

State of Alaska FY2012 Governor's Operating Budget

Department of Public Safety Village Public Safety Officer Program Results Delivery Unit Budget Summary

Village Public Safety Officer Program Results Delivery Unit

Contribution to Department's Mission

Preserve public peace and protect life and property in rural villages.

Core Services

- Contract with non-profit organizations and local governments/boroughs to provide Village Public Safety Officer (VPSO) services throughout rural Alaska.

Major Activities to Advance Strategies

- | | |
|---|---|
| • VPSO training academy | • Alcoholic Beverage Control Board (ABC) training |
| • VPSO regional update training | • Coordination of ABC investigations |
| • Driving under the Influence (DUI) patrols | • Provide boater safety public education |
| • Domestic violence and DUI training | • Provide boater safety training to VPSOs and AST |
| • Report writing and investigation in-service | • D.A.R.E. programs |
| • Coordination with outside domestic violence-related agencies and support groups | • Alcohol Rewards program |
| • Domestic violence supervisory case review with district attorney coordination | • Patrol high crime areas |
| • Provide search and rescue management training | • Investigator training |
| • Water safety education | • Enhanced communications between jurisdictions |
| • Increased inspections | • Community Oriented Policing (COP) training |
| • Crime Stoppers | • Participation in village council meetings |

Key RDU Challenges

Village Public Safety Officers (VPSO) are the first responders to incidents, and may be the only individuals immediately available to provide a broad range of public safety services in their village. These functions range from basic law enforcement, to probationer and parolee supervision, to provision of first aid to the injured, to assisting with search and rescue missions, to fire prevention activities, and to public safety education.

With the increase in the number of VPSO positions, the need for more housing and office facilities within communities is increasingly more challenging. With the suppressed economies within rural Alaska, many communities are looking to the state or federal government for funding sources.

With the introduction of cell phone service in most rural Alaska communities, an increase in calls for service has been experienced throughout the VPSO program. Although providing better public access to the VPSO, the need to manage and prioritize these calls for service will be a challenge.

The VPSO program has grown in FY2010 but with the decreasing availability of federal grants, the program will rely on state general funds to support other associated expenses within the program. Continued grant management and oversight will be requiring significant and increasing staff time. Upper level Alaska State Trooper (AST) managers further are expending an increased amount of diplomatic effort in order to ensure that the program remains successful.

Significant Changes in Results to be Delivered in FY2012

The legislature appropriated funding in FY2011 for fifteen additional VPSO officers, as well as merit increases and COLA for existing officers in FY2011. This appropriation is part of the Governor's commitment to provide law enforcement in all communities within rural Alaska. This appropriation brought the total funded positions to 86. An

additional 15, along with associated costs, are included in the Governor's FY2012 budget. If approved, total funded Village Public Safety Officers will rise to 101 in FY2012.

Additional housing opportunities for the VPSO program will be available with funds awarded in FY2011 through a grant from the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation for the villages of Sleetmute, Igiugig, and Akiak.

Major RDU Accomplishments in 2010

During FY 2010, significant effort was focused on recruitment in the VPSO program. With the introduction of a video, which showed a realistic view of academy life and on-the-job responsibilities while working in the communities, the program is now reaping the benefits of these recruitment commitments. Retention within the program has stabilized and the quality and quantity of applicants has increased. In 2010, the number of VPSOs went from 47 to 70.

With the introduction of the Northwest Arctic Borough into the VPSO program, positions have increased within a region that previously had difficulty finding applicants.

The following lists the activity within the program during FY2010:

- AST conducted 4,361 VPSO village visits, an increase of 13 percent over the FY2009.
- Troopers conducted 10,675 oversight hours, an increase of 89 percent over FY2009.
- Twelve of 21 new VPSOs graduated from the VPSO Academy #10-01 in Sitka.
- A dedicated trooper VPSO oversight at the Bethel Post was introduced to assist the local non-profit coordinator to supervise the 25 VPSOs within the region.
- Statewide, VPSOs investigated 5,351 cases including 111 driving under the influence (DUI), 250 domestic violence assaults, and 158 other assaults. Total cases represent a 51 percent increase over FY2009, DUIs represent a 152 percent increase over FY2009, domestic violence assaults represent a 61 percent increase over FY2009, and other assaults represent a 21 percent decrease over FY2009.

The significant increase in case activities and trooper oversight duties within the VPSO program is attributed to filled positions increasing to 70 in FY2010. Another positive note: studies conducted by the Alaska Justice Center indicate in terms of conviction, assaults in domestic violence incidents that took place in communities with a VPSO or a Village Police Officer (VPO) had a greater likelihood of resulting in conviction than other cases. The study pointed out that the data indicated approximately 21 percent of the domestic violence cases were handled by VPSO or a VPO. This increase of prosecution and conviction for cases first reported to a VPSO or a VPO highlights the importance of the VPSO and VPO programs.

Contact Information
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**Village Public Safety Officer Program
RDU Financial Summary by Component**

All dollars shown in thousands

	FY2010 Actuals				FY2011 Management Plan				FY2012 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												
VPSO Contracts	8,797.6	0.0	0.0	8,797.6	10,621.9	0.0	0.0	10,621.9	12,921.4	0.0	0.0	12,921.4
VPSO Support	602.6	162.5	0.0	765.1	271.5	171.5	0.0	443.0	274.9	171.5	0.0	446.4
Totals	9,400.2	162.5	0.0	9,562.7	10,893.4	171.5	0.0	11,064.9	13,196.3	171.5	0.0	13,367.8

**Village Public Safety Officer Program
Summary of RDU Budget Changes by Component
From FY2011 Management Plan to FY2012 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>
FY2011 Management Plan	10,893.4	0.0	171.5	0.0	11,064.9
Adjustments which will continue current level of service:					
-VPSO Support	3.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.4
Proposed budget increases:					
-VPSO Contracts	2,299.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	2,299.5
FY2012 Governor	13,196.3	0.0	171.5	0.0	13,367.8