

State of Alaska FY2009 Governor's Operating Budget

Department of Labor and Workforce Development Independent Living Rehabilitation Component Budget Summary

Component: Independent Living Rehabilitation

Contribution to Department's Mission

This component contributes to the department's mission by promoting a philosophy of independent living through peer support, self-help, self-determination, equal access, and individual and system advocacy in order to maximize the empowerment, independence, employment and productivity of individuals with disabilities, and their integration and full inclusion into mainstream society.

Core Services

The Independent Living Centers address the needs of individuals who have significant disabilities. Due to the extent of their disability, many of these individuals do not possess the skills needed to live independently. A major focus of Alaska's Centers for Independent Living is providing individuals with disabilities the skills and tools necessary to make choices and gain full inclusion and integration into society, employment and independent living. Staff at the Centers work directly with individuals providing skill training, counseling and the purchase of assistive technologies that make it possible for them to live, socialize and work as independently as they are capable. The Centers also advocate for the rights of people with disabilities and collaborate with numerous agencies, boards, and groups to achieve equal access and services for all people with disabilities.

FY2009 Resources Allocated to Achieve Results		
FY2009 Component Budget: \$1,659,100	Personnel:	
	Full time	0
	Part time	0
	Total	0

Key Component Challenges

Many individuals who are disabled, especially those in villages, are forced to move and live elsewhere due to a lack of services such as Hospice, medical support and transportation. These individuals require several supports such as housing access, housing weatherization, chore services and overall security/safety services (especially for elders with Alzheimer's), to remain in their communities.

Providing services to individuals who reside in rural areas continues to be challenging and expensive. The expenses have increased significantly during this past year due to the increased cost of fuel. Although villages were visited during this past year, services and visits were sporadic. Services tend to be discontinued once the independent living staff leaves. Residents in villages do not know how to access grants or training that would enable them to continue to provide needed services.

Throughout the years Centers for Independent Living have tried to and been somewhat successful in obtaining additional funds from other funding sources. However, once the funding has ended, it has been difficult and at times impossible to continue the projects and services.

Funding has not been adequate to serve all individuals especially those with cross and multiple disabilities. These groups include individuals with severe mental illness, developmental disabilities, traumatic brain injuries and those who are blind and deaf. The incident in both traumatic brain injuries and Alzheimer's has risen substantially during this past year due to the aging population and veterans from war. Many individuals, especially those who suffer traumatic brain injuries have chosen to receive clinical and counseling services at centers for independent living. This too has put a significant strain on finances.

Another challenge is determining how to best contact individuals to provide information about services that are available. Computer services are not always available and many individuals in rural areas don't have access to or don't have the skills to operate a computer.

Independent living centers have discovered that many individuals with disabilities who reside in nursing homes are not aware of community based services that would allow them to live in less restrictive and substantially less expensive environments. Although many individuals have been diverted from entering and others have been assisted in leaving nursing homes, this continues to be an ongoing challenge due to funding and the significant amount of staff time involved. Centers will continue to conduct outreach to the public and private sector to educate them about the availability of programs that provide alternatives to institutional and nursing facility living.

Significant Changes in Results to be Delivered in FY2009

A requested \$39.5 General Fund increase in Independent Living funds will help fill critical gaps in IL services. Approximately 85 individuals will receive IL services with this increase in funding.

The Alaska State Independent Living Council (SILC), utilizing the federal Aging and Disability Resource Center grant, is working with the Centers for Independent Living (CIL) to divert people with significant disabilities from entering institutional care facilities. Contracts are in place with the CIL's in Fairbanks, Anchorage, Kenai and Juneau.

Major Component Accomplishments in 2007

There was a significant increase in services delivered to both the elderly and youth this past year. Services to youth tended to be centered around employment and recreation while the elderly tended to receive independent living skill services. Three of the four centers received training from the Division about providing vocational services to those who are most severely disabled. As a result, more individuals who were most severely disabled received and obtained employment than previous years.

One independent living center, Access Alaska in Fairbanks worked closely with their city's transportation department explaining the transportation needs of several residents who were disabled. As a result a transportation plan was developed; the hours of operation for public transportation were extended and the routes were expanded.

More services this past year were provided to those identified as "underserved" including Asians, African Americans and Pacific Islanders. The centers for independent living will strive to continue to provide services to those identified as underserved.

Arctic Access, an independent living center that provides services in the northern regions, held cross regional meetings with a variety of providers that serve the elderly. This resulted in better service coordination and allowed several individuals to continue to receive services in rural/remote areas after the center staff were no longer there.

A Network of Care website was developed which provides a lengthy description of services and service providers available throughout the state. This will greatly assist in providing outreach and information to many individuals and agencies statewide.

Statutory and Regulatory Authority

Federal Authority:

34 CFR Parts 364 - 367

PL 150 – 220 Title IV

State Independent Living Services Program and Centers for Independent Living Program
Section 410. Independent Living Services and Centers for Independent Living

Statutory Authority:

AS 23.15

AS 47.80.300

Employment Service – Vocational Rehabilitation Program
Statewide Independent Living Council

Administrative Regulations:

8 AAC 98

Vocational Rehabilitation Program

Contact Information

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Independent Living Rehabilitation Component Financial Summary			
		<i>All dollars shown in thousands</i>	
	FY2007 Actuals	FY2008 Management Plan	FY2009 Governor
Non-Formula Program:			
Component Expenditures:			
71000 Personal Services	0.0	0.0	0.0
72000 Travel	0.0	11.6	11.6
73000 Services	0.0	34.0	34.0
74000 Commodities	0.0	1.5	1.5
75000 Capital Outlay	0.0	0.0	0.0
77000 Grants, Benefits	1,383.2	1,572.5	1,612.0
78000 Miscellaneous	0.0	0.0	0.0
Expenditure Totals	1,383.2	1,619.6	1,659.1
Funding Sources:			
1002 Federal Receipts	559.4	770.8	770.8
1003 General Fund Match	58.1	58.1	58.1
1004 General Fund Receipts	765.7	790.7	830.2
Funding Totals	1,383.2	1,619.6	1,659.1

Estimated Revenue Collections				
Description	Master Revenue Account	FY2007 Actuals	FY2008 Management Plan	FY2009 Governor
Unrestricted Revenues				
None.		0.0	0.0	0.0
Unrestricted Total		0.0	0.0	0.0
Restricted Revenues				
Federal Receipts	51010	559.4	770.8	770.8
Restricted Total		559.4	770.8	770.8
Total Estimated Revenues		559.4	770.8	770.8

**Summary of Component Budget Changes
From FY2008 Management Plan to FY2009 Governor**

All dollars shown in thousands

	<u>General Funds</u>	<u>Federal Funds</u>	<u>Other Funds</u>	<u>Total Funds</u>
FY2008 Management Plan	848.8	770.8	0.0	1,619.6
Proposed budget increases:				
-Increase General Funds to Provide Independent Living Services in Rural Communities	39.5	0.0	0.0	39.5
FY2009 Governor	888.3	770.8	0.0	1,659.1