

State of Alaska FY2007 Governor's Operating Budget

Department of Health and Social Services Front Line Social Workers Component Budget Summary

Component: Front Line Social Workers

Contribution to Department's Mission

The Front Line Social Workers component provides services to carry out the legal mandates of the department to prevent and remedy abuse, neglect, and the exploitation of children.

Core Services

The OCS provides services to more than 1,800 children in custody and in out-of-home care and receives more than 10,000 protective services reports annually.

The Front Line Social Worker component delivers child protective services that include:

- * investigation of reports of harm; crisis intervention; assessment of the risk of future harm in the absence of intervention; family strength and needs assessment; and case planning;
- * assessing progress toward achieving case plan goals; initiating legal action to protect children; monitoring the implementation of treatment plans; and coordinating services;
- * arranging out-of-home care, when appropriate and necessary, in the least restrictive setting and arranging alternative permanent placement for children when a return home is not possible;
- * family-centered services that focus on the family rather than the individual to assist families in regaining or maintaining autonomy; arranging for family preservation and family reunification services by grant and contract agencies; and
- * licensure of foster homes.

FY2007 Resources Allocated to Achieve Results

FY2007 Component Budget: \$36,064,200	Personnel:	
	Full time	415
	Part time	2
	Total	417

Key Component Challenges

The OCS, with the support of the Alaska State Legislature, has been able to increase front line and supporting staff by more than 7 percent. The continued challenge is to determine where these resources are needed the most and to maximize these resources to prevent child abuse and neglect and to provide child protective services when necessary. An OCS workload study contract awarded to Hornby Zeller Associates, Inc. is expected to provide the basis for giving caseworkers reasonable workloads that will allow them the time they need to achieve positive outcomes for children and families. This workload study is scheduled to be completed by December 31, 2005.

Reduce Employee Turnover: The division will continue efforts to reduce employee turnover and to recruit new employees. Such efforts include training provided by the Children's Services Staff Training Academy, the Bachelors of Social Work stipend program, and the "back-to-school" Masters of Social Work program.

Increase Federal Title IV-E Revenue: The Office of Children's Services is reimbursed from the Federal Title IV-E program for direct services OCS provides when removal of a child from their home is necessary to protect the child. As the number of children certified as eligible for Title IV-E benefits increases, the federal reimbursement rate and federal receipts OCS claims increases. As part of its continuing efforts to increase the number of children qualified for Title IV-E benefits, Eligibility Technicians in the Front Line Social Worker component focus on timely and accurate Title IV-E eligibility determination and benefit authorizations for OCS clients. At the end of FY2003, the statewide penetration rate (percentage of Title IV-E eligible clients in paid foster care placements) was 48%. Through data collection improvements, extensive re-review of case files and enhanced management and supervision of OCS eligibility workers, the statewide penetration rate increased to 65% by the end of FY 2005. The rate continues to increase in FY 2006. As a result, the state is able to finance a greater share of foster care payments with federal receipts.

Smooth the Transition from Foster Care to Independent Living (IL): The OCS utilizes federal funds to provide independent living services to youth who are transitioning from foster care to independence. Youth who "age out" of the foster care system are often ill prepared to live independently. They may not have strong family or community ties that help one shift to self-sufficiency. One goal of the Independent Living Program is to provide an individual assessment of the needs of the youth along with the skills and resources needed to become a successful adult. Funding for the IL program is managed from the Family Preservation component while work conducted in relation to the program is provided by Front Line Social Workers.

Critical areas where the IL program could improve and expand service delivery and support for youth have been identified. Priorities identified will result in positive outcomes including increased 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.

Significant Changes in Results to be Delivered in FY2007

Improving the process of licensing foster and adoptive homes through Resource Family Assessment will result in better matches of foster parents to the children needing placement in a safe and supportive home and adoptive parents to the children moved to permanency.

As more children in custody are determined to be eligible under the federal IV-E entitlement program, the statewide penetration rate (percentage of Title IV-E eligible clients in paid out-of-home placements) will continue to increase accordingly, thereby making OCS able to finance more operating expenditures for this component with federal receipts.

OCS continues to work to improve data quality and consistency in classifying and recording protective services reports and in timely entry of investigation outcomes to reduce data errors that lead to an over count of recurrence. OCS also plans to implement finding categories more consistent with those used in other states. These measures will reduce the recurrence due to data anomalies.

Major Component Accomplishments in 2005

Achievements toward Successful Implementation of the Performance Improvement Plan: The OCS social workers played an important role in achieving performance improvement goals in four of seven outcome areas and all systematic areas. While three goals remain, significant progress has been made toward successful completion.

Provided for Children in Custody: In FY2005, the OCS provided foster care benefits to more than 1,300 children daily. Benefits provided include the customary on-going cost of raising a child along with critical services such as physical and/or psychological therapy, child care, and extraordinary clothing and incidental needs.

Development of Quality Assurance (QA) Unit: The OCS developed a statewide, on-site quality assurance program that operates on four separate levels within OCS: Supervisory Case Review, Administrative Case Review, On-site Case Review by QA staff, and Regional Continuous Quality Improvement Teams that include key stakeholders. This new unit conducts ongoing reviews of all OCS field offices to evaluate progress in meeting required federal service standards. In

addition, the unit provides a mechanism for parents, foster parents, and other stakeholders to provide annual feedback to OCS on performance. Each region's Continuous Quality Improvement Team reviews information from reviews conducted to incorporate findings into practice and management changes.

Resource Family Assessments: The OCS initiated a new and improved process for screening potential foster parents, relative caregivers, and adoptive parents. The Resourced Family selection process improves the safety of children in care, streamlines procedures, avoids delays, and minimizes the number of moves a child may have to make. The overall result is better placement options for children and improved relations with our resource families.

Participated in the Alaska Adoption Exchange: The Alaska Adoption Exchange promotes earlier identification of children in the system waiting and potential families wanting them. The Exchange lists children in custody who are available now or soon will be available for adoption, as well as potential adoptive families who are considered for placements of special needs children. The Adoption Exchange creates a mechanism for different OCS workers to know about other children and potential adoptive families in the state.

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
 Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996
 Titles IV-A, IV-B, IV-E and XIX of the Social Security Act

Contact Information

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Front Line Social Workers Component Financial Summary

All dollars shown in thousands

	FY2005 Actuals	FY2006 Management Plan	FY2007 Governor
Non-Formula Program:			
Component Expenditures:			
71000 Personal Services	23,752.4	29,454.8	31,375.6
72000 Travel	278.2	285.5	285.5
73000 Services	3,436.0	3,602.9	3,609.8
74000 Commodities	274.9	269.5	269.5
75000 Capital Outlay	81.9	384.9	343.0
77000 Grants, Benefits	4.2	180.8	180.8
78000 Miscellaneous	0.0	0.0	0.0
Expenditure Totals	27,827.6	34,178.4	36,064.2
Funding Sources:			
1002 Federal Receipts	14,510.8	13,815.0	14,619.7
1003 General Fund Match	2,857.4	6,731.3	7,144.5
1004 General Fund Receipts	9,085.9	11,125.8	11,771.9
1007 Inter-Agency Receipts	882.7	2,005.3	2,005.3
1037 General Fund / Mental Health	148.6	148.6	148.6
1108 Statutory Designated Program Receipts	342.2	352.4	374.2
Funding Totals	27,827.6	34,178.4	36,064.2

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	14,510.8	13,815.0	14,619.7
Interagency Receipts	51015	882.7	2,005.3	2,005.3
Statutory Designated Program Receipts	51063	342.2	352.4	374.2
Restricted Total		15,735.7	16,172.7	16,999.2
Total Estimated Revenues		15,735.7	16,172.7	16,999.2

**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	18,005.7	13,815.0	2,357.7	34,178.4
Adjustments which will continue current level of service:				
-Child in Need of Aid Second Year Fiscal Note Reduction, Ch 64, SLA 05	-41.9	0.0	0.0	-41.9
-FY 07 Wage Increases for Bargaining Units and Non-Covered Employees	315.7	215.9	6.1	537.7
-FY 07 Health Insurance Cost Increases for Bargaining Units and Non-Covered Employees	42.2	28.8	0.8	71.8
-FY 07 Retirement Systems Cost Increase	556.6	437.1	11.4	1,005.1
Proposed budget increases:				
-Assistance for Increased Fuel/Electricity Costs	6.9	0.0	0.0	6.9
-Risk Management Self-Insurance Funding Increase	179.8	122.9	3.5	306.2
FY2007 Governor	19,065.0	14,619.7	2,379.5	36,064.2

**Front Line Social Workers
Personal Services Information**

Authorized Positions		Personal Services Costs		
<u>FY2006</u>				
<u>Management</u>		<u>FY2007</u>		
<u>Plan</u>		<u>Governor</u>		
Full-time	415	415	Annual Salaries	19,996,272
Part-time	2	2	COLA	566,547
Nonpermanent	4	4	Premium Pay	524,844
			Annual Benefits	12,114,905
			<i>Less 5.50% Vacancy Factor</i>	(1,826,968)
			Lump Sum Premium Pay	0
Totals	421	421	Total Personal Services	31,375,600

Position Classification Summary

Job Class Title	Anchorage	Fairbanks	Juneau	Others	Total
Accounting Clerk I	0	0	0	1	1
Accounting Clerk II	2	3	1	0	6
Administrative Assistant	1	2	0	1	4
Administrative Clerk I	2	0	0	0	2
Administrative Clerk II	12	7	1	14	34
Administrative Clerk III	3	1	2	3	9
Administrative Manager II	1	1	1	1	4
Childrens Services Manager	1	1	1	1	4
Childrens Services Spec I	10	6	5	22	43
Childrens Services Spec II	28	5	3	18	54
Community Care Lic Spec I	8	7	2	6	23
Community Care Lic Spec II	2	2	0	2	6
Elig Technician I	1	1	0	1	3
Elig Technician II	3	2	1	2	8
Elig Technician IV	1	0	0	0	1
Health Program Mgr III	1	0	0	0	1
Mntl Hlth Clinician III	0	1	1	1	3
Nurse IV (Psych)	2	1	1	1	5
Project Asst	1	0	1	0	2
Social Services Associate I	2	0	0	5	7
Social Services Associate II	13	2	2	8	25
Social Svcs Prog Coord	1	1	1	1	4
Social Svcs Prog Officer	2	0	0	0	2
Social Worker I (Cs)	5	2	3	6	16
Social Worker II (Cs)	29	17	6	42	94
Social Worker III (Cs)	4	0	0	0	4
Social Worker IV (Cs)	18	6	3	20	47
Social Worker V (Cs)	3	2	1	2	8
System Reform Administrator	1	0	0	0	1
Totals	157	70	36	158	421