

State of Alaska FY2008 Governor's Operating Budget

Department of Health and Social Services Subsidized Adoptions & Guardianship Component Budget Summary

Component: Subsidized Adoptions & Guardianship

Contribution to Department's Mission

The Subsidized Adoption & Guardianship program facilitates permanent placements in adoptive homes or stable guardianships for the increasing number of children in state custody whose special needs make them hard-to-place. Adoption is viewed as the most permanent placement for a child and is therefore generally the preferable option.

Guardianships are considered for children who cannot be freed for adoption, but for whom a reasonably permanent home can be provided through guardianship. This is often the best choice for children who cannot live with their parents, but continue to have an important emotional tie with their families that should not be severed.

Core Services

This component provides a permanent home to children that are in the permanent custody of the State and who are unlikely to be adopted without a subsidy. These are children that have been removed from situations of abuse or neglect and that have physical or mental or emotional disturbances which place them at high risk for subsequent abuse or neglect. The adoption or guardianship subsidy covers the costs for the child's special needs and is available to the family until the child reaches age 18.

This component's efforts also focus on permanency needs that include four deliverables: recruitment of homes for children who do not already have permanent homes; home studies on potential adoptive families; pre-adoption services for the child and family; and post-adoption services for up to one year after the final adoption or guardianship court hearing.

As of September 2006, there were 2,245 continuing adoptions and 65 new adoptions in Alaska's adoption pipeline.

FY2008 Resources Allocated to Achieve Results

FY2008 Component Budget: \$21,311,600	Personnel:	
	Full time	0
	Part time	0
	Total	0

Key Component Challenges

Address the High Number of Beneficiaries to be Served: When children leave foster care, their special needs are re-assessed to determine whether they will continue to need assistance through the Subsidized Adoption & Guardianship program. Approximately 95 percent of children exiting custody have special needs and continue to receive state benefits.

The Division has recognized for some time now that the level of disturbance and complexity of problems for children in custody is increasing. These factors make it difficult to find permanent adoptive or guardianship homes without a subsidy. It is preferable that the State provides a means for children to be given a permanent home with State funding than for the State to continue to be completely responsible for the child. The special needs of these children combined with budgetary constraints make this a challenging task at best.

Resource Family Recruitment: Efforts to recruit adoptive families that reflect the ethnic and racial diversity of the children served by the OCS continues to be a challenge.

Significant Changes in Results to be Delivered in FY2008

Continued Work with the Court System through the Court Improvement Project (CIP) to Expedite Permanency – CIP has determined the Courtview case management system has the capacity to record and measure timeliness of permanency hearings. A report will be written that measures the timeliness of hearings and a plan for decreasing any identified delays. The CIP has also requested that the Alaska Supreme Court consider amendments to Child in Need of Aid (CINA) Rule 17.2 that would prohibit granting of continuances in permanency hearings except upon showing of good cause.

Improving the process of licensing foster and adoptive homes will result in better matches of foster parents to the children needing placement in a safe and supportive home, as well as adoptive parents for children requiring permanency placements.

Major Component Accomplishments in 2006

The Subsidized Adoption & Guardianship program provided permanent homes for 255 adopted children and guardianships for children that were in the permanent custody of the state.

Home Study Services: Two contractors provided home study services to families who want to adopt children in the state's custody.

Resource Family Assessments: The OCS continues to work with a new and improved process for screening potential foster parents, relative caregivers, and adoptive parents. The Resource 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 resource families.

Participated in the Alaska Adoption Exchange: The Alaska Adoption Exchange promotes earlier identification of children in the system waiting for adoption and potential families wanting to adopt. The Exchange lists children in custody who are available now or soon will be available for adoption, as well as potential adoptive families who could be 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 25.23	Adoption
AS 25.23.190-240	Subsidy for hard-to-place child
AS 47.10.080	Judgments and orders
7 AAC 53 Article 2	Subsidized Adoption and Subsidized Guardianship Payments
Title IV-E of the Social Security Act	

Contact Information

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**Subsidized Adoptions & Guardianship
Component Financial Summary**

All dollars shown in thousands

	FY2006 Actuals	FY2007 Management Plan	FY2008 Governor
Formula Program:			
Component Expenditures:			
71000 Personal Services	0.0	0.0	0.0
72000 Travel	10.5	0.0	0.0
73000 Services	701.9	798.8	798.8
74000 Commodities	0.0	0.0	0.0
75000 Capital Outlay	0.0	0.0	0.0
77000 Grants, Benefits	18,402.3	20,512.8	20,512.8
78000 Miscellaneous	0.0	0.0	0.0
Expenditure Totals	19,114.7	21,311.6	21,311.6
Funding Sources:			
1002 Federal Receipts	10,982.9	11,197.0	11,197.0
1003 General Fund Match	3,284.2	3,284.2	3,284.2
1004 General Fund Receipts	4,847.6	6,830.4	6,830.4
Funding Totals	19,114.7	21,311.6	21,311.6

Estimated Revenue Collections

Description	Master Revenue Account	FY2006 Actuals	FY2007 Management Plan	FY2008 Governor
Unrestricted Revenues				
General Fund Match	68510	0.0	3,284.2	0.0
Unrestricted Fund	68515	0.0	6,830.4	0.0
Unrestricted Total		0.0	10,114.6	0.0
Restricted Revenues				
Federal Receipts	51010	10,982.9	11,197.0	11,197.0
Restricted Total		10,982.9	11,197.0	11,197.0
Total Estimated Revenues		10,982.9	21,311.6	11,197.0

**Summary of Component Budget Changes
From FY2007 Management Plan to FY2008 Governor***All dollars shown in thousands*

	<u>General Funds</u>	<u>Federal Funds</u>	<u>Other Funds</u>	<u>Total Funds</u>
FY2007 Management Plan	10,114.6	11,197.0	0.0	21,311.6
FY2008 Governor	10,114.6	11,197.0	0.0	21,311.6