

ALASKA LEGISLATURE

1900

HOUSE and SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE FILES, 1999 - 2000 51

1/25/00

Overview:

H&SS,

Div. Pub.

ASSIST.

SFIN

FILE



Official Business

Alaska State Senate

Senate Finance Committee

Mail Stop 3100
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

AGENDA

January 25, 2000

9:00 a.m.

**Department of Health & Social Services
Division of Public Assistance
Review of FY'99 and FY'00 Programs and Results**

**Division of Public Assistance
Overview of Welfare Reform
January 25, 2000**

Topics of Discussion

- 1) Alaska Temporary Assistance Program (ATAP) Basics
- 2) Caseload Decline
 - Rate of Decline Continues
 - Comparison to Other States
- 3) Spending is Down
 - General Fund Savings
- 4) More Clients Working
 - Work Participation Rates
- 5) Performance Measures
 - High Performance Bonus
 - Food Stamp Accuracy Rate
- 6) Program Evaluation
- 7) Work Services
 - Case Management and Work Search
 - Child Care
 - Hard-to-Serve
 - Training Initiatives
 - Transportation
 - Mentoring
- 8) Workforce Development
 - AHRIC
 - WorkStar
 - One Stop Job Centers (AJCN)
- 9) The Future
 - Planning for the 5-Year Limit
 - Services for Hard-to-Serve clients
 - Post Employment Services
 - Targeted Training
 - Child Care
 - Welfare-to-Work Case Management Training
 - Transportation
 - Program Evaluation

| TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE PARTICIPATION RATE | | | |
|---|-----------|--------------|-----------------|
| RATE | FOR MONTH | YEAR TO DATE | FFY 00 REQUIRED |
| Overall | 38% | 40% | 40% |
| Two-Parent | 46% | 4.5% | 90% |

| Work Activity Assignments | Dec-99 |
|---|--------|
| Temporary Assistance Clients | |
| Unduplicated total of clients assigned to 'countable' work activities: | 3,773 |
| Types of activities assigned: | |
| Unsubsidized Employment | 59% |
| Work Experience | 2% |
| Contracted Job Search | 14% |
| Community Work Experience | 10% |
| Vocational Education | 17% |
| High School/GED | 2% |
| <i>Percentages may not add up to 100% because clients may be assigned to more than one work activity.</i> | |

Months Remaining on the TANF Time Limit

| Temporary Assistance Non-Exempt Families | | |
|--|--------------------|------------------|
| Months Remaining | Number of Families | Percent of Cases |
| 0 - 6 | 0 | 0.0% |
| 7 - 12 | 0 | 0.0% |
| 13 - 18 | 0 | 0.0% |
| 19 - 24 | 11 | 0.2% |
| 25 - 30 | 22 | 0.4% |
| 31 - 36 | 1,706 | 33.9% |
| 37 - 42 | 519 | 10.3% |
| 43 - 48 | 587 | 11.6% |
| 49 - 54 | 820 | 16.3% |
| 55 - 59 | 1,374 | 27.3% |
| Total | 5,039 | 100.0% |

Families exempt from the TANF Time Limit include Child Only families and Adult Included families currently living in Exempt Native Villages.

| TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE CASELOAD BY DPA SERVICE/CENSUS AREA | | |
|--|---|--------------|
| DPA SERVICE AREA | CENSUS AREA | CASES |
| NOME | Nome Census Area | 207 |
| BETHEL | Bethel Census Area | 409 |
| | Wade Hampton Census Area | 305 |
| KENAI | Kenai Peninsula Borough | 527 |
| KOTZEBUE | Northwest Arctic Borough | 129 |
| KODIAK | Kodiak Island Borough | 89 |
| ALEUTIANS | Aleutians East Borough | 14 |
| | Aleutians West Census Area | 7 |
| BRISTOL BAY | Bristol Bay Borough | 1 |
| | Dillingham Census Area | 132 |
| | Lake & Peninsula Borough | 30 |
| PWS/COPPER | Valdez-Cordova Census Area | 84 |
| INTER-SOUTHEAST | Haines Borough | 30 |
| | Skagway-Hoonah-Angoon Census Area | 48 |
| | Yakutat Borough | 7 |
| | Wrangell-Petersburg Census Area | 82 |
| JUNEAU | Juneau Borough | 264 |
| SITKA | Sitka Borough | 62 |
| KETCHIKAN | Ketchikan Gateway Borough | 199 |
| PRINCE OF WALES | Prince of Wales/Outer Ketchikan Census Subareas | 62 |
| | Mellakatta Indian Community Census Subarea | 47 |
| METLAKATLA | Mellakatta Indian Community Census Subarea | 47 |
| NORTHERN | Denali Borough | 11 |
| | North Slope Borough | 28 |
| | Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area | 15 |
| | Southeast Fairbanks Census Area | 95 |
| FAIRBANKS | Fairbanks North Star Borough | 552 |
| ANCHORAGE | Municipality of Anchorage | 2,974 |
| MAT-SU | Matanuska-Susitna Borough | 805 |
| TOTAL | | 7,215 |

| TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE CASELOAD TYPES | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------|---------------|------------|--------------------|
| ONE PARENT | TWO PARENT | INCAPACITATED | CHILD ONLY | TOTAL ALL FAMILIES |
| 4,922 | 1,003 | 89 | 1,201 | 7,215 |

Division of Public Assistance
Monthly Caseload and Benefit Summary
 December 1999

| PROGRAM CASELOAD | Current Month Dec-99 | Last Month Nov-99 | Last Year Dec-98 | Percent Change 12/99 vs. 12/98 | FY 97 Baseline (Pre-WR) Dec-96 | Percent Change 12/99 vs 12/96 |
|--|-------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Alaska Temporary Assistance Program | 7,215 | 7,068 | 8,388 | | | |
| Athabaskan Self-Sufficiency Assistance Partnership | 355 | 364 | 365 | | | |
| Alaska TANF Programs Total | 7,570 | 7,432 | 8,753 | -13.5% | 11,946 | -36.6% |
| Adult Public Assistance | 13,260 | 13,192 | 12,603 | 5.2% | 11,550 | 14.8% |
| Food Stamps | 13,189 | 12,774 | 14,363 | -8.2% | 16,375 | -19.5% |

| PROGRAM EXPENDITURE | Current Year Dec-99 | Prior Year Dec-98 | Percent Change | FY 97 Baseline (Pre-WR) Dec-96 | Percent Change 12/99 vs 12/96 |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|----------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Alaska Temporary Assistance Program | \$4,952.8 | \$5,757.8 | -14.0% | \$9,552.2 | -48.2% |
| Adult Public Assistance | \$4,129.4 | \$3,811.9 | 8.3% | \$3,693.0 | 11.8% |
| Food Stamps | \$3,791.5 | \$4,246.6 | -10.8% | \$4,382.6 | -13.5% |

Temporary Assistance Families
 Receiving Child Care Assistance In November

Temporary Assistance Families
 Receiving Pass-Thru Payment

 Due to Child Support Collection in Month

 93% = 13%

| Child Care Expenditures | Families served in month | Families on wait list |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| PASS I (Temporary Assistance) | 966 | n/a |
| PASS II (Transition to work) | 605 | n/a |
| PASS III (At-risk) | 2,494 | 593 |
| Total | 4,065 | 593 |

Initial Applications by Region

| | CURRENT YEAR Dec-99 | | | | | PRIOR YEAR Dec-98 | | | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|--------------|------------|------------|--------------|----------------------|--------------|------------|------------|--------------|
| | Central | Coastal | Northern | Southeast | Total | Central | Coastal | Northern | Southeast | Total |
| Temporary Assistance | 631 | 387 | 137 | 150 | 1,305 | 607 | 349 | 184 | 139 | 1,279 |
| Adult Public Assistance | 140 | 123 | 103 | 45 | 411 | 171 | 138 | 93 | 53 | 455 |
| Food Stamps | 1,005 | 661 | 387 | 268 | 2,321 | 1,083 | 631 | 380 | 299 | 2,393 |
| Total | 1,776 | 1,171 | 627 | 463 | 4,037 | 1,861 | 1,118 | 657 | 491 | 4,127 |

Division of Public Assistance

FY00 Community Case Management and Work Search Grants and Contracts

| Organization | Type | Location | Service | Months | FY00 Award |
|---|------|-------------------|---------|--------|--------------------|
| DPA Central Region | | | | | |
| Cook Inlet Tribal Council | G | Anchorage | RCM | 600 | \$861,400 |
| Nine Star | C | Anchorage | WS | 110 | \$297,000 |
| University of Alaska, Anchorage | C | Anchorage | CWE | 50 | \$50,000 |
| University of Alaska, Anchorage | C | Anchorage | WS | 110 | \$297,000 |
| Cook Inlet Tribal Council | G | Anchorage | WS | 75 | \$202,500 |
| Human Resources | C | Mat-Su | WS | 86 | \$232,200 |
| Job Ready Inc. | C | Anchorage | PECM | 300 | \$435,000 |
| University of Alaska, Anchorage | C | Anchorage | PECM | 300 | \$435,000 |
| Human Resources | C | Mat-Su | PECM | 240 | \$348,000 |
| DPA Coastal Region | | | | | |
| Aleutian/Pribilof Island Association | G | Aleutian/Pribilof | CCM | 34 | \$75,800 |
| Association of Village Council Presidents | G | Bethel | CCM | 450 | \$816,400 |
| DOLWD | RSA | PWS/Copper River | CCM | 52 | \$112,200 |
| Copper River Native Association | G | PWS/Copper River | CCM | 29 | \$59,700 |
| DOLWD | RSA | Homer | CCM | 77 | \$154,000 |
| Maniilaq Manpower | G | Kotzebue | CCM | 90 | \$162,200 |
| DOLWD | G | Nome | CCM | 120 | \$119,994 |
| Department of Education | RSA | Seward | CCM | 32 | \$64,000 |
| DOLWD | RSA | Kenai | PECM | 120 | \$174,000 |
| DOLWD | RSA | Kenai | WS | 46 | \$124,200 |
| Kodiak Borough | C | Kodiak | CCM | 100 | \$215,500 |
| Bristol Bay Native Association | G | Bristol Bay | CCM | 180 | \$376,400 |
| DPA Northern Region | | | | | |
| Adult Learning Programs of Alaska | C | Fairbanks | WS | 89 | \$240,300 |
| DOLWD | RSA | Northern | CCM | 109 | \$234,700 |
| DOLWD | RSA | Fairbanks | PECM | 180 | \$261,000 |
| DPA Southeast Region | | | | | |
| Tlingit & Haida | G | Inter-SE | CCM | 66 | \$122,500 |
| DOLWD | RSA | Inter-SE | CCM | 57 | \$123,100 |
| Metlakatla Indian Corporation | G | Metlakatla | CCM | 38 | \$65,200 |
| Southeast Regional Resource Center | C | Prince of Wales | CCM | 45 | \$97,200 |
| Center for Community | C | Sitka | CCM | 35 | \$110,000 |
| DOLWD | RSA | Juneau | PECM | 50 | \$72,500 |
| DOLWD | RSA | Ketchikan | PECM | 60 | \$87,000 |
| Tlingit & Haida | G | Juneau | RCM | 93 | \$136,100 |
| Southeast Regional Resource Center | C | Juneau | WS | 40 | \$108,000 |
| Southeast Regional Resource Center | C | Ketchikan | WS | 20 | \$59,400 |
| Total | | | | | \$7,329,494 |

G = Grant

C = Contract

RSA = Reimbursable Service Agreement

WS = Work Search

CCM = Comprehensive Case Management

RCM = Regular case Management

PECM = Post-Employment Case Management

DPA Welfare to Work Services Provided By Grantee and Contractors

To meet the challenges presented by welfare reform, the Division of Public Assistance (DPA) provides funds through grants, contracts and reimbursable service agreements (RSA) to community organizations, businesses, and partner agencies best situated to provide welfare to work services. The majority of the funding provided to these organizations purchases case management and Work Search services. DPA's new service delivery model ensures:

- A Work First! approach
- Community support and local involvement essential to the success of welfare reform.
- Application of local knowledge of the economy, businesses and culture that is best obtained through community based organizations
- Localized and de-centralized delivery of services that maximizes local knowledge and resources necessary to place clients into jobs or other meaningful work activities.

Work First

- Guiding philosophy successful in moving welfare recipients into employment
- Motto "a job, a better job, a career" (Even minimum wage jobs can be the stepping stone to a better job)
- Emphasizes fundamental value of work to enhance self-esteem and provide a good role model for children.
- The best way to learn about work is on the job and the best way to succeed in the labor market is to join it
- Testing the labor market is the best assessment of employability
- Job search is a central activity.

Work Search

- Cornerstone of DPA's "work first" approach to welfare reform
- Moves clients into the workforce as quickly as possible
- Activities conducted in group settings and model the day-to-day requirements of a job.
- Attendance is for four weeks, five days a week, up to eight hours per day
- Assesses skills, interests, aptitudes and employment barriers
- Uses workshops, lectures and other training modules to prepare clients to successfully find and keep employment
- Job club and peer mentoring
- Job search monitored by the Work Search provider
- Coaching, matching and placement of clients into employment

Case Management: The one-on-one interaction between a case manager and a client, in which the case manager is responsible for managing and arranging services that help the client move along the path from welfare to work. The case manager:

- Assesses client employability
- Helps develop the client's Family Self Sufficiency Plan (FSSP)
- Links clients to resources that support self-sufficiency
- Monitors family's progress in meeting self-sufficiency goals
- Assists in job referral
- Authorizes supportive services that assist clients in their efforts to prepare for, seek and retain employment.

DPA has defined three categories of Case Management:

- *Regular Case Management* is provided in service areas where Work Search is available to clients through another contract or grant. Regular case managers work with a caseload of clients who are either employed or unemployed.
- *Post Employment Case Management* is provided in service areas with Work Search and consists of a caseload of employed clients needing extra support to maintain their current jobs and/or to find better employment. Post employment case managers perform all the duties of the regular case managers, plus they assist employers who may need help with an individual client/employee.
- *Comprehensive Case Management* is provided where Work Search is not available for a caseload composed of both employed and unemployed clients. The comprehensive case manager performs all the duties of the regular and post employment case managers, plus appropriate functions that are part of Work Search.

DPA TRAIN TO HIRE INITIATIVE

Objective:

To provide short-term training for demand occupations that encourage employers to hire Temporary Assistance clients.

Principles:

1. Focus on demand occupations with potential for full time employment
2. Short-term training (between 2 to 12 weeks)
3. Employer assures hire of successful trainees
4. Small group training (5-10 participants)
5. Guarantee employer involvement through training designed to meet employers' needs
6. Employer-based training curriculum

Employer Incentives:

1. Meets the demand for trained employees
2. Cost sharing of training with DPA
3. Potential Tax Credits
4. Good public relations for employers
5. Ongoing case management and other services to support working clients
6. Transitional services to clients when employment leads to case closure

Training Options:

1. Employer training programs
 - Employer has formal training program
 - DPA pays training per capita training costs
2. Employer-based Vendor training
 - Employer(s) without formal training program
 - Collaborate with Vendor to develop and present curricula
 - DPA pays training per capita training costs
3. Subsidized OJT

Successful Models:

Employer Training Programs

National Bank of Alaska

- 2 Training sessions provided by NBA
- Clients pre-screened and referred by DPA and Service Providers
- 14 clients attended the training - 11 hired by NBA.

Providence Hospital

- 5 Training sessions administered by Providence Hospital for Certified Nursing Assistants
- Clients pre-screened and referred by DPA and Service Providers
- 47 clients attended training, 34 completed training all were hired



Donated car jump-starts welfare-work program

By MARTHA BRISTOW
Staff Writer

It was a 45-below twist to a story with a happy ending: Lavoris Cofey was supposed to get a car Thursday, but the vehicle would not start because it had not been plugged in.

Still, Thursday was a superlative day for Cofey. It was her 36th birthday and the dawn of a new, independent life with a donated 1991 Ford Taurus—once it thaws—courtesy of Love In the Name of Christ.

The agency is a clearinghouse for local churches that matches needs in the community with volunteer services and donated goods.

"I thank God for the blessing of Love INC to be able to bless others," Cofey said during a brief ceremony at the agency's new, under-renovation headquarters at 1231 Noble St.

As ice fog swirled outside the window, Cofey accepted a symbol of Fairbanks car ownership: a new blue extension cord.

Cofey is a single mom who completed certified nursing assistant training through the Welfare to Work program. She is the first person to receive a car through a Love INC plan to help people join or rejoin the work force, said Terry Reichardt, the agency's executive director.

When Cofey first contacted the agency a year ago, she needed transportation to her classes. Later, when she got a job in an assisted-living home, she needed a ride to and from her 4-to-midnight shift. She also needed help getting her three kids to day care.

At first, Love INC plugged Cofey into a network of volunteer drivers who provide almost 600 rides every month, said Cornelia Stubblefield, the agency's transportation coordinator.

"We've found that transportation is such a problem for people who are making the transition to work," said Katie Ziesmer, Love INC project coordinator. "These people on low income just pour their money into cabs."

Love INC started its transportation program six years ago and enlarged it about 18 months ago. Stubblefield constructs a schedule that matches the needs of 67 clients with shifts covered by 83 volunteer drivers. The drivers provide rides to work, medical appointments, job interviews and other important commitments.

The transportation is friendly and dependable, Cofey said. "I've never been late to work," she said.

The drawback to the volunteer-driven transportation program is that people become dependent on it, Reichardt said. "We've got to move people off of the transportation program and on to independence."



Sam Hensel/News-Miner

GOOD TIMING—Love In the Name of Christ Executive Director Terry Reichardt gives an extension cord to Lavoris Cofey to use with her car that Love INC gave her Thursday in the agency's new offices on Noble Street. The extension cord is important because the car, a 1991 Ford Taurus donated to Love INC, would not start since it was not plugged in the night before. "I thank God for the blessing of Love INC to be able to bless others," said Cofey, who celebrated her 36th birthday Thursday.

In the past year, Love INC launched the Vehicle Incentive Plan. Working with the Department of Public Assistance, the agency matches donated cars with people who need them.

People who donate cars to a nonprofit agency can de-

duct the donation from their income taxes, Reichardt said.

Although the people who receive the cars don't have to invest any money up front, they do have to invest time and effort. Cofey, for instance, had to attend

See WELFARE, Page A-8

WELFARE: To work

Continued from Page A-1
a series of "Quality Life" workshops offered by Love INC to clients and to the general public. The workshops include "Stretching Your Money," "Cooking on a Tight Budget" and "Purchasing and Caring for a Car."

Cofey describes the workshops as "awesome," especially the one about saving money.

"That I needed. I really needed it," she said. "I've got money saved up, and I've never had money saved up before."

Over the next year, Cofey will meet with a volunteer mechanic who will teach her the fine points of vehicle maintenance and make sure her Ford Taurus is running well. At the end of a year, if Cofey

completes all of the training, Love INC will remove its lien from the vehicle title.

Having a car will make an immense difference in her life, Cofey said. For one thing, she'll save on cab fare. Even though she had rides through Love INC for work, she occasionally called a cab to transport herself and children. It's not unusual to spend \$30 for one outing, she said.

She'll also be able to take more university classes, to further her career.

"This is the beginning of a new year and it looks very promising," Cofey said.



M.A.S.C.O.T. buses will be making over 400 stops daily!! Throughout Alaska's Mat-Su Valley, bus stop locations have been placed at many key locations. These include residential areas, medical facilities, senior centers, local businesses, health and social services, as well as recreational areas.

M.A.S.C.O.T. is a Non-Profit organization in Alaska with the goal:

To provide a reliable, accessible, cost efficient, and effective transportation system which will increase the mobility of Mat-Su Valley residents and visitors.

Our Commuter service has been established to encourage a reduction in the number of drive-alone trips, essentially decreasing the number of vehicles on our roadways.

This service makes connections twice daily with Anchorage People Movers buses at the Eagle River Transfer Center.

All M.A.S.C.O.T. buses are wheelchair accessible!



M.A.S.C.O.T. has advertising space available on the inside as well as the outsides of our buses.

SCHEDULES:

Mat-Su Valley Service and Commuter Service

GENERAL INFO/CUSTOMER SERVICE

LINKS

Alaska Temporary Assistance Program Evaluation

Purpose of the project:

- To learn more about the status of families that have left the Temporary Assistance Program, and the reasons why some have returned.
- The information will be used to strengthen the program in the goal of moving families toward self-sufficiency.

Evaluators: Institute for Circumpolar Health Studies and the UAA School of Social Work, in consultation with a Citizens Advisory Committee. The Advisory Committee will work with the evaluators to:

- monitor the course of the evaluation project,
- assist the evaluators in the analysis and interpretation of data,
- review and comment on evaluation findings and recommendations.

Timelines: October 1999 – August 2000 (first draft report)

Budget: \$249,625

Primary research question:

- Is the Department of Health and Social Services achieving the goal of moving recipients into jobs so they can support their families?

Evaluation Objectives:

- To assess the characteristics of families who have left the welfare roles (leavers) since July 1997.
- To learn more about families who have moved into jobs to support their families.
- To identify those factors associated with staying off welfare.
- To compare leavers with those families that have returned to the welfare roles after a period of absence (returners).

What are we measuring? – evaluation constructs:

- | | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| ▪ Basic leaver information | ▪ Current & past employment | ▪ ATAP services received |
| ▪ Leaver demographics | ▪ Other sources of income | ▪ Other services received |
| ▪ Child care | ▪ Housing | ▪ Transportation |
| ▪ Health factors | ▪ Client perceptions | ▪ Rural issues |

Method:

- Conduct client survey
- Review case files
- Analyze with DPA administrative data and other data available to DPA

**Alaska Department of Health & Social Services
Division of Public Assistance
Performance Measures**

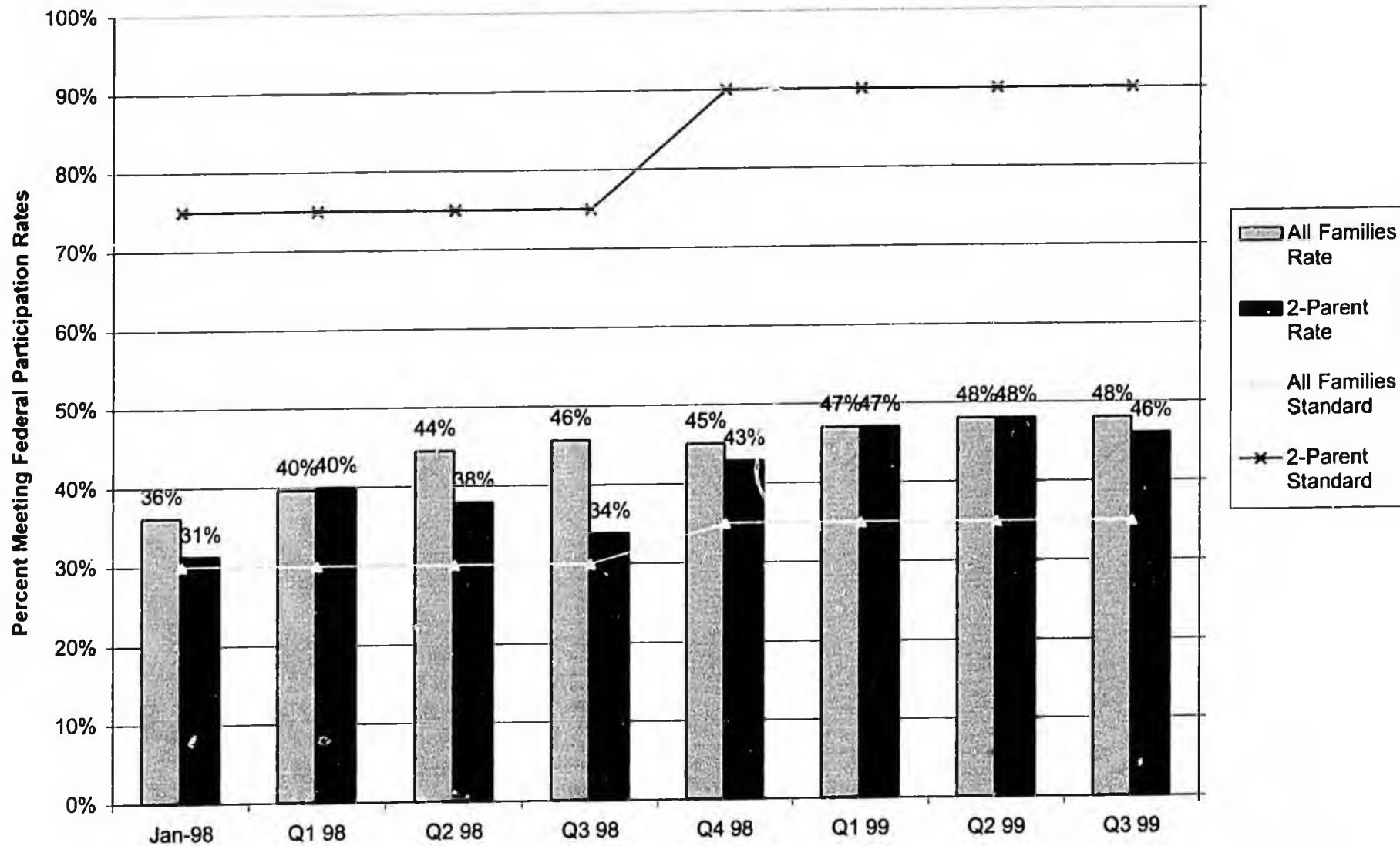
PROGRAM OBJECTIVE: Client reaches highest level of economic self-sufficiency.

| DESIRED OUTCOMES | PERFORMANCE MEASURES |
|---|--|
| Increase the percentage of Temporary Assistance clients who obtain paid employment. | Percentage of Temporary Assistance adults with earned income. Percentage of closed Temporary Assistance cases with earned income. Percentage of Temporary Assistance clients with hours of paid employment greater than an average of 30 hrs./week. Rate of job-entry for Temporary Assistance adults in the fiscal year. |
| Increase the percentage of current and former clients who retain paid employment. | Rate of increase in total earnings of employed Temporary Assistance adults. Rate of job retention of Temporary Assistance adults. |
| Increase the percentage of Temporary Assistance children who receive Child Support from absent parents. | Percentage of Temporary Assistance families receiving child support. Percentage of Temporary Assistance families with earned income <u>and</u> child support. Percentage of <u>closed</u> Temporary Assistance cases with earned income <u>and</u> child support. |
| Clients obtain high quality jobs. | Percentage of employed Temporary Assistance families with employer provided health insurance. Average hourly wage of working Temporary Assistance adults. |

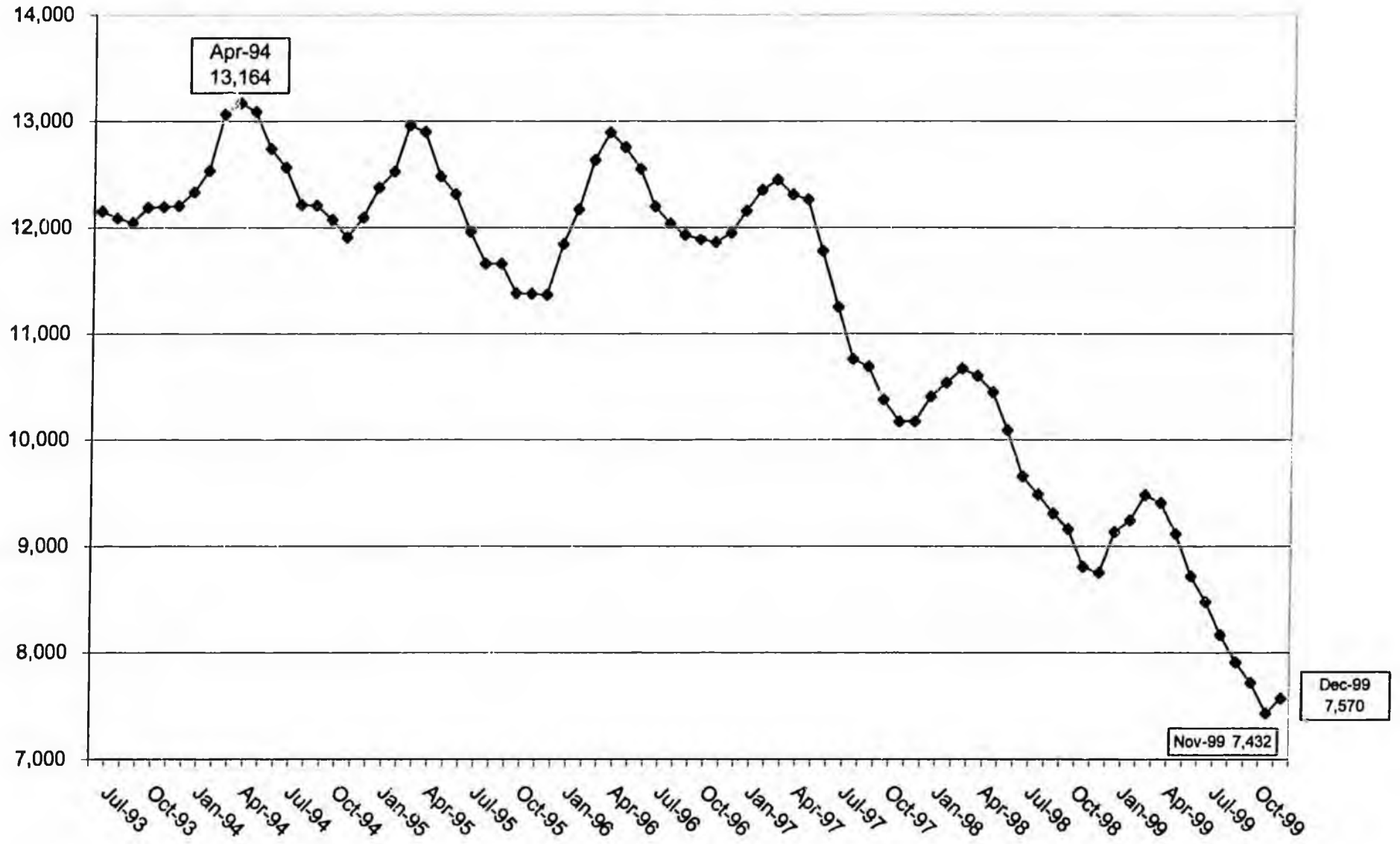
PROGRAM OBJECTIVE: Responsible stewardship.

| DESIRED OUTCOMES | PERFORMANCE MEASURES |
|---|---|
| Benefits are timely. | Percentage of Customer Service Assessments reflecting timely benefits. |
| Benefits paid are accurate. | Food Stamp payment accuracy rate. Temporary Assistance payment accuracy rate. |
| Clients participate in work activities. | Percentage of Temporary Assistance families participating in federally countable work activities. Percentage of clients not participating in work activities because of lack of child care |
| All overpayments are repaid. | Percentage of overpaid Temporary Assistance dollars collected from families. Percentage of overpaid FS dollars collected from families. |
| Clients become self-sufficient before the 5 year Temporary Assistance time limit. | Percentage of families with benefits for 60 months or more. |

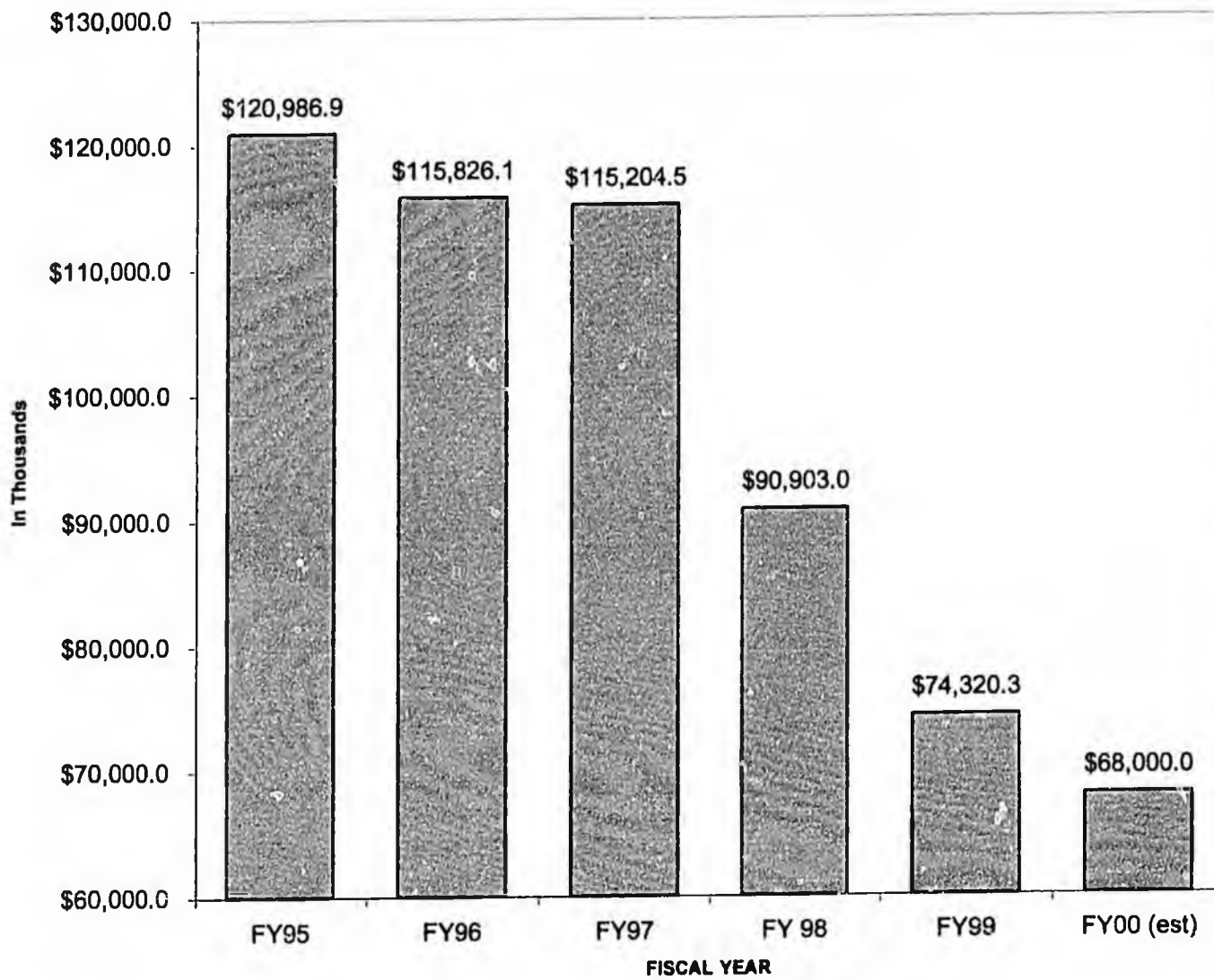
Alaska Division of Public Assistance Performance Measures Federal Work Participation Rates



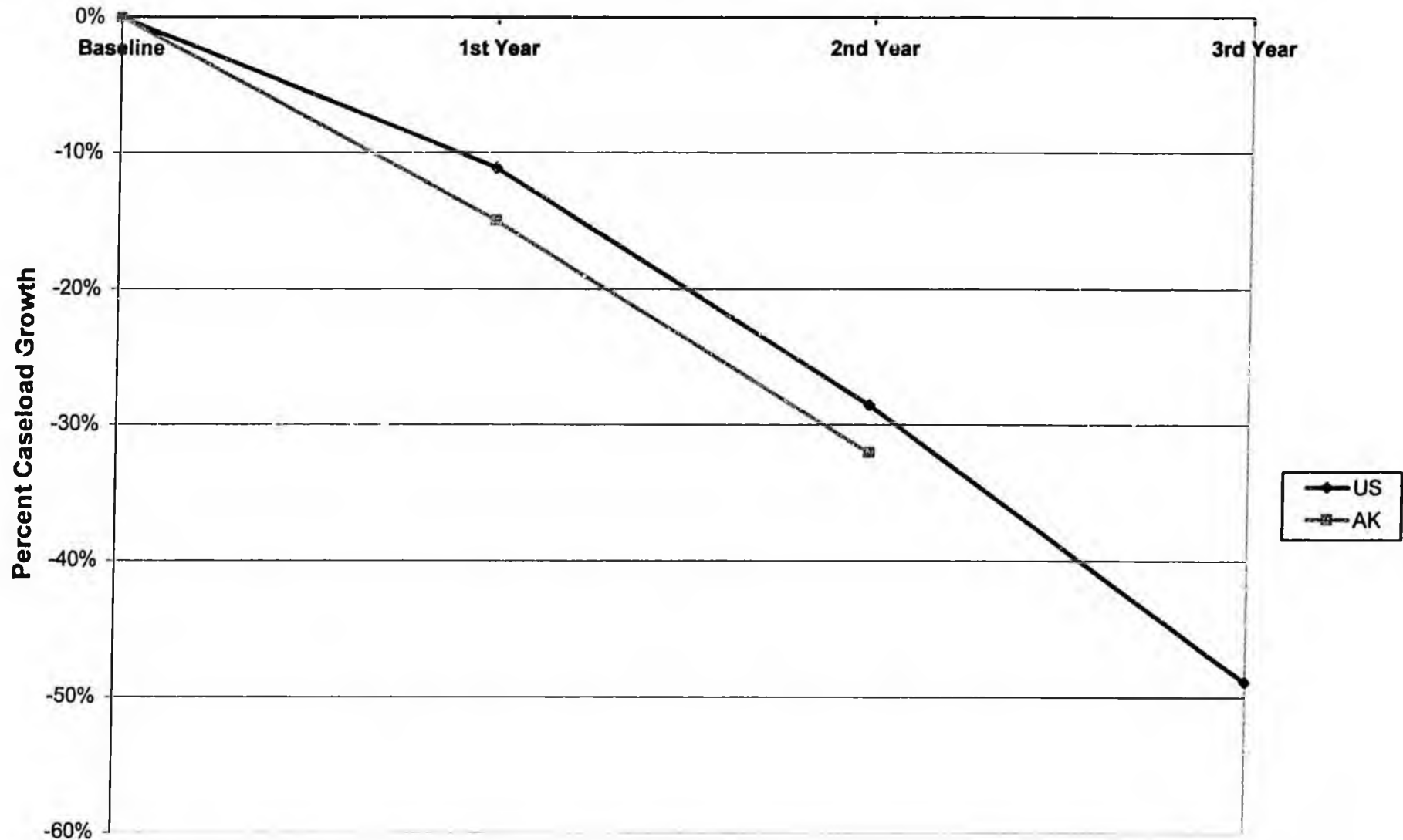
AFDC/ATAP Caseload FY94 - Present



AFDC/ATAP Cash Benefit Expenditures



Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Percent of the Caseload Growth by Program Year



The baseline for the U.S. is from January 1996 and the baseline for Alaska is January 1997.
The final year's data for both Alaska and the entire U.S. is from June 1999

What can you offer?

Here's a list of possible resources you or your team might offer through a Family Pathfinders team:

- help arrange for child care, housing or transportation;
- be a friend to talk things over with;
- provide tutoring for family members;
- provide computer tutoring;
- help a family organize its finances and budget;
- help provide clothing, grooming items and household articles;
- help complete job applications, resumes and help develop interview skills;
- help find and maintain a suitable job.

Family Pathfinders

Mission Statement

Family Pathfinders is a partnership of civic groups, businesses, congregations and state government agencies working with welfare families to help free them from dependence on public assistance.

Contact:

Family Pathfinders
Norma Carter, Coordinator
Beyond Shelter Program
3710 East 20th Avenue
Anchorage, Alaska 99508-3418

(907) 276-3046 phone

(907) 276-2472 fax

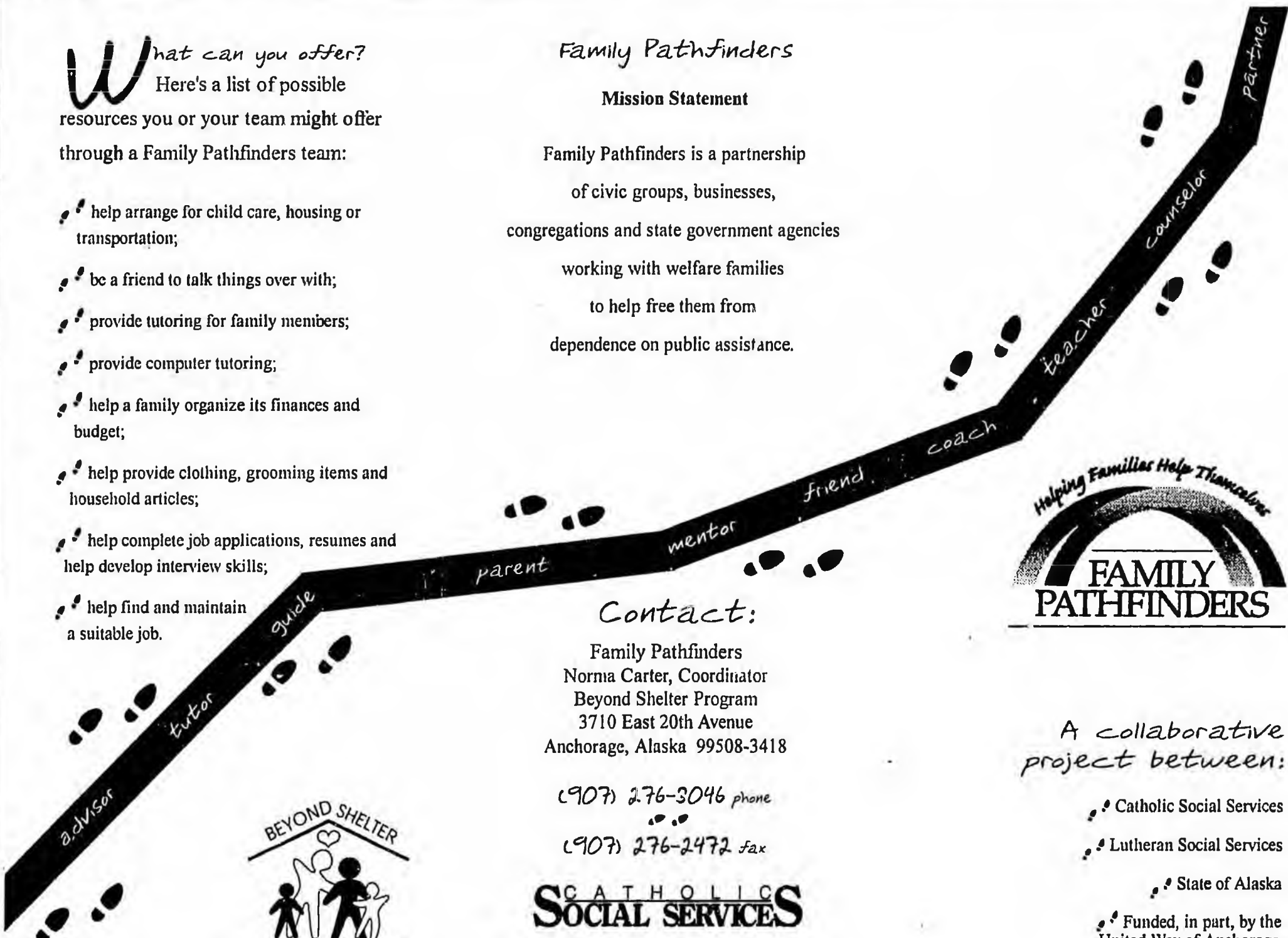
**CATHOLIC
SOCIAL SERVICES**

 A United Way Agency



A collaborative project between:

- Catholic Social Services
- Lutheran Social Services
- State of Alaska
- Funded, in part, by the United Way of Anchorage



Just think about ...

the one person who stands out in your life as a great mentor. Do you recall a teacher whose advice you could always count on? Was it a friend who would drop everything when you had a problem and just needed someone who would listen? Or, does a family member fit the description of that close confidante who can always be counted for non-judgemental support? Maybe you are, or can be, that person for someone else!

Can you imagine... where you might be if you didn't have a network of friends, family members or others to lean on every once and a while — someone to provide you with moral support, personal and professional experience, referrals to services, practical advice, and sounding boards for your own ideas.

You just feel better knowing they are a part of your life and you are a part of their's. After all, personal and professional contacts are among the most important ingredients to a productive and successful life.

Family Pathfinders.

The Family Pathfinders project supports families in their path from welfare dependence to independence. Mentor teams work with selected families to provide a support system and help ensure their chances for success.

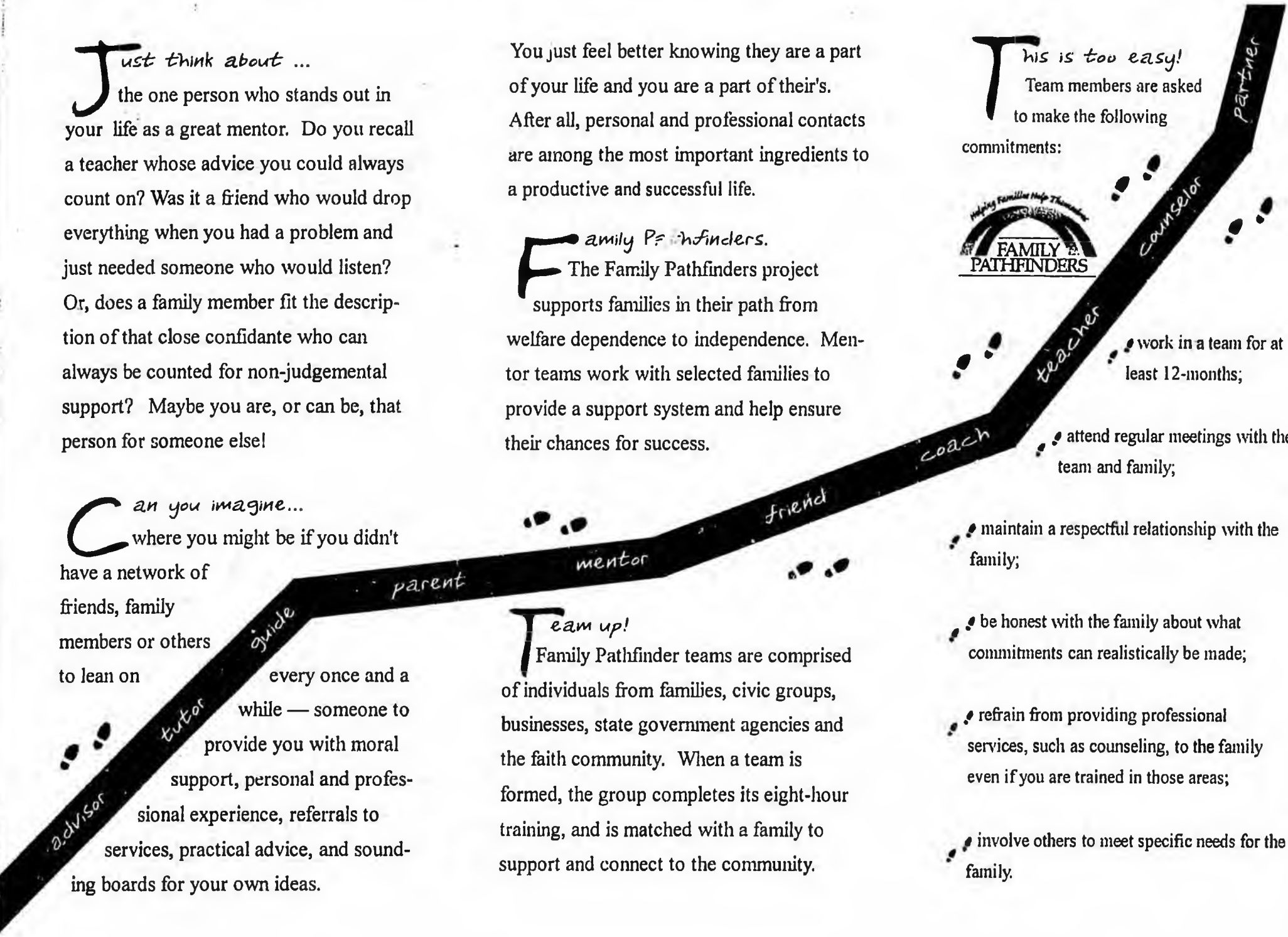
Team up!

Family Pathfinder teams are comprised of individuals from families, civic groups, businesses, state government agencies and the faith community. When a team is formed, the group completes its eight-hour training, and is matched with a family to support and connect to the community.

This is too easy! Team members are asked to make the following commitments:



- work in a team for at least 12-months;
- attend regular meetings with the team and family;
- maintain a respectful relationship with the family;
- be honest with the family about what commitments can realistically be made;
- refrain from providing professional services, such as counseling, to the family even if you are trained in those areas;
- involve others to meet specific needs for the family.



Mission Statement

SHOULD;

Briefly state WHY department exists,
Highlight UNIQUE contribution of department,
Unify the core services/service groups,
Be memorable and usable

SHOULD NOT;

Be list of everything we do,
Include statements of values,
Include “qualifiers” of who well/good ,
Contain language that is vague and unclear.

Mission Statement – Example (OASAS)

WHY the agency exists

Assist Clients in becoming “Self Sufficient”

Not WHAT you do;

Provide local assistance,
Distribute state aid

Not how WELL you do things;

Excellence
Quality

Not statements of HOW;

Through partnerships
Valuing diverse perspectives

What's IMPORTANT to measure?

Results.....not Activities

Result: The intended "outcome" of the effort.

Activities: The things done to accomplish the "outcome".

EXAMPLE - JOBS Training

Result = Person gets a Job



Activities = Person's case is established
Person is trained
Person receives child care assistance
Person is taught interviewing skills
etc.....

KEY QUESTIONS FOR POLICY MAKERS ?

1. What's your Mission?
2. What are your programs and how do they contribute to the Mission?
3. Who are your customers?
4. What are your Program Outcome Performance Measures?
5. How did you do last year?
6. What do you intend to do differently this year?
7. What are your strategies/priorities for this next year?
8. Which measures are you going to use to validate _____ and monitor our investment? _____
9. * *Is there duplication between agencies?*
10. * *Are other options viable to accomplish these outcomes?*

Mission Statement

SHOULD;

Briefly state WHY department exists,
Highlight UNIQUE contribution of department,
Unify the core services/service groups,
Be memorable and usable

SHOULD NOT;

Be list of everything we do,
Include statements of values,
Include “qualifiers” of who well/good ,
Contain language that is vague and unclear.

Mission Statement – Example (OASAS)

WHY the agency exists

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Distribute state aid

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Welfare Reform Status Report

The First Two Years

Fiscal Years 1998 & 1999
(July 1, 1997 - June 30, 1999)

1999 UPDATE

INSIDE THIS REPORT

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INTRODUCTION

Alaska has completed the second year of its new welfare program. As a result of welfare reform, the dramatic decrease in welfare caseloads seen across the nation is happening in Alaska. While caseloads and spending are down and more recipients are working, challenges still persist in helping the remaining Alaskan families off welfare and into self-sufficiency.

Alaska's welfare reform law was signed by Governor Knowles in June of 1996, and two months later President Clinton signed the federal welfare reform law. The new state and federal laws which took effect on July 1, 1997, replaced the AFDC program with the Alaska Temporary Assistance Program (ATAP or Temporary Assistance).

Alaska has adopted a "work first" approach which emphasizes quick entry into the workforce for most recipients,

backed by services which help recipients retain jobs and attain better jobs. The threat of time limits and federal requirements for work participation underscore the importance of a strong employment emphasis.

The AFDC program was funded on a 50% federal and 50% state basis with the total amount dependent on the size of the caseload. Under the new program, federal funding comes in a fixed amount known as the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) block grant and the state is required to match at least 80% of the federal level.

Due to declining caseloads and the reduced demand for cash benefit payments, millions of dollars have been made available to provide child care and work services for recipients and to supplant state funds for other services which has helped to



reduce the state's budget deficit.

While the success chronicled in last year's *Welfare Reform Status Report* has continued through the second year, the challenges remain as well. As the caseload declines, those recipients with the greatest barriers to employment continue to need help. And the 60-month lifetime time clock keeps ticking.

The ultimate success of welfare reform will depend on helping low-skilled welfare recipients into employment and self-sufficiency before their clock runs out.

WELFARE REFORM IN ALASKA

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Welfare caseload has declined 26% from June 1997.
- Welfare savings for Fiscal Year 1999 topped \$41 million.
- Since July 1997, 4,000 families have left welfare for jobs.
- The welfare caseload has dropped to its lowest level since February 1991.

New welfare reform laws have changed welfare by:

- Imposing a 5-year lifetime limit on benefits
- Requiring most recipients to be in a work activity within two years
- Requiring minor parents to live with their parents or another safe home, and to finish high school

- Diverting applicants from welfare by addressing immediate needs
- Reducing benefits to two-parent families in the summer and to families with low housing costs
- Requiring all recipients to develop a family self-sufficiency plan

- Allowing families more earned income so that it pays to work
- Penalizing recipients for quitting or refusing to take a job
- Enabling communities to play a greater role in the delivery of welfare-to-work services

Second Year Statistics

Welfare Caseload Down



SECOND YEAR STATISTICS

HIGHLIGHTS

Two years of welfare reform in Alaska have brought some remarkable achievements.

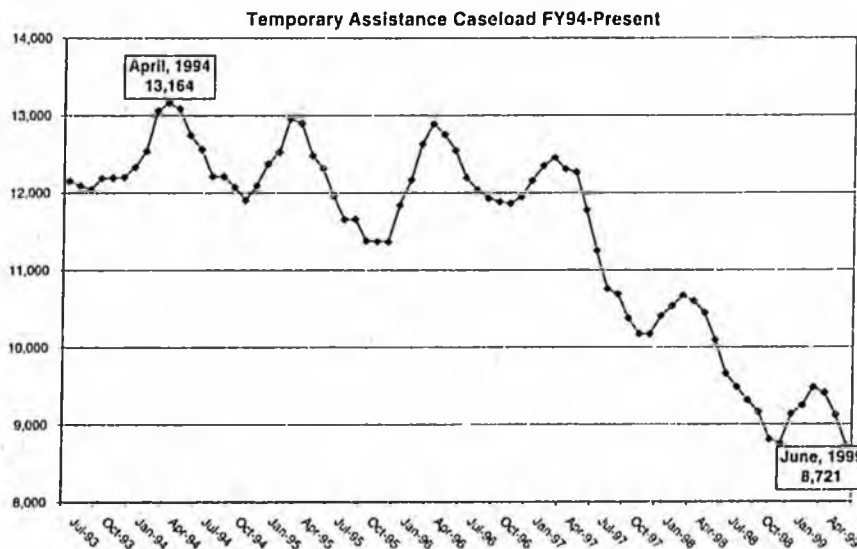
The new rules under welfare reform, the commitment of state public assistance workers and community contractors and grantees, a focus on work and personal responsibility, and a strong Alaska economy have yielded great results.

Highlights from the first two years of welfare reform include:

- The Temporary Assistance caseload has dropped 26%, from June 1997 to June 1999;
- Since July 1997, 4,000 families have left public assistance for jobs;
- Over 54% of Temporary Assistance adults are assigned to work activities;

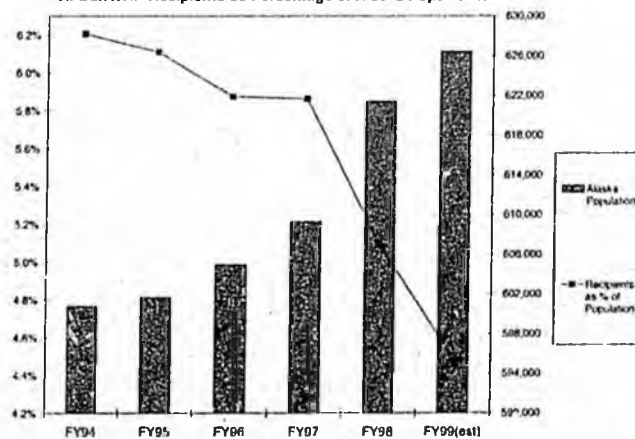
- In two years, the State saved over \$41 million in welfare benefits; and
- Welfare reform has saved \$32.3 million in state general fund dollars in Fiscal Year 2000 alone.

CASELOAD CONTINUES TO GO DOWN



In June of 1999, the Temporary Assistance caseload declined to 8,721, its lowest point since February, 1991 when two parent families were first being added to the AFDC program. This figure is 34% below the historical peak in April of 1994. The greatest decline began in February 1997 when the first ATAP provisions began to take effect. In spite of the overall decline, winter up-swings are an inevitable result of Alaska's seasonal economy.

AFDC/ATAP Recipients as Percentage of Alaska Population



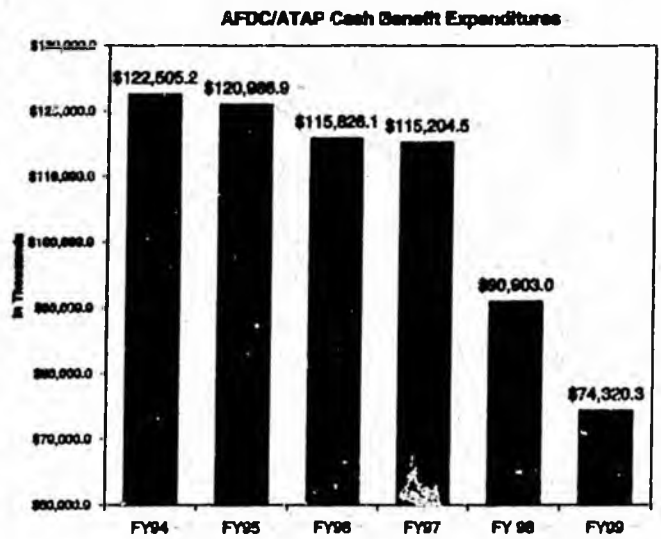
Alaska's overall population has been steadily growing in recent years. At the same time, the welfare caseload has been declining. Thus, the percentage of Alaskans on Temporary Assistance has dropped significantly in the past two years.



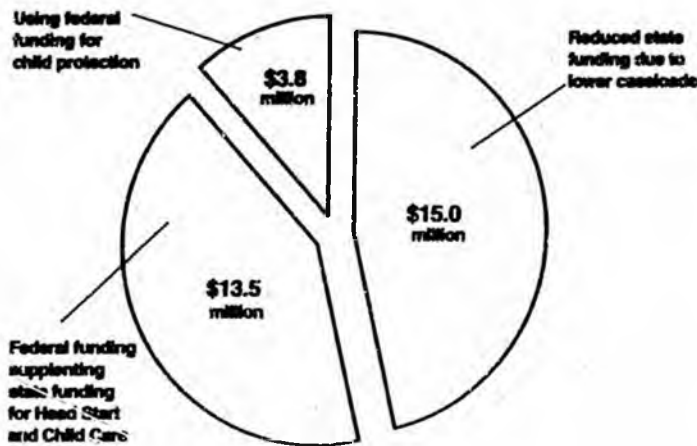
SPENDING IS DOWN



Spending on welfare payments to recipients is down. In FY99, these expenditures declined to \$74.3 million, a 35% reduction from FY97. Lower expenditures can be attributed to more recipients leaving welfare for work, fewer applicants, more recipients working, and benefit cuts to two-parent families in the summer and to families with lower housing costs.

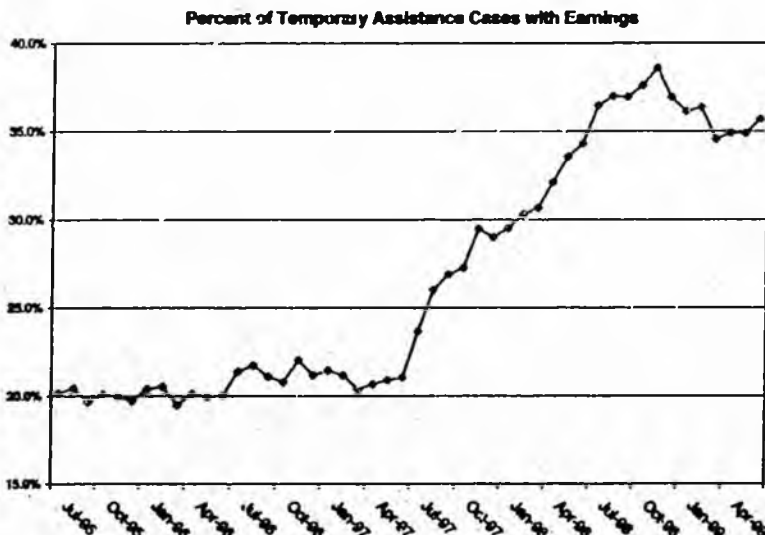


FY2000 State General Fund Savings: \$32 Million



Welfare reform has saved millions of state general fund dollars at a critical time of high budget deficits. Comparing what was spent in FY97 to the amount appropriated for FY 2000, the general fund savings will reach \$32.3 million for FY 2000 alone. This sum is composed of several factors including: reducing the required state effort to the floor; using federal TANF dollars to the maximum allowed to supplant general funded child care and Head Start programs; and using federal TANF dollars to the maximum allowed to provide additional child protection services that would otherwise be funded with state funds.

MORE RECIPIENTS ARE WORKING



The main welfare reform provisions took effect in July of 1997. Since that time the percentage of welfare recipients in a job has increased dramatically. However, as the caseload declines to those recipients with the greatest barriers to employment, it becomes more difficult to achieve high percentages of working recipients.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

ALASKA'S ECONOMY



The Alaska economy plays an important role in the success of welfare reform. Jobs created over the last two years have helped caseloads shrink and future economic growth should add to this trend.

Last year's growth was the

third strongest in the 1990s.

Today's economy continues to add jobs; more people are employed now than were employed a year ago.

New Alaska jobs grew by 2.5% in 1998, providing much needed opportunities for welfare recipients. Alaska's economy should continue to grow through 2000, although job growth in 1999 and 2000 will be among the slowest in Alaska during the last 10 years, according to the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development.

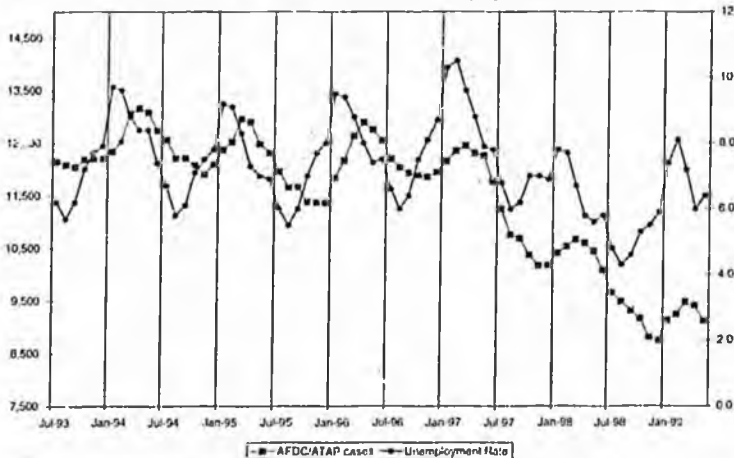
A contracting oil and gas industry and the associated impacts in other sectors of the economy will contribute to slower job growth. In addition,

Alaska's public sector is expected to lose jobs in the next two years. Some of these job losses will be due to privatization and others are expected as a result of revenue-related downsizing.

Another bright spot for Alaska's economy is the unemployment rate, which for the first time since Statehood, remained below 8 percent six years in a row, and averaged 5.8 percent in 1998.

The graph shows that the Temporary Assistance caseload follows and is directly related to the unemployment rate in Alaska. The graph also shows the seasonal nature of both welfare and unemployment.

Alaska AFDC/ATAP Caseload vs. Unemployment Rate



ALASKA HUMAN RESOURCE INVESTMENT COUNCIL & DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

There are big changes in Alaska's workforce development arena. The consolidation of state workforce development agencies and the implementation of the Federal Workforce Investment Act hold the promise of improved training and other employment services for both job seekers and employers.

Legislation passed last session and signed by Governor Knowles consolidates most of the state's workforce development programs into the newly renamed Department of Labor and Workforce Development (DOL). The job training programs housed in the former Department of Community and Regional Affairs were

moved as was the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, and Adult Basic Education. Work services funded through the TANF block grant remain with DPA although DOL continues to provide many services for welfare recipients under agreement with DPA.

Alaska's job training efforts are coordinated by the Alaska Human Resource Investment Council (AHRIC). The Council consists of private sector employers, union officials, educators and state officials.

The AHRIC is currently implementing the new Federal Workforce Investment Act (WIA), which consolidates job training and vocational

education programs, provides more local control of the State's job training delivery system, and is designed to meet both the needs of employers and job seekers.

The AHRIC is coordinating a public planning process to create a five-year strategic plan for workforce development, involving local elected officials, partner agencies, community based organizations, and individuals. The AHRIC will continue to support welfare reform through the planning process. The deadline for WIA implementation is July 1, 2000.



ALASKA JOB CENTER NETWORK – ONE-STOPS

The continued success of welfare reform in Alaska depends on the coordination of agencies that focus on job training, development and placement for recipients.

The Alaska Job Center Network (AJCN) is Alaska's version of the national "one stop" career center system. Its goal is to bring together services for jobs, job training and human services with an eye to increasing cost effectiveness and improving customer satisfaction.

In 1999, all of Alaska's one stops will be asked to meet state standards for Job Centers established by the Alaska Human Resource Investment Council. Antici-

pated to receive certification for meeting those standards are at least 10 full service Job Centers and more than 18 Satellite Job Centers serving smaller communities.

There are several Job Centers up and running in communities across the state;

- Ketchikan Job Center;
- Juneau Job Center;
- Mat-Su Job Center;
- YK Delta Job Center;
- Eagle River Job Center;
- Fairbanks Job Center;
- Kenai Pen. Job Center;
- Anchorage Job Center, Muldoon;
- Anchorage Job Center, 8th Avenue; and
- Anchorage Job Center, Midtown.

The first Anchorage Job Center opened in the Muldoon Mall and a Fourth & Gambell location will open in the fall of 1999. An additional Anchorage Satellite is planned for Mt. View.

All Centers offer a customer service orientation and will provide job and career information, job referrals, skills training, temporary assistance and welfare-to-work programs. Public access computers help customers learn computer skills or access the Internet to facilitate job search.



WORKSTAR AND JOB DEVELOPMENT

The private sector has stepped up to the challenge of welfare reform in Alaska. Most of the jobs which have helped poor Alaskan families off welfare have come from private businesses. Much credit for this goes to Governor Knowles' WorkStar Steering Committee.

Welfare changes created a unique opportunity for the state and business to partner in moving welfare recipients into the workforce. WorkStar is a business-led effort to advise the State on the employer's perspective on hiring welfare recipients. WorkStar members come from the largest employers in the state and small businesses as well. Most of these employers have hired welfare recipients.

WorkStar steering committee members include:

- Jacob Adams, Arctic Slope Regional Corporation

- Pam LaBolle, AK Chamber of Commerce
- Eleanor Andrews, Andrews Group
- Carl Marrs, Cook Inlet Region, Inc.
- Dennis Bird, FedEx
- Richard Near, Safeway
- Charles Bundrant, Trident Seafoods
- Jamie Slack, VECO
- Jane Crane, ARCO
- Suzanne Sloan-Rust, K-2 Aviation
- Charlie Curtis, NANA
- Bob Southall, Hilton Hotel
- Susan Denison, Providence
- Mano Frey, AK AFL-CIO
- Fran Webber, NBA
- Kitty Farnham, BP

WorkStar accomplishments include the following:

- Held five job fairs around the state;
- Attended four trade shows to meet employers; and
- Solicited and selected WorkStar Employer and

Employee of the Year award to be given Fall 1999.

Closely aligned with WorkStar are the state's job development efforts. Department of Labor and Workforce Development staff working on behalf of DPA work full-time in developing relationships with employers encouraging them to hire recipients. These "job developers" sell the benefits of hiring welfare recipients including DPA screening and referral of prospective employees, tax credits, public recognition, and most importantly, hard working and loyal employees.

A toll-free number is available to employers to assist them in hiring someone off welfare.



WorkStar

To hire a
worker
call

888 838-JOBS

Work Services

WORK SERVICES

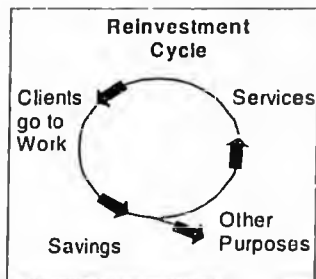
MORE WELFARE-TO-WORK FUNDING

The array of services intended to help recipients into the workforce are known as "work services". Most of the funding for these critical work services has come from the state's reinvestment plan.

care, case management, work search, transportation, training and job development. Funds come from the TANF block grant, state general funds and the federal Welfare-to-Work

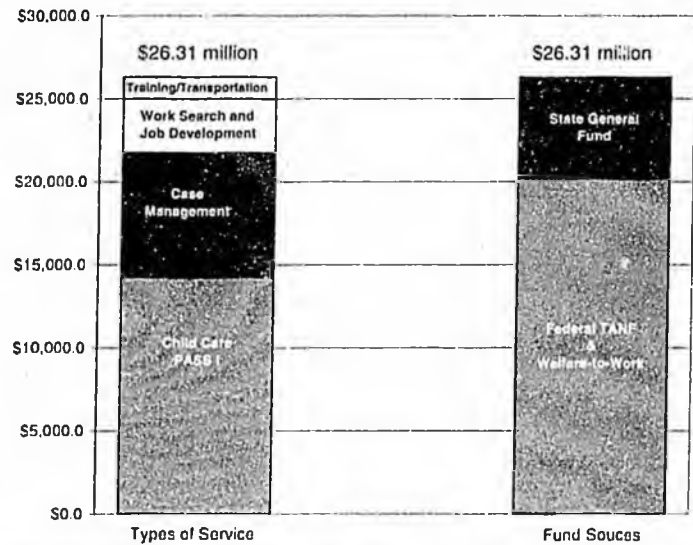
program. These services are administered by state agencies, non-profit community organizations, Native organizations and private businesses across the state.

As recipients left the caseload, savings in benefit dollars have been generated. A portion of the savings has been reinvested in services to help even more recipients off welfare which results in more savings, and the cycle continues. A significant portion of the savings have been used to help reduce the state's general fund deficit and to provide other state services.



For FY 2000, approximately \$26.3 million has been budgeted by DPA for services for recipients including child

FY2000 Work Services Funding



"Clients served" indicates the number of welfare recipients that the State is actively helping to work.

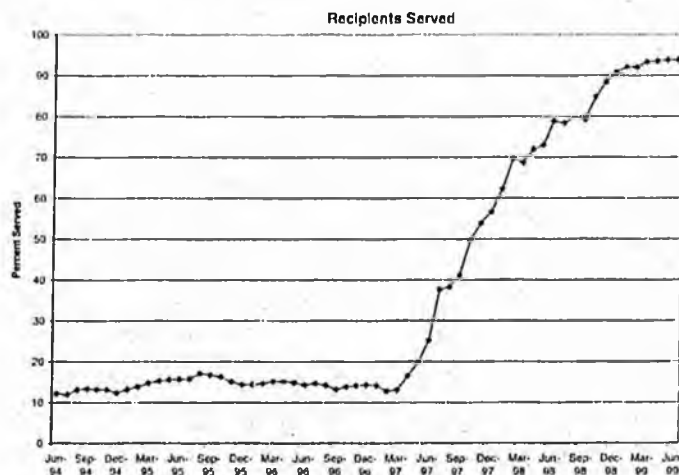


DIVISION OF PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

The Division of Public Assistance (DPA) plays the central role in the delivery of work services. As the state's TANF agency, DPA is responsible for federal funds which pay welfare benefits to eligible re-

ipients, provide work services and cover administrative costs. The federal TANF responsibilities also include meeting program requirements, performance mandates and reporting requirements. DPA is also the local administrative entity for the US Department of Labor's Welfare-to-Work (WtW) program. Both the TANF and WtW require the contribution of state general funds for which DPA is responsible as well.

Public Assistance, General Relief and Energy Assistance recipients. DPA also determines eligibility for the Medicaid and CAMA programs. A newer, expanded responsibility for the Division is in providing work services. Some of these services are provided in-house by DPA and Department of Labor and Workforce Development employees, but most services are provided through community grants and contracts administered by DPA. Since 1997, there has been a dramatic expansion in the number of recipients served by either state agencies or through grants and contracts.



As it has done for years, DPA is responsible for determining eligibility and paying benefits to eligible welfare (ATAP) recipients, and for Food Stamp, Adult

COMMUNITY GRANTS AND CONTRACTS

Most of the work services in Alaska are provided by community-based service providers under a grant or contract with DPA. Welfare reform would not be successful without the commitment of these organizations (see the roster of service providers) which serve Temporary Assistance recipients throughout all regions of the state. They are familiar with the local economy, job market, customs and culture and the needs of the community. Native organizations play a key role in providing services, particularly in rural Alaska.

Each grant or contract is performance-based with requirements that the provider serve a certain number of recipients

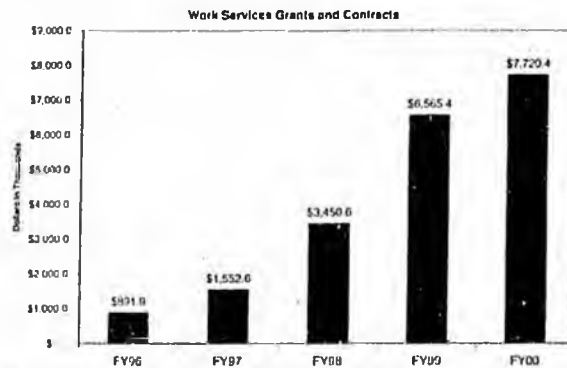
referred by DPA and reach certain percentages of recipients placed in a job or other work activity. The organization is expected to apply the "work first" approach.

Types of services provided include case management, work search, training, and transportation.

The amount of funding for community based work services has increased five-fold since FY97, the year immediately before welfare reform took effect. Funding for Native organizations has increased to over \$2 million in FY2000.

Service Providers

- Adult Learning Programs of AK
- AK Vocational/Technical Center
- Aleutian/Pribilof Island Assoc.
- America Works Partnership
- Assoc. of Village Council Presidents
- Bristol Bay Native Assn.
- Catholic Social Services
- Center for Community
- Cook Inlet Tribal Council
- Copper River Native Association
- Delta Mine Training Center
- Dept. of Labor and Workforce Dev.
- Foundation for Parents and Children
- HRC, Inc.
- IAM CARES
- Job Ready Incorporated
- Kodiak Island Borough
- LOVE Inc
- Manilq Manpower
- Metlakatla Indian Community
- Municipality of Anchorage
- Nine Star Enterprises
- Sitka Tours
- SE Regional Resource Center
- Tanana Chiefs Conference
- Tanana Valley Comm. College
- Tlingit & Haida
- University of Alaska - Adult Learning Center



CHILD CARE

The success of welfare reform depends on the existence of accessible, affordable, quality child care for all low wage workers. The State of Alaska provides child care subsidies for these families through the Parents Achieving Self Sufficiency (PASS) program: PASS I for families receiving Temporary Assistance benefits, PASS II for families who are moving from reliance on TA, and PASS III for low-income families.

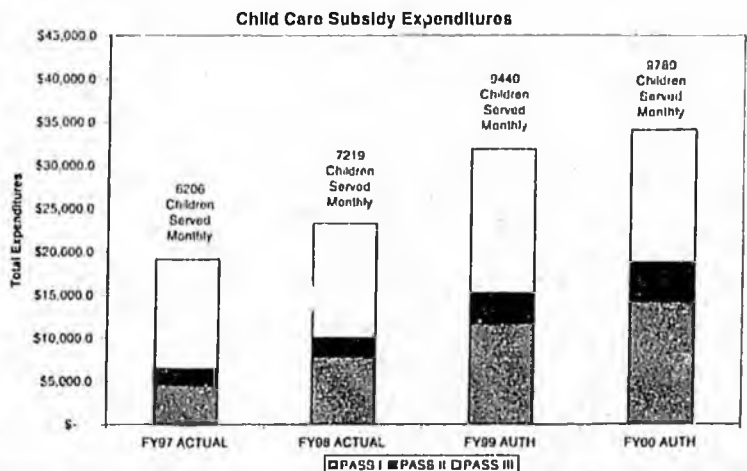
Over the past two years, total spending by the state on child care subsidies has grown by more than \$12 million - to nearly \$32 million in FY99. Funding for child care subsidies for Temporary Assistance recipients has grown from \$4.5 million in FY97 to almost \$12 million in FY99. During that same period, the average number of children served on a monthly basis by all subsidy programs increased

by 2,500. Since the cost of child care can often be more than 50% of the take-home pay for families moving from welfare to work, assisting parents pay for child care is extremely important to achieving the goal of self-sufficiency for Alaskan families.

Welfare reform efforts include 'parental choice' provisions, which allow parents expanded options in choosing child care, including care from relatives and friends. Many parents select providers who are exempt from licensing under state child care regulations. As a result, in 1998, the State of Alaska initiated a policy that all providers receiving child care subsidy payments must meet minimum health and safety standards and register with the state to provide child care. Since January, 1998, the number of registered providers has grown from

450 to 1400, increasing the supply of child care dramatically and allowing parents more options for their child care. During the same time, the state experienced a decrease of 55 licensed family child care homes.

The state's commitment to improving the quality, availability, and affordability of child care will continue to enhance efforts to move families from welfare to self-sufficiency.



THE SAFETY NET

The Temporary Assistance Program remains fundamentally a financial assistance program for poor Alaskans with children.

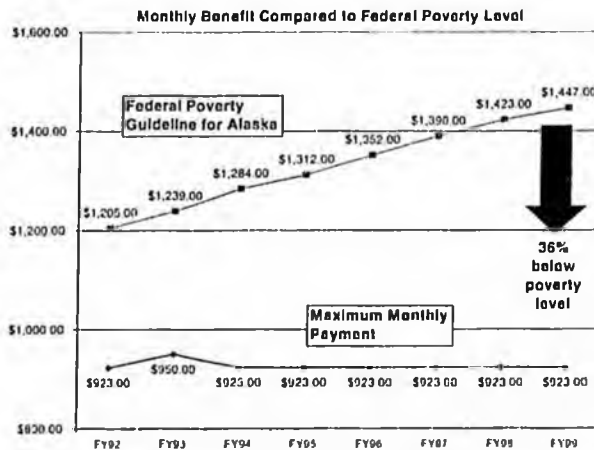
TEMPORARY CASH BENEFITS

While the focus of welfare reform has been on moving recipients from welfare to work, it is important to remember that the Alaska Temporary Assistance Program remains fundamentally a financial assistance program for poor Alaskans with children. A vast majority of the funding for ATAP is distributed monthly in cash benefits. DPA workers are dedicated to ensuring that

these benefits are paid accurately, in a timely fashion, and to families that are truly eligible to receive them. This importance of cash benefits to needy families and the state's ability to distribute them cannot be overlooked as welfare reform initiatives are pursued.

Cash benefits assist low income families with their most basic necessities: shelter, clothing, transportation

and food (the Food Stamp Program provides supplemental food for 70% of the ATAP caseload). Up until a change in state law in 1993, Alaska's benefit level tracked the federal poverty level under a cost of living adjustment. Since that time the buying power of the AFDC/ATAP benefit has eroded to 36% below the federal poverty level, as shown on the graph below.



Alaska's Monthly Benefit for a family of three is 36% below the Federal Poverty Level.



DENALI KIDCARE

One of the greatest worries parents have about leaving welfare for work is losing health insurance for their children.

Denali KidCare is a new State of Alaska program designed to ensure that children and teens of low-income working families can have the health insurance they need.

Denali KidCare evolved from the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 which created the Children's Health Insurance Program. Through a Medicaid expansion, eligi-

bility was increased to 200% of poverty for children through age 18. In the first four months, a total of 7,842 children have been enrolled in Denali KidCare. This represents 68% of the goal of enrolling 11,600 children through outreach efforts.

Through five outreach specialists hired for this program, a concentrated effort will occur this fall to enroll more children through schools. All districts in the state have been contacted by outreach specialists and packets will be sent containing posters, brochures, and

applications. Principals will distribute these materials at registration, open houses, and teacher orientation, and school nurses will have it year-round.

Applications for the free and reduced lunch program are available by calling the Denali Kid Care toll-free number at 1-888-318-8890.

As study after study shows, a healthy childhood is essential to both the physical and intellectual development of children. Health insurance can play a key role in that development.



CHILD SUPPORT

Child support collections are essential to the long-term success of welfare reform. The role of the Alaska Child Support Enforcement Division is to help ensure that single-parent families have enough resources to reach and maintain a level of self-sufficiency as they move away from public assistance. Without adequate child support, many of those families will face economic hardship as they hit their time limit on public assistance.

A recent University of Utah study pegged uncollected child support as a significant barrier to getting off welfare. It's the same message offered by a 1998 General Accounting Office report that said: "The increased emphasis on the temporary nature of (public) assistance makes child support, along with employment, a more important means for families receiving aid to become self-sufficient."

The Alaska child support agency collected \$81 million

in support payments in Fiscal 1999, a 60 percent increase over the \$50 million collected in Fiscal 1993. Much of that money went to public assistance cases, and the child support collections helped almost 5,600 families as they moved off public assistance in FY97-98 (the most recent statistics available).

In passing welfare reform laws, Congress and the Alaska Legislature recognized the need for enforcement of child support orders and gave the agency tools it needs to get the job done.

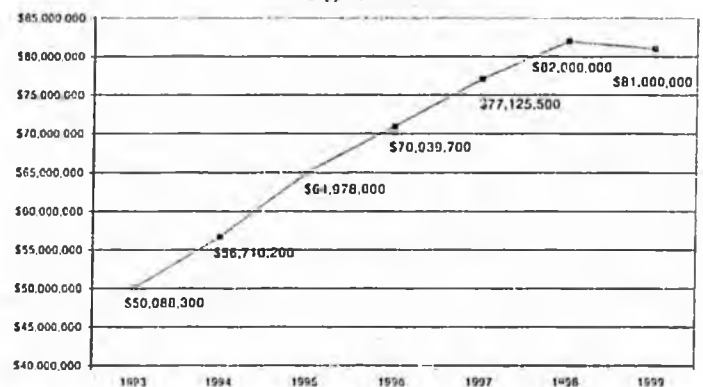
One of the latest additions is Alaska's new-hire reporting law that requires businesses to provide information on all new employees to the child support agency. In June alone, the child support agency received information on more than 12,000 newly hired employees in Alaska, and from that list found almost 2,000 parents who owed child support. This information enables the

agency to send out wage-withholding orders for those parents – something that would not have happened without the new law.

The child support agency continues to deal with a growing caseload – for even as families move off public assistance they remain as child support clients. As of June 30, the agency had established paternity and child support orders in 78 percent of its cases. The caseload generates a phenomenal amount of public contact. For example, in Fiscal Year 1998 the agency handled more than 1.1 million pieces of mail.



Child Support Collections



TEEN PARENT SERVICES

Teenagers who have children stand a greater chance of long-term dependency on welfare. That is why the Division of Public Assistance focuses services for teen parents on prevention of additional pregnancies, high school completion, self-supporting employment, and safe living arrangements.

In the last two years, grants were awarded to communities around the state for *Innovative Community-Based Services for Pregnant and Parenting Teens*. The focus of these grants is on preventing preg-

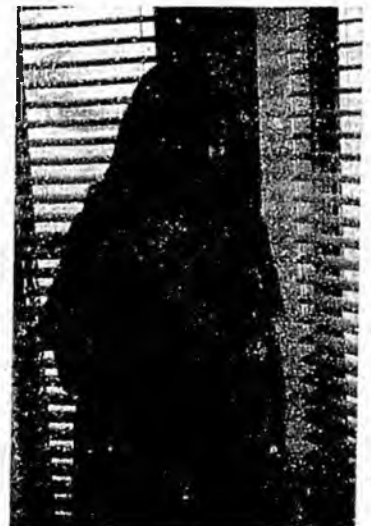
nant and parenting teens from becoming at risk of long-term poverty and welfare dependence.

In 1998, the State of Alaska joined other states in observing May as National Teen Pregnancy Prevention Month. Communities around the state participated in annual activities that drew attention to teen pregnancy prevention efforts.

Year-round bi-monthly teleconferences are held for communities to promote connection, spring new

ideas, and inform others of state-wide activities.

Alaska's teen pregnancy rate has mirrored the recent national decline and has steadily declined over the past three decades. Alaska continues to be below the national average in teen pregnancies.



FUTURE CHALLENGES



The first two years of welfare reform in Alaska have been very successful by most measures. Yet, challenges remain in meeting federal performance requirements, in continuing to overcome the employment barriers for welfare recipients and in limiting the number of welfare recipients who face the elimination of benefits due to the five year limit.

Federal rules establish a very high requirement for two-parent families to be in an approved work activity. Alaska failed to meet the required 75% level for FY98 and is facing federally imposed penalties. Although Alaska has improved its performance for FY99, the requirement moves to 90% (this figure will be reduced due to Alaska's caseload decline). In response to the failed *two-parent rate*, more

effort will be focused on moving two-parent families into employment and other approved work activities.

As Alaska gains more experience in meeting the challenges of welfare reform, certain services are emerging as those most important in helping recipients toward self sufficiency. As mentioned earlier in the report, *quality child care and case management* are critical. *Post employment services* are essential to help working recipients keep their jobs and attain better jobs that allow them to leave welfare altogether.

Transportation has also been recognized as a significant barrier to employment for most recipients. The state will be devoting additional effort to meeting the transportation challenge. This includes coordinating with

local agencies to establish new or expanded public transportation systems, promoting responsible private vehicle ownership, assistance with car repairs and winterization, mobilizing volunteer organizations to provide transportation services, and helping clients to purchase their own vehicles.

Alaska, like many other states, is trying to learn more about the effectiveness of welfare reform and, in particular, what is happening to recipients who leave Temporary Assistance. DPA is contracting with the University of Alaska to do an *evaluation* regarding the characteristics and employment status of families who have left welfare. This information will be used to improve services so that more families can attain long term self-sufficiency.

NATIVE FAMILY

The Federal welfare reform law has a special provision for Native tribes and organizations. Under the new law, the 12 Alaska Native Regional non-profit organizations and Metlakatla Indian Community are given the option to run their own welfare program for Natives in their region. They are entitled to a slice of the state's TANF block grant based on a pro-rata share of Native recipients in the region. Federal funding is subject to approval based on a Native Family Assistance plan submitted by the Native organization to the Federal government.

For the past year the Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC),

which operates in the Doyon region of interior Alaska, has managed their own program known as the Athabaskan Self-sufficiency Assistance Partnership (ASAP).

The state is providing additional funding under the ATAP law to supplement TCC as part of a two-year pilot program. Another organization, Tlingit & Haida in Southeast is also developing plans to run a Native Family Assistance Program as well.

It was not the intent of Congress to require tribes or Native organizations to run programs the same as the state. But in order for state funds to be used, the Native

ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

program must be significantly similar to the State's program. Governor Knowles has submitted legislation, HB98 and SB80, now pending in the legislature that would allow state funds to be spent for Native programs that are comparable, but not the same as ATAP.

This approach would not require additional state funding since state dollars are already being spent for these Native recipients. With the passage of this legislation, Native Family Assistance Programs in Alaska could be designed to be more culturally sensitive, locally controlled, flexible, and ultimately more effective without additional cost to the state.



THE CLOCK KEEPS TICKING!

The first two years of welfare reform in Alaska have shown success by: a reduced caseload, lower welfare benefit expenditures, more recipients in work activities, additional funding for child care and work services, the creation of new job opportunities, greater community involvement, and increased child support. While these are significant achievements, great challenges still remain.

As of the date of this report, many Temporary Assistance recipients in Alaska have only 34 months left in their lifetime to receive Temporary Assistance benefits. The clock is ticking fast, es-

pecially for those recipients who lack skills, have little work history or face other barriers to employment. It is the state's goal to not let anyone hit the 60-month limit without another means of supporting their families.

Of paramount concern is the well-being of the children in those families for whom the Alaska Temporary Assistance Program is intended to help. It will take the ongoing commitment of the state, communities, Native and other non-profit organizations, employers and political leaders to meet this challenge.

The mustering of resources through the reinvestment of saved benefit dollars and from other sources is essential to help recipients gain work skills and prevent their families from facing extreme hardship.

Welfare reform holds great hope for many low-income families in Alaska. Much has been accomplished, but there remains much to be done.



View this report online at:
<http://www.hss.state.ak.us>

This report was produced by the:
Department of Health and Social Services

Karen Perdue, Commissioner

Division of Public Assistance

Jim Nordlund, Director

With contributions from the:

Office of the Governor

Department of Labor and Workforce Development

Alaska Human Resource Investment Council

Department of Community and Economic Development

Child Support Enforcement Division

Alaska Job Center Network

Division of Public Health

Design, layout and text by Clay Butcher and Jim Nordlund
 For additional copies, please call 465-3347



Department of Health and Social Services
Alaska Division of Public Assistance
P.O. Box 110640
Juneau, AK 99811-0640
(907)465-3347
<http://www.hss.state.ak.us>

1/26/00

Overview:

Dept. Pub.

Safety,

DOC

SFIN

FILE

Department of Public Safety
Missions and Measures Handout
Senate Finance Overview
January 26, 2000

Department of Public Safety SB 169 Missions and Measures

Mission: The mission of the Department of Public Safety is to ensure and maintain a safe, orderly, and positive environment in the state. This commitment is delivered through statewide police, resource protection, emergency response, fire safety, and other vital public safety services.

Division of Alaska State Troopers

Mission: (a) The mission of the Division of Alaska State Troopers is to preserve the public peace and to protect life and property through the prevention of crime, detection, and apprehension of criminal offenders, and to enforce traffic laws and regulations.

- (b) The legislature intends to measure the success of the Division of Alaska State Troopers in achieving its mission by considering
- (1) The increase in the number of sex offender compliance actions;
 - (2) The increase in the percentage of seat belt use in Alaska State trooper jurisdiction;
 - (3) The decrease in the percentage of repeat offenders in domestic violence incidents closed by arrest in Alaska State trooper jurisdiction;
 - (4) The reduction in the number of village public safety officer positions in communities with a local police department;
 - (5) The increase in the percentage of offenses closed by arrest for crimes assigned to the criminal investigations unit;
 - (6) The cost for each offense assigned to narcotics task force units;
 - (7) The decrease in the total number of traffic accidents that occur in Alaska state trooper jurisdiction;
 - (8) The increase in the percentage of VPSO-investigated alcohol bootlegging and importation offenses that are closed by arrest.

Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault

Mission: (a) The mission of the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual assault is to alleviate the effects and reduce the causes and incidences of domestic violence and sexual assault in the state.

- (b) The legislature intends to measure the success of the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault in achieving its mission by considering
- (1) The increase in the percentage of victims of domestic violence and sexual assault who seek advice;
 - (2) The percentage of repeat clients who return and remain at shelters for reasons other than to obtain information or receive counseling services;
 - (3) The increase in the percentage of repeat offenders who complete batterers' intervention programs;

- (4) The decrease in the percentage of repeat offenders in batterers' intervention programs;
- (5) The increase in the percentage of council resources that are directed to the prevention of domestic violence and sexual assault;
- (6) The increase in the percentage of Alaskans participating in violence prevention education training and workshops;
- (7) The increase in the percentage of school districts in the state with violence prevention and personal safety curricula.

Division of Administrative Services

Mission: The mission of the Division of Administrative Services is to provide administrative support to the department's programs and to supply criminal justice information to all authorized agencies and other parties.

Division of Fire Prevention

Mission: The mission of the Division of Fire Prevention is to promote, regulate, and develop ways and means of protecting life and property against fire and explosion.

Highway Safety Planning Agency

Mission: The mission of the Highway Safety Planning Agency is to administer grant programs to save lives and prevent injuries on the state's highway network.

Division of Fish and Wildlife Protection

Mission: The mission of the Division of Fish and Wildlife Protection is to protect the state's fish and wildlife resources through enforcement of laws and regulations governing the use of natural resources within the state and its adjacent waters to ensure that Alaskans can fish and hunt in perpetuity by protecting the state's fish and game from criminal activity.

Alaska Police Standards Council

Mission: The mission of the Alaska Police Standards Council is to

- (1) implement and enforce standards for the selection and retention of law enforcement and correctional officers; and
- (2) approve and fund officer training programs.

Scientific Crime Detection Laboratory

Mission: The mission of the Scientific Crime Detection Laboratory is to provide the highest quality forensic science service to state law enforcement agencies.

Public Safety Academy

Mission: The mission of the Public Safety Academy is to produce highly trained and motivated professional law enforcement officers who meet or exceed the Alaska Police Standards Council requirements.

Violent Crimes Compensation Board

Mission: The mission of the Violent Crimes Compensation Board is to decrease the financial and emotional damage to innocent victims caused by the trauma of violent crime.

**AST Missions and Measures Report
January 2000**

The benchmark period for this report is July 1, 1998 through December 31, 1998. The target period is July 1, 1999 through December 31, 1999.

(1) The increase in the number of sex offender compliance actions.

| Benchmark Period | Target Period | Change |
|------------------|---------------|--------|
| 282 | 348 | +23% |

(2) The increase in the percentage of seat belt use in Alaska state trooper jurisdiction.

Seatbelt use as measure by the University of Alaska urban area survey.

| 1998 Survey | 1999 Survey | Change |
|----------------|----------------|--------|
| 63% Compliance | 64% Compliance | +1% |

Seatbelt enforcement actions taken by AST during the measured periods.

| Benchmark Period | Target Period | Change |
|------------------|---------------|--------|
| 579 | 883 | +53% |

(3) The decrease in the percentage of repeat offenders in domestic violence incidents closed by arrest in Alaska state trooper jurisdiction.

| | Benchmark Period | Target Period | |
|-----------------------------|------------------|---------------|--------|
| Total Offenders | 761 | 700 | |
| Repeat Offenders | 62 | 41 | Change |
| Percent Of Repeat Offenders | 8.2% | 5.9% | -2.3% |

(4) The reduction in the number of village public safety officer positions in communities with a local police department.

| Benchmark Period | Target Period | Change |
|------------------|---------------|--------|
| 3 | 3 | None |

(5) The increase in the percentage of offenses closed by arrest for crimes assigned to the criminal investigations unit.

| | Benchmark Period | Target Period | |
|---------------------------|------------------|---------------|--------|
| Total Criminal Offenses | 36 | 20 | |
| Offenses Closed By Arrest | 0 | 1 | Change |
| Percentage | 0% | 5% | +5% |

(6) The cost for each offense assigned to narcotics task force units.

| Benchmark Period | Target Period | Change |
|------------------|---------------|--------|
| \$605 | \$637 | +5% |

(7) The decrease in the total number of traffic accidents that occur in Alaska state trooper jurisdiction.

| Benchmark Period | Target Period | Change |
|------------------|---------------|--------|
| 2142 | 2281 | +7% |

(8) the increase in the percentage of VPSO-investigated alcohol bootlegging and importation offenses that are closed by arrest.

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|-----|-----|--------|
| Total VPSO Bootleg Offenses | 21 | 29 | |
| Offenses Closed By Arrest | 9 | 14 | Change |
| Percentage | 42% | 48% | +6% |

**Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault
Missions and Measures Report
January 2000**

(1) The increase in the percentage of victims of domestic violence and sexual assault who seek advice.

| Benchmark Period | Target Period | Change |
|------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|
| 6,994 | 2767 1 st Qtr | On Track or Exceeds |

(2) The percentage of repeat clients who return and remain at shelters for reasons other than to obtain information or receive counseling services.

All clients who return or remain at shelters receive information and counseling. Accordingly, the benchmark is zero and the target is zero.

| Benchmark Period | Target Period | Change |
|------------------|---------------|--------|
| 0 | 0 | 0 |

(3) The increase in the percentage of repeat offenders who complete batterers' intervention programs.

| | Benchmark Period | Target Period | Change |
|-----------|------------------|---------------|--------|
| Batterers | NEW Program | 174 | NA |

(4) The decrease in the percentage of repeat offenders in batterers intervention programs.

| Benchmark Period | Target Period | Change |
|------------------|---------------|--------|
| New Program | 38% | NA |

(5) The increase in the percentage of Council resources that are directed to the prevention of domestic violence and sexual assault.

| | Benchmark Period | Target Period | Change |
|------------|------------------|---------------|--------|
| Percentage | 1% | 1% | 0 |

1% represents approximately \$57.0 in state funds per CDVSA's FY 2000 budget.

(6) The increase in the percentage of Alaskans participating in violence prevention education training and workshops.

| Benchmark Period | Target Period | Change |
|------------------|---------------|--------|
| 67,075 | 5,600 | -91% |

(7) The increase in the percentage of school districts in the state with violence prevention and personal safety curricula

| Benchmark Period | Target Period | Change |
|------------------|---------------|--------|
| New Program | * | * |

* Each of the 21 Council funded domestic violence and sexual assault programs work with their local schools to provide some type of prevention and intervention presentations and written information to students. Last fiscal year, STAR, the rape crisis center in Anchorage was funded to create a sexual assault curriculum for all ages. This curriculum will be provided to all Council funded programs to assist with the continuation of these services.

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

MISSIONS AND MEASURES

CHAPTER 77 / SLA 1999

(CSSB169 (FIN) am H)

Article 4. Department of Corrections

Sec. 36. Department of Corrections. The mission of the Department of Corrections is to protect the public and encourage offender rehabilitation through humane, safe, and cost-effective confinement and supervision. The department will respect the rights of victims and recognize the dignity inherent in all human beings as it pursues this mission.

Sec. 37. DCorrections - Parole Board. The mission of the Parole Board is to administer the release of eligible correctional inmates while providing for public safety and for the successful integration of parolees into the community.

Sec. 38. DCorrections - Division of Administrative Services. The mission of the Division of Administrative Services is to assist and provide effective and efficient administrative support services to the operating divisions within the department in implementing their programs, while ensuring compliance with federal regulations, state statutes, state regulations, state policies and procedures, and departmental policies and procedures, as approved by the Office of the Commissioner.

Sec. 39. DCorrections - Alaska Correctional Industries. The mission of the Alaska Correctional Industries is to assist in the rehabilitation of prisoners by providing realistic work experience as much like those that prevail in private industry as possible.

Sec. 40. – DCorrections - Division of Institutions. The mission of the Division of Institutions is to ensure that the institutions are maintaining an environment for staff and prisoners that promotes positive change and at the same time fulfills the statutory obligation of protecting the public.

Sec. 41. DCorrections - Division of Community Corrections. The mission of the Division of Community Corrections is to

- (1) develop and maintain public safety through supervision standards in conjunction with the regional chief probation officers; and
- (2) provide for public safety through supervision of adult felons who are placed in the division's jurisdiction.

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

REVIEW OF DEPARTMENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Department Goals and Strategies for FY2001

1. MANAGE OFFENDERS IN A WAY THAT PROTECTS PUBLIC SAFETY.

To do this, the Department will:

- Implement its long-range population management plan to prevent overcrowding in the in-state correctional facilities;
- Maintain high utilization of community residential center (CRC) beds;
- Expand use of alternatives to incarceration, including electronic monitoring and the CRC Supervision (home furlough) program;
- Supervise offenders on probation or parole commensurate with their risk and program needs, including neighborhood-based community supervision services and increased supervision of sexual predators on probation and parole.

Performance measures for these goals include:

- Maintaining inmate populations within the emergency capacity of each institution;
- Minimizing the number of major incidences;
- Increasing probation and parole supervision of offenders through increased monitoring and accountability programs.

2. PROVIDE SERVICES AND PROGRAMS THAT EFFECT POSITIVE CHANGE, STRUCTURE OFFENDER TIME, AND FACILITATE SUCCESSFUL REINTEGRATION OF OFFENDERS INTO SOCIETY.

To do this, the Department will:

- Work cooperatively with the Mental Health Trust Authority and the Beneficiary Boards to provide services to the beneficiaries who are in the Department's custody or under the Department's supervision;
- Develop an in-prison residential treatment program for male offenders who have chronic substance abuse problems;
- Develop a standardized substance-abuse evaluation tool in consultation with the Division of Alcohol & Drug Abuse and private treatment providers;
- Coordinate with other agencies, including the court system and Division of Family and Youth Services, to identify possible resources to work with children of offenders;
- Develop and implement a Youthful Offender Initiative;
- Using principles of restorative justice, improve corrections-based victims' services;
- Expand Victim Impact classes both in institutions and for probationers and parolees.

Performance measures for these goals include:

- Improve substance abuse (alcohol and other drug) interventions for offenders;
- Improve education services for offenders in institutions.

3. PROVIDE EFFECTIVE CORRECTIONAL ADMINISTRATION THROUGH STRATEGIC PLANNING, TRAINING, QUALITY ASSURANCE, AND THE USE OF AUTOMATION AND NEW TECHNOLOGIES.

To do this, the Department will:

- Continue to implement and refine the Department's management information system, including the development of a new inmate accounting system;
- Continue installation of new fingerprint equipment statewide;
- Increase agricultural production at Point MacKenzie Farm, allowing distribution of additional produce to correctional facilities statewide;
- Engage in Department-wide strategic planning related to the health care mission;
- Implement last year's Prisoner Litigation Reform Act legislation;
- Provide training, including victims' services training, for all staff.

Performance measure for these goals include:

- Expand the management information system to include medical, clinical and programmatic data.

Key Department Issues for FY2000 – 2001

PRISON OVERCROWDING - Alaska's institutions can only hold 2,745 inmates, forcing the state to send 1,100 inmates out-of-state. The department will address this by continuing to implement its long-term population management plan.

CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW ANCHORAGE JAIL AND A PRISON AT FORT GREELY- Department staff continue to be involved on a daily basis with the Municipality of Anchorage in the planning and construction of a new 400 bed Anchorage Jail. The Department is also continuing its planning for an 800- bed prison at Fort Greely.

EXPANDING JUVENILE OFFENDER POPULATION - Juvenile offenders, between the ages of 15 and 22, currently account for more than 16% of Correction's in-state institutional population. While many of these juveniles are serving lengthy sentences, almost all will be released back into the community at some point. The Department must develop and implement programs that will facilitate their rehabilitation and increase the probability that these youth will be able to lead crime-free lives upon their return to the community.

WORK WITH LOCAL COMMUNITIES TO EXPAND TREATMENT AND SUPERVISION PROGRAMS - One of the biggest obstacles impeding the release of some offenders into rural and bush communities is the lack of available treatment and

supervision programs in those communities. These circumstances have made it necessary for some rural and bush offenders (especially sex offenders) to reside in hub communities during their terms of probation and parole, which lessens the chance of their successful reintegration into their home community. The Department is working to develop partnerships between criminal justice system agencies, health and social service agencies, and regional and village or tribal organizations to help meet offenders' needs for supervision and treatment in rural and bush communities.

STANDARDS AND ACCREDITATION INITIATIVE - Anticipating that it will soon be relieved of court monitoring, the Department is developing its own initiative to ensure that its institutions continue to operate in a safe and secure manner. Toward this end, the department will be seeking accreditation by the American Correctional Association (ACA) for its institutions over the next three years.

NEW MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM (MIS) - The department is working toward implementation of its new MIS, which will enable it to maintain and analyze data relating to its offender population. Agency staff are now being trained in the maintenance and use of the new system.

Major Department Accomplishments for FY1999

POPULATION MANAGEMENT - The Department developed and began implementation of its long-term population management plan to bring and maintain institutional prisoner populations below their established emergency capacity.

ALTERNATIVES TO INCARCERATION - One part of the department's long-term population management plan is to increase alternatives to incarceration for low-level offenders. This year, the Department initiated its Electronic Monitoring and CRC Offender Supervision Programs, which provide two alternatives for safely moving prisoners out of hard beds and into the community.

INCREASED SUPERVISION FOR SEXUAL PREDATORS - The Department increased the number of probation officers supervising sex offenders, which reduced the caseloads so that probation officers can more effectively monitor this dangerous population.

RESIDENTIAL SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT (RSAT) PROGRAM FOR WOMEN - The Hiland Mountain Correctional Center Women's Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (RSAT) Program was brought on line in FY'99. It is a twelve-month program for female inmates needing intensive substance abuse treatment. The Department also brought on line its Living In New Knowledge Successfully (LINKS) project for women with children who need transitional assistance upon release from the RSAT Program.

PARITY IN VOCATIONAL EDUCATION FOR FEMALE OFFENDERS - In partnership with the University of Alaska Anchorage (UAA) and with the help of a

federal grant, the Hiland Mountain Correctional Center established a comprehensive vocational program that offers training for women in computer operations, horticulture, and building trades.

SUPERVISION BY VIDEO - The Division of Community Corrections expanded its supervision capabilities in rural sites by developing a video supervision system, which was initiated this year in Hoonah and Hooper Bay. Other sites will be added in FY 2001.

STRATEGIC PLAN FOR MENTAL HEALTH TRUST BENEFICIARIES - The Department completed its Strategic Plan for Mental Health Trust Authority Beneficiaries, which includes individuals who are mentally ill, developmentally disabled, chronic alcoholics with psychosis, or afflicted with Alzheimer's Disease or related disorders. The plan highlights the progress that the State has made in its treatment of Trust beneficiaries who enter the criminal justice system, and details new initiatives to help prevent beneficiaries from becoming incarcerated. It also provides an overview of mental health and substance abuse treatment services available in correctional facilities and offers recommendations for improving services to Trust beneficiaries.

SERVICES FOR VICTIMS - The Department improved services for victims by activating the Victim Information Notification telephonic-information service, developing and distributing a Victim Resources Guide, conducting community education classes in Dillingham, and establishing a Victims Advisory Committee for the Division of Community Corrections.

STANDARDIZED COURT FORMS AND PROCEDURES - The Department worked with the court system and prosecutors to establish standardized formats and procedures for filing Petitions to Revoke Probation. This resulted in increased consistency and fairness of process throughout the State, and saved departmental and court staff time.

INCREASED FARM PRODUCTION - Point MacKenzie Rehabilitation Farm produced 56.75 tons of vegetables for consumption at the farm and other DOC facilities statewide. This was an increase of 9.5 tons over the previous year.

INCREASED OFFENDER ACCOUNTABILITY - The Department increased offenders' accountability to victims and the community by conducting victim impact classes.

CULTURALLY-RELEVANT PROGRAMS - The Department implemented culturally-relevant offender accountability programs at the Nome and Bethel CRCs.

Key Performance Measures

Measure: Maintaining inmate populations within the emergency capacity of each institution.

Current Status:

November 1999 was the first time this decade that all in-state institutions were under their emergency capacities.

Benchmark:

The final order in Cleary, nearly a decade ago, required the Department to bring its population under emergency capacities established in the class action lawsuit. The Department has been attempting to comply since then.

Background and Strategies:

As Alaskans have wanted to get "tough on crime", the State's prison population has increased. We have not had comparable growth in new jails or prisons. The Department has developed and is implementing a long term plan.

Measure: Minimizing the number of major incidents.

Current Status:

During the Knowles Administration, there have been no major incidents in Alaska's in-state institutions. As the State attempts to respond to decreasing revenues, it is important to ensure that we do not compromise public safety.

Benchmark:

The State has established its own benchmark by not having any major incidents for many years now.

Background and Strategies:

Maintaining in-state institutions below their emergency capacities and ensuring an adequate number of properly trained staff are critical components to preventing major incidents.

Measure: Increasing probation and parole supervision of offenders through increased monitoring and accountability programs.

Current Status:

The FY 1999 department-wide average monthly supervision caseload was 4,388; the monthly average number of pre-sentence reports was 120. The following general supervision caseloads per Probation Officer exceed the benchmark;

Anchorage, 8 of 14 exceed 100 medium/maximum offenders

Palmer, 3 of 4 exceed 100 medium/maximum offenders

Fairbanks, 3 of 8 exceed 90 medium/maximum offenders

Benchmark:

Establish monthly caseloads of a Probation Officer who is not preparing pre-sentence reports at 70-75 offenders.

Establish monthly caseloads of a Probation Officer who is preparing pre-sentence reports at 60-65 offenders.

Background and Strategies:

The number of offenders on probation/parole during the last two fiscal years has increased by 833 felons, primarily in the Anchorage, Palmer and Fairbanks areas.

01/19/00

1997 Average monthly caseload statewide: 3,553

1998 Average monthly caseload statewide: 4,132

1999 Average monthly caseload statewide: 4,388

As the number of offenders on probation/parole continues to increase, it will become necessary to increase the number of probation officers providing supervision.

Caseloads over the benchmark standard for supervision make it more difficult to protect public safety.

Measure: Improve Substance Abuse (Alcohol and Other Drug) Interventions for Offenders.

Current Status:

In Alaska, the Women's Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (RSAT) program opened Nov. 1, 1998. It is an in-prison long-term residential treatment program. As of Sept. 30, 1999, 78 women have been admitted to this intensive level of care. The Department plans to open a similar program for male offenders as soon as possible.

Benchmark:

Many jurisdictions are showing success, measured by reduced recidivism, by implementing in-prison residential treatment programs that address addiction issues in conjunction with life skills and behavioral changes.

Background and Strategies:

Many chronically addicted offenders who have a history of substance abuse related crimes need the services of a 6-12 month residential treatment program that addresses addiction issues in conjunction with life skills and behavioral changes. Without such intervention, they inevitably return to their substance abuse and criminal behavior. In order to improve substance abuse interventions for offenders, the Department is striving to increase the number of women and men participating in RSAT programs while incarcerated.

Measure: Improve education services for offenders in institutions.

Current Status:

The Department is working with the Department of Education and Early Development in order to improve education services for inmates in correctional facilities, especially for youthful offenders who have special educational needs.

Benchmark:

This needs to be further developed. Many Alaskan inmates have educational deficiencies. The Department has a growing number of youthful offenders who have serious deficits, including special educational needs.

Background and Strategies:

Educational services are insufficient throughout the Department's institutions. Through coordination with other state agencies, the Department will be improving the quality and quantity of its educational services.

01/19/00

Measure: Expand the Management Information System to include medical, clinical and programmatic data.

Current Status:

The new system replacement core will be implemented during the third quarter of FY 2000.

Benchmark:

The essential elements of the medical, clinical and programmatic data expansion will be operational in the new Management Information System by June 30, 2001.

Background and Strategies:

The Department has recognized its need for more accurate data to track recidivism and perform other data driven functions. To this end the Department has been working since 1995 toward the development and implementation of the new core management information system.

In FY 1999 the Department received a two-year \$2,000.0 federal grant to develop and implement the MIS. The states of Alaska, Colorado, Utah and New Mexico have collaborated to share costs of the development of the core system.

Status of FY2000 Performance Measures

| | <i>Achieved</i> | <i>On track</i> | <i>Too soon to tell</i> | <i>Not likely to achieve</i> | <i>Needs modification</i> |
|---|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| • Maintain in-state prisoner population in correctional facilities at less than emergency capacity. | | X | | | |
| • Establish program to address violent juvenile offenders in the adult correctional system. | | | X | | |
| • Bring Integrated Management Information System on-line. | | X | | | |

1/27/00

Overview:

Dept.

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FILE

**1999
COMPREHENSIVE INTEGRATED
MENTAL HEALTH PLAN**



*Tony Knowles, Governor
State of Alaska*

*Karen Perdue, Commissioner
Alaska Department of Health and Social Services*

June, 1999

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPT. OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

TONY KNOWLES, GOVERNOR

P.O. BOX 110601
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811-0601
PHONE: (907) 465-3030
FAX: (907) 465-3068

June 1999

Dear Alaskan:

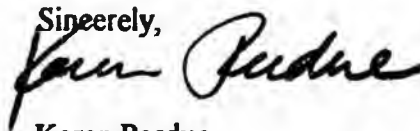
I am pleased to present the 1999 Comprehensive Integrated Mental Health Plan (CIMHP). In mandating this plan, the Alaska Legislature envisioned a practical document that would guide program funding decisions. The 1999 CIMHP represents the mid-point of a five year effort to realize this vision using a results based budgeting approach. The 1999 CIMHP also marks a significant milestone because it is the first plan to be used as a basis for justifying requests for program funding.

The 1999 CIMHP reflects two major enhancements over the previous year's document. First, this document contains new sections on strategies for achieving the desired results. These strategies are recommendations of the plan development team and reflect new or expanded efforts that should be considered by departments of the Executive Branch of State government, the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority, the legislature and other agencies of State government. While the recommended strategies do not represent current policy of the Department, Trust, or legislature they hold promise of improving the health, safety, economic security and the quality of life of Alaskans and merit consideration for future direction. Second, a Data Development Agenda has been added to help identify and prioritize steps that need to be taken to strengthen our ability to measure need and understand the results our programs achieve.

I am very grateful to the generous commitment of time, expertise, information and effort to development of this plan by members of the public and the staff of many agencies and organizations. I would especially like to thank the multi-agency CIMHP Work which has worked with great deliberation to blend their diverse concerns into an increasingly more practical vision of how to improve the lives Trust beneficiaries.

A coordinated planning and evaluation process is essential to improving the lives of beneficiaries. As this comprehensive integrated planning process matures, we will continue to see improvements in the programs and in outcomes for Alaskans.

Sincerely,



Karen Perdue
Commissioner

COMPREHENSIVE INTEGRATED MENTAL HEALTH PLAN

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**Karen Perdue, Commissioner
Alaska Department of Health and Social Services
P. O. Box 110650
Juneau, Alaska 99801-0650**

INTRODUCTION

The Comprehensive Integrated Mental Health Program provides services and supports to Alaskans who are beneficiaries of the Mental Health Trust and to some individuals at risk of becoming beneficiaries. The beneficiaries include people with mental illness, developmental disabilities, Alzheimer's disease and related disorders, and chronic alcoholism with psychosis. During territorial days individuals with these conditions were often sent out of state for treatment provided for by the federal government. In 1956 Congress passed the Alaska Mental Health Enabling Act in 1956, which granted Alaska the administrative and fiscal authority to administer its own mental health program. This Enabling Act also included an endowment of a 1 million-acre Mental Health Lands Trust to address beneficiary needs.

In 1994 the Alaska Legislature created the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority. This act gives the Trust Authority responsibility to "submit to the governor and the Legislative Budget and Audit Committee a budget for the next fiscal year and a proposed plan of implementation based on the integrated comprehensive mental health program plan." The act assigned responsibility for the development of this plan, the CIMHP, to the Department of Health and Social Services in conjunction with the Trust Authority. In addition, the law assigns to Alaska Mental Health Board, Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education, Advisory Board on Alcohol and Drug Abuse, and the Alaska Commission on Aging the responsibility to contribute to the CIMHP.

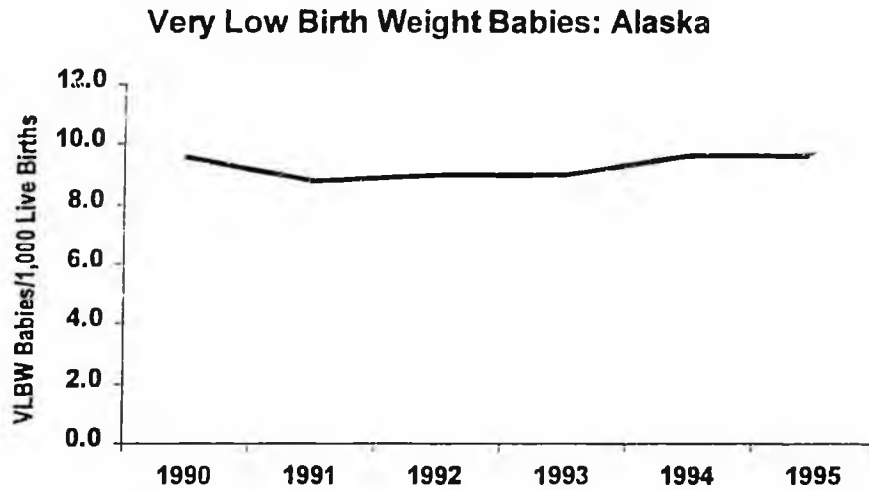
The Department of Health and Social Services and the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority have adopted a results based budgeting approach to the Comprehensive Integrated Health Plan. This approach which focuses on the effectiveness with which programs improve the lives of beneficiaries, is expected to require five years to fully implement. The 1999 CIMHP is the third year of this process. Prior year efforts have led to the identification of five broad result areas which provide focus and direction to a program for improving the lives of beneficiaries. These result areas are:

- Health
- Safety
- Economic Security
- Productively engaged, employed, contributing
- Living with dignity, to be valued members of society

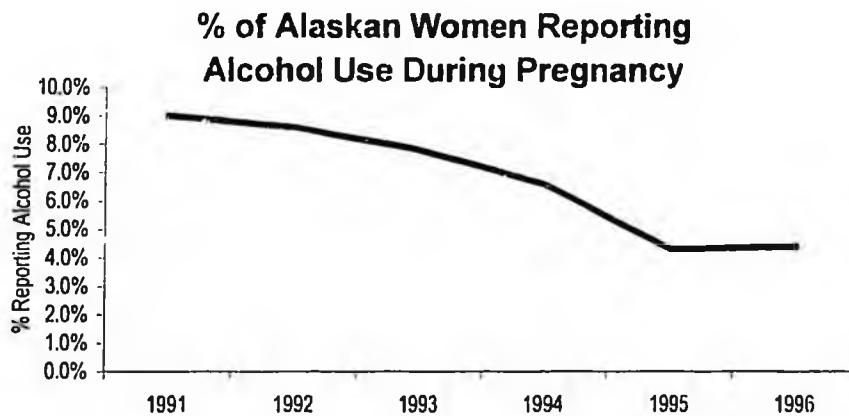
Building on prior year efforts, this 1999 CIMHP presents an enhanced list of indicators that help monitor and measure the extent to which the overall program is achieving the desired results. Each set of indicators is accompanied by a discussion of the data and current efforts to achieve the desired results. The plan also outlines the expansion of existing strategies or the addition of existing strategies for consideration by departments of the Executive Branch, Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority and the Alaska State Legislature. These recommended strategies are do not reflect the current policy of the Department of Health and social Services. Finally a Data Development Agenda points to the most pressing needs in the area of gathering and managing data to better identify, understand and evaluate program efforts.

Result #1: HEALTH

Indicator Baseline:



Annual Reports (1988 - 1995), Alaska Bureau of Vital Statistics, Alaska Department of Health and Social Services, Juneau, Alaska



Annual Reports (1988 - 1996), Alaska Bureau of Vital Statistics, Alaska Department of Health and Social Services, Juneau, Alaska

in the media also impact drinking behavior.

Recommended Strategies:

Expansion of Current Efforts

1. Media and public education campaigns directed at young women of childbearing age emphasizing the importance of good nutrition and not drinking or abusing drugs while pregnant or while trying to become pregnant.
2. Education programs for physicians and other health care providers emphasizing the importance of talking to pregnant women about the dangers of drinking and abusing drugs while pregnant.

CORRECTION

THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENT(S)
HAVE BEEN REFILMED TO
ASSURE LEGIBILITY OR PAGINATION



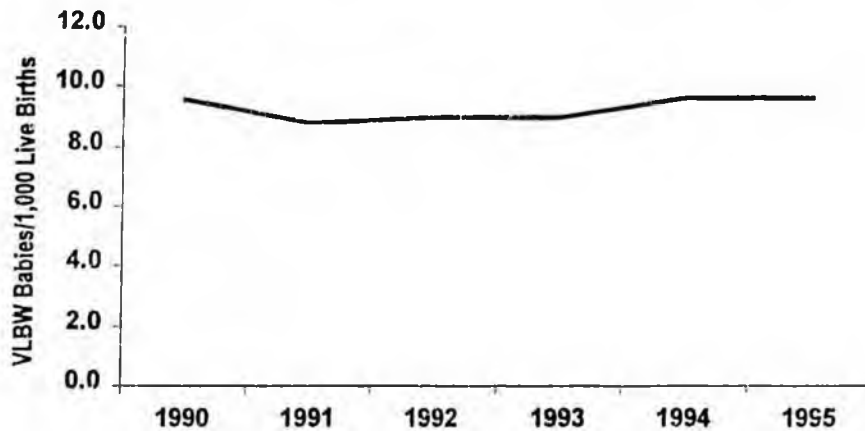
Rev. 6/98

Central Microfilm Services
Department of Education & Early Development
State of Alaska

Result #1: HEALTH

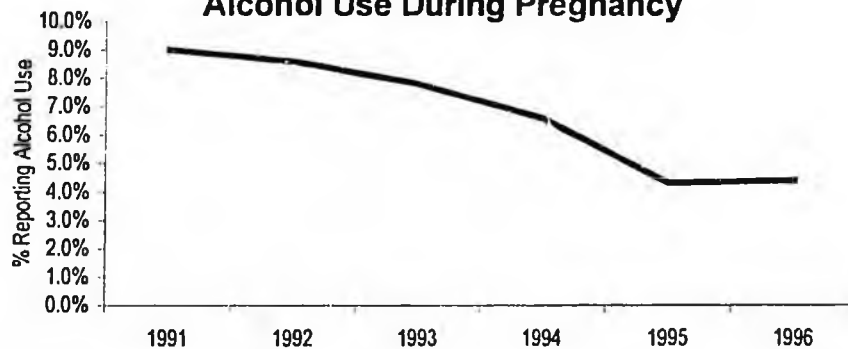
Indicator Baseline:

Very Low Birth Weight Babies: Alaska



Annual Reports (1988 - 1995), Alaska Bureau of Vital Statistics, Alaska Department of Health and Social Services, Juneau, Alaska

% of Alaskan Women Reporting Alcohol Use During Pregnancy



Annual Reports (1988 - 1996), Alaska Bureau of Vital Statistics, Alaska Department of Health and Social Services, Juneau, Alaska

The Story Behind the Baselines: Information on birth weight is collected from birth certificates by the Vital Statistics Section of the Department of Health and Social Services. Alaska has the lowest percentage of low birth weight babies in the nation. The percentage of babies born weighing less than 2,500 grams (5.5 pounds) was under 5.0% for the past ten years, although it has been increasing slightly each year since 1992. Children who are born with very low birth weights (<1,500 grams or 3.5 pounds) are at a greater risk of experiencing developmental disabilities. In 1995, the Center for the Future of Children reported that very low birth weight babies experience the following long-term effects:

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| School Age Intelligence: | 30% - IQ score of less than 85 |
| Neurosensory Impairments: | 14% - 17% (cerebral palsy, blindness, deafness, etc.) |
| Behavioral Outcomes: | 28% experience behavior problems |
| Health Outcomes: | 37% will have had at least one surgery by age 8 |

Drinking during pregnancy is strongly linked to Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and Fetal Alcohol Effects, which result in a range of physical and behavioral disabilities.

An encouraging trend can be seen in the percentage of women reporting alcohol use during pregnancy. Between 1991 and 1996, the percentage of women reporting alcohol use dropped by more than 50%, from 9.0% to 4.4%. It is not clear whether the decrease is due to an actual decline in drinking during pregnancy. Alcohol use is a self-reported item on the birth certificate so the decrease may also be in part due to the growing awareness of the dangers of drinking during pregnancy and the stigma this may now cause. Alaskan businesses that sell liquor were required to display signs warning about drinking during pregnancy in the early 1990s.

Current Efforts to Turn the Curve: Alaska has a number of programs that have been addressing these public health problems, including the FAS Prevention Project, Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC), Healthy Families Alaska, Medicaid (EPSDT), and Public Health Nursing. Recent expansions in Medicaid eligibility have made it possible for more women to get prenatal care. Programs for women at risk of alcohol use during pregnancy include alcohol in-patient and outpatient treatment programs, specialized treatment programs for pregnant women and children, Healthy Families, and alcohol public education efforts. Public awareness efforts, including signs in bars and liquor stores and public service advertising

in the media also impact drinking behavior.

Recommended Strategies:

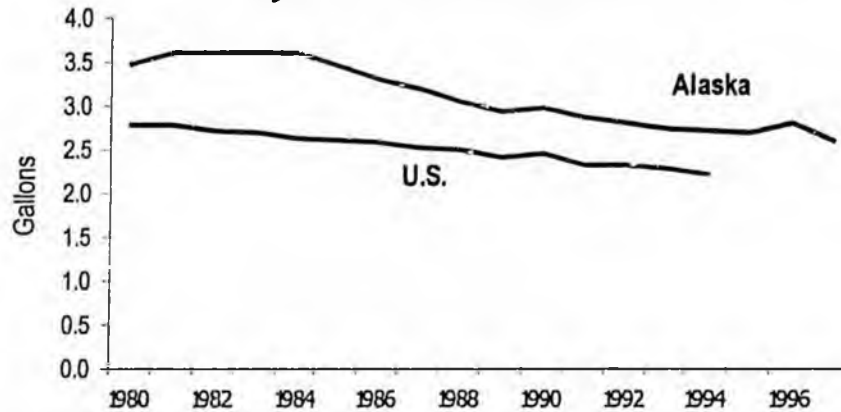
Expansion of Current Efforts

1. Media and public education campaigns directed at young women of childbearing age emphasizing the importance of good nutrition and not drinking or abusing drugs while pregnant or while trying to become pregnant.
2. Education programs for physicians and other health care providers emphasizing the importance of talking to pregnant women about the dangers of drinking and abusing drugs while pregnant.

Result #1: HEALTH

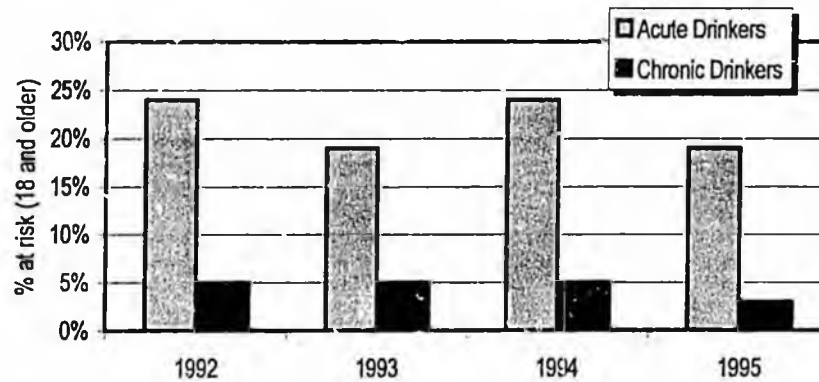
Indicator Baselines:

Per Capita Consumption of Taxable Alcohol by Persons 15 and Older



Annual Report, State of Alaska Advisory Board on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse, 1997

Acute and Chronic Drinkers: 1992 - 1995



Behavioral Risk Factor Survey (Annual Reports 1992 -1995), Alaska Department of Health and Social Services

The Story Behind the Baselines: Alcohol use in Alaska is higher than the national norm but the overall trend in consumption is downward. While there have been periodic upswings in total consumption, per capita consumption has dropped over the past twenty years. This decrease is surprising considering the growth of the tourism industry in Alaska (1.2 million visitors in 1996). Alcohol consumption figures are calculated using state population and in-state sales of alcoholic beverages. It is expected that this trend will continue through the year 2000.

The percent of Alaskans who are acute or binge drinkers seems to vary from one year to the next. Using 1992-1995 data on Alaskans who are acute or binge drinkers as a base, it appears that we can expect approximately 22% of Alaskans (18 and older) to fall into this category over the next five years. The percent of adults who are chronic drinkers remained at 5% from 1992 to 1994, then dropped to 3% in 1995. Data on acute and chronic drinkers is collected as part of the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS). The purpose of BRFSS is to measure behavioral risk factors in the general population through a random sample telephone interview survey that is conducted monthly. The sample size is approximately 1,500 annually. In the BRFSS, acute drinking is defined as five or more drinks on an occasion, one or more times in the past month. Chronic drinking is defined as an average of 60 or more alcoholic drinks a month. Trends in acute and chronic drinking will become more apparent as more data is collected by the BRFSS.

In 1997 and 1998, the Gallup Organization conducted a household telephone survey for the Alaska Division of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse. More than 8,000 interviews were conducted. The study found that 9.7% of Alaskans 18 and older were dependent on alcohol and another 4.1% were alcohol abusers. In addition, the study found that there are differences in the level of alcohol abuse by region, as can be seen on the table below:

| <u>REGION</u> | <u>Alcohol Dependent</u> | <u>Alcohol Abusers</u> |
|---------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Urban | 9.4% | 4.1% |
| Gulf Coast | 8.5% | 3.9% |
| Southeast | 10.5% | 4.9% |
| Bush | 11.9% | 3.2% |

The link between alcohol use and the development of chronic alcoholism is clear. Alcohol abuse is also associated with child abuse, crime, suicide, birth defects, occupational injury, accidental death, and the development of dementia. National mental health data indicates that more than 50% of individuals experiencing psychiatric disorder have a substance abuse disorder. In Alaska, data indicate that 80% to 90% of

"I tried to reach out to my family and tell them, "Look I have a problem, I need help." They blew me off. They said, "Oh well, you have a problem, deal with it."

Beneficiary
1998 Beneficiary Survey

"Public attitudes have changed. When I first came out here, if you talked about drinking or sobriety, people thought you called them something nasty and didn't want to hear about it. But now there are celebrations of sobriety and sober dances. And people are willing to talk about something that's a problem. But they talk - not just saying it's a problem and everything's bad, but this is something that can be solved."

Beneficiary
1998 Beneficiary Survey

those experiencing psychiatric disorder have a co-occurring substance abuse disorder. The estimated number of adults with serious mental illness is 29,800.

Current Efforts to Turn the Curve: Reducing the number of people in the late stages of alcohol addiction requires a multi-faceted approach. At the individual treatment level, programs providing long-term services and support are essential. Correctional system treatment programs for alcohol and drug abuse can reduce post-release criminality and alcohol/drug abuse relapse. At the policy level, alcohol sales and consumption can be regulated to lower abusive drinking within the state or community. Strategies include prevention programs for young people (peer helpers, community suicide prevention programs, school health curriculum), alcohol taxation, and reducing alcohol-related problems by limiting access or availability of alcohol through pricing, zoning laws or license requirements.

Recommended Strategies:

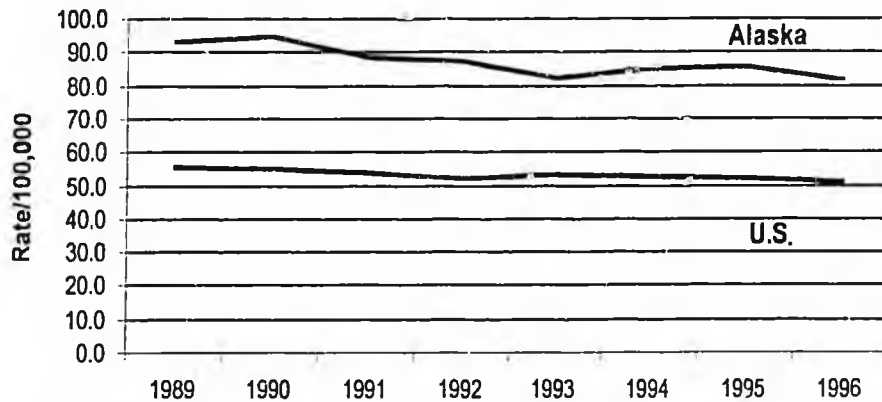
New Initiatives

1. Require that tourism liquor licenses be seasonal unless it can be demonstrated that the year-round population of the community meets the population to license ratio established in Title 4.
2. Buy back licenses, as they go on the market, in communities where the number of licenses exceeds the number allowable based on population.
3. Increase state tax on alcohol sales.

Result #1: HEALTH

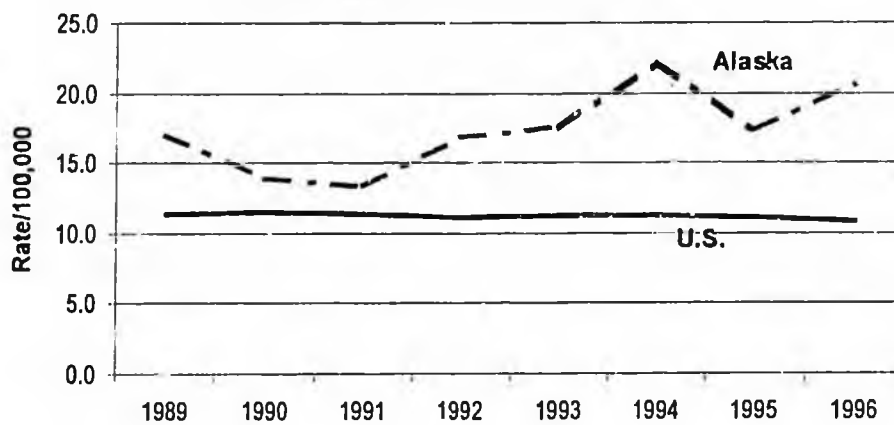
Indicator Baselines:

Age Adjusted Injury Deaths
U.S. and Alaska: 1989-1996



Injury Mortality Statistics, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control,
<http://www.cdc.gov/ncipc/osp/>

Age Adjusted Suicide Rates
U.S. and Alaska: 1989 - 1996



Suicide Deaths and Rates Per 100,000, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control,
<http://www.cdc.gov/ncipc/osp/>

The Story Behind the Baselines: Information on cause of death is collected and published annually by the Department of Health and Social Services Vital Statistics Section. Accidental deaths include motor vehicle accidents and all other accidents.

In Alaska, accidents are the leading cause of death for all age groups from one year up to 45 years. Children (between one and 14 years old) most often die due to motor vehicle accidents and drowning. The cause of death for adults is most frequently motor vehicle and air transport accidents. The Alaska age adjusted rate of death due to injury is consistently higher than the U. S. rate.

Accident survivors sometimes have life-long disabilities for which they will require support and services. In 1997, there were 621 traumatic brain injuries (TBI) in Alaska. TBI is often associated with long-term physical, emotional and financial costs.

Suicide was the fifth leading cause of death in Alaska in 1995. Suicide is the second leading cause of death for teenagers between the ages of 15 and 19. Accidents and suicides combined account for 60% of the deaths in this age group. The teen suicide rate is highest among young Alaska Native men. In 1995, the suicide rate dropped to 19.5 deaths per 100,000 population, down from 26.0 per 100,000 in 1994. This is the lowest age-adjusted suicide rate for Alaska since the beginning of the 1990s.

Information on cause of death for all Trust beneficiaries is not yet available.

Current Efforts to Turn the Curve: Some of the programs that are working to improve the safety of children are peer counselors and student assistance programs, community suicide prevention programs, mental health and substance abuse programs, and child protective services. Public health programs promoting, infant car seats, personal floatation devices, bicycle and motorcycle helmets, and other sports and outdoor safety gear, help reduce the number of children and adults who are injured or die in accidents. In communities, local Public Health Nurses, Community Health Aides and Public Safety Officers play an important role in community education and in responding to accidents, injuries or reports of harm.

Recommended Strategies:

Expansion of Current Efforts

1. Expand public education programs on the importance of bike helmets, personal floatation devices, seat belts, etc.
2. Provide training to public safety officers on identifying people at-risk of attempting or committing suicide.
3. Expand peer helper programs in middle and high schools.
4. Increase the number of in-school clinics in high schools.

New Initiatives

1. Develop in-state traumatic brain injury programs to provide early and appropriate rehabilitation for adults and children.
2. Explore the feasibility of developing a Medicaid Waiver for people with traumatic brain injuries and chronic mental illness (TBI/CM I Waiver)