

State of Alaska FY2007 Governor's Operating Budget

Department of Health and Social Services Family Preservation Component Budget Summary

Component: Family Preservation**Contribution to Department's Mission**

Family Preservation delivers services that help children and families at risk or in crisis. Support services include intensive pre-placement services to help children at risk of foster care placement remain safely in the family home. Family Preservation services also comprise follow-up care to families following a foster care placement or after a child abuse and neglect investigation has been substantiated.

Core Services

The Family Preservation component provides 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. These services also serve 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.

Time-Limited Family Reunification grants serve families with a child in foster care or in a child care institution. This program facilitates the reunification of the child and family safely and appropriately in a timely fashion. Services include in-home visits, parent support groups, supervised visitation, and other programs designed to improve parenting skills. Independent Living services support education, vocational training and life skills of youth in foster care as they enter early adulthood. These youths, 16 years and older, frequently lack the family or financial support and guidance needed to gain self-sufficiency in adulthood. Services provided to help these youths gain self-sufficiency include life skills assessments; transition learning plans; exit plans that identify a youth's goals for education, employment, housing, health care, mental health care, and family/community connections; financial assistance; and identification of additional resources the youth may require.

The Child Advocacy Center (CAC) programs furnish a child-friendly environment for multiple agencies to coordinate child sexual abuse investigations. There are currently seven CAC's in Alaska funded with federal Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention funds.

The Family Preservation component also funds Child Protective Services child care to furnish parents at risk of abuse to their children relief from the stresses of childcare. Parents are also able to participate in medical and treatment programs.

This component maintains the Children's Justice Act (CJA) federal grant. These grant funds support a State Task Force whose mission is to "Identify areas where improvement is needed in the statewide response to child maltreatment particularly child sexual abuse, make recommendations and take actions to improve the system." The grant also is designed to improve the handling of child abuse and neglect cases, particularly cases of child sexual abuse and exploitation, in a manner that limits additional trauma to the child victim.

The Community Based Family Resource and Support Programs (CBFRS) deliver support to develop, operate, expand, and enhance a network of community-based, prevention-focused, family resource and support programs.

FY2007 Resources Allocated to Achieve Results

FY2007 Component Budget: \$10,440,600	Personnel:	
	Full time	0
	Part time	0
	Total	0

Key Component Challenges

Provide Services Within Legal Time Limits: Children and families referred or mandated to receive services are presenting more severe behaviors and experiences which require much more intensive intervention in order to preserve or support the family unit. Alaska's child welfare law, along with new Federal laws, require services to 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.

The Independent Living (IL) Program provides services to youth who "age out" of foster care and are often ill prepared to live independently. OCS assesses the needs of each child at the age of 14 to develop individual independent living plans to aid in the transition out of foster care and assist the child towards responsible adulthood. The program continues to identify critical areas where the IL program could improve and expand service delivery and support for youth. Priorities currently identified that will result in positive outcomes include access to educational materials regarding legal arrangements such as conservatorships, guardianships, and financial trusts; a needs assessment of the service need of the population exiting care and the service capacity within the State; program revisions that address the additional financial needs of youth with disabilities; increased efforts to plan for the proper disbursement and use of trust funds, in particular Permanent Fund Dividend trust funds; assessments of youth in care that provide information on the use of current mental health services that would provide a baseline for service available in communities when out of care; develop educational opportunities for youth in care and out of care on health, nutrition, substance abuse, and reproductive health.

Increasing the Number of Available Foster Homes – Under Alaska's Program Improvement Plan, OCS must improve its recruitment efforts, especially in rural areas. In early spring of 2005, the Native Rural Recruitment Team (NRRT) was formed and includes members from Alaska Native organizations, the federal government, local business and the OCS. The team began work under the philosophy that is must work collaboratively in rural areas to provide safe and culturally relevant foster homes for those children that need them. The team aims to implement community based, locally relevant recruitment.

Alcohol and Drug Treatment for Parents: Parental substance abuse significantly 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. This frequently leads to the removal of the child or failed family reunification efforts. The provision of substance abuse treatment services is essential to the success of other efforts.

Significant Changes in Results to be Delivered in FY2007

The Independent Living (IL) program will focus on priorities including enhanced access to educational materials regarding legal arrangements; needs assessment of IL service needs and service capacity within the State; program revisions that address the additional financial needs of youth with disabilities; increased efforts to develop individual plans for the proper disbursement and use of trust funds; assessments of youth in care that provide information on the use of mental health services available in communities when out of care; development of educational opportunities for youth in care and out of care on health, nutrition, substance abuse, and reproductive health.

Major Component Accomplishments in 2005

Restructuring of Family Preservation and Support Grants: The OCS worked with non-profit services across the State and funded more than 40 Family Preservation, Family Support, and Time-Limited Family Reunification grants. OCS

implemented a shift in quarterly narrative reporting that not only allowed it to count the number of families serviced, but also began the process of outcome-based reporting from the grantees. Grant requirements were revised to require a set of core services be provided to all families receiving services through these programs

Child Protective Daycare Services Supplied: OCS provided funding for Child Protective Services day care that enabled parents, at risk of abusing or neglecting their children, relief from the stresses of childcare. Parents also participated in medical and treatment programs.

Support Child Advocacy Centers: OCS continues to provide support to Child Advocacy Centers in Alaska. These centers perform forensic interviews and medical examinations for victims suspected of child sexual abuse and severe physical abuse.

Provide Support to the Children's Justice Act State Task Force: OCS implemented the Children's Justice Act grant in FY2003. These funds were used, in part, to coordinate the Children's Justice Act State Task Force. This vital task force is undertaking a comprehensive review and evaluation of law, policy and the investigative, administrative and judicial handling of cases of child abuse and neglect. The task force also concentrated on training and policy recommendations. OCS provides support to the Citizens Review Panel that was incorporated into the Children's Justice Act State Task Force.

Statutory and Regulatory Authority

AS 47.05.010 Administration of Welfare, Social Services, and Institutions, duties of department.
 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
 Children's Justice Act
 Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act
 Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act

Contact Information

Contact: Janet Clarke, Assistant Commissioner
Phone: (907) 465-1630
Fax: (907) 465-2499
E-mail: janet_clarke@health.state.ak.us

**Family Preservation
Component Financial Summary**

All dollars shown in thousands

	FY2005 Actuals	FY2006 Management Plan	FY2007 Governor
Non-Formula Program:			
Component Expenditures:			
71000 Personal Services	0.0	0.0	0.0
72000 Travel	66.2	121.3	121.3
73000 Services	1,223.1	1,103.1	1,103.1
74000 Commodities	5.8	0.0	0.0
75000 Capital Outlay	0.0	0.0	0.0
77000 Grants, Benefits	6,965.4	9,366.2	9,216.2
78000 Miscellaneous	0.0	0.0	0.0
Expenditure Totals	8,260.5	10,590.6	10,440.6
Funding Sources:			
1002 Federal Receipts	6,224.8	8,008.0	8,008.0
1004 General Fund Receipts	1,201.7	1,732.7	1,732.7
1007 Inter-Agency Receipts	584.0	699.9	699.9
1092 Mental Health Trust Authority Authorized Receipts	250.0	150.0	0.0
Funding Totals	8,260.5	10,590.6	10,440.6

Estimated Revenue Collections

Description	Master Revenue Account	FY2005 Actuals	FY2006 Management Plan	FY2007 Governor
Unrestricted Revenues				
None.		0.0	0.0	0.0
Unrestricted Total		0.0	0.0	0.0
Restricted Revenues				
Federal Receipts	51010	6,224.8	8,008.0	8,008.0
Interagency Receipts	51015	584.0	699.9	699.9
Restricted Total		6,808.8	8,707.9	8,707.9
Total Estimated Revenues		6,808.8	8,707.9	8,707.9

**Summary of Component Budget Changes
From FY2006 Management Plan to FY2007 Governor**

All dollars shown in thousands

	<u>General Funds</u>	<u>Federal Funds</u>	<u>Other Funds</u>	<u>Total Funds</u>
FY2006 Management Plan	1,732.7	8,008.0	849.9	10,590.6
Proposed budget decreases:				
-Supported Parenting Authorization Reduction	0.0	0.0	-150.0	-150.0
FY2007 Governor	1,732.7	8,008.0	699.9	10,440.6