

# **State of Alaska FY2002 Governor's Operating Budget**

Department of Labor and Workforce Development  
Special Projects  
Component

## **Component: Special Projects**

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## **Component Mission**

To seek out new and innovative programs which will enhance and support the general mission of the division to provide services to individuals with disabilities.

## **Component Services Provided**

The division seeks funding for innovative projects that address needs identified in the planning process. Projects are also designed to address state and federal initiatives such as client choice. Projects are complementary to the basic vocational rehabilitation service program.

**SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT/TITLE VI PART C:** Supported employment services is a 100% federally funded program to provide services to individuals with the most severe disabilities who require supported employment to enter or retain competitive employment. With the support and service provided through this program, the individuals are able to benefit from vocational rehabilitation services. Services funded include intensive on the job training. Extended support services after placement and training must be provided by other sources of funding or with the use of natural supports.

**INTERPRETER REFERRAL SERVICES:** Grants are funded to non-profit organizations in Juneau, Anchorage and Fairbanks enabling them to administer the project for referral of sign language interpreters for deaf and hearing impaired individuals.

**ALASKA TRANSITION INITIATIVE:** The purpose of this initiative is to develop a statewide service delivery system for transition so that youth with disabilities will transition successfully from school to adult life. There are approximately 700 students who exit special education during a year and who would benefit from a comprehensive service delivery system. This is 100% federally funded.

**ALASKA WORKS PROJECT:** The Alaska Works Project will assist individuals with disabilities to expand the use of federal and state provisions allowing the retention of Medicaid and Medicare benefits when they return to work. This project will also engage business executives in developing aggressive strategies to increase the presence of people with disabilities in their workforce. Alaska Works started in November, 1999. It is funded 100% through an RSA with DHSS.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ALLIANCE:** An Economic Development Alliance Project is continued in collaboration with the Governor's Council of Disabilities and Special Education. The project assists private businesses with hiring individuals with disabilities by providing funds for the business to purchase needed technology, equipment or other services. It is funded by an RSA with DHSS.

**ALASKA WORK INCENTIVES PROJECT:** This project seeks to enhance the employability, employment and career advancement of people with disabilities through enhanced service delivery in the new One-stop delivery system established under the Workforce Investment Act of 1998.

## **Component Goals and Strategies**

1) ENABLE INDIVIDUALS WITH THE MOST SEVERE DISABILITIES TO GO TO WORK.

\* Provide supported employment services.

2) PROVIDE A MEANS FOR PEOPLE WHO ARE DEAF TO COMMUNICATE WITH HEARING PEOPLE.

\* The division will fund three regional grants in Anchorage, Fairbanks and Juneau for sign language interpreter services. The grantees serve as referral agents to match interpreters with individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing and who need interpreter services for a specific purpose such as a meeting, medical appointment, job interview, etc.

3) FINALIZE DEVELOPMENT OF A STATEWIDE SERVICE DELIVERY SYSTEM FOR YOUTH WITH DISABILITIES TO TRANSITION SUCCESSFULLY FROM SCHOOL TO ADULT LIFE.

\* Grants will be continued with the Special Education Services Agency, the University of Alaska and PARENTS as funds are available.

\* The grantees work directly with students, parents and school districts.

5) ENABLE INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES TO GO TO WORK WITHOUT FEAR OF LOSING HEALTH BENEFITS.

\* The Alaska Works project will assist individuals with disabilities to expand the use of federal and state provisions allowing them retention of Medicare and Medicaid benefits if they return to work. The project will engage business executives in developing aggressive strategies to increase the presence of individuals with disabilities in their workforce.

\* The Alaska Work Incentive Project will expand on the Alaska Works program by improving the capacity of One-stop Centers to effectively and efficiently serve people with disabilities. Critical services such as benefits counseling and information on the services available and how to access services at One-stop sites will be provided to people with disabilities.

6) CREATE JOBS FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES IN PRIVATE BUSINESSES.

\* The "job creation" project will be continued in collaboration with the Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education. Two grants will be funded to non-profit organizations who will work with private businesses to develop business plans. These plans will be paid for by the project in exchange for a commitment by the business to hire individuals with disabilities.

### **Key Component Issues for FY2001 – 2002**

The Alaska Works Project addresses the barriers individuals with disabilities face when they go to work. Medicaid and Medicare benefits may be cut off, yet the individuals may not have health insurance through their employers. Many other disincentives exist which the project is intending to resolve for those individuals. Additionally, the project works with business executives to develop strategies that will increase the presence of individuals with disabilities in their workforce. The Alaska Work Incentive Project will require major efforts to get operational during FY 2001. It will expand and enhance the Alaska Works Project.

### **Major Component Accomplishments for FY2000**

Alaska Works staff made many strides in terms of providing training and technical assistance to Alaska Job Centers. Several training sessions were conducted for Job Center staff on disability specific topics including learning disabilities and mental health. Training sessions were also completed to build capacity in the area of benefits counseling. Consequently, several individuals have been identified around the state who are now able to provide this critical service. Self-assessments were completed by key staff from several Job Centers statewide, identifying areas of strengths and weaknesses in serving job seekers with disabilities.

Alaska Works teamed up with WorkStar and Dittman Research on a telephone survey of businesses to pose questions relating to disability and employment. Focus groups were held with employers in Anchorage to further define business's needs and experience in terms of employing people with disabilities. Forums were conducted statewide with consumer groups in order to better determine what people with disabilities need to take full advantage of the Alaska Job Center Network. All of this data is being examined to identify policy issues and better focus the program toward meeting the needs of Alaskans with disabilities who want to enter the workforce.

## **Statutory and Regulatory Authority**

PL 102-569, Title IV  
AS 23.15, Article 1  
8 AAC 98  
34 CFR  
The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)

**Special Projects**  
**Component Financial Summary**

All dollars in thousands

	FY2000 Actuals	FY2001 Authorized	FY2002 Governor
<b>Non-Formula Program:</b>			
<b>Component Expenditures:</b>			
71000 Personal Services	56.7	121.6	344.2
72000 Travel	9.2	18.7	78.7
73000 Contractual	47.1	110.2	955.8
74000 Supplies	10.8	9.2	34.2
75000 Equipment	18.2	11.0	66.0
76000 Land/Buildings	0.0	0.0	0.0
77000 Grants, Claims	1,081.6	1,519.9	1,376.8
78000 Miscellaneous	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>Expenditure Totals</b>	<b>1,223.6</b>	<b>1,790.6</b>	<b>2,855.7</b>
<b>Funding Sources:</b>			
1002 Federal Receipts	791.8	1,553.2	2,615.8
1004 General Fund Receipts	82.9	82.9	85.8
1007 Inter-Agency Receipts	348.9	154.5	154.1
<b>Funding Totals</b>	<b>1,223.6</b>	<b>1,790.6</b>	<b>2,855.7</b>

**Estimated Revenue Collections**

Description	Master Revenue Account	FY2000 Actuals	FY2001 Authorized	FY2001 Cash Estimate	FY2002 Governor	FY2003 Forecast
<b>Unrestricted Revenues</b>						
None.		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>Unrestricted Total</b>		<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>
<b>Restricted Revenues</b>						
Federal Receipts	51010	791.8	1,553.2	1,550.4	2,615.8	2,615.8
Interagency Receipts	51015	348.9	154.5	154.5	154.1	154.1
<b>Restricted Total</b>		<b>1,140.7</b>	<b>1,707.7</b>	<b>1,704.9</b>	<b>2,769.9</b>	<b>2,769.9</b>
<b>Total Estimated Revenues</b>		<b>1,140.7</b>	<b>1,707.7</b>	<b>1,704.9</b>	<b>2,769.9</b>	<b>2,769.9</b>

## Special Projects

### Proposed Changes in Levels of Service for FY2002

Changes in this component include federal funding for the Alaska Work Incentives Project and the Access to Alaska Project. The Work Incentives project will enhance services for people with disabilities in One-stop Centers. Access to Alaska will target the tourism industry in Alaska to ensure compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

### 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>
<b>FY2001 Authorized</b>	<b>82.9</b>	<b>1,553.2</b>	<b>154.5</b>	<b>1,790.6</b>
<b>Adjustments which will continue current level of service:</b>				
-Transfer Federal Authority from Special Projects to Independent Living Rehabilitation - RP 0714009	0.0	-175.0	0.0	-175.0
-Transfer PFT PCN 05-2205 from Special Projects to Vocational Rehabilitation Administration	0.0	-51.6	0.0	-51.6
-Year 2 Labor Costs - Net Change from FY2001	2.9	-0.8	-0.4	1.7
<b>Proposed budget increases:</b>				
-Increase Federal Authorization and Establish 3 Positions for Work Incentive grant	0.0	540.0	0.0	540.0
-Increase Federal Authorization and Establish 3 Positions for Access to Alaska grant	0.0	750.0	0.0	750.0
<b>FY2002 Governor</b>	<b>85.8</b>	<b>2,615.8</b>	<b>154.1</b>	<b>2,855.7</b>

## Special Projects

### Personal Services Information

Authorized Positions			Personal Services Costs	
	FY2001 Authorized	FY2002 Governor		
Full-time	2	1	Annual Salaries	302,880
Part-time	0	0	COLA	3,862
Nonpermanent	0	6	Premium Pay	0
			Annual Benefits	40,466
			<i>Less 0.87% Vacancy Factor</i>	(3,008)
			Lump Sum Premium Pay	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>Total Personal Services</b>	<b>344,200</b>

### Position Classification Summary

Job Class Title	Anchorage	Fairbanks	Juneau	Others	Total
Administrative Clerk III	1	0	0	0	1
Prog Coordinator	2	0	0	0	2
Project Assistant	1	0	0	0	1
Project Asst	1	0	0	0	1
Project Coord	0	0	0	2	2
<b>Totals</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>7</b>