federal Title IVE Tribal Pass Through Pilot Project - Federal Authority	0.0	600.0	0.0	600.0
-Family Support Services to Beneficiary Parent Groups (Year 1 of 5)	0.0	0.0	450.0	450.0
FY2002 Governor	1,890.5	3,441.2	750.0	6,081.7