

VPSO WORKING GROUP

OVERVIEW OF REPORT: RECOMMENDATIONS AND FINDINGS

DPS HOUSE FINANCE BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE

REP. KOPP WORKING GROUP CO-CHAIR

JANUARY 28, 2020

WORKING GROUP ASSIGNMENT

- Engage stakeholders and make recommendations “to the legislature to consider to structurally revamp the VPSO program during the 2020 legislative session.” Solutions were to address:
 - Increasing the number of VPSOs
 - Inequity in pay
 - Lack of housing
 - Officer safety
 - Low morale

THE VPSO ORGANIZATIONS

- Chugachmiut is consortium of seven tribes in the Chugach region of Southcentral Alaska surrounding the Prince William Sound.
- Copper River Native Association.
- Aleutian Pribiloff Islands Association serves Unangax tribal citizens in 13 communities in Southwestern Alaska, the Aleutian Chain, and the Pribilof Islands.
- Kodiak Area Native Association serves Alaska Natives, primarily Sugpiaq tribal citizens, on the Kodiak Archipelago.
- Kawerak is the nonprofit arm of the Bering Straits Native Association which was formed in 1967 as an association of the Native Villages in the Bering Straits region: It serves tribal citizens who are primarily Inupiat, Yup'ik and St. Lawrence Island Yupik.

VPSO ORGANIZATIONS

- Northwest Arctic Borough is a regional government in Northwestern Alaska whose population is approximately 7,800 and includes the communities of Ambler, Buckland, Deering, Kiana, Kivalina, Kobuk, Kotzebue, Noatak, Noorvik, Selawik & Shungnak.
- Alaska Village Council Presidents is a consortium that includes 56 tribes in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta. The population served is primarily Yup'ik, Cup'ig, and Cup'ik.
- Bristol Bay Native Association is a consortium of 31 tribal councils in the Bristol Bay region that serves tribal citizens located in Bristol Bay region.
- Tanana Chiefs Association is located in interior Alaska and represents 42 primarily Athabaskan tribes in the Yukon-Koyukuk area and Greater Fairbanks.

VPSO ORGANIZATIONS

- Central Council of Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska is the first federally recognized tribe in the state and serves Tlingit and Haida tribal citizens in Southeast Alaska.

SHORT TERM RECOMMENDATIONS



RECOMMENDATION I.

Update the VPSO statutes to provide a clear law enforcement and public safety vision and mission for the program and provide VPSO personnel clear law enforcement duties and powers.

RECOMMENDATION 2.

Create more financial flexibility for the VPSO grantee organizations into the updated VPSO statutes.

RECOMMENDATION 3.

Restore VPSO funding levels to FY18 levels.

RECOMMENDATION 4.

Fund unfunded mandates.

RECOMMENDATION 5.

Related to Recommendation 4, in an updated VPSO statute, mandate that grant awards pay grantee organization their full indirect costs.

RECOMMENDATION 6.

Move financial grant management to the Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development.

RECOMMENDATION 7.

Maintain operational advisory, training and experience requirement oversight at the Department of Public Safety.

RECOMMENDATION 8.

In statute create a Tribal/Grantee organization consultation process before the Department can change training and experience requirements.

RECOMMENDATION 9.

Revised versions (consistent with the recommendations of this report) of current VPSO regulations need to be placed in statute in order to operationalize the VPSO program and to facilitate the grant management moving to the Department of Commerce.

LONG TERM RECOMMENDATIONS



Work to define the true cost of providing fully operational public safety services throughout rural Alaska.

CONTINUE WORKING WITH FEDERAL PARTNERS

Greater recurring federal funds for public safety: Alaska is a Federal P.L. 280 state where states have concurrent criminal jurisdiction with Tribes, unlike non-P.L.280 states. The BIA historically does not request tribal court or law enforcement appropriations for P.L 280 states, making the law an unfunded mandate for P.L. 280 tribes and states. Senator Murkowski has secured special funding for tribal court development in P.L. 280 states. These efforts need to continue and the state should take every step necessary to encourage the Alaska Congressional delegation to secure such recurring funding.

CONTINUE WORKING WITH FEDERAL PARTNERS

Training: with formal state tribal recognition, tribes may be able access federal law enforcement training programs; these federal programs could augment the Trooper academy where current VPSO training is offered. The federal training could be offered in other regions of the state besides Sitka. The monolithic/Sitka only training makes recruitment difficult; offering training closer to home for other regions could improve VPSO recruitment and retention.

Explore passing a state version of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (P.L. 93-638 as amended): if passed, the state could formally compact with Tribes and offer the maximum amount of program design/redesign and financial flexibility for the various VPSO grantees

Consider creating upward mobility for VPSO positions: either through compacting or state statutory changes or both, consider providing for different levels of VPSO personnel related to levels of training; the highest VPSO level being equivalent in function, training, and pay to a State Trooper.

VPSO PROGRAM BUDGET INFORMATION



FY2019 VPSO Grant Awards			
Grantee	Grant Award Amount	Grant Expenditures	Grant Award Lapse Balance
APIA	1,262,840	1,153,273	109,567
AVCP	1,398,642	1,398,642	0
BBNA	955,342	902,880	52,462
CCTH	923,170	887,202	35,968
CHUG	330,005	328,118	1,887
CRNA	354,666	354,666	0
KANA	559,398	493,903	65,495
KAWE	1,015,703	931,122	84,581
NWAB	902,692	894,420	8,272
TCC	1,050,205	1,050,205	0
TOTAL	8,752,662	8,394,430	358,232

FY2020 VPSO Grant Awards			
Grantee	Grant Award Amount	Grant Payments Issued	Grant Award Balance
APIA	1,226,759	613,380	613,379
AVCP	1,721,807	860,904	860,903
BBNA	716,806	358,404	358,402
CCTH	873,947	436,974	436,973
CHUG	339,962	169,981	169,981
CRNA	725,063	362,532	362,531
KANA	680,359	340,180	340,179
KAWE	1,122,444	561,222	561,222
NWAB	353,377	179,689	173,688
TCC	1,187,674	593,838	593,836
TOTAL	8,948,197	4,477,104	4,471,093

FY2020 VPSO Program Appropriation

Line Item	Appropriation Amt	Purpose
Personal Services	929,000	Salary and benefit costs for five PFT postions (Captain, Sergeant, Program Coordinator II, Admin Asst III, Admin Asst I) and two non-perm State Trooper positions.
Travel	564,600	Costs of travel for VPSO program staff and VPSOs to attend training, meetings, or other program-specific events and travel to rural communities by VPSOs or Troopers.
Services	541,800	Contractual services including core services costs and liability insurance for the VPSO program.
Commodities	117,300	Supply items such as business and office supplies, VPSO uniforms, and law enforcement protective gear and supplies.
Grants, Benefits	8,905,400	Sub-recipient grants to eligible organizations to administer the VPSO program within their region.
TOTAL	11,058,100	

THANK YOU

