

State of Alaska FY2002 Governor's Operating Budget

Department of Health and Social Services
Foster Care Alaska Youth Initiative
Component

Component: Foster Care Alaska Youth Initiative

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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

AS 47.14.100 mandates the Department to provide for the "...care of every child committed to its custody by placing the child in a foster home or in the care of an agency or institution providing care for children inside or outside the state." (emphasis added). To meet this mandate, the Department, through the Division of Family & Youth Services (DFYS), provides various foster care programs to children placed in custody of the State. These are children who have been removed from situations of abuse and/or neglect and are at risk for further abuse and neglect.

The Department provides a spectrum of foster care services including the Foster Care Base Rate, Foster Care Special Needs, Foster Care Augmented, and Foster Care AYI to meet the needs of children in State custody and to meet the Department's statutory mandate to provide for the care of children in State custody.

The Foster Care Alaska Youth Initiative or AYI program is a collaborative effort between the Department of Health and Social Services and the Department of Education and Early Development. Within the Department of Health and Social Services, the Division of Family and Youth Services works closely with the Divisions of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities and the Division of Juvenile Justice in the funding, providing and monitoring of services.

The AYI program provides individualized community-based wraparound support services to children who have such severe needs that a highly intensive program is necessary to maintain the child in their community, who are at risk of out-of-home placement away from their communities or who are returning to their home communities from out-of-home placements. Four regional Interdepartmental Teams, composed of personnel from the Department of Health and Social Services and the Department of Education and Early Development screen referrals, assign provider agencies, approve individualized budgets and monitor care. Wraparound services are designed to impact every aspect of a child and family's life. Examples include the provision of therapeutic foster care, respite care, in-school support services, comprehensive mental health services, travel for family visitations, and intensive case management.

Component Goals and Strategies

1) **PROVIDE SAFE AND APPROPRIATE FOSTER HOMES FOR ABUSED AND NEGLECTED CHILDREN IN STATE CUSTODY IN ACCORDANCE WITH STATE LAW:**

- AS 47.14.100 mandates the Department to provide for the "...care of every child committed to its custody by placing the child in a foster home or in the care of an agency or institution providing care for children inside or outside the state." AS 47.14.100(d)(1) further mandates the Department to "...pay the costs of caring for physically or mentally handicapped foster children, including the additional costs of medical care, habilitative and rehabilitative treatment, services and equipment, special clothing, and the indirect costs of medical care, including child care and transportation expenses."

- The Foster Care Alaska Youth Initiative (AYI) will provide individualized services for severely emotionally disturbed children and youth. AYI creates another placement option for those children and youth requiring less structure than institutional care. The program helps prevent institutionalized care by providing local resources.

2) **PROVIDE CASE MANAGEMENT FOR CHILDREN TRANSITIONING FROM IN-STATE OR OUT-OF-STATE RESIDENTIAL CARE FACILITIES OR YOUTH DETENTION FACILITIES BACK INTO THEIR LOCAL COMMUNITIES:**

- Provide placement resources in a less structured environment to severely emotionally disturbed children, ensuring orderly transition back to their parent's home or another permanent placement resource.

Key Component Issues for FY2001 – 2002

The Alaska Youth Initiative (AYI) program provides a unique support/placement option using local resources for severely emotionally disturbed (SED) youth whose other option would be institutionalization in in-state or out-of-state residential care facilities. This program also focuses on transitioning children and youth back into their local communities from institutionalized care.

The AYI program can only function if all its components within the Department are funded. The Division of Family and Youth Services and the Division of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities jointly fund the individualized services provided to the severely disturbed children in the custody of the Department served by this specialized program. The Department of Education and Early Development provides funding for education related costs. In order for the program to be effective, all elements of programming and funding must be present.

Major Component Accomplishments for FY2000

1. ALASKA YOUTH INITIATIVE (AYI) PROVIDES CRITICAL SERVICES TO SEVERELY EMOTIONALLY DISTURBED CHILDREN AND YOUTH:

- The AYI program provided individualized services for severely emotionally disturbed (SED) children and youth. During FY2000, AYI served approximately 61 children and youth in State custody. The program was able to pay for services to children and their families when no other source of payment was available.
- AYI created another placement option for SED children and youth who required less structure than institutional care. The program helped prevent institutionalized care by providing local resources. The Department anticipates that the percentage of children placed in institutionalized care either in-state or out-of-state will decrease and the rate of successful transition into community-based programs and family settings will increase. Transitional services focussed on providing programs and services to those children and youth that are returning to their home communities from institutionalized care.
- The AYI program began working with the Division's Psychiatric Nurses to develop intensive wrap-around services for children as an alternative to placement in an in-state or out-of-state residential care facility.

Statutory and Regulatory Authority

AS 47.05	Administration of Welfare, Social Services, and Institutions.
AS 47.10	Children in Need of Aid.
AS 47.14.100	Care of Children.
AS 47.17	Child Protection.
AS 47.40	Purchase of Services.
7 AAC 53, Article 1	Child Care Foster Care Payments.
7 AAC 53, Article 3	Children in Custody or Under Supervision : Needs and Income.
Titles IV-B and IV-E of the Social Security Act	

**Foster Care Alaska Youth Initiative
Component Financial Summary**

All dollars in thousands

	FY2000 Actuals	FY2001 Authorized	FY2002 Governor
Formula Program:			
Component Expenditures:			
71000 Personal Services	0.0	0.0	0.0
72000 Travel	0.0	0.0	0.0
73000 Contractual	0.0	0.0	0.0
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	550.0	550.0	550.0
78000 Miscellaneous	0.0	0.0	0.0
Expenditure Totals	550.0	550.0	550.0
Funding Sources:			
1004 General Fund Receipts	150.0	150.0	150.0
1037 General Fund / Mental Health	400.0	400.0	400.0
Funding Totals	550.0	550.0	550.0

Foster Care Alaska Youth Initiative

Proposed Changes in Levels of Service for FY2002

No changes are proposed for the AYI program in FY2002. However, the Department anticipates an 6% annual increase in the foster care caseload for the next two years.

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	550.0	0.0	0.0	550.0
FY2002 Governor	550.0	0.0	0.0	550.0