

Change Record Detail With Description
Alaska Court System

Scenario: FY2013 Supplemental (10508)
Component: Trial Courts (AR 76200) (768)
RDU: Alaska Court System (244)

Scenario/Change Record Title	Trans Type	Totals	Personal Services	Travel	Services	Commodities	Capital Outlay	Grants, Benefits	Miscellaneous	Positions		
										PFT	PPT	NP
FY2013 Supplemental												
Americans with Disabilities Act Accommodation in Bethel												
	Suppl	526.9	88.3	92.6	296.2	49.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
1004 Gen Fund		526.9										

The Alaska Court System is required to provide a reasonable accommodation to assist a hearing impaired judge who was appointed to the superior court bench in Bethel in July 2012. After consultation with the appointee and with disability experts, the court system determined that a reasonable accommodation includes: full-time realtime or CART (Communication Access Realtime Translation) transcriptionist capable of immediately translating spoken language into text in the courtroom and in chambers so the judge can understand what is happening in the courtroom and to enable him to communicate with his staff; upgrades to all courtrooms in Bethel to accommodate the transcriptionists' equipment; workstations for the realtime transcriptionist; and a variety of portable assistive communication devices to enhance communication between the judge, his judicial assistant, and his law clerk.

Realtime transcriptionists and CART providers are specialized stenographers capable of translating spoken words into text at extremely fast speeds and levels of accuracy. The training and experience necessary to perform accurately and in real time far exceeds the qualifications of most deposition or court stenographic reporters. There is one certified CART provider in Alaska. There are only two certified CART providers in the state of Washington, and only one in Oregon. There are only 228 certified CART providers in the country. CART providers charge as much as or more than realtime reporters. In addition to capturing the spoken words, CART providers are trained to convey the "spirit of the speaker" and to add interpretive information to the translation to allow the deaf person to understand what is happening in the courtroom, such as telling the judge there is laughter in the room or feedback from the microphone. CART providers charge up to \$140/hour. The court system has negotiated a daily rate ranging between \$675 and \$1,000 for the contracted work taking place during the regular workday. Because of night and weekend judicial coverage requirements, CART providers or realtime transcriptionists also need to be available and work when the judge is on call for night and weekend duty. This extra duty results in additional compensation over the daily rate. The majority of the expense for the ADA accommodation is for the contractual services and related travel expenses to have the certified contractors' onsite in Bethel.

Ultimately, it is the court system's desire to directly hire staff to fulfill the ADA accommodation requirements of this judge. On January 7, 2013, a full-time Bethel-based employee was hired to work and train with the consultants and eventually obtain certification as either a realtime court reporter or CART provider. A training program is estimated to take in excess of two years. In the near-term, the court system will continue to hire contractors with the necessary CART certifications or realtime transcription experience.

For FY2013, the court estimates that it will require \$526,900 to pay the expenses associated with this accommodation. This amount is higher than the amount requested for FY2014 due to the associated start-up costs. The court system is keeping detailed accounting records for the expenses associated with this accommodation and intends to lapse any unused funding appropriated during the FY2013 supplemental budget process. A similar request is included in the FY2014 Governor's budget in the amount of \$456.8.

Component Totals		526.9	88.3	92.6	296.2	49.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
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