

Public Safety through Public Service



Alaska State Troopers

Village Public Safety Officer Program



House Finance Subcommittee

Presentation by

Captain Andrew Merrill, Alaska State Troopers

Sergeant Jody Potts, VPSO Tanana Chiefs Conference

February 1, 2018

VPSOs partnering with rural Alaskans to improve safety and quality of life

Alaska State Troopers Village Public Safety Officer Program

- Village Public Safety Officer (VPSO) program developed to supplement the Department of Public Safety to rural communities





Alaska State Troopers Village Public Safety Officer Program



Crime Rates Per Capita - Assume Population of 500



02/01/2018

VPSO Program Overview
Prepared by DPS



Alaska State Troopers Village Public Safety Officer Program



Crime Rates Per Capita - Assume Population of 500



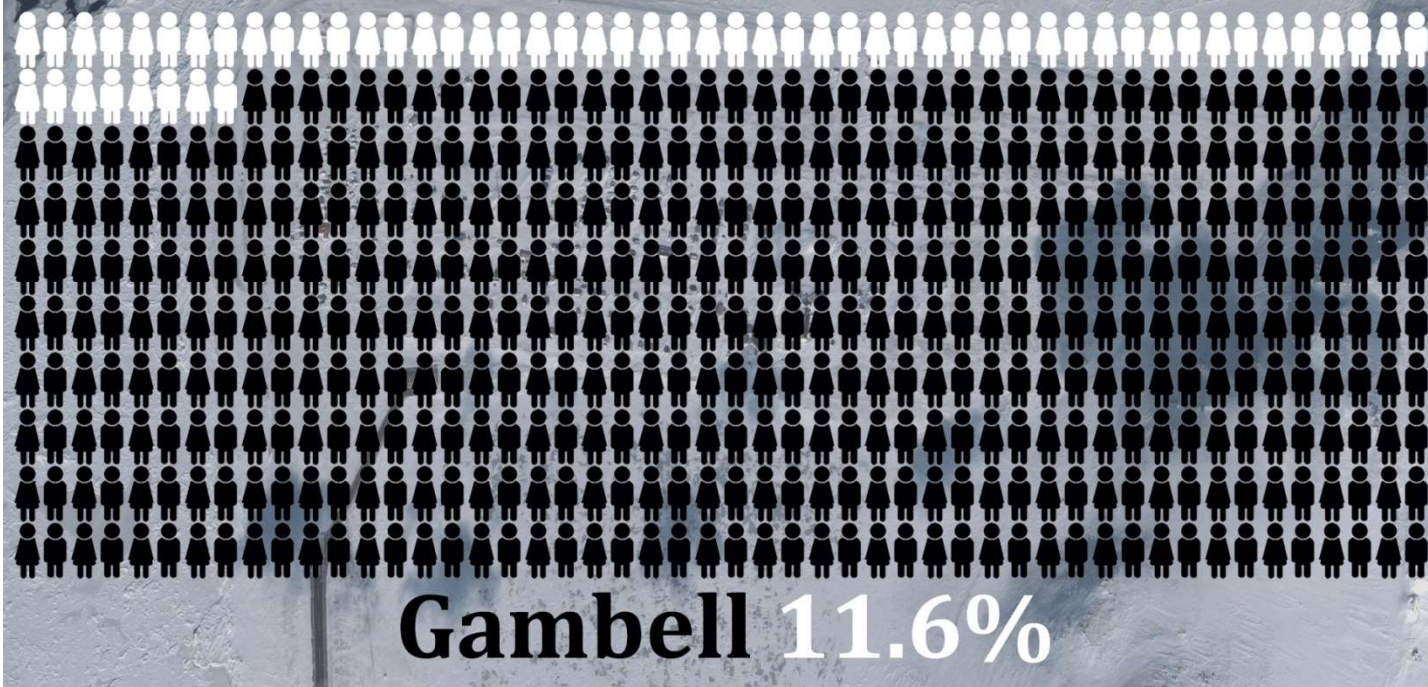
Anchorage 4.6%



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Crime Rates Per Capita - Assume Population of 500

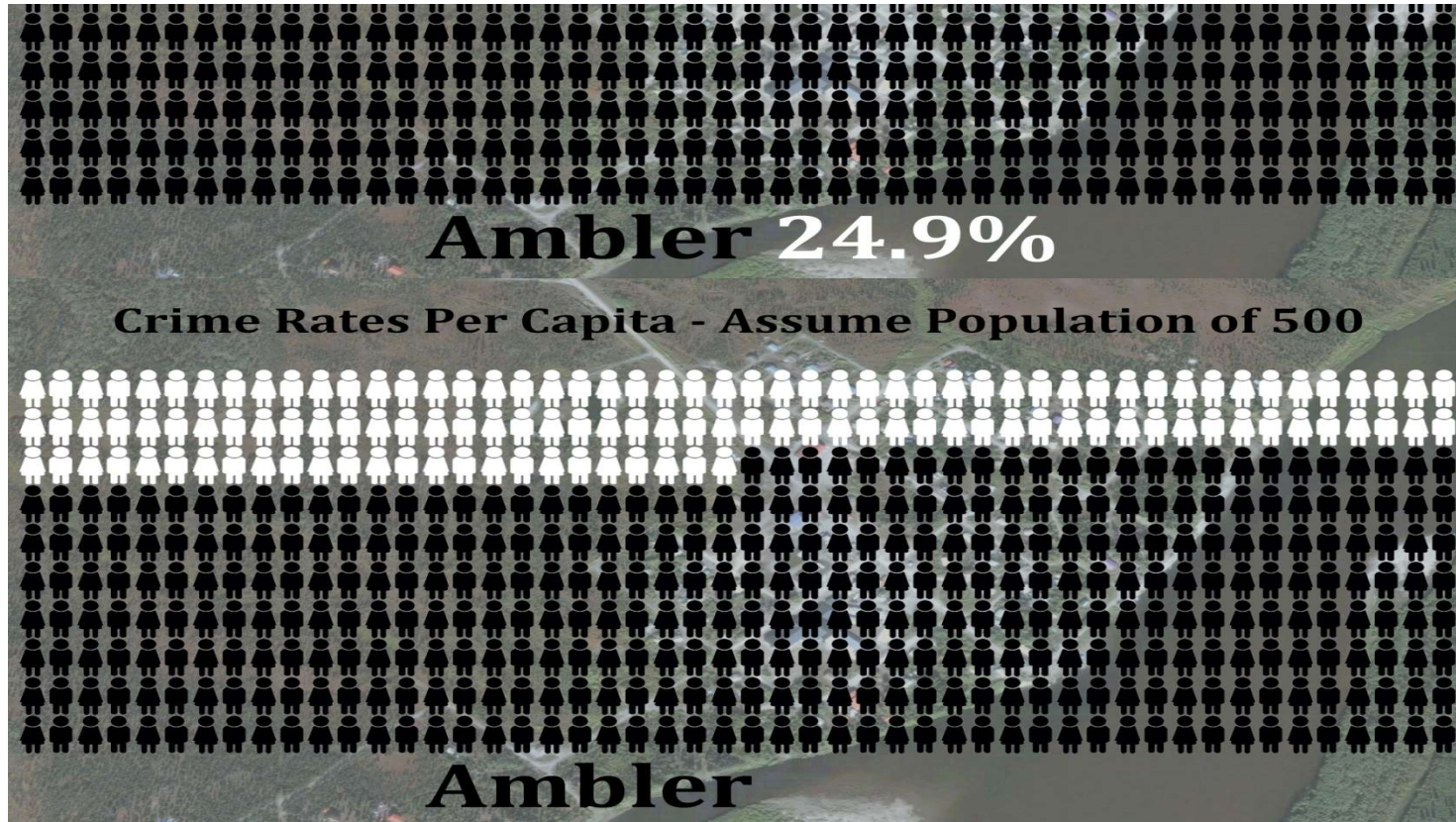


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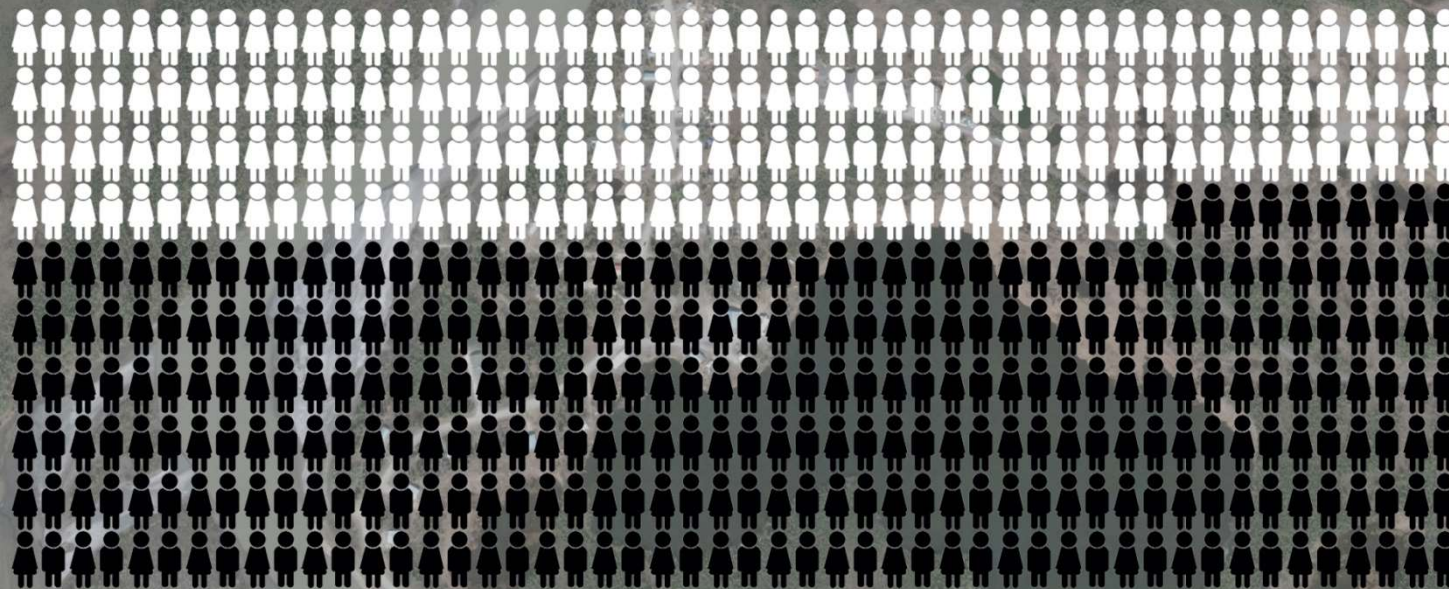
VPSO Program Overview
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Village Public Safety Officer Program



Crime Rates Per Capita - Assume Population of 500



Northway 38.0%



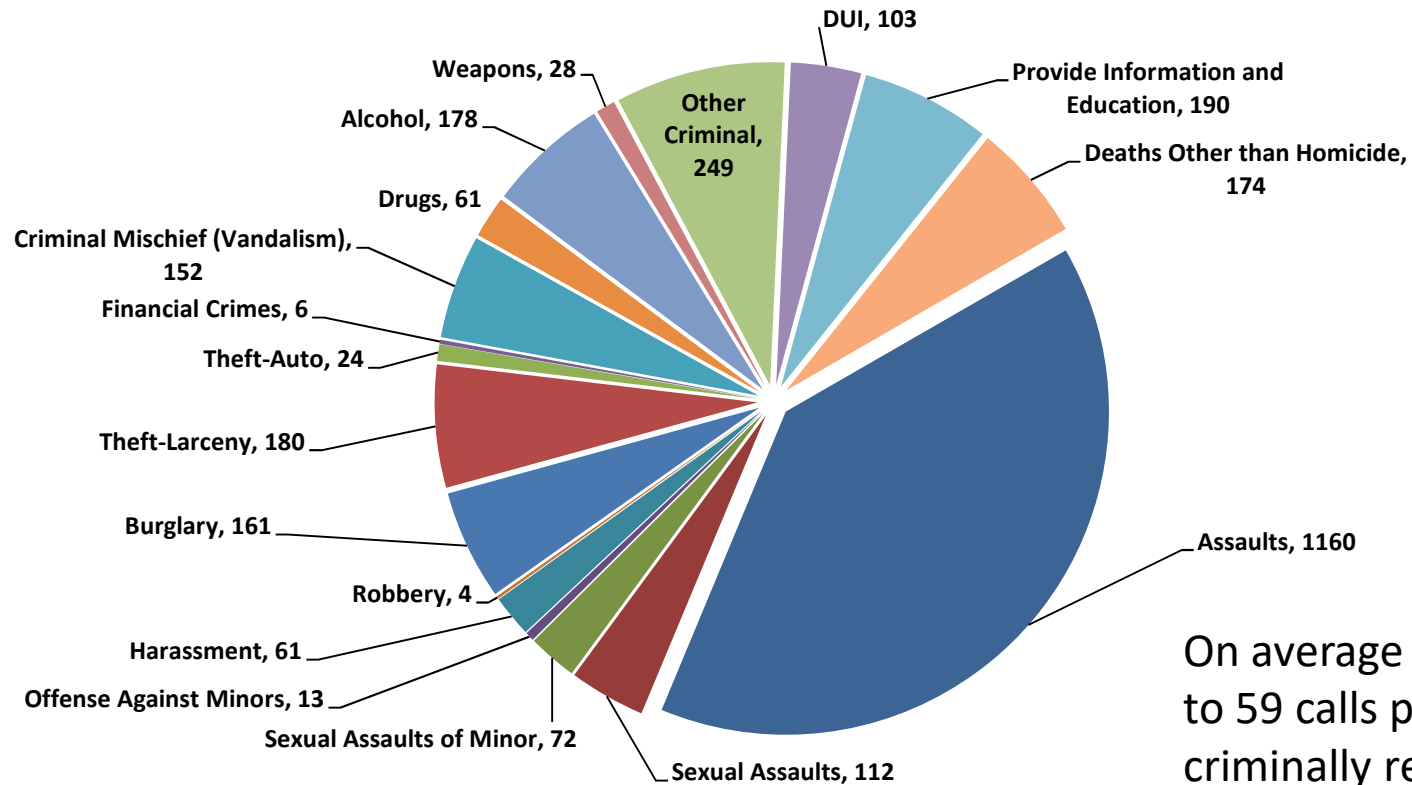
Village Public Safety Officer Program



Crime Rates Per Capita - Assume Population of 500



VPSO Criminal Case Activity for 2017

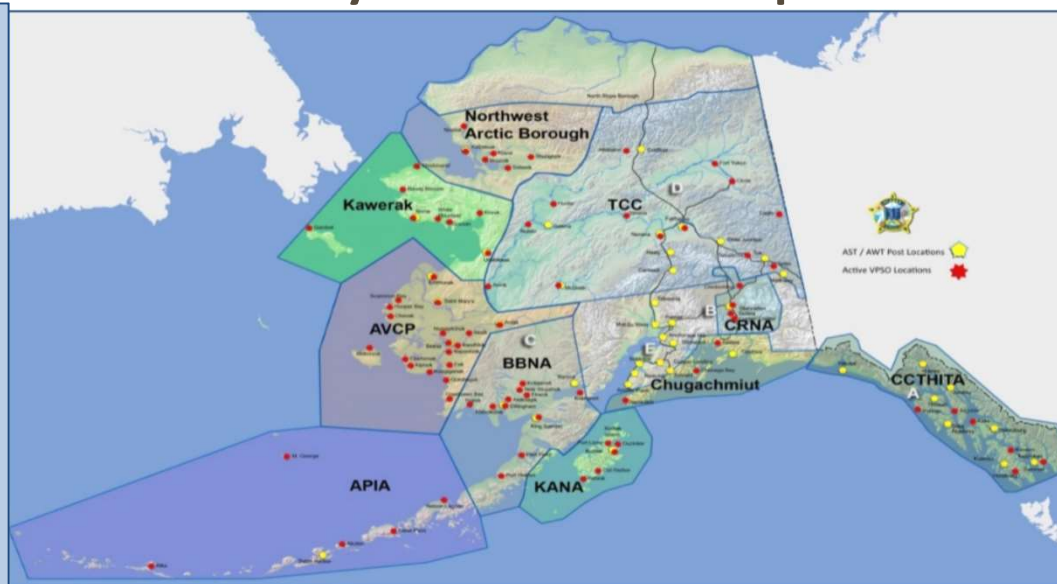


On average this equates to 59 calls per VPSO for criminally related activities.

VPSO Positions

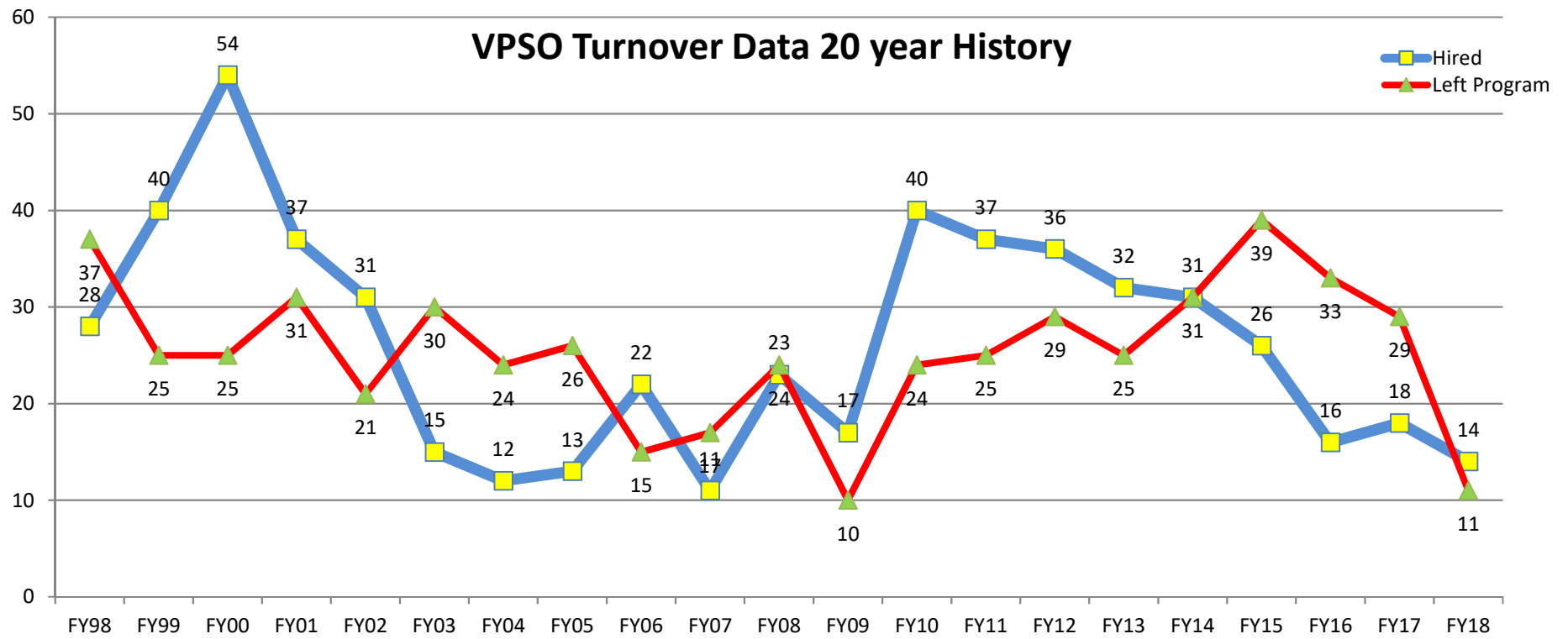
FY17 Funding approximately 68 funded positions

APIA	- 6 VPSO
AVCP	- 9 VPSO
BBNA	- 5 VPSO
CCTHITA	- 6 VPSO
Chugachmiut	- 3 VPSO
CRNA	- 0 VPSO
Kawerak, Inc.	- 6 VPSO
KANA	- 4 VPSO
NAB	- 6 VPSO
TCC	- 7 VPSO
Total	- 52 VPSO





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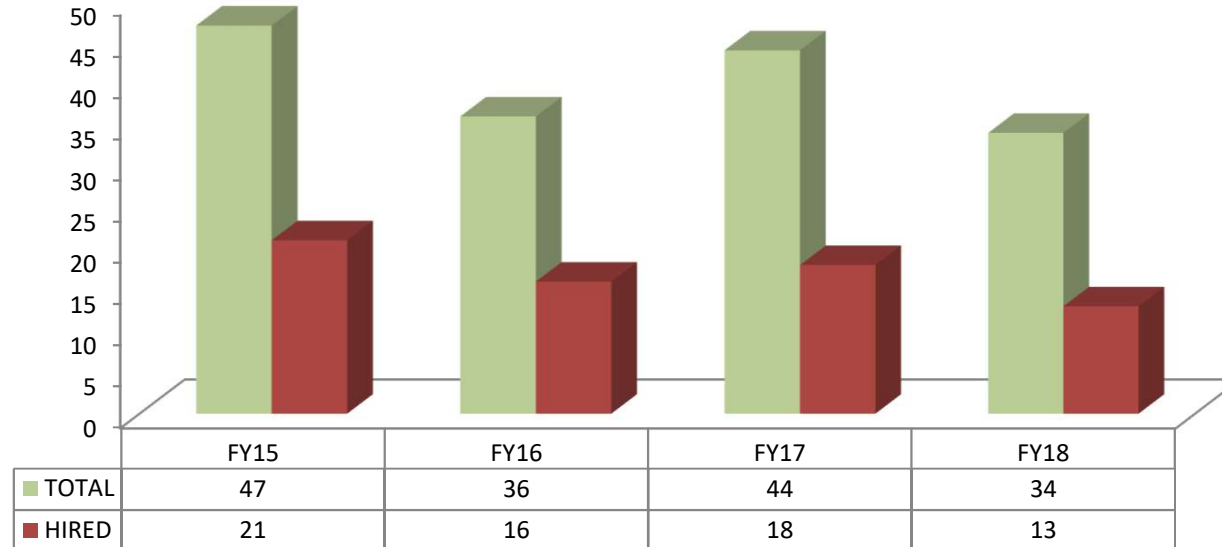




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VPSO applicants reviewed and hired, FY15-FY18 (to date 1/30/2018)

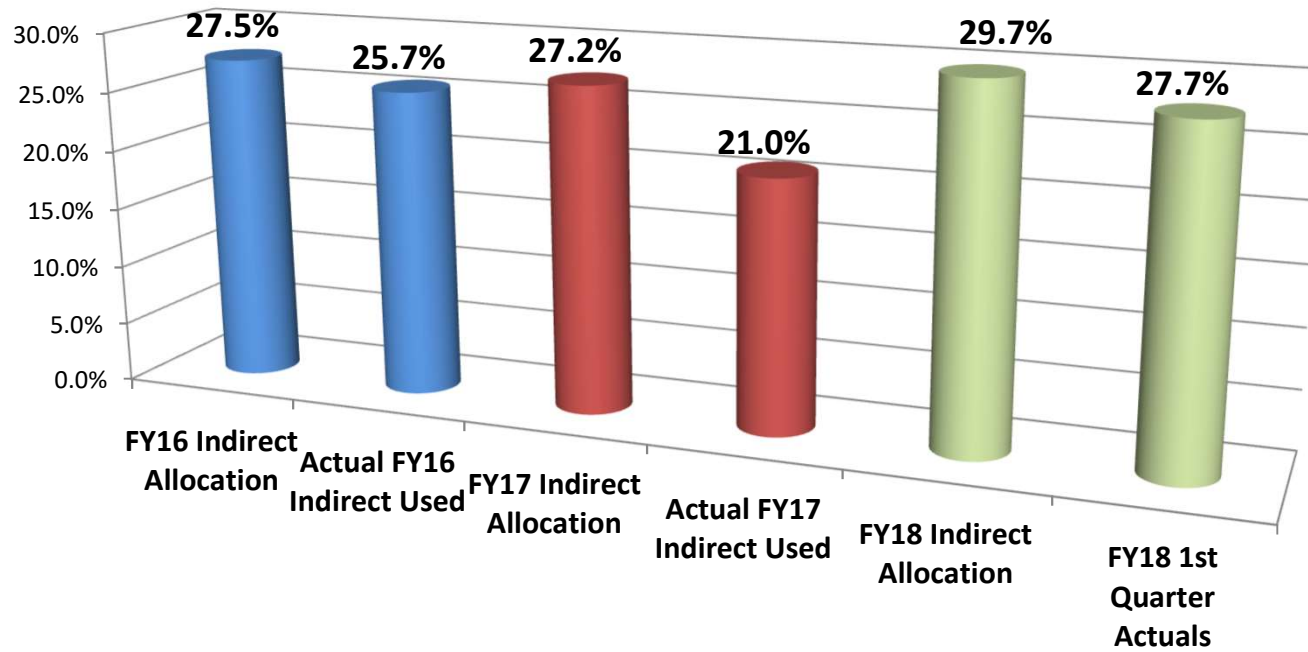




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Allocation to Actual Comparison of Indirect

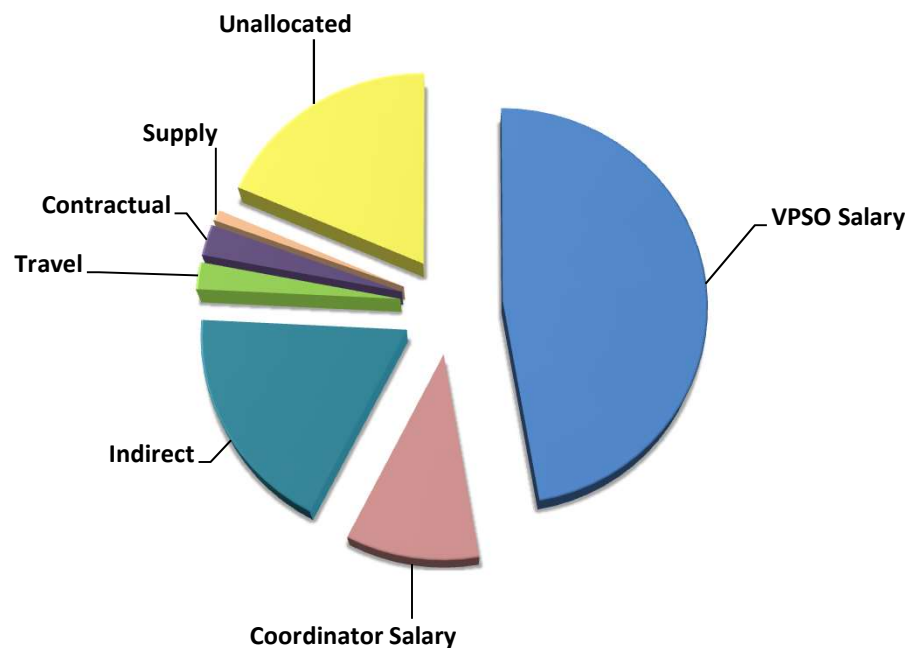




Village Public Safety Officer Program



Grant Component Costs



Breakout of Funds Awarded in the Grant Component:

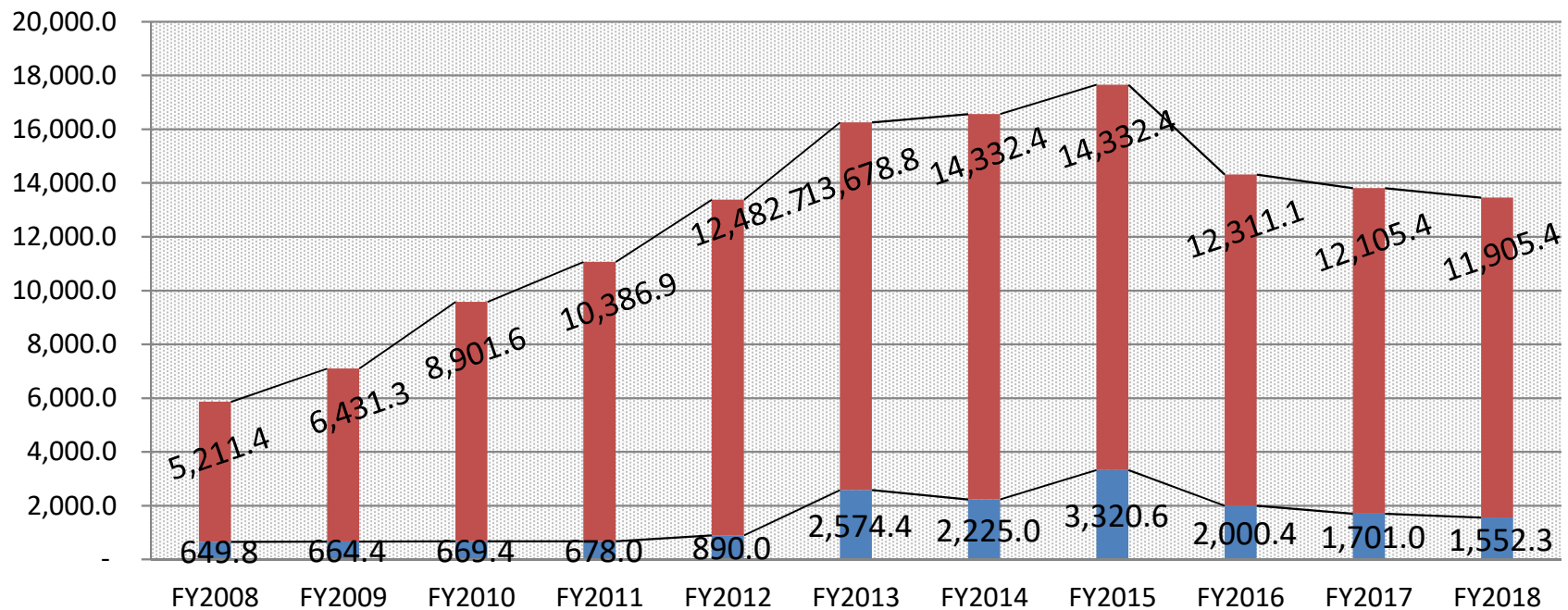
Personal Services	\$5,631,479
Coordinator	\$1,216,051
Travel	\$263,536
Contractual	\$303,247
Supply	\$107,228
Indirect	\$2,175,491
Unallocated	\$2,208,369



Village Public Safety Officer Program



VPSO Program Budget



Alaska State Troopers Village Public Safety Officer Program



State of Alaska
Department of Public Safety
Village Public Safety Officer Program

CLEAR FORM

SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING or
GRANT MODIFICATION REQUEST

REQ# _____
Amend # _____
APPR _____
EN _____

Proposal Name: _____	
Budget Personal Services \$ _____ Travel \$ _____ Contractual \$ _____ Supply \$ _____ Equipment \$ _____ Indirect \$ _____ \$ 0	Reason for submitting this request: <input type="checkbox"/> Make a modification to the grant activities that were NOT included in the grant application. <input type="checkbox"/> Supplemental Funding for New Grant Activity. <input type="checkbox"/> Supplemental Funding for Approved Not Funded Grant Activity. <input type="checkbox"/> Personal Services Reallocation Requested \$ _____ <input type="checkbox"/> CIP Funding for equipment or supplies from the VPSO Capital Improvement Project (CIP) funds.
Project Proposal Synopsis Briefly describe the purpose/need for this request. Additional pages of explanation may be included if necessary.	
Before you submit, review this checklist and include all necessary documentation with this request: Attachment Checklist <input type="checkbox"/> Budget Modification Worksheet (Mandatory for Supplemental funding and modifications to your grant) <input type="checkbox"/> Quote, bid, or cost proposal from vendors (Mandatory for Supply, Equipment & Service funding requests) <input type="checkbox"/> Photos (Mandatory for building and infrastructure repairs and/or replacement) <input type="checkbox"/> Letter of Request, MOA or contract with community documenting usage agreement. (Mandatory for infrastructure funding requests)	
I understand that if this request includes an amendment to the grant, that amendment will be executed only after a final review at the end of the quarter has been made to determine that the financial need continues to exist for additional funding in this VPSO grant. In order to avoid encumbering unnecessarily statewide program funding, all amendments may be adjusted or eliminated based on the circumstances as determined by DPS.	
Submitted by: _____	Date: _____
For VPSO Support Office Use Only: <input type="checkbox"/> Approved Approved Budget \$ _____ Amendment \$ _____ Determination: _____ _____ Captain Andrew Merrill, VPSO Program Commander Date: _____	
Quarterly Amendment Recommendation <input type="checkbox"/> Approve <input type="checkbox"/> Deny Amendment \$ _____ _____ Captain Andrew Merrill, VPSO Program Commander Date: _____	

Submitting a Funding Request

- When to Submit Funding Requests.** Funding Requests can be submitted at any time during the grant year.
- Funding Request Number:** Each Funding Request will be assigned a number by the VPSO Support Office. This helps us track each request to ensure we account for all the requests across the program.
- Reason(s) for Submitting:** Review the list of reasons and choose the reason that best fits why you are making the request:
 - Modify Grant activities** by adding a new activity, but no additional funding, to the award that was NOT included in the grant application.
 - Supplemental Funding.** Additional funding necessary to be added to your award to perform the activity.
 - Personal Services Reallocation.** necessary if you want to use lapse Personal Services funds to perform a program activity.
 - Request CIP funds.** these funds may be used to purchase uniforms, VPSO equipment or supplies only. If you have a question about your project being eligible for CIP funds contact VPSO Program Commander on the specifics of the project before you submit your request.

Filling Out a Funding Request:

- Project Proposal Synopsis:** The synopsis section should be used to write a brief description of the problem or need for the funding and how the financial solution you are proposing will address this need. If you require additional space, you may attach separate page(s).
- No multiple projects on one Funding Request.** You will need to fill out a separate request for each project. Any requests which we determine are made up of multiple projects, will be returned to you and must be refiled separately.
- Community Contributions.** It is an important consideration to include in your request any monetary or in-kind contributions to the project which a community or communities will be making. A letter or other documentation showing the support should be provided with the Funding Request. If you do not include a letter or email from the community when you submit your proposal, the Support Office may ask for one during the review of the request.
- Community Assistance.** For community assistance requests such as rent for the VPSO facilities or lease payment to the community for VPSO facilities, you will need to provide a copy of an MOU/MOA with the community which has been signed or reviewed within the last 12 months and a letter from the community which spells out their financial situation, including how the costs for the assistance have been calculated and any back up invoices or other documents that support their claim.
- Equipment and Capital Assets.** For the purpose of the Funding Request equipment or capital asset refers to any item with a cost of greater than \$5,000 and a usable life of longer than one year.
- Purchasing Equipment or Capital Assets.** If you are requesting equipment or other capital assets, you will need to: 1) include a copy of the current community or VPSO inventory records and 2) your plans for tracking the property you are requesting.
- Infrastructure construction: new, replacement or repair.** If you are requesting to use VPSO program funds for any building or other infrastructure work, you will need to include an explanation of what type(s) of partnerships your community governing body is putting towards this request as well. List all types of support which will be joined to this request such as in-kind donations, supplies, services, or equipment to accomplish this project.

Funding Request Responses (Approval or Denial) & Amendment Process

- Responses:** All Funding Requests will be responded to in writing and will receive either an Approval with a budget for the project or a Denial with no budget. For a denied funding request, a brief explanation of the denial will be provided on the Funding Request. Appeals for a denied Funding Request should follow the current VPSO grant agreement, Section I General Provisions, Dispute Resolution 10.0. Denied projects may not use VPSO program funds.
- Preliminary Approval of Amendment.** Projects that request supplemental funding may receive Preliminary Approval of Amendment. All requests with Preliminary Approval of Amendment will be reviewed a second time prior to amending the award. This second review will be a recommendation from the VPSO Program Commander to either approve or deny the amendment based upon the program's reported expenses and the existing grant budget. The program will need to demonstrate that from when the project was approved to time when the amendment can be awarded, that the financial need continues to exist and that the supplemental funding will be necessary to complete the project.
- Amendment Approval.** All Funding Requests with Preliminary Approval of Amendment will be forwarded to AST Division Director for approval or denial of the amendment request.
- Amendment Processing:** All amendments which are approved will be processed at the end of the quarter in which the Funding Request was submitted. All Amendments will be encumbered to the award after the quarterly payment has been calculated on the award.

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VPSO Salary Cost Breakdowns

VPSO Salary Cost Breakdown												
Step		VPSO										
# at Step	B	D	E	F	L							
	17	2	1	2	1							
			VPSO Salary Total		\$1,249,426.10							
CPL												
Step	C	D	E	F	H	I	J	Q	L			
# at Step	1	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1			
								CPL Salary Total		\$709,533.50		
SGT												
Step	FS	GS	HS	IS	JS	KS	LS	MS	NS	PS	QS	
# at Step	1	1	2	3	1	1	2	3	1	2	2	
											Sgt Salary Total	\$1,525,849.00
Total VPSO Officers		53										
Total Program Salary Cost for Officers across the program		\$3,484,808.60										
Average Fringe Costs Programwide		47.59%										
Total Estimated Fringe Costs across the program		\$1,658,420.41										
Total Estimated Salary & Fringe Costs across the program		\$5,143,229.01										
Average Indirect Costs Programwide		29.74%										
Total Estimated Fringe Costs for Salary across the program		\$1,529,596.31										
Total Estimated Personnel Costs with Indirect across the program		\$6,672,825.32										



Village Public Safety Officer Program



Recruitment and Retention

- Indirect cap of 15%
 - Challenge: Contingency line item encouraged grantees not to fill a VPSO position to be able to capture more indirect.
 - Solution: DPS approved full federal indirect collection beginning in FY16- Removed any reason for keeping positions vacant
- Granting format
 - Challenge: Granting of all funds at beginning of fiscal year to 10 Participating Grantees limited program wide growth
 - Solution: AST VPSO changed granting process holds unallocated funding in reserve
- Reduced Community Resources
 - Challenge: Communities required to provide office space, holding cell, telephone and other support.
 - Solution: Funding for internet, cell phone, office supplies and other funding included in grant awards



Alaska State Troopers

Village Public Safety Officer Program



Recruitment and Retention

- VPSO Salary-
 - Challenge: no base salary increase for VPSOs since 2014
 - Solution: Creation of AST VPSO office and VPSO Coordinator Salary Committee
 - Introduction of VPSO training pay to reduce overtime costs of VPSOs at long term training mirroring other agencies and DPS
 - Mirrored State salary step and increased the number of steps available to senior VPSOs with 20+ years
 - DPS proposed FY19 Salary increase for VPSO salary schedule of 6% to mirror Trooper increase for difficult to recruit for position
 - Removal of hourly reduced VPSO Training and Counseling officer (TAC) assignment salary schedule
 - Introduction of certification training completion incentive of 1 salary step increase after successful completion of the ALET Academy mirroring DPS Trooper recruit to Trooper status change
- Recruitment-
 - Challenge: Difficulty finding qualified applicants
 - Solution: Creation of AST VPSO office and VPSO Coordinator Retention and Recruitment Committee
 - VPSO Coordinators are the primary recruiters for their organizations- unallocated funding not used for hiring of VPSOs made available to grantees with a plan for use in recruitment efforts
 - Planned VPSO embedded with DPS recruitment office FY18 and FY19 to increase VPSO program wide recruitment efforts in partnership with DPS/AST



Village Public Safety Officer Program

Recruitment and Retention



- VPSO Certification-
 - Challenge: ALET attendance and VPSO Certification issues and Adherence to Regulatory standards
 - Solution: Alaska Police Standards Council completed an internal policy review and adopted a change to recognize VPSO service in maintaining ALET training certificate
- Regulatory Standards-
 - Challenge: Regulatory standards for VPSOs create potential issues with duties
 - Solution: Currently with the potential to arm VPSOs Grantees have elected not to hire applicants with DV convictions. Working with the Department of Law to determine disqualifying convictions
 - Regulation allows for hiring of VPSOs with Domestic Violence Convictions- This can create issues if VPSOs are investigation crimes and take possession of firearms.
 - Regulation allows for hiring of VPSOs with some convictions that are incompatible with law enforcement duties- any crime involving dishonesty
- Physical Fitness Requirement
 - Challenge: Finding applicants that can meet a minimum physical fitness level
 - Solution: Creation of entry level fitness standard for hire and increasing standard for certification



Village Public Safety Officer Program



Rural Fire Specialist & ETT Training

- Long term partnership with DPS Division of Fire and Life Safety (DFLS) to review the Rural Fire Protection Specialist Training (RFPST).
- Determination to combine the FLS annual 4 day Rural Firefighter training with the annual VPSO 2 week RFPST at the Palmer fire training center.
 - Cost savings in travel for students and instructors
 - Combining training puts VPSO and rural firefighters in training together
 - Offers the RFPST training to rural firefighters and chiefs that hasn't been available before
 - Increasing the value/impact of funding spent

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Thank You



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