

**State of Alaska  
FY2003 Governor's Operating Budget**

**Department of Health and Social Services  
Nome Youth Facility  
Component Budget Summary**

## **Component: Nome Youth Facility**

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### **Component Mission**

The mission of the Division of Juvenile Justice is to hold juvenile offenders accountable for their behavior, promote the safety and restoration of victims and communities, and assist offenders and their families in developing skills to prevent crime.

Proposed change:

The mission of the Division of Juvenile Justice is to protect the public, hold juvenile offenders accountable for restoration of victims and communities, and assist juveniles to develop appropriate competencies.

### **Component Services Provided**

The Nome Youth Facility operates as a short-term detention facility and provides protective custody placement for juveniles of the Nome and Kotzebue region. Treatment services have steadily grown for the residents with the development of the Accountability Program. While some youth represent too great a risk to be fully involved in the program, many youth greatly benefit from the opportunity to start reintegration back into the community while still on detention status. The juveniles selected for the program do community work service in Nome, attend off-center groups and individual counseling, attend culturally relevant activities, seek and gain employment. This restorative justice type program more fully addresses community safety by maintaining real and immediate sanctions for violations related to this program. The Superintendent is currently developing intervention and treatment approaches with the other agencies in the community.

The facility is considered minimum security and is currently staffed to hold up to six residents. The resident population is primarily male and nearly all Alaska Native. The residents are commonly detained for property crimes but there has been an increase in the number of residents charged with assault being held at the facility. Many of the youth have a history of substance abuse and/or inhalant abuse.

### **Component Goals and Strategies**

The following are the goals for the Division of Juvenile Justice.

To provide serious, violent, and chronic juvenile offenders with secure sanctions to hold them accountable for their offenses, protect the public, and provide a structured treatment environment that is consistent with nationally recognized standards.

To protect the community from delinquency, to hold offenders accountable to repair the harm committed against victims and communities, and to equip juvenile offenders with the competencies necessary to live productively and responsibly in the community.

To ensure that the Division meets the needs of juvenile offenders, victims and communities through the provision of a range of community-based programs serving both urban and rural Alaska. To promote offender accountability by strengthening the juvenile justice system through partnering with other juvenile justice agencies. To promote quality programs that effectively meet the stated need.

## Key Component Issues for FY2002 – 2003

The physical plant is in need of significant upgrades and repairs. The building has not had a significant renovation for sixteen years. Cold infiltration, freezing pipes, deteriorating flooring, walls, windows, etc. compromise the safety and security of the building. Housing the Juvenile Probation Officers within the building has improved program coordination, but has created a claustrophobic and marginally safe living environment for residents and staff. The residents in the facility are forced to eat, exercise, relax, and attend school in a very small dayroom space.

The low staffing level remains one of the more significant safety/security concerns. This has been exacerbated as the count has increased and now commonly exceeds capacity. With only five full time Youth Counselors I/II's, one Youth Counselor III, and one Superintendent, just covering the shifts continues to be a daily challenge. For a 24hr. /7day week facility there are simply not enough staff. This has necessitated the extensive use of less experienced non-permanent/on-call staff. There has also been a very high turnover of these on-call staff. This situation not only creates obvious safety issues, but also impairs the staff's ability to work with the resident population, having to spend all their time on custodial and security issues. As staff leave accumulates, shift coverage problems will be more problematic.

## Major Component Accomplishments in 2001

The primary accomplishment was the continued operation/development of the short-term detention program in a building that was never designed to operate in its current mode. Through considerable innovation and dedication of staff, the program continues to operate relatively smoothly in spite of significant obstacles. While there has been great difficulty in recruiting staff, especially qualified Native applicants, there has been minimal turnover among the full-time Youth Counselors, which has been critical to the successes we do enjoy. The addition of one Youth Counselor III slated for the facility represents a much-needed step in addressing the staffing shortages.

Secondly, the facility's continued operation of the Accountability Program is progressively reshaping/challenging the understanding of what detention means. While some youth represent too great a risk to be fully involved in the program, many youth greatly benefit from the opportunity to start reintegration back into the community while still on detention status. The juveniles selected for the program do community work service in Nome, attend off-center groups and individual counseling, attend culturally relevant activities, seek and gain employment. This restorative justice-type program more fully addresses community safety by maintaining real and immediate sanctions for violations related to this program.

In cooperation with the Norton Sound Behavioral Health Department and the juvenile probation officers, the facility has developed a program to help monitor and follow up on juvenile sex offenders who have been released back into the village. Juveniles come to the facility on temporary detention orders to attend individual and group treatment, usually spending two or three days at the facility. This program provides close scrutiny of the juvenile's behavior while increasing safety for the village.

## Statutory and Regulatory Authority

AS 47.05 Administration of Welfare, Social Services and Institutions  
 AS 47.10 Children in Need of Aid  
 AS 47.12 Delinquent Minors  
 AS 47.14 Juvenile Institutions  
 AS 47.15 Uniform Interstate Compact on Juveniles  
 AS 47.17 Child Protection  
 AS 47.18 Programs and Services Related to Adolescents  
 AS 47.21 Adventure Based Education  
 AS 47.37 Uniform Alcoholism and Intoxication Treatment Act  
 7 AAC 52 Juvenile Correctional Facilities & Juvenile Detention Facilities  
 7 AAC 54 Administration

**Nome Youth Facility**  
**Component Financial Summary**

*All dollars in thousands*

<b>Non-Formula Program:</b>	<b>FY2001 Actuals</b>	<b>FY2002 Authorized</b>	<b>FY2003 Governor</b>
<b>Component Expenditures:</b>			
71000 Personal Services	581.8	491.1	512.0
72000 Travel	4.8	5.5	5.5
73000 Contractual	75.4	95.0	90.0
74000 Supplies	77.8	50.8	50.8
75000 Equipment	1.9	0.0	0.0
76000 Land/Buildings	0.0	0.0	0.0
77000 Grants, Claims	13.2	42.5	42.5
78000 Miscellaneous	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>Expenditure Totals</b>	<b>754.9</b>	<b>684.9</b>	<b>700.8</b>
<b>Funding Sources:</b>			
1004 General Fund Receipts	751.7	684.9	700.8
1053 Investment Loss Trust Fund	3.2	0.0	0.0
<b>Funding Totals</b>	<b>754.9</b>	<b>684.9</b>	<b>700.8</b>

**Nome Youth Facility  
Proposed Changes in Levels of Service for FY2003**

No service changes.

**Summary of Component Budget Changes  
From FY2002 Authorized to FY2003 Governor**

*All dollars in thousands*

	<u>General Funds</u>	<u>Federal Funds</u>	<u>Other Funds</u>	<u>Total Funds</u>
<b>FY2002 Authorized</b>	<b>684.9</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>684.9</b>
<b>Adjustments which will continue current level of service:</b>				
-Year 3 Labor Costs - Net Change from FY2002	15.9	0.0	0.0	15.9
<b>FY2003 Governor</b>	<b>700.8</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>700.8</b>

**Nome Youth Facility**

**Personal Services Information**

	Authorized Positions		Personal Services Costs	
	<u>FY2002</u> <u>Authorized</u>	<u>FY2003</u> <u>Governor</u>		
Full-time	7	7	Annual Salaries	368,023
Part-time	1	1	COLA	9,243
Nonpermanent	0	0	Premium Pay	5,054
			Annual Benefits	129,689
			<i>Less 0.00% Vacancy Factor</i>	(0)
			Lump Sum Premium Pay	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>Total Personal Services</b>	<b>512,009</b>

**Position Classification Summary**

Job Class Title	Anchorage	Fairbanks	Juneau	Others	Total
Maint Gen Journey	0	0	0	1	1
Youth Center Supt I	0	0	0	1	1
Youth Counselor I	0	0	0	3	3
Youth Counselor II	0	0	0	3	3
<b>Totals</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>