

State of Alaska
FY2013 Governor's Operating Budget

Department of Public Safety
Village Public Safety Officer Program
Results Delivery Unit Budget Summary

Village Public Safety Officer Program Results Delivery Unit

Contribution to Department's Mission

Preserve public peace and protect life and property in rural villages.

Core Services

- Contract with non-profit organizations and local governments/boroughs to provide Village Public Safety Officer (VPSO) services throughout rural Alaska.

Major Activities to Advance Strategies

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VPSO training academy • VPSO regional update training • Driving under the influence (DUI) patrols • Domestic violence and DUI training • Report writing and investigation in-service • Coordination with outside domestic violence-related agencies and support groups • Domestic violence supervisory case review with district attorney coordination • Provide search and rescue management training • Water safety education • Increased inspections • Crime Stoppers | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alcoholic Beverage Control Board (ABC) training • Coordination of ABC investigations • Provide boater safety public education • Provide boater safety training to VPSOs and AST • D.A.R.E. programs • Alcohol Rewards program • Patrol high crime areas • Investigator training • Enhanced communications between jurisdictions • Community Oriented Policing (COP) training • Participation in village council meetings |
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Key RDU Challenges

Village Public Safety Officers (VPSO) are the first responders to incidents, and may be the only individuals immediately available to provide a broad range of public safety services in their village. These functions range from basic law enforcement, to probationer and parolee supervision, provision of first aid to the injured, assisting with search and rescue missions, fire prevention activities, and public safety education.

With the increase in the number of VPSO positions, the ability to provide adequate housing and office facilities within communities is increasingly more challenging. With the suppressed economies within rural Alaska, many communities are looking to the state or federal government for funding sources.

Due to the expansion and enhancement of cell phone service in most rural Alaska communities, an increase in calls for service has been experienced throughout the VPSO program. Although providing better public access to the VPSO, the need to manage and prioritize these calls for service will be a challenge.

The VPSO program has grown in FY2011 and FY2012 but with the decreasing availability of federal grants, the program will rely on state general funds to support other associated expenses within the program. Continued grant management and oversight will require significant staff time. A concentrated effort is needed to collectively communicate regional public safety needs within villages when applying for federal grants. The VPSO command staff is reaching out to these communities and offering assistance, justification, and collaboration regionally to demonstrate to those who review the applications that we are using all available public safety resources and that grant funds will be utilized wisely.

Significant Changes in Results to be Delivered in FY2013

The legislature appropriated funding in FY2012 for fifteen additional VPSO officers and the necessary support for these new positions. In addition, they provided funds to enable a replacement schedule for existing VPSO

equipment. This appropriation is part of the Governor's commitment to provide law enforcement in all communities within rural Alaska. This appropriation brought the total funded positions to 101. An additional 15 VPSOs, along with associated support costs, are included in the Governor's FY2013 budget. If approved, the total number of funded Village Public Safety Officers will rise to 116 in FY2013.

Housing construction for the VPSO program in the communities of Akiak and Igiugig began in FY2012, funded through the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation. These opportunities are expected to continue to be available in FY2013 for communities who provide the justification and support for a VPSO. In FY2013, the VPSO program staff will offer assistance to the non-profits and borough in facilitating the submittal of these grant requests and along with requests for federal grants that support public safety.

Major RDU Accomplishments in 2011

During FY2011, significant effort was focused on recruitment in the VPSO program. With the introduction of a video, which showed a realistic view of academy life and on-the-job responsibilities while working in the communities, the program is now reaping the benefits of these recruitment commitments. Retention within the program has stabilized and the quality and quantity of applicants has increased. At the beginning of FY2011, there were 68 VPSOs employed and by the end of FY2011 that had risen to 85 VPSOs.

With the introduction of the Northwest Arctic Borough into the VPSO program, positions increased from two to six within a region that previously had difficulty finding applicants.

The following lists the activity within the program during FY2011:

- AST conducted 4,234 VPSO village visits statewide.
- Troopers conducted 13,169 oversight hours, an increase from FY2010 by 2,494 hours.
- Twenty of the twenty-four new VPSO hires graduated from the Sitka academy in January 2011. This is a considerable increase in retention from the twelve of twenty-one graduates from the previous class.
- A dedicated trooper VPSO oversight at the Bethel Post assisted the local non-profit coordinator in supervision of 30 VPSOs within the region.
- Statewide, VPSOs investigated 6,884 cases, including 89 driving under the influence (DUI), 184 domestic violence assaults, and 142 other assaults.

Although the total number of cases increased statewide from 5,351 to 6,884 and can be attributed to more VPSO's doing community police type activities. The actual criminal case activities have gone down statewide from 111 DUI's in FY2010 to 89 in FY2011, domestic violence assaults from 250 to 184 in FY2011, and other assaults from 158 to 142 in FY2011.

The significant decrease in criminal case activities, increase in trooper oversight hours, and additional VPSO positions is a testimony that having VPSOs in villages is working and goes along with the Governor's commitment to the VPSO program and Safe Homes and Strong Families.

Contact Information
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**Village Public Safety Officer Program
RDU Financial Summary by Component**

All dollars shown in thousands

	FY2011 Actuals				FY2012 Management Plan				FY2013 Governor			
	UGF+DGF Funds	Other Funds	Federal Funds	Total Funds	UGF+DGF Funds	Other Funds	Federal Funds	Total Funds	UGF+DGF Funds	Other Funds	Federal Funds	Total Funds
Formula Expenditures None.												
Non-Formula Expenditures												
VPSO Contracts	10,102.7	0.0	0.0	10,102.7	12,717.7	0.0	0.0	12,717.7	14,376.6	0.0	0.0	14,376.6
VPSO Support	315.5	171.5	0.0	487.0	478.7	176.3	0.0	655.0	1,874.6	2.0	0.0	1,876.6
Totals	10,418.2	171.5	0.0	10,589.7	13,196.4	176.3	0.0	13,372.7	16,251.2	2.0	0.0	16,253.2

**Village Public Safety Officer Program
Summary of RDU Budget Changes by Component
From FY2012 Management Plan to FY2013 Governor**

All dollars shown in thousands

	<u>Unrestricted Gen (UGF)</u>	<u>Designated Gen (DGF)</u>	<u>Other Funds</u>	<u>Federal Funds</u>	<u>Total Funds</u>
FY2012 Management Plan	13,196.4	0.0	176.3	0.0	13,372.7
Adjustments which will continue current level of service:					
-VPSO Contracts	-426.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	-426.7
-VPSO Support	601.7	0.0	-170.0	0.0	431.7
Proposed budget decreases:					
-VPSO Support	0.0	0.0	-4.3	0.0	-4.3
Proposed budget increases:					
-VPSO Contracts	2,085.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	2,085.6
-VPSO Support	794.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	794.2
FY2013 Governor	16,251.2	0.0	2.0	0.0	16,253.2