

SJR

21

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE



Interim:

600 East Railroad Avenue
Wasilla, Alaska 99654
(907) 376-3370
(907) 376-3157 Fax


Session:

State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182
(907) 465-6600
(907) 465-3805 Fax

SENATOR LYDA GREEN SENATE DISTRICT N

Memo

TO: Representative Pete Kott, Chair
House Rules Committee

FROM: Senator Lyda Green 

DATE: May 3, 2001

RE: SJR 21, TANF Supplemental Funding

Senate Joint Resolution 21 has been referred to the House Rules Committee, please schedule it for the House Floor as soon as possible.

Attached is the Sponsor Statement and the backup materials.

If you have any questions please call my staff person all Jerry Burnett at 3579.

Your cooperation is appreciated.

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 9, 2001

The Honorable George W. Bush
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We are writing to call your attention to a program, which has been critical to the success of welfare reform in our states. The Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) block grant established in the 1996 welfare law included modest supplemental grants for 17 relatively poor or rapidly growing states, such as Texas and Florida. These grants were intended to reduce the very large disparity between poorer and wealthier states in TANF funding that resulted from the basic TANF funding formula. These grants have afforded states, like ours, a more adequate opportunity to achieve TANF goals.

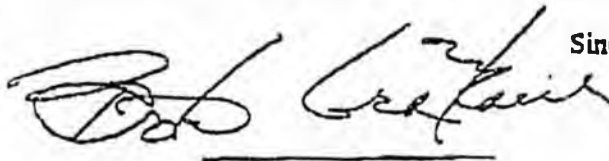
While TANF is scheduled to be reauthorized in 2002, the supplemental grants included in the 1996 law were authorized only through October, 2001. This means that under current law, the 17 states currently eligible for these grants will face a reduction in their TANF funding of as much as 10 percent of their block grant starting on October 1 of this year. The other, wealthier, lower growth states will experience no reduction.

These grants are not supplemental in the sense of being add-ons; they were designed as an integral part of the TANF allocation formula and are critical to the success of our states, and many others', TANF programs. These grants have allowed states to expand their welfare and related programs - such as child care and job training initiatives - to include a broader range of services that enable all welfare recipients to become self sufficient. Without the TANF supplemental grants these programs could not have been made available to individuals moving from welfare to work.

For these reasons, we are requesting that a one year extension of the TANF supplemental grants be included in your budget recommendations for fiscal year 2002. This step will help to ensure that high growth states can continue their welfare reform efforts and will enable the supplemental grants to be considered as part of the overall TANF reauthorization next year.

We look forward to working with you to ensure that the accomplishments that states have made in helping people move from public assistance to independence can continue throughout the nation.

Sincerely,



Nordlund, Jim

From: Sheri Steisel [sheri.steisel@ncsl.org]
Sent: Thursday, March 22, 2001 3:14 PM
To: Humserv-l; nalfo-dist@ncsl.org
Subject: TANF Supplemental Grants

EFFORTS UNDERWAY TO SUPPORT CONTINUATION OF TANF SUPPLEMENTAL GRANTS
 3/22/2001

TANF supplemental grants were awarded to 17 states and are set to expire this year. Efforts are now underway to try to extend this grant until reauthorization of the welfare reform law next year. Under the 1996 welfare reform law, supplemental grants were provided to states with high rates of population growth and with historically low levels of welfare spending per capita. Referred to formally as the "Population Growth and Poverty Adjuster", a total of \$800 million was authorized for FY 1998 to FY 2001 for the TANF supplemental. Without Congressional action, the TANF supplemental will expire at the end of FY2001.

The 17 states are Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Idaho, Louisiana, Mississippi, Nevada, Texas, Utah, Florida, Georgia, Montana, New Mexico, North Carolina, and Tennessee.

NCSL included support for a one year extension of the TANF supplemental in a recent letter to President Bush on welfare-related budget issues (<http://www.ncsl.org/statefed/humserv/bushltr2.htm>). On March 9, a group of US Senators sent a letter to President Bush urging him to support a one year extension of the TANF supplemental grants in his budget recommendations for FY2002. The Senators signing the letter were Bob Graham, Kay Bailey Hutchison, John Ensign, Thad Cochran, Ted Stevens, Jeff Sessions, Harry Reid, John Breaux, Blanche Lincoln, Larry Craig, Fred Thompson, Jeff Bingaman, Jesse Helms and Conrad Burns. If you would like a copy of the letter, please contact Lee Posey at NCSL at 202/624-8196 or Lee.Posey@NCSL.org

This is a good time for states to contact their House and Senate delegations to support a one-year extension of the TANF supplemental grant. For further information, please contact Sheri Steisel at sheri.steisel@ncsl.org or Lee Posey at NCSL.

[How States Qualify for Funding Under the TANF Supplemental](#)

Under the "automatic qualification" criteria for grants, states qualified for full supplemental grants in all four fiscal years if the level of state welfare spending per poor person by the state in FY 1994 was less than 35% of the national average or the state's population increased by more than 10 percent between April 1, 1990 and July 1, 1994. States automatically qualified for TANF supplemental grants are Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Idaho, Louisiana, Mississippi, Nevada, Texas, and Utah.

Under the "general eligibility qualification" criteria, states qualified for a grant for a fiscal year if the level of welfare spending per poor person in the state for the previous fiscal year is less than the national average and the state's population growth in the most recent year for which data are available is greater than the national average population for all states in the same period. These states receive supplemental grants in subsequent years, but amount of the grant they can receive depends on whether or not the state remains qualified for that particular year. States that met the general eligibility criteria in FY 1998 (and thus are eligible for subsequent fiscal years) are Florida, Georgia, Montana, New Mexico, North Carolina, and Tennessee.

-- Sheri Steisel
 Federal Affairs Counsel
 Director, Human Services Committee
 NCSL Washington DC Office
Sheri.Steisel@ncsl.org

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SENATE HEALTH, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE SENATOR LYDA GREEN, CHAIR

To: Terry Lauterbach, Legislative Legal Services

From: Aurora Hauke, Committee

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Aurora Hauke".

Date: March 28, 2001

Subject: SJR 21 Extend Federal TANF Grants

In Senate HESS Committee today, SJR 21 Extend Federal TANF Grants, passed out with the conceptual CS as follows:

1. Page 1, Line 15: Change \$6,900,000 to \$6,887,800.
2. Page 2, line 10: Remove "the Head Start program,".
3. Page 2, Line 18: Copies of the resolution should also be sent to the President of the United States and Tommy Thompson, United States Secretary of Health & Human Services.

Please prepare a final for this bill with the above described changes. Thank you for your assistance.

SENATOR LOREN LEMAN, VICE-CHAIR
SENATOR JERRY WARD, SENATOR GARY WILKEN, SENATOR BETTYE DAVIS

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2001 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: _____
 Bill Version: SJR 21
 () Publish Date: _____

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): _____ Dept. Affected: Health & Social Services
 Title: Urging Congress to reauthorize TANF block grant BRU: Public Assistance
 Component: ATAP
 Sponsor: Senate (HES)
 Requester: _____ Component Number: 220

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007
Personal Services						
Travel						
Contractual						
Supplies						
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
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CHANGE IN REVENUES ()						
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FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other (Specify Type)						
TOTAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY2001) cost: 0.0

Check this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2002 budget proposal:

POSITIONS

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

The federal TANF grant funds cash benefits as well as a variety of services to recipients of the Alaska Temporary Assistance Program including case management, job readiness training, supportive services, short-term job training and pregnancy prevention education. Alaska's high population supplemental TANF grant in the amount of \$6,887,000 has become an integral part of the state's block grant and its loss will negatively impact the state's efforts to move recipients from welfare to work. The expiration of the supplemental grant will also result in loss of TANF funding for essential services to non-ATAP families including Head Start, Healthy Families and child protection.

Prepared by: Jim Nordlund, Director Phone _____
 Division: Public Assistance Date/Time _____
 Approved by: Karen Perdue, Commissioner Date 3/23/01 3:50 PM
 Agency: Department of



STATE OF ALASKA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

BILL ANALYSIS

DEPARTMENT Health & Social Services	DIVISION Public Assistance	BILL NUMBER SJR 21	SPONSOR Senate (HES)
SHORT TITLE OF BILL Urging Congress to reauthorize TANF block grant			
DEPARTMENT POSITION Support			
PREPARED BY Angela Salerno AS	DATE 3/20/01	COMMISSIONER'S SIGNATURE	DATE

SUMMARY

OTHER AGENCIES AFFECTED BY BILL DHHS/DPH, DFYS; DEED; DPS-Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault	CONSTITUENT GROUP(S) AFFECTED BY BILL Recipients of ATAP Non-ATAP recipients who receive a variety of social services funded by TANF
ORGANIZATIONAL SUPPORT FOR BILL Advocates and providers of service to ATAP recipients	ORGANIZATIONAL OPPOSITION TO BILL None known

FISCAL IMPACT NONE FISCAL NOTE ATTACHED

BACKGROUND/LEGISLATIVE INTENT

The Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) block grant established in the 1996 federal welfare reform law, the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act (PRWORA), included modest supplemental grants for 17 relatively poor or rapidly growing states. Alaska's TANF program, Alaska Temporary Assistance, was awarded a "high population" supplemental grant because the state's population grew by more than 10 percent between April 1, 1990 and July 1, 1994. These supplemental grants were authorized only through fiscal year 2001, while PRWORA was authorized through fiscal year 2002. This means that beginning October 1, 2001, the state of Alaska will face a reduction of \$6.9 million in TANF funding, or 13% of its block grant.

Alaska is currently using these funds for employment-related and supportive services that are helping to move people off welfare and into self-sufficiency. TANF funds also support a variety of essential services to non-welfare recipients including childcare, child protection and the Head Start program. The elimination of the supplemental grant will force the Department of Health and Social Services to scale back on these efforts compromising the ongoing success of welfare reform.

ANALYSIS OF BILL/PROGRAM EFFECTS

This legislation urges the United States Congress to extend the authorization date for supplemental block grants to the State of Alaska under the federal Temporary Assistance to Needy Families Program through FY 2002.

AMENDMENTS PROPOSED

SECTIONAL ANALYSIS

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE



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SENATE HEALTH, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE SENATOR LYDA GREEN, CHAIR

To: Senate HESS Members
From: Aurora Hauke, Committee Aide
Date: March 28, 2001
Subject: SJR 21 EXTEND FEDERAL TANF GRANTS

Please find attached additional back-up information for SJR 21 EXTEND FEDERAL TANF GRANTS.

SENATOR LOREN LEMAN, VICE-CHAIR
SENATOR JERRY WARD, SENATOR GARY WILKEN, SENATOR BETTYE DAVIS

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 9, 2001

The Honorable George W. Bush
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We are writing to call your attention to a program, which has been critical to the success of welfare reform in our states. The Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) block grant established in the 1996 welfare law included modest supplemental grants for 17 relatively poor or rapidly growing states, such as Texas and Florida. These grants were intended to reduce the very large disparity between poorer and wealthier states in TANF funding that resulted from the basic TANF funding formula. These grants have afforded states, like ours, a more adequate opportunity to achieve TANF goals.

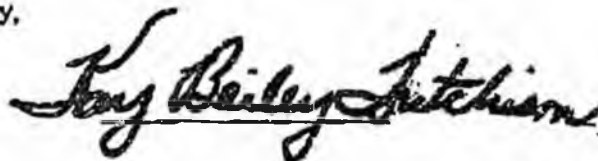
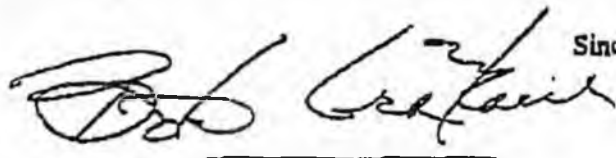
While TANF is scheduled to be reauthorized in 2002, the supplemental grants included in the 1996 law were authorized only through October, 2001. This means that under current law, the 17 states currently eligible for these grants will face a reduction in their TANF funding of as much as 10 percent of their block grant starting on October 1 of this year. The other, wealthier, lower growth states will experience no reduction.

These grants are not supplemental in the sense of being add-ons; they were designed as an integral part of the TANF allocation formula and are critical to the success of our states, and many others', TANF programs. These grants have allowed states to expand their welfare and related programs - such as child care and job training initiatives - to include a broader range of services that enable all welfare recipients to become self-sufficient. Without the TANF supplemental grants these programs could not have been made available to individuals moving from welfare to work.

For these reasons, we are requesting that a one year extension of the TANF supplemental grants be included in your budget recommendations for fiscal year 2002. This step will help to ensure that high growth states can continue their welfare reform efforts and will enable the supplemental grants to be considered as part of the overall TANF reauthorization next year.

We look forward to working with you to ensure that the accomplishments that states have made in helping people move from public assistance to independence can continue *throughout* the nation.

Sincerely,



President Bush
Page two

John Ensign

Paul Cohen

Pat Brown

Jeff Lewis

Garrett

John Breau

Blank R. Lewis

J. E. King

Frank W. Tompkins

W. J. King

Jesse Helms

W. J. King

**NATIONAL
GOVERNORS'
ASSOCIATION**

12026245413
Parris N. Glendening
Governor of Maryland
Chairman

T-083 P.02/02 F-686
Raymond C. Scheppach
Executive Director

John Engler
Governor of Michigan
Vice Chairman

Hall of the States
444 North Capitol Street
Washington, D.C. 20001-1512
Telephone (202) 624-5300
<http://www.nga.org>



February 13, 2001

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

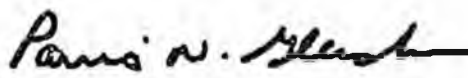
As you know, the historic welfare reform agreement of 1996 will need to be reauthorized during the 107th Congress and the nation's Governors look forward to working with you toward that end. As you prepare to submit your budget recommendations for fiscal year 2002, we want to bring to your attention a key provision of the welfare reform agreement that must be addressed this year. Without an extension of the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) supplemental grants, 17 states will face a reduction in TANF funding in fiscal year 2002.

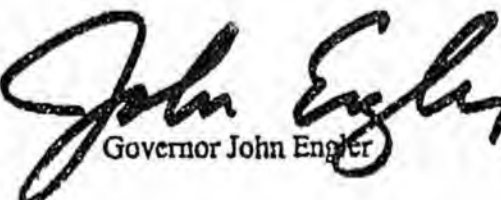
The TANF supplemental grants were designed to address the needs of states with especially high population growth or historically low welfare benefits. These grants represent a significant portion of the overall level of TANF funding for the 17 states receiving supplemental grants. Cuts of this magnitude would have a significant effect on continued state implementation of welfare reform. The TANF supplemental grants are not provided to states in the form of a bonus, but rather are calculated as an integral part of the states' allocation.

We recognize that this will be one of many TANF funding issues that will be debated within the context of welfare reform reauthorization next year. But in the interim, the nation's Governors are concerned that allowing the supplemental grants to expire while reauthorization is being discussed puts a number of states at a serious disadvantage. On many occasions since the enactment of the 1996 welfare reform package, Governors have voiced strong opposition to actions that would alter the nature of the original agreement. The expiration of the TANF supplemental grants without the benefit of full debate during the reauthorization process would be a violation of the historic agreement.

On behalf of the nation's Governors, we urge you to extend the TANF supplemental grants through fiscal year 2002.

Sincerely,


Governor Parris N. Glendening


Governor John Engler

C: Secretary Tommy G. Thompson



February 26, 2001

The Honorable George W. Bush
 President of the United States
 The White House
 Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Bush:

As you decide on the priorities of your Administration for the next four years, the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) urges you to give careful consideration to a number of issues within the U.S. Departments of Health and Human Services and Agriculture that are extremely important to state legislators. As a bipartisan organization whose members are keenly aware of how federal decisions impact the lives of America's families, we are ready to work with you on the issues raised below.

The Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) Block Grant

The bold reform of welfare in 1996 has been very successful. Welfare caseloads have declined by more than 50% since the implementation of PRWORA (the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act). More recipients are in the labor force. This success is the result of a federal and state partnership. Making use of the flexibility given us in the 1999 TANF regulations, states have implemented creative strategies to assist both TANF recipients and the working poor. We hope that you will firmly support full funding for the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) block grant.

* { The TANF supplemental grants were designed to ensure that certain states with rapidly growing populations had adequate resources to carry out the goals of the TANF program. TANF supplemental allocations should be made for the next fiscal year to ensure that states can continue the progress of welfare reform and to allow time to deal with this issue during welfare reform reauthorization.

As the 2002 reauthorization approaches, state legislators will have TANF funding and flexibility to administer the TANF program as their highest priorities. A key feature of the law was the devolution to the states of decision-making authority. NCSL requests that members of your domestic policy staff and HHS officials meet with a small group of legislators early in the reauthorization process. This would be an ideal opportunity to discuss state issues and concerns before you finalize your reauthorization proposal.

The Social Services Block Grant (SSBG, Title XX of the Social Security Act)

SSBG funds are a vital part of the delivery of community and home-based services to the most vulnerable segments of society including the disabled, elderly, and children in need of protective services. NCSL urges you to fund the SSBG at the \$2.38 billion level as agreed to as part of the enactment of the 1996 welfare reform act. In addition, it is critical that the amount states can transfer from their TANF grants to the SSBG remains at 10% and is not reduced.

Restoration of Benefits for Legal Immigrants

NCSL urges you to restore food and health benefits for legal immigrants and end a cost-shift to the states. The 1996 welfare reform law denied food stamps to all legal immigrants and their children and denied Medicaid to certain legal immigrants and their children. While NCSL supported the 1996 welfare

reform law, NCSL opposed these particular provisions. NCSL believes that in so doing, the federal government abdicated its responsibility to fund the consequences of its decisions regarding immigration. To their credit, states rose to the challenge. Many states, for example, created their own food assistance programs or increased state funding to food banks. The 1996 immigration provisions had nothing to do with the fundamental goals of the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families program— to promote self-sufficiency and family stability through a work-first, time-limited program. Efforts to restore food stamp benefits and ensure an option for states to provide Medicaid and SCHIP have bipartisan support. NCSL asks you to consider including funding for the restoration of benefits in your budget as way of helping hard-working new Americans and restoring equilibrium to the state/federal partnership.

Food Stamps

The food stamp program is in need of reform. NCSL is concerned that many working families whose income makes them eligible for food stamps are not receiving them. From 1994 to 1998, the participation rate fell from 71% of 59% of eligible individuals. Federal law is often a barrier to state innovation. Many times federal food stamp provisions are in conflict with state welfare reform efforts. While numerous factors influence the participation rate, NCSL believes that state outreach is hampered by fear of quality control errors. We urge you to consider changes in this program and to include NCSL in the discussion.

Waivers

As a general principle, NCSL encourages you to support waiver programs at U.S. Departments of Health and Human Services and Agriculture that allow states to implement innovative approaches to the delivery of human services programs. Waivers allow states to address the unique needs of their populations, and help the federal government discern best practices. Policy flexibility will result in better outcomes for our families and children.

Thank you for your attention to NCSL's concerns. NCSL is well aware that as a former governor, you understand the need for flexibility and partnership in delivering services that benefit Americans in need. If you wish to discuss these issues further, please contact Sheri Steisel, Federal Affairs Counsel, in our Washington office. Sheri can be reached at (202) 624-8693, or at sheri.steisel@ncsl.org.

Sincerely,

Senator Jim Costa
California Senate
President, NCSL

Senator Stephen Saland
New York Senate
President Elect, NCSL

cc: The Honorable Tommy Thompson
The Honorable Ann Veneman
Mitch Daniels, OMB Director
Josh Bolten, Deputy Chief of Staff for Policy

National Conference of State Legislatures
INFO@NCSL.ORG (autoresponse directory)

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1560 Broadway, Suite 700
Denver, CO 80202
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Fax: 303-863-8003

Washington Office:
444 North Capitol Street, N.W., Suite
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Washington, D.C. 20001
Tel: 202-624-5400
Fax: 202-737-1069

Nordlund, Jim

From: Sheri Steisel [sheri.steisel@ncsl.org]
Sent: Thursday, March 22, 2001 3:14 PM
To: Humserv-l; nalfo-dist@ncsl.org
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The 17 states are Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Idaho, Louisiana, Mississippi, Nevada, Texas, Florida, Georgia, Montana, New Mexico, North Carolina, and Tennessee.

NCSL included support for a one year extension of the TANF supplemental in a recent letter to President Bush on welfare-related budget issues (<http://www.ncsl.org/statefed/humserv/bushltr2.htm>). On March 9, a group of US Senators sent a letter to President Bush urging him to support a one year extension of the TANF supplemental grants in his budget recommendations for FY2002. The Senators signing the letter were Bob Graham, Kay Bailey Hutchison, John Ensign, Thad Cochran, Ted Stevens, Jeff Sessions, Harry Reid, John Breaux, Blanche Lincoln, Larry Craig, Fred Thompson, Jeff Bingaman, Jesse Helms and Conrad Burns. If you would like a copy of the letter, please contact Lee Posey at NCSL at 202/624-8196 or Lee.Posey@NCSL.org

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-- Sheri Steisel
 Federal Affairs Counsel
 Director, Human Services Committee
 NCSL Washington DC Office
Sheri.Steisel@ncsl.org

3/28/2001

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SENATE HEALTH, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE SENATOR LYDA GREEN, CHAIR

SPONSOR STATEMENT FOR SJR 21

Urging the United States Congress to Extend the Authorization Date
for Supplemental Block Grants to the State of Alaska under the
Federal Temporary Assistance to Needy Families Program

The Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) block grant established in the 1996 federal welfare reform law, the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act (PRWORA), included modest supplemental grants for 17 relatively poor or rapidly growing states. Alaska's TANF program, Alaska Temporary Assistance, was awarded a "high population" supplemental grant because the state's population grew by more than 10 percent between April 1, 1990 and July 1, 1994.

These supplemental grants included in the 1996 law were authorized only through fiscal year 2001, while PRWORA was authorized through fiscal year 2002. This means that beginning October 1, 2001, the state of Alaska will face a reduction of \$6.9 million in TANF funding, or 13% of its block grant.

The term "supplemental grant" is misleading in that these grants were never intended to be merely add-ons. They were designed by the architects of welfare reform as an integral part of the formula used to determine each state's block grant allocation. Alaska is currently using these funds for employment-related and supportive services that are helping to move people off welfare and into self-sufficiency. TANF funds also support a variety of essential services to non-welfare recipients including childcare, child protection and the Head Start program. The elimination of the supplemental grant will force the Department of Health and Social Services to scale back on these efforts compromising the ongoing success of welfare reform.

Many policymakers in Washington D.C. are aware of this issue and the American Public Human Services Association, the Center for Budget and Policy Priorities and the National Governor's Association support the continuation of the supplemental grants.

SJR 21 is addressed to Alaska's congressional delegation and all other members of Congress. Action to extend the supplemental grants will need to be taken by Congress this year before the new federal fiscal year begins in October.

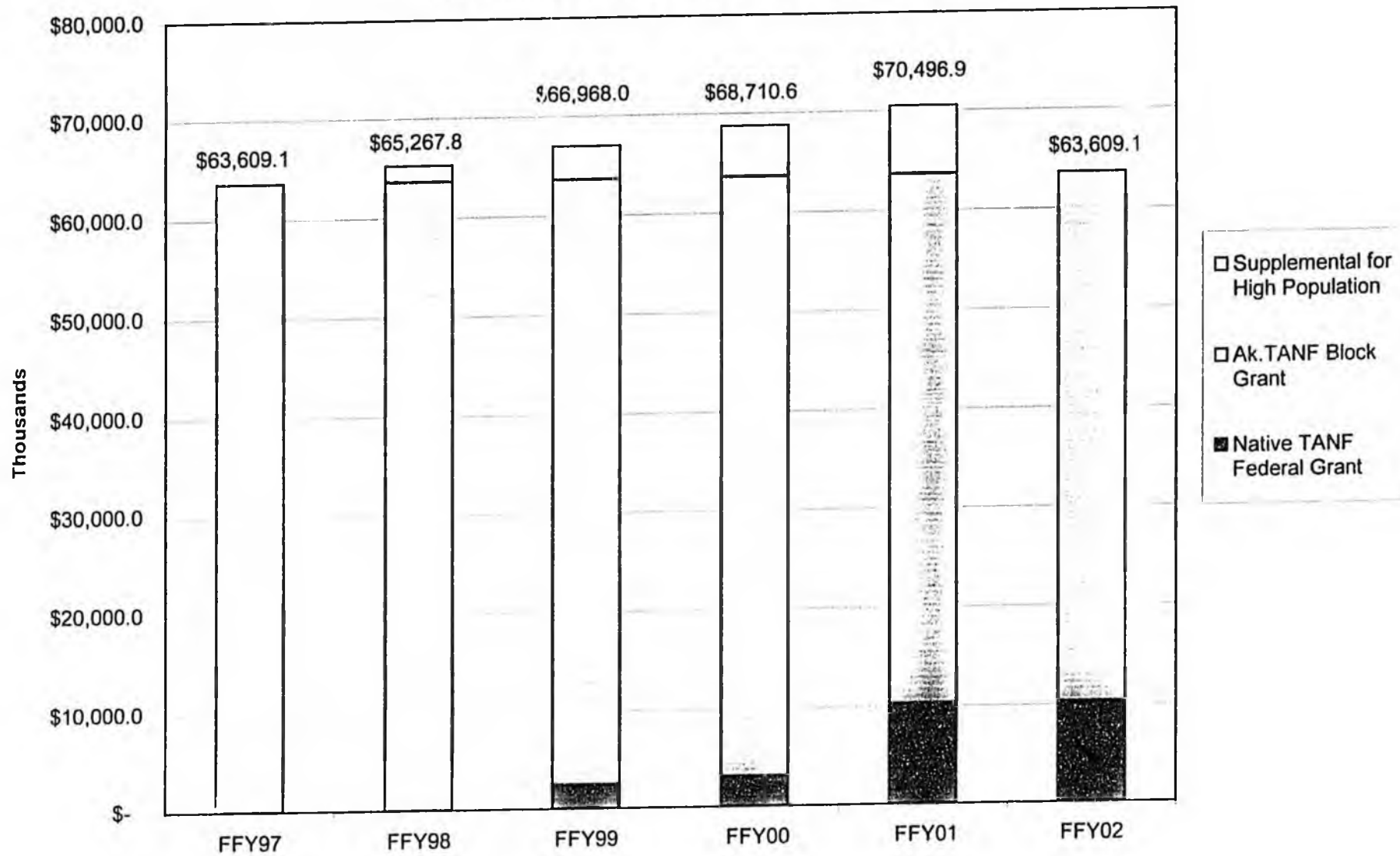
SENATOR LOREN LEMAN, VICE-CHAIR

SENATOR J

ETTYE DAVIS

SPONSOR STATEMENT

**State of Alaska
FFY1997-FFY2002 TANF Block Grant Amount**



BACK-UP INFORMATION

States Receiving TANF Supplemental Grants

State	Supplemental grant amount (<i>in millions</i>)
Alabama	11.1
Alaska	6.9
Arizona	23.9
Arkansas	6.2
Colorado	13.6
Florida	60.4
Georgia	37.3
Idaho	3.5
Louisiana	17.0
Mississippi	9.0
Montana	1.1
Nevada	3.7
New Mexico	6.6
North Carolina	36.1
Tennessee	21.6
Texas	52.7
Utah	8.7



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Topics	Letter	More Information
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Appropriations and Budget ♦ Aviation ♦ Child Support Financing ♦ Child Welfare ♦ Clean Water Act ♦ Coastal Zone Management ♦ Crime and Juvenile Justice ♦ Election Reform ♦ Electric Industry Restructuring and Energy Issues ♦ Elementary and Secondary Education ♦ Endangered Species Act ♦ Fatherhood ♦ Federalism, Preemption, and Regulatory Reform ♦ Food Stamps ♦ Health Care Coverage for the Uninsured ♦ Health Insurance Regulation ♦ Indian Gaming ♦ Indian Gaming - Related Tribal-State Issues ♦ Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) ♦ Minimum Wage ♦ Outer Continental Shelf Revenues ♦ Privacy ♦ Public Pension and Retirement Savings ♦ Sales Tax Simplification ♦ SSBG ♦ State Children's Health Insurance Program 	<p style="text-align: center;">February 13, 2001</p> <p style="text-align: center;">The President The White House Washington, D.C. 20500</p> <p>Dear Mr. President:</p> <p>As you know, the historic welfare reform agreement of 1996 will need to be reauthorized during the 107th Congress and the nation's Governors look forward to working with you toward that end. As you prepare to submit your budget recommendations for fiscal year 2002, we want to bring to your attention a key provision of the welfare reform agreement that must be addressed this year. Without an extension of the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) supplemental grants, 17 states will face a reduction in TANF funding in fiscal year 2002.</p> <p>The TANF supplemental grants were designed to address the needs of states with especially high population growth or historically low welfare benefits. These grants represent a significant portion of the overall level of TANF funding for the 17 states receiving supplemental grants. Cuts of this magnitude would have a significant effect on continued state implementation of welfare reform. The TANF supplemental grants are not provided to states in the form of a bonus, but rather are calculated as an integral part of the states' allocation.</p> <p>We recognize that this will be one of many TANF funding issues that will be debated within the context of welfare reform reauthorization next year. But in the interim, the nation's Governors are concerned that allowing the supplemental grants to expire while reauthorization is being discussed puts a number of states at a serious disadvantage. On many occasions since the enactment of the 1996 welfare reform package, Governors have voiced strong opposition to actions that would alter the nature of the original agreement. The expiration of the TANF supplemental grants without the benefit of full debate during the reauthorization process would be a violation of the historic agreement.</p>	<p>Letters</p> <p>Testimonies</p> <p>NGA Policy Positions</p> <p>Congressional Calendar</p> <p>Legislative Priorities</p> <p>Previous Congresses</p> <p>Recent News</p> <p><i>March 20, 2001</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Children's Health <p>Second NGA Policy Academy on Oral Health Care for Children to be Held in Tennessee</p> <p><i>March 19, 2001</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Education <p>Higher Education Focus of Governors' Roundtable</p> <p><i>March 16, 2001</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Private Lands Summit <p>Governors Set Course to Save America's Working Lands</p> <p><i>March 14, 2001</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Testimony <p>Governor Geringer Calls on Congress to Restore State Authority in Internet Taxation Policy</p> <p><i>March 09, 2001</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Working Lands <p>Theodore Roosevelt to Address NGA Working Lands Conservation Summit</p> <p><i>March 08, 2001</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Streamlined Sales Taxes <p>Streamlined Sales Tax Project Gains Momentum</p>

- [Superfund and Brownfields](#)
- [Taxes and Revenues](#)
- [Telecommunications](#)
- [Terrorism](#)
- [Welfare Reform](#)

On behalf of the nation's Governors, we urge you to extend the TANF supplemental grants through fiscal year 2002.

Sincerely,

Governor Parris N. Glendening Governor
John Engler

C: Secretary Tommy G. Thompson

(Signatures on file)

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National Governors' Association, Hall of States, 444 N. Capitol St., Washington, D.C.
20001-1512

Telephone (202) 624-5300 | webmaster email address: webmaster@nga.org

FY2001: Instate/out of state Medicaid RPTC Data

Date of Service >=7/1/2001 and <=6/30/2002

Date of Payment >=7/1/2001

Age <21

Provider Type 03 (RPTC)

Instate placements (unduplicated):	223	34.52%
Out of state placements (unduplicated):	<u>423</u>	<u>65.48%</u>
	646	100.00%

All RPTC Placements

		Ave. days per child	
Instate placement days:	25,488	114.3	
Out of state placement days:	<u>67,857</u>	160.4	46.12 more days than instate
	93,345		
		Ave. cost per child	
Instate expenditure amount:	8,205,973	36,798.09	
Out of state expenditure amount:	<u>17,080,959</u>	40,380.52	
	25,286,932		

Native placement days

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Out of state placement days:	<u>20,494</u>	170.78	52.88 more days than instate
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		Ave. cost per child
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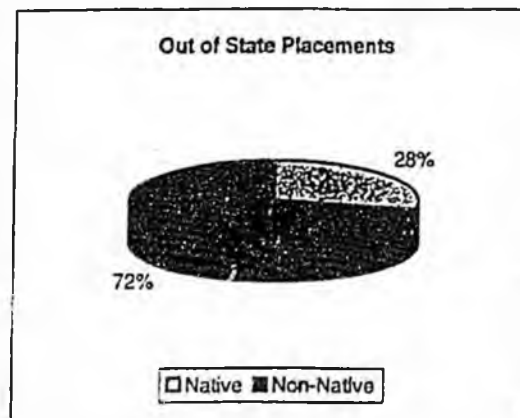
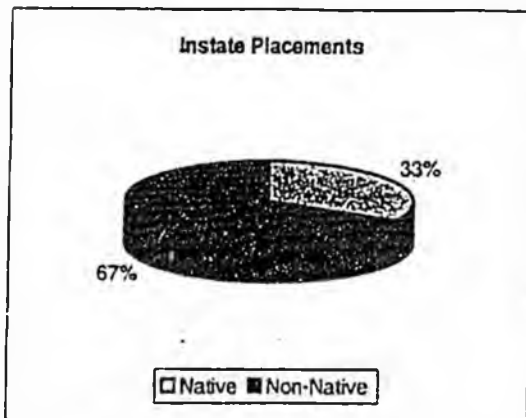
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RACE

Instate		
Count	Race	%
73	Alaska Native	32.74%
4	American Indian	1.79%
1	Asian	0.45%
16	Black	7.17%
5	Hispanic	2.24%
1	Pacific Islander	0.45%
2	Unknown	0.90%
121	White	54.26%
223		100.00%
Native 73		32.74%
Non-Native 150		67.26%

Out of state		
Count	Race	%
120	Alaska Native	28.37%
9	American Indian	2.13%
1	Asian	0.24%
14	Black	3.31%
7	Hispanic	1.65%
2	Pacific Islander	0.47%
24	Unknown	5.67%
246	White	58.16%
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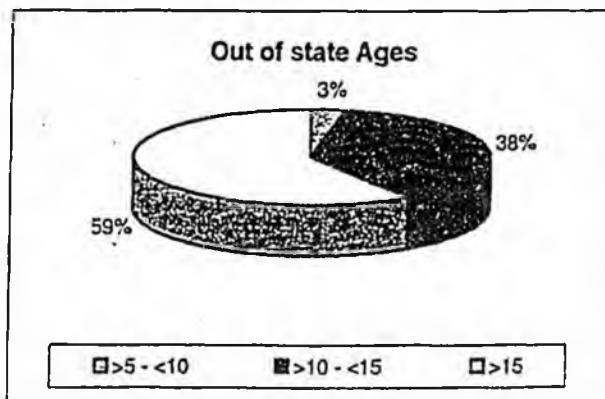
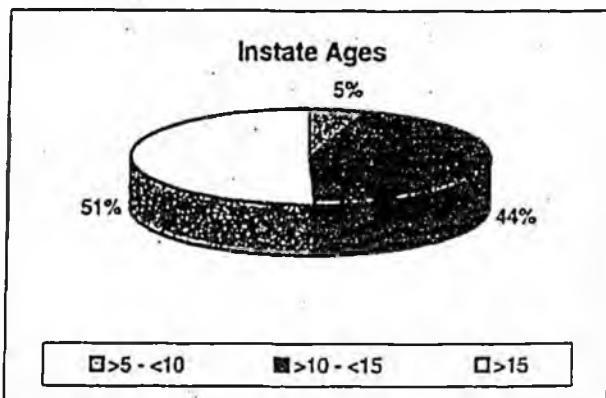
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AGE

Instate		
Age	Count	%
>5 - <10	11	4.93%
>10 - <15	99	44.39%
>15	113	50.67%
	<u>223</u>	<u>100.00%</u>

Out of state		
Age	Count	%
>5 - <10	13	3.07%
>10 - <15	160	37.83%
>15	250	59.10%
	<u>423</u>	<u>100.00%</u>

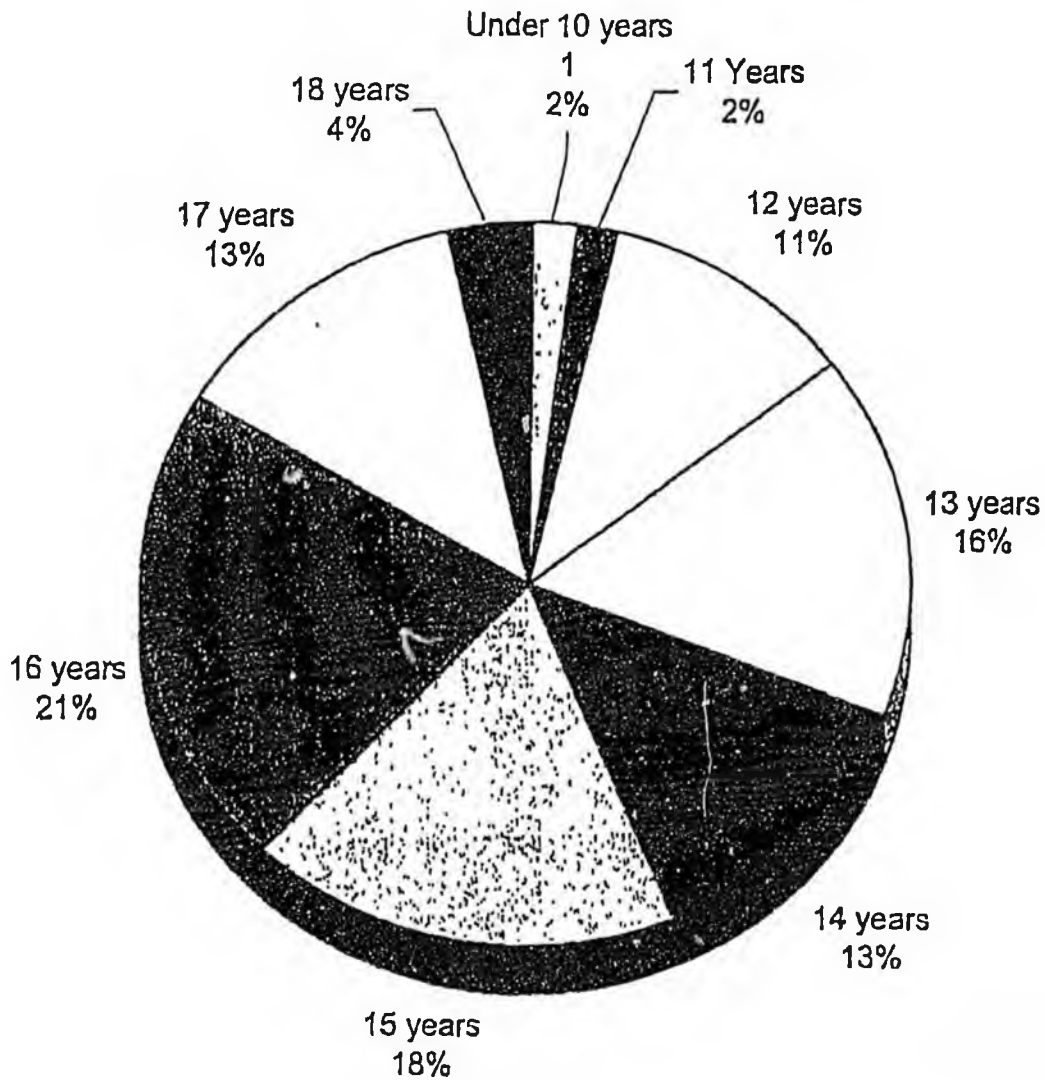


Report to the Alaska Mental Health Board

Children and Youth Placed in Residential Psychiatric Treatment Centers Out of State

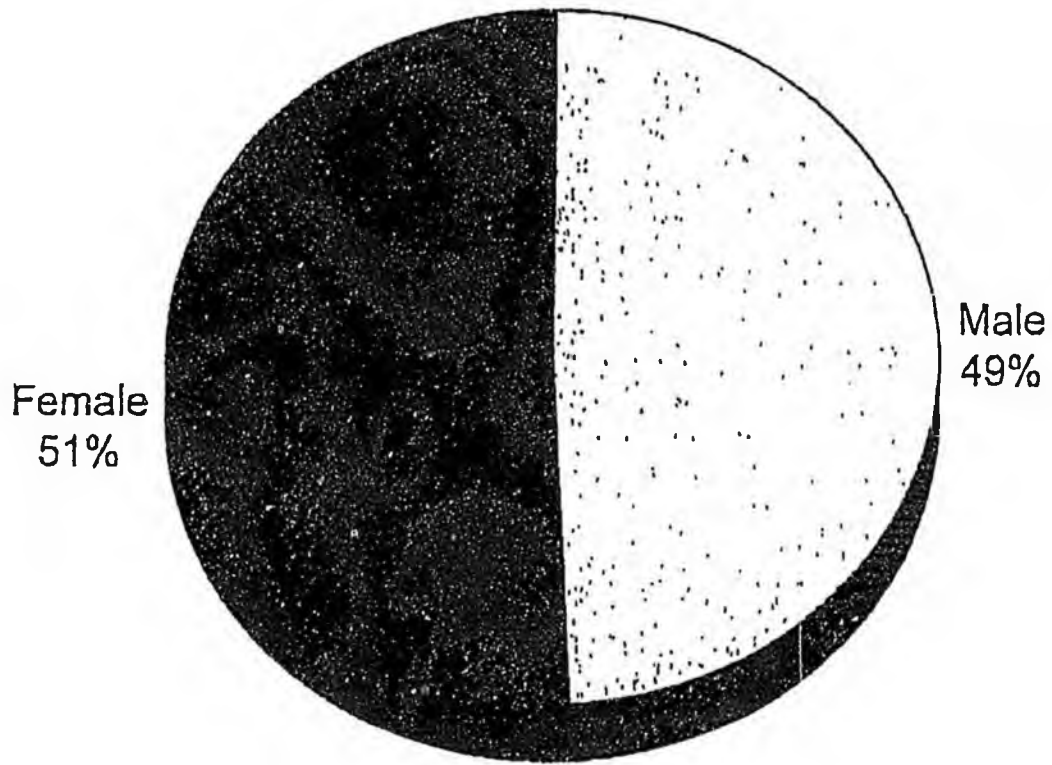
**Division of Family and Youth Services
January 15, 2002**

Unduplicated Number of Children Placed Out of State in RPTC by AGE



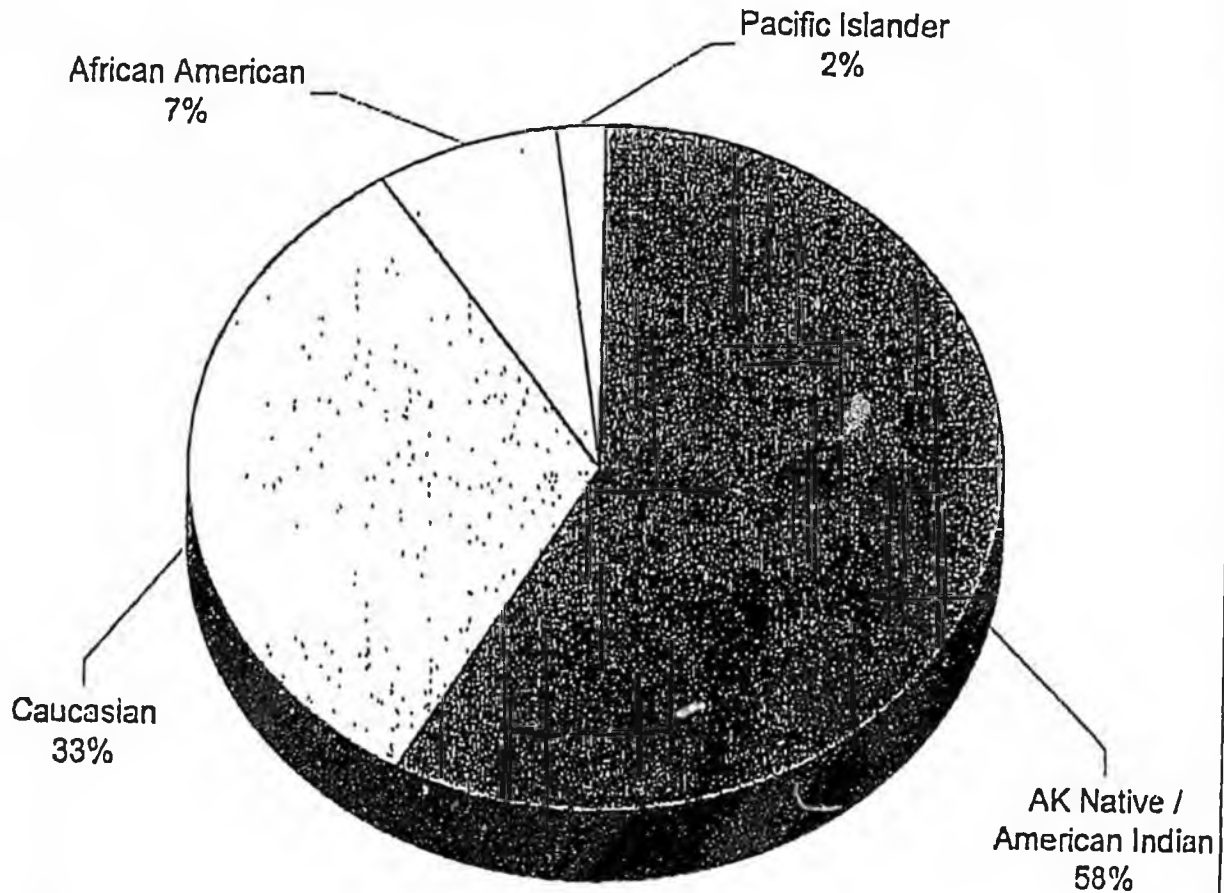
□ Under 10 years	1	■ 11 Years	1	□ 12 years	6
□ 13 years	9	■ 14 years	7	□ 15 years	10
■ 16 years	12	□ 17 years	7	■ 18 years	2

Unduplicated Number of Children Placed Out of State in RPTC by GENDER



□ Male	27	■ Female	28
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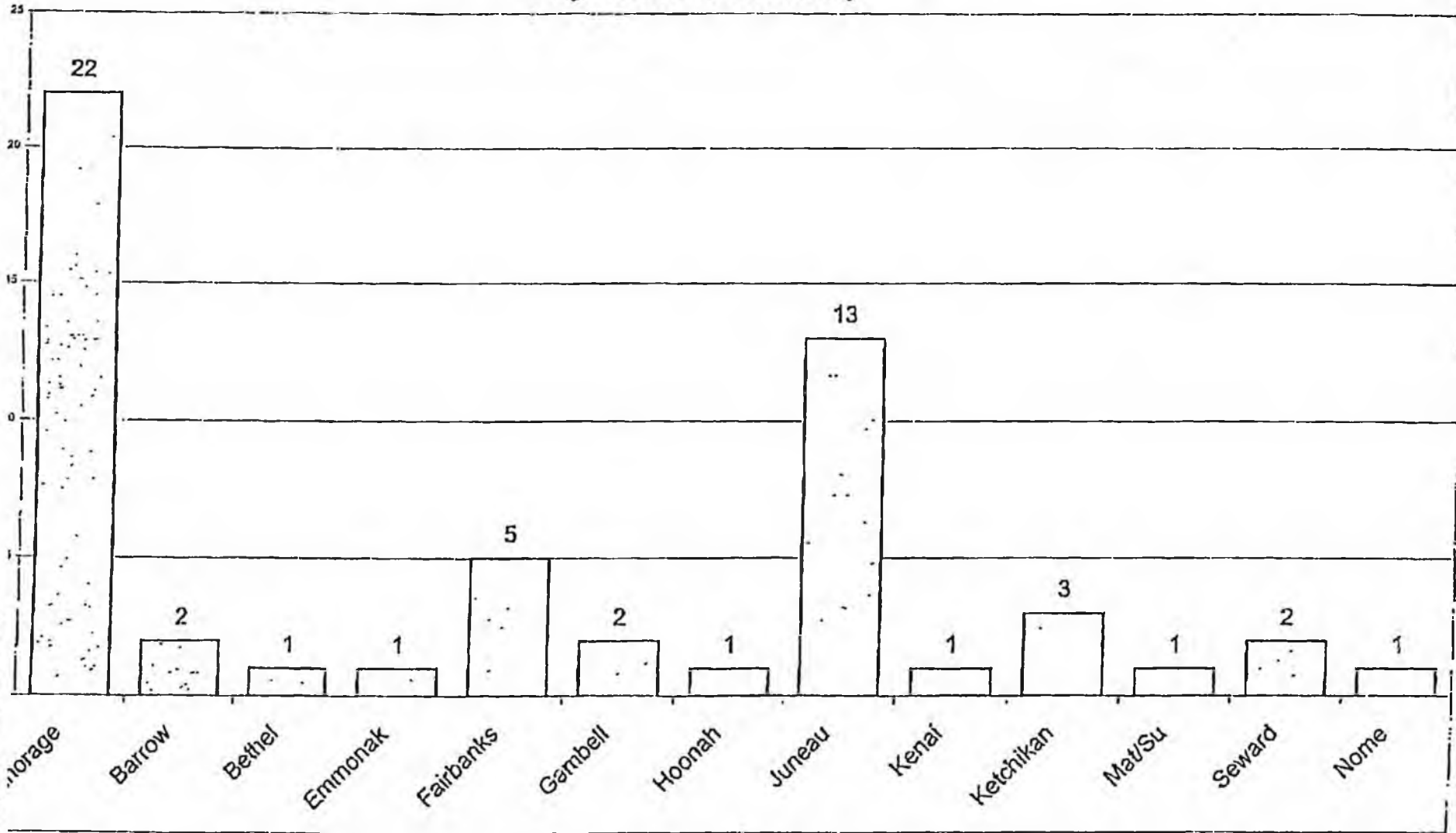
Unduplicated Number of Children Placed Out of State in RPTC by RACE



AK Native / American Indian	32
Caucasian	18
African American	4
Pacific Islander	1

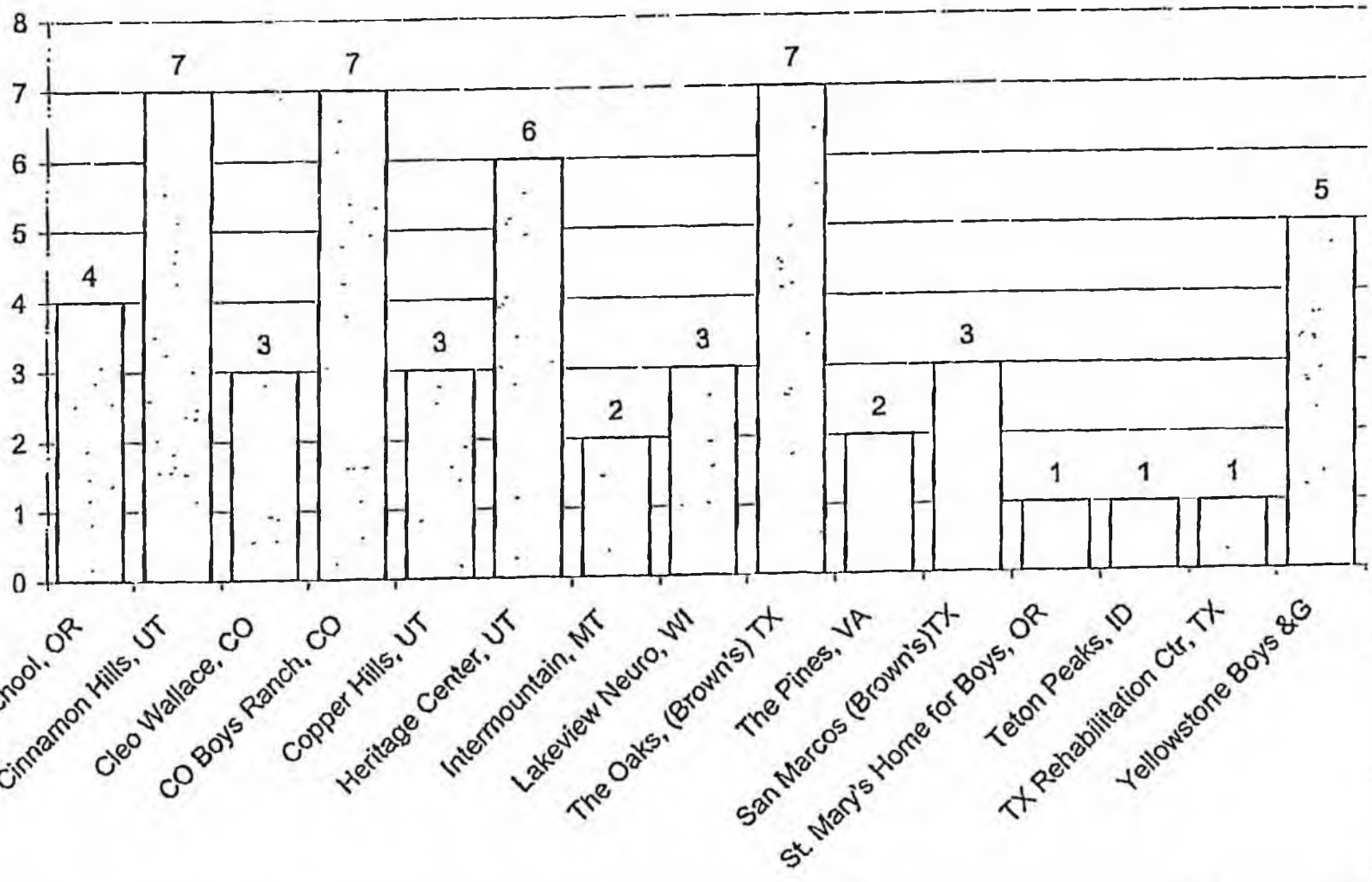
Source: Division of Family and Youth Services, January 2002

Unduplicated Number of Children in RPTC by Home Community



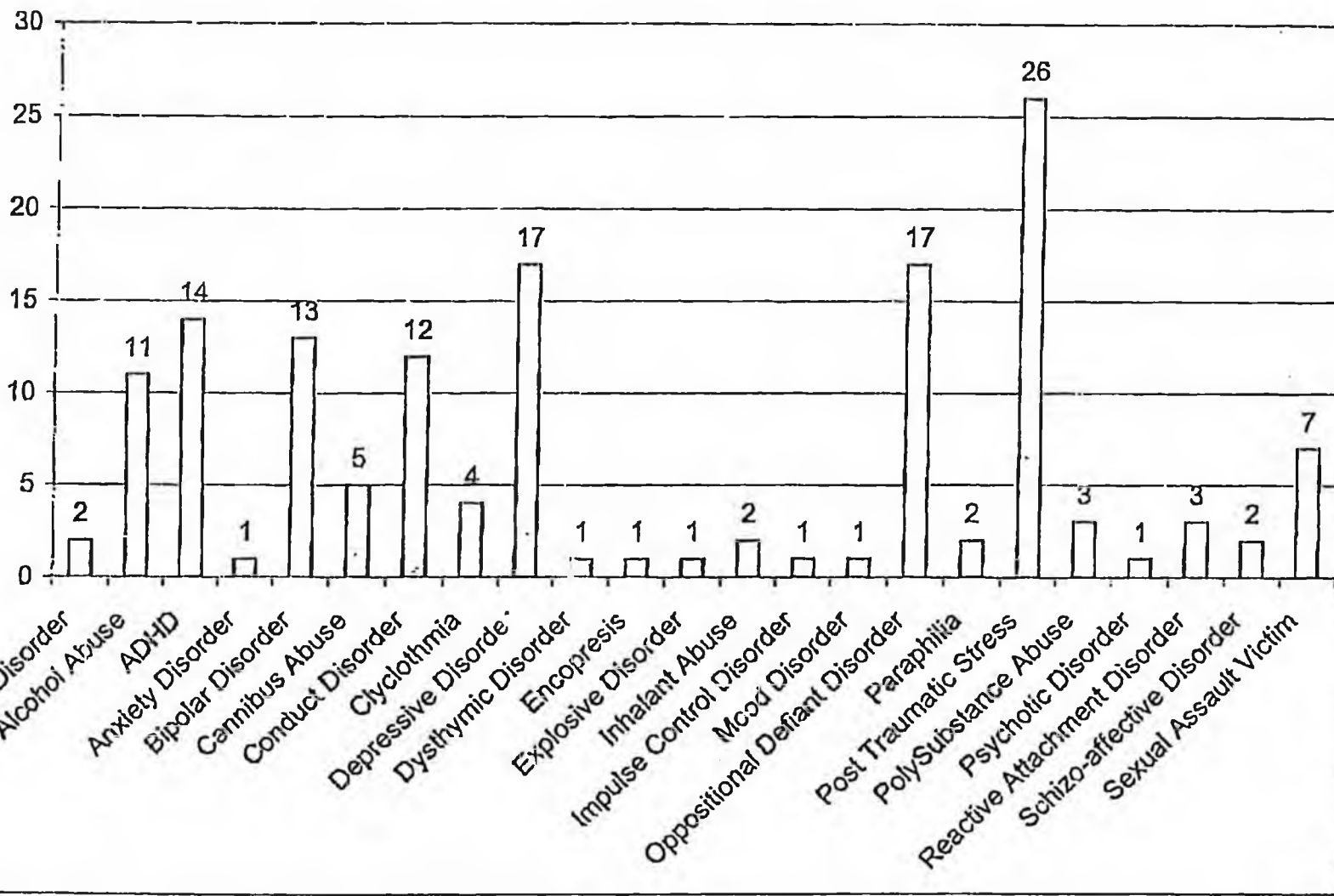
Source: Division of Family and Youth Services, January 2002

Unduplicated Number of Children in Each RPTC



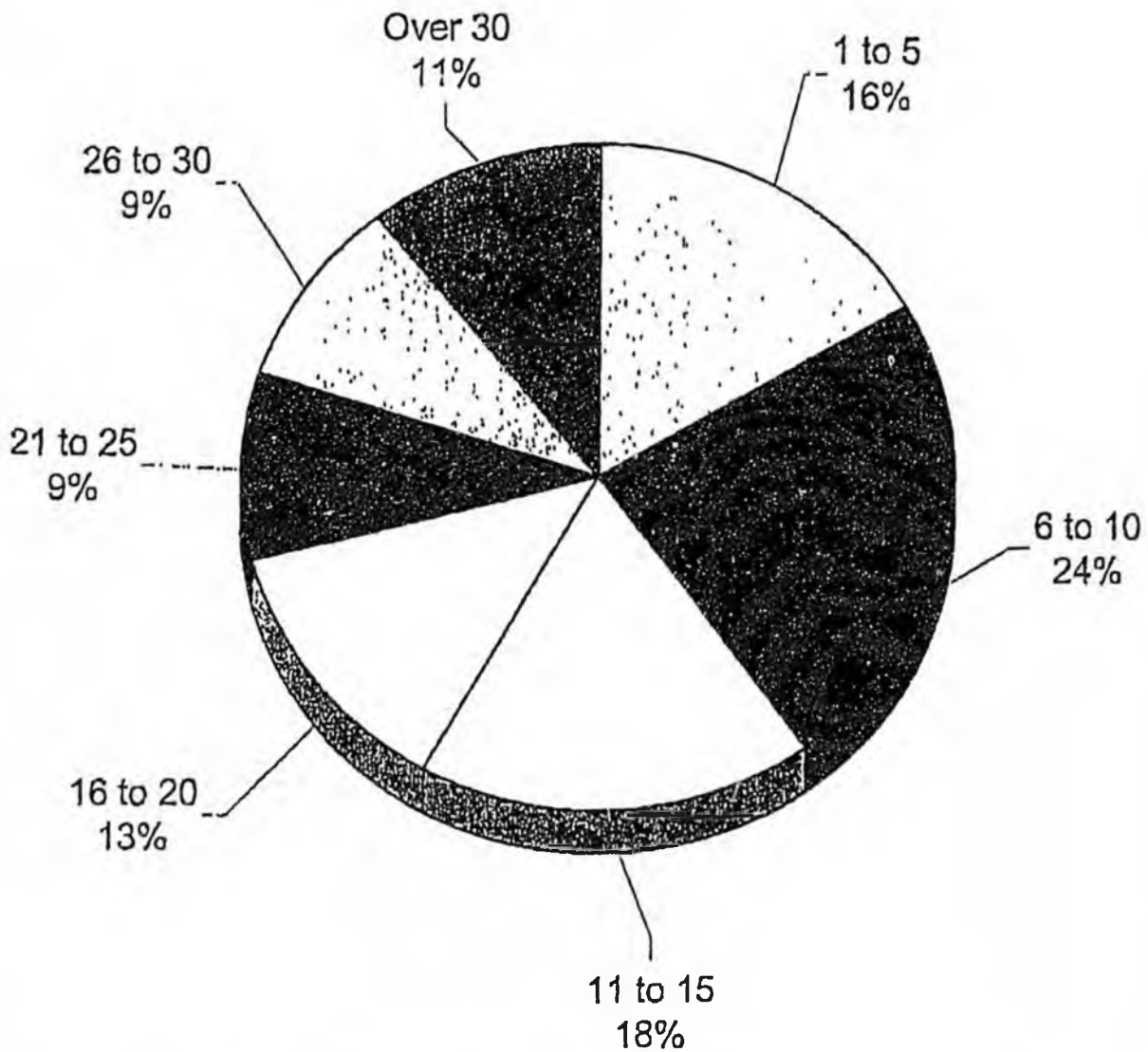
Source: Division of Family and Youth Services, January 2002

Diagnosis of Children in Out of State RPTC



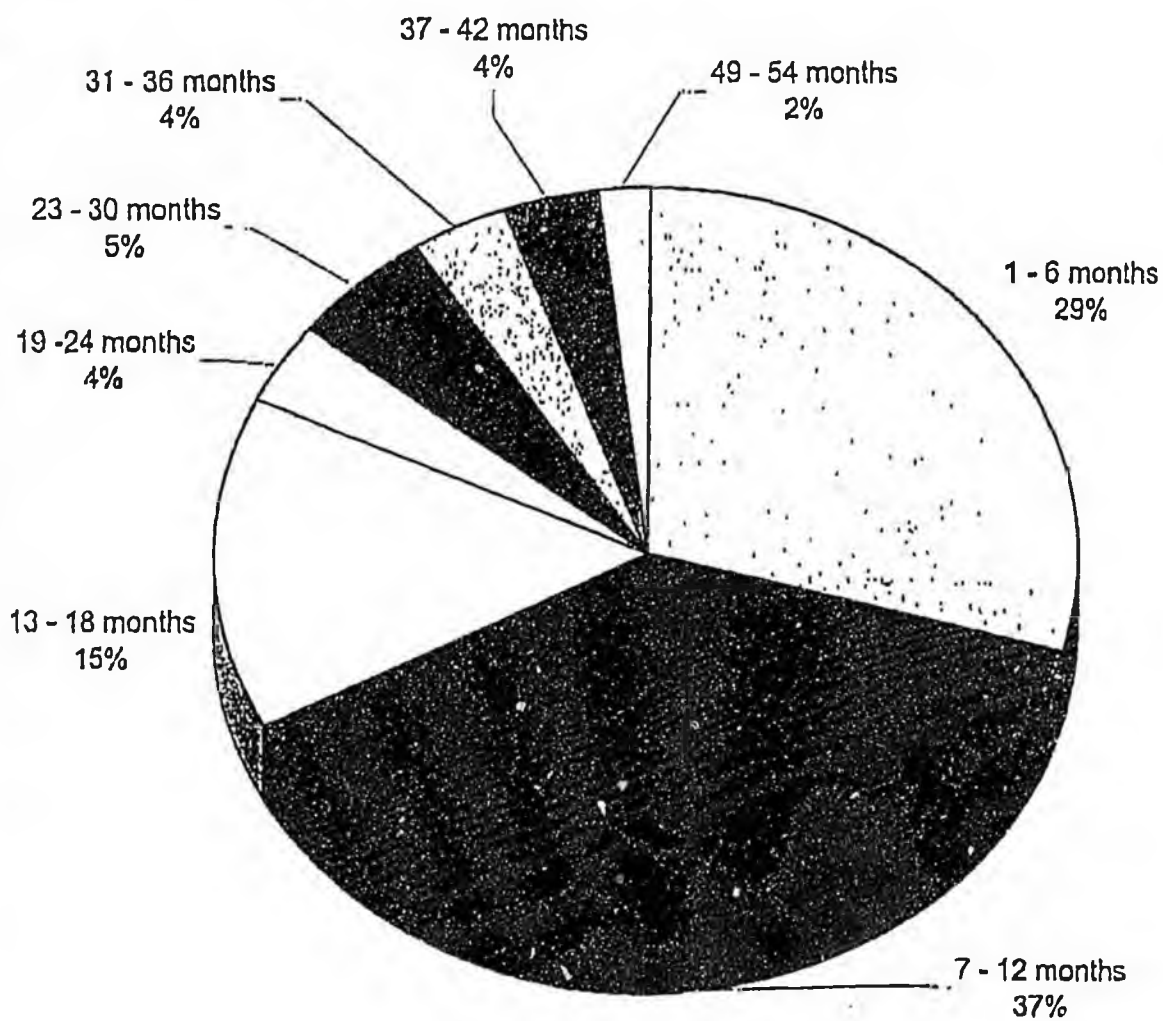
Source: Division of Family and Youth Services, January 2002

Number of Prior Placements Before Children Were Placed in an Out of State RPTC



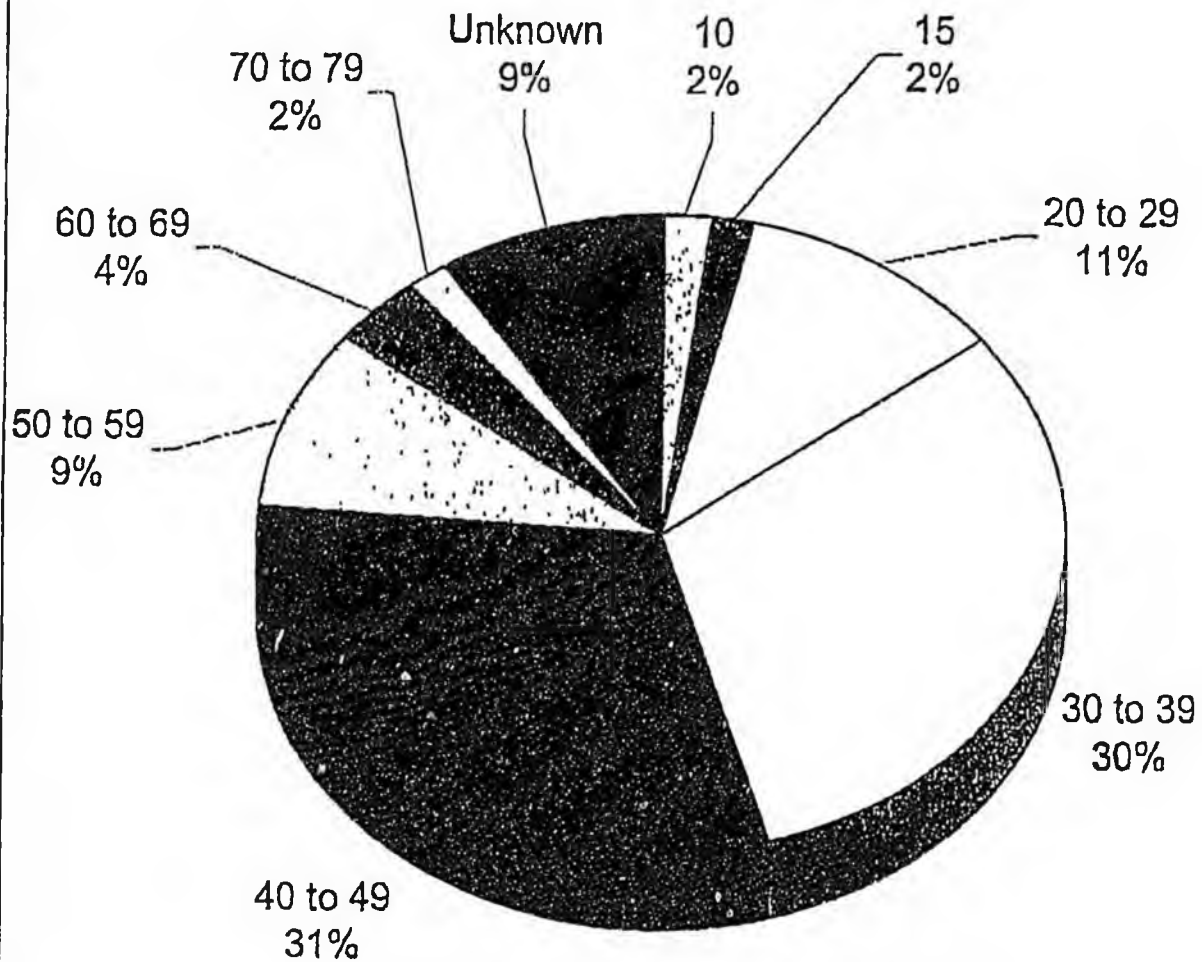
□ 1 to 5	9	■ 6 to 10	13	□ 11 to 15	10	□ 16 to 20	7
■ 21 to 25	5	□ 26 to 30	5	■ Over 30	6		

Length of Time Children Have Been in an Out of State RPTC



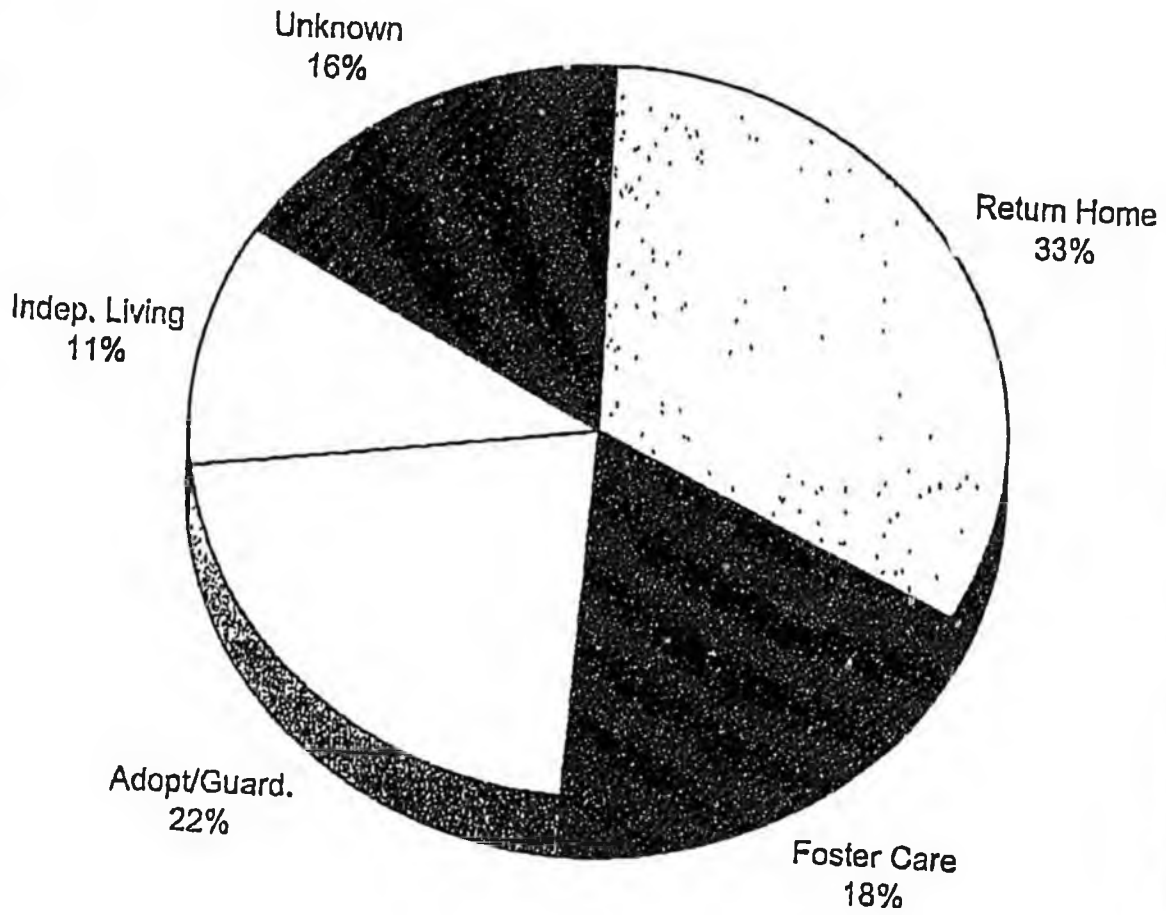
□ 1 - 6 months	16	■ 7 - 12 months	21	□ 13 - 18 months	8
□ 19 - 24 months	2	■ 23 - 30 months	3	□ 31 - 36 months	2
■ 37 - 42 months	2	□ 49 - 54 months	1		

GAF Scores at Time of Placement in Out of State RPTC



□ 10	1	■ 15	1
□ 20 to 29	6	□ 30 to 39	17
■ 40 to 49	17	□ 50 to 59	5
▨ 60 to 69	2	□ 70 to 79	1
■ Unknown	5		

Permanency Plan for Children in Out of State RPTC



Return Home	18	Foster Care	10	Adopt/Guard.	12
Indep. Living	6	Unknown	9		

Source: Division of Family and Youth Services

Amendment

TO: SCR 21

Offered By Senator Green

Page 1, line 15, after the word "family" add the following:

.members of the child's support system and involved community providers

Page 1, line 16, after the word "success" add the following:

and improved client satisfaction

Page 2, line 3, after the word "facility" add the following:

focusing on transition and a variety of local community-based services. in the child's home of origin

Page 2, line 9, after the word "care" add the following:

to work in a coordinated. cooperative. collaborative and partnering manner towards integration of services

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION No. 21

Supporting the development of adequate in-state treatment capacity for severely disturbed children.

FY 2001 Expenditures:

The Department of Health & Social Services has produced data titled "FY2001: Instate/ out of state Medicaid RPTC Data". This information shows there were 423 (65.48%) out of state placement (unduplicated) for Residential Psychiatric Treatment Centers. (copy attached) The out of state expenditure amount is listed as \$17,080,959.00, compared to \$8,205,973.00 for instate expenditures.

Another report has indicated that Medicaid expenditures for Residential Psychiatric Treatment Centers is one of the fastest growing categories of Service for a 3 year average.

FY 02 Expenditures: The amount of out of state expenditures is growing:

The Division of Medical Assistance FY02 Mental Health Expenditure Report – Provider Type Summary thru November 2001 (copy attached) indicates paid claims through this period are \$9,409,745.41 (72.3%). The instate expenditures for this same period is \$3,597,399.02 (27.7%).

Alaskan children are being sent outside Alaska for long term mental health treatment.

Alaskan health care dollars (Medicaid) are being spent in other states.

Alaskan jobs are being lost to the lower 48.

Control of the Medicaid expenditures has been a priority of the legislative branch. Data submitted by the department show the average cost per child:

Instate expenditure:	\$36,798.09
Out of state:	\$40,380.52

The full continuum of care should be strengthened in Alaska to provide care to our children in state.

Medical Assistance

Maintain access to health care and to provide health coverage for Alaskans in need.

Medicaid provided access to health care to approximately 118,000 Alaskans in FY 2001.

Alaska's largest Medicaid population is our children. On average, children are the least expensive Medicaid recipients.

Medicaid expenditures have increased an average of 17 percent per year from FY 1999 through FY 2001.

General fund expenditures per Medicaid eligible have decreased by \$97 since FY 1999. During that same time period, other fund expenditure per eligible have increased by \$856

"State Medicaid programs serve as an important safety net for Americans by providing health and long-term care coverage. Reduced state revenues are placing severe strains on many state budgets and could limit Medicaid at a time when additional coverage and spending is most needed."

- The Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured, Medicaid and State Budgets: An October 2001 Update, October 16, 2001.

The National Conference of State Legislatures, State Fiscal Outlook for FY2002 November Update, December 3, 2001, reports 23 of 51 states that specifically note Medicaid as a "Program Over Budget."

Medicaid -

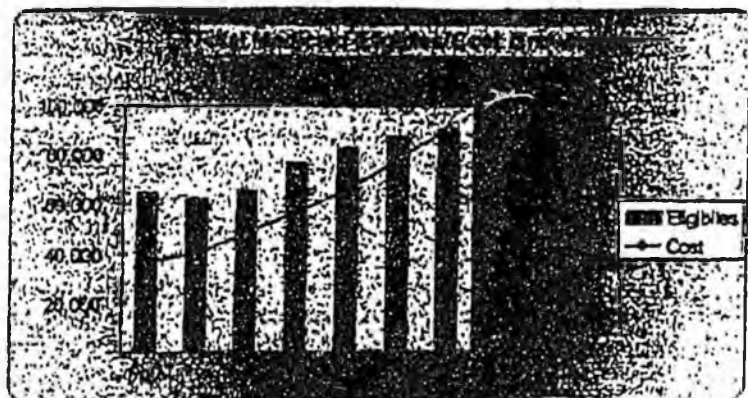
Medicaid is a means-tested, jointly-funded cooperative effort between federal and state governments that provides health care coverage to persons in need. There are 56 individual Medicaid programs - each state, territory and district determines its own eligibility standards, benefits package, and payment rates within federal guidelines.

Alaska's Medicaid program currently provides medical care coverage to approximately 118,000 Alaskans. Persons eligible to receive benefits include children, caretakers of children, pregnant women, the aged, the blind, and the disabled of low-income that meet certain resource standards. Medicaid does not provide assistance to all low-income persons.

Medicaid continues to grow

In FY 2001, Medicaid enrollment increased by about 7,000 people, or 6 percent, over FY 2000. Medical services provided to recipients in FY 2001 cost \$525.7 million - a 13 percent increase over FY 2000.

Medicaid's claims payment rate of growth has averaged 17 percent since FY 1999.



The following chart shows eligible and expenditure percentages for the four Medicaid eligibility groups: children, adults, elderly and disabled.

The disabled group in each chart includes children (1.5 percent of the eligible numbers and 6 percent of the expenditures).

January 15, 2002

Division of Medical Assistance

FY02 Mental Health Expenditure Report

Provider Type Summary

thru November 2001

	FY00 Total	FY01 Total	FY02 YTD
Physicians: Psychiatry	2,059,967.43	2,718,616.95	1,182,072.55
Mental Health Physician Clinics	1,589,247.33	1,880,384.72	867,587.76
Community Mental Health Clinics	35,327,406.94	38,703,451.08	15,894,563.17
Day Treatment Facilities	1,335,755.00	1,413,067.50	294,857.50
Inpatient Psych Services (total)	24,224,574.88	34,272,860.53	19,193,399.67
RPTCs (OOS)	8,379,665.40	15,619,408.00	9,409,745.41
RPTCs (Instate)	6,658,007.12	7,800,219.22	3,597,399.02
Alaska Psych Institute	1,083,757.03	1,083,757.03	863,197.89
Other Inpatient Psych Hospitals	8,103,145.33	9,178,378.38	5,323,057.35
Total Mental Health Services	64,536,951.58	78,988,380.78	37,432,480.65

The information presented in this report is based on paid claims (date of payment) up to and including the date listed above. Provider specific information is available in Excel format. Please contact Jeff Kemp if you would like this information.

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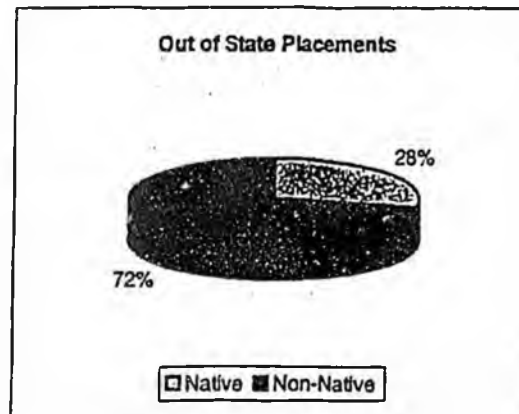
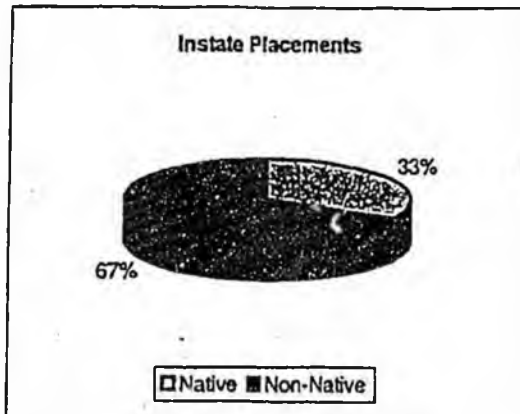
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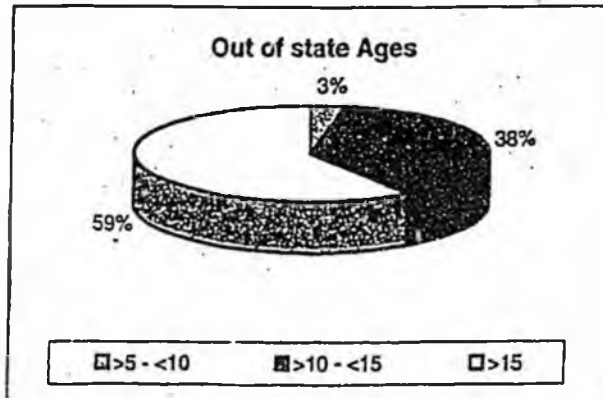
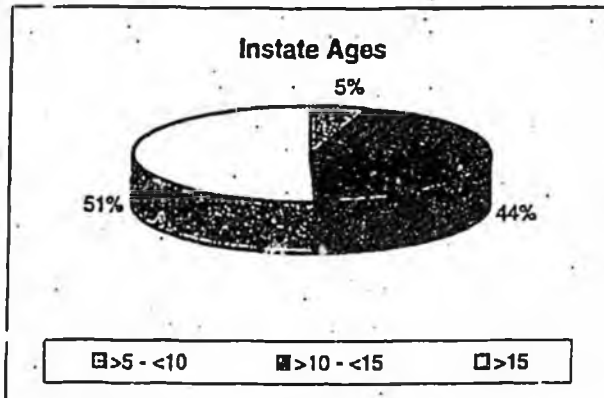
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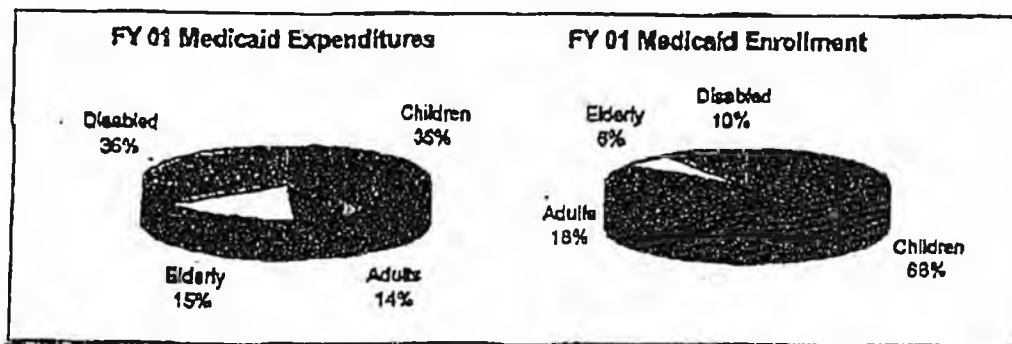
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The following charts set out Medicaid program categories of service expenditures – what costs the most, what is growing the fastest.

FY01 Top Expenditure Categories of Services		Fastest Growing Categories of Service (3-Year Average)	
Hospital Services	\$128,929,284	Adults with Physical Disabilities Waiver	81%
Physician Services	\$96,600,954	Residential Psychiatric Treatment Centers	78%
Pharmacy	\$54,973,432	CCMC Waiver**	51%
Nursing Homes	\$46,975,802	MRDD Waiver*	41%
MRDD Waivers*	\$42,377,562	Older Alaskans Waiver	31%
Mental Health	\$39,479,765	Transportation	23%
Medicaid Other Services	\$28,551,246	Pharmacy	21%
Residential Psychiatric Treatment Centers	\$23,611,943	Physician Services	20%
Transportation	\$21,206,322	Psychiatric Hospitals	18%
Older Alaskans Waiver	\$14,723,800	Nursing Homes	4%

*Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities

** Children with Complex Medical Conditions

Proposed Medicaid re-financing options

Re-financing options will reduce the Medicaid general fund request to \$7.9 million, except for the fund source change of \$18.7 million GF increase due to federal changes to Alaska's Pro-Share program. The division is proposing the Alaska Medicaid Fair-Share Program. This arrangement will make an additional payment for services to Medicaid-eligible beneficiaries to hospitals operated by Alaskan Tribes, up to the payment limit applicable. The hospitals will return 90 percent of the payment to the Medicaid program as statutory designated program receipts that can be used as match for Medicaid service payments. The result is a net savings of \$44.3 million in general fund requirements for Medicaid.

In addition, private hospital re-financing options are being considered. The division will make additional payments of \$31.7 million to private hospitals up to the aggregate Medicare Upper Payments Limit. The hospitals will retain 5 percent of the payment to pay for state-funded programs previously paid for with direct state grants or contracts. It is anticipated that up to 95 percent of the funds made available, \$11.8 million, will be appropriated to the Medicaid Services BRU to cover state match requirements.

Federal funding policy changes

The Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) rate was decreased to 57.38 percent for federal fiscal year 2002. Early federal estimates indicate federal fiscal year 2003 will increase slightly to 58.22 percent. These changes are significant and carry with them a projected loss of \$10.8 million in federal fund participation if Congressional changes don't continue.

Medicaid Program Incremental Request: \$26.6 million general funds, \$50.1 other funds, \$200.6 federal fund:
Total \$277.3 million.

January 15, 2002

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	<u>8,068,110</u>	

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2002 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: _____
 Bill Version: CSSCR 21(HES)
 (S) Publish Date: _____

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): _____ Dept. Affected: _____
 Title Treatment for Disturbed Children BRU _____
 Component _____
 Sponsor Senate HESS Committee Component No. _____
 Requester Senate HESS Committee

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008
Personal Services						
Travel						
Contractual						
Supplies						
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
-----------------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--

CHANGE IN REVENUES ()						
-------------------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--

FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other (Specify Type--Do not abbreviate)						
TOTAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY2002) cost: 0.0

Check this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2003 budget proposal:

POSITIONS

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

Prepared by: HEALTH, EDUCATION & SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE
 Division _____
 Approved by: /s/ Senator Green, Chair *[Signature]*
 Agency _____

Phone 465-6600
 Date/Time 2/4/02
 Date 2/4/02

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE



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SENATOR LYDA GREEN SENATE DISTRICT N

Sponsor Statement SCR 21

Over 300 severely emotionally disturbed Alaskan children are currently receiving treatment in residential facilities in other states. Families are being separated, sometimes for years. The flexibility to provide an appropriate mix of treatment between residential and community based care is lost when children must be sent to out of state for treatment. Millions of state dollars and hundreds of jobs are being exported each year.

Alaska currently lacks the necessary facilities to provide the full continuum of community-based and residential care in Alaska for the treatment of severely emotionally disturbed children. The largest gap in this continuum is the lack of residential treatment beds that can provide the necessary level of care in Alaska. SCR 21 asks the Department of Health and Social Services to work with the Alaska Mental Health Board, the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority and other interested parties to strengthen this continuum of services and to establish a priority for the development of sufficient in-state residential care to serve emotionally disturbed children who would otherwise be placed in out-of-state facilities.

SPONSOR STATEMENT

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April 9, 2001

Senator Lyda Green
Senate Finance Committee

VIA FAX ONLY
(907) 465-3805

Dear Senator Green:

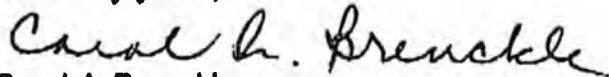
I urge your support for construction of the Kenai Juvenile Detention Facility. It is certainly long overdue.

As an attorney, I have worked with the juvenile justice system in Kenai for more than sixteen (16) years. Construction of a facility on the Peninsula will result not only in savings for the Department but a local detention center will provide our juveniles with immediate consequences. Families will be able to become involved in the treatment process if treatment is available locally. It is not always possible for families to travel to Anchorage.

Should you have any questions or wish to speak with me directly, please do not hesitate to contact my Office.

Thank you.

Sincerely yours,


Carol A. Brenckle