

ALASKA LEGISLATURE

HOUSE and SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE FILES, 2005-2006 2919

the regional EMS offices with their proven track record...
and the demonstrable impact they have had on Alaska's
citizens.

Most of the people providing EMS in Alaska are
volunteers. Each of us donates thousands of hours of our
precious personal lives to help care for our neighbors in
times of crisis. Please give us the tools and the
infrastructure to continue to do so.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I'd be happy to
try to answer any questions.

April 6, 2006

Co-Chairs Senator Wilken, Senator Greene, and members of Senate Finance,

Thank you for this opportunity to submit written comments on HB365, the state operating budget.

I'm Luke Hopkins, FNSB assembly member. I am not able to testify before you at today's designated time from Fairbanks because of our FNSB assembly work session, where we will be receiving the proposed operating school budget and borough budget for FY07. But it is a fitting time to submit written comments to you on the proposed state's operating budget.

I hope that as the legislative budget process continues, all of you will seriously consider funding a sustainable community dividend program that will provide property tax relief to our borough residents. Along with revenue sharing, the lack of a clear PERS/TRS funding mechanism moving forward are examples of fiscal issues that the state can greatly assist our communities with, especially with the level of state revenue surplus currently. State providing sustainable funds for local fiscal relief is can help to offset the need to reduce important local services.

If the funding level for the Human Service Community matching grants remains at the current level (adjusted only for population increases), I am concerned that our community will have another year of not being able to provide for the measured human service need we have. Remember because our borough does not have social service powers we cannot increase our funding level beyond the local match. Our Assembly is ready to provide the budgetary increase to match the state pass through grant. Please allow our social service providers to realize a 19 to 1 return on the state's investment - a sound fiscal policy plus a reduction in costs the state would have to provide in agency funded care. Over half the population of this state is represented by the request for additional funding as seen both in the Governor's request and with extensive public testimony before this legislature.

I also ask that you reinstate funds for public broadcasting. Our local station broadcasts our local assembly meeting throughout our borough serving a vital public service that keeps people informed of our local government actions as they happen. This is seen at almost every meeting when citizens take advantage hearing an action over the radio and then arrive before us to offer us public opinion.

Important to our community is the funding levels for the Court system. Please maintain the current funding for the additional staff positions to reduce case loads in our 4th judicial district. This years' funding is a critical piece in our continuing effort to fight the effects of alcohol related tragedies that have been causing such harm to families either as DUI fatalities or the consequences of domestic violence that alcohol brings in our communities and on our roads.

I ask that you reinstate the funding for UA to the level that was supported in the House. The university's continued ability to provide training for the highly technical jobs both the state and our borough need is critical to our economic development opportunities all of us want. And they're doing that, let's not cut them out of these tasks.

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Senate Finance Committee
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska

April 2, 2006

Re: Full Support for Public Television in
State Budget

Continuing and improving state support for public television in Alaska is of great importance to the many urban and other Alaskans who cannot afford cable and must depend on PBS for our cultural, educational, and in-depth news information.

Don't endanger programs such as: Nova, Anchorage Edition, Heartbeat Alaska, Frontline, American Masters, Washington Week, Nature, Born and Bred, Masterpiece Theater, Alaska Weather, BBC World News, News Hour with Jim Lehr, Charlie Rose, Austin City Limits, wholesome programs for children, and numerous valuable and informative documentaries by ill-conceived slashing of the funds which make possible the funding which pays the balance of the cost of operating an invaluable public resource.

Please do not leave us at the mercy of inane trivial and ad laden commercial television.

For those in Juneau think long and hard before crippling KTOO which is a window into what government in the state capitol is up to in its splendid isolation and non-transparent machinations—when those without cable access can find a way to look in on such sessions and committee hearings as are televised while the future of our state is decided

As one of many unable to fly off to Juneau or do more than submit written protests, I can only hope some evidence of non-partisan statesmanship will color your decisions on fully funding public television thus allowing the funding from other sources to come to pass.

A watchful voter and hopeful Alaskan,

E. M. Casey (R)
9141 Peck Ave. #400
Anchorage, AK 99504



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate Finance
 committee name
 Committee on HB 305, dated 4/6/06
 bill # / subject public hearing date

Dear Legislators, I work in a small charter school in Kenai. As a long time educator in various jobs in Kenai Peninsula Borough School District, I am requesting that you look at fair funding for our district the area of cost differential. 3 Reasons:

1. Our district has made cuts far beyond what's good for kids. Much damage has been done already- loss of teachers and programs have affected many students' education, K-12 for years.
2. Over a period of 20 years, as reported by ISER, the loss of State revenue to our district has been approximately \$10 million per year. Doing business on the Kenai costs more because of transportation to remote sites. We are not the same as Anchorage, Mat-Su or Bush Schools.
3. Alaska is a rich state and weighs in nearly last in the way we support our schools. However, we have a high number of prisons and prisoners, which cost much more than education.

The quote comes to mind "If you think education is expensive, try ignorance."

Thank you,
 Jacquie Imle Steckel

Signed: Jacquie Steckel
 Testifier
KPBSD
 Representing (optional)
 Address
(907) 283-0804
 Phone number



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE
STATE CAPITOL, JUNEAU ALASKA, 99801-1182

To Be Entered Into Record

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate Finance
committee on HB 365 Committee Name 4/7/06 dated
Bill or Subject

Emergency Response - DHSS, Public Health,
EMS Grants to Regions and Rural Grants.

I support funding for our emergency response sectors. These services are vitally important to life and property in the Cordova area. Additional funding would be greatly appreciated as a reinforcement to existing services. Any reductions in funding could have substantial impacts to prevention and response capabilities —

Thank you for the opportunity to comment —

Signed: Daniel McDaniel

Print Name: Dan McDaniel

Representing (Optional): Cordova Fire Dept (Volunteer)

Address: P.O. Box 304, Cordova, AK

Phone No. & Email Address: 424-6117

APR-07-2006 FRI 02:14 PM B E

Apr-07-06 12:08pm From: City of Hooper Bay, Alaska

907 543 3542
907 758 4761

T-806 P.001/001

P. 03
F-048

City of Hooper Bay

P.O. Box 29

Hooper Bay, AK 99604

Phone (907) 758-4311

Fax (907) 758-4761

Email cityhpb@yahoo.com

RUBA PROGRAM is a most effective program that helps Rural Alaska. Many of the rural municipalities would have gone under, if RUBA had not assisted them. Also multi-million dollar water and sewer systems depend upon RUBA to assist them from going bankrupt. These water and sewer systems are investments of the State and Federal governments. To cut out RUBA program is akin to cut out the mainstream life-line of rural Alaska. Cutting out revenue sharing and cutting out old-age assistance were enough. The RUBA Program should remain.

Sincerely,



RJ Murran/City Administrator

PS please distribute to Finance Committee

ALASKA POWER & TELEPHONE COMPANY

P.O. BOX 207 • MILEPOST 1314 AK. HWY.

TOK, ALASKA 99780

(907) 883-5101

FAX (907) 883-5815

April 7, 2006

Alaska Power and Telephone strongly encourages full funding of the PCE program in next year's operating budget. This budget had already been determined by last year's fuel cost and its funding should not be tied to next year's oil prices. While it may appear that the PCE program only benefits rural Alaskans, this is not the case. The major businesses in urban Alaska receive a significant portion of their revenue from the consumers residing in rural Alaska, and the available spending dollars of rural Alaskans is directly impacted by the PCE program. Therefore, for a modest annual cost, both rural Alaska residents and urban Alaska businesses benefit from this program.

Respectfully submitted,


Eric HannanManager of Power Operations
Alaska Power & Telephone Interior Division

TO: Senate Finance Committee

7 April 06

RE: PCE

Dear Senate Members:

Please continue the PCE program as there is no way folks in the remote areas could even begin to survive without it.

It is the rural areas that do not have the jobs (and higher paying jobs), yet it is the rural folks who have to pay the higher prices in everything, from food, vehicle fuels, home heating oil, electricity, etc. Yet, it is the remote / rural residents whose money goes to the businesses in the big cities of Alaska. They would be in a big hurt without the rural money.

The state is swimming in money with these high prices of oil, yet programs like this keep getting cut further and further back. This is not right! The oil belongs to the **PEOPLE** of Alaska, not the governor, legislatures, or high paid lobbyists representing big corporation. The oil companies are getting rich breaking the backs of the average Alaskan and American.

Sincerely,
Dolly Henton
P.O. Box 605
Tok, AK 99780

April 7, 2006

LIO office

As a Tok resident pce is of vital importance to our way of life, funded at 78% the average credit is 82.95 per month, this is aprox \$995.40 in nioney that is spent in businesses and to support our small community. Power is indeed a luxury for some and crucial for. As you are aware we have a ever growing population of ederly on fixed income.....please continue to fund pce for the rural communities.

Thank you,

Donald and Mary Lou York
P.O. Box 574
Tok, AK 99780

April 7, 2006

Dear Senate Finance Committee:

I urge you to extend full funding of PCE in next year's budget. Rural residents have seen PCE drop considerably the last year. Please do not continue decreasing PCE!

Thank you,

Joyce Smith
PO Box 717
Tok, Alaska 99780
(907) 883-3905



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE
STATE CAPITOL, JUNEAU ALASKA, 99801-1182

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment —

Signed: Dan McDaniel

Print Name: Dan McDaniel

Representing (Optional): Cordova Fire Dept (Volunteer)

Address: P.O. Box 304, Cordova, AK

Phone No. & Email Address: 424-6017

Friday, April 07, 2006

Senate Finance Committee

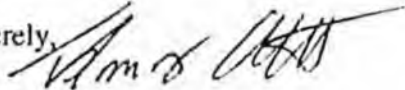
Thank you for your recent action restoring funding to public radio and public television. This is greatly appreciated in rural communities. While I applaud you for this action, I am writing to urge you to full fund television and the proposed incremental increase to public broadcasting.

Cuts to public television in Alaska are cuts to joint licensees. The public television stations are located in Bethel, Fairbanks, Anchorage and Juneau. Each of these stations also operates public radio stations.

Although the cut is targeted at the television service and not the radio service, the overall organization is negatively impacted, and that includes the radio stations.

Again, thank you for reinstating full funding for public radio, please do likewise for public television.

Sincerely,



Tom Abbott
P.O. Box 1617
772-3274
Petersburg



Senate Finance Committee
Via Fax (907) 465-2187
April 7, 2006

Sirs:

We are writing to voice our support of full funding for power cost equalization in next year's operating budget.

We are the owners and operators of Alaska Travel Source, one of Alaska's largest travel agencies. Our clients live from Barrow to Ketchikan, and include corporate multimillion-dollar customers to individual bush residents that need help with an occasional ticket.

Our business depends on rural Alaskans calling us for travel management assistance. I am certain all the big box stores, local airlines, and in general Anchorage retail shops would agree that a large percentage of their sales (and success) come from bush customers.

Power Cost Equalization for these bush residents makes a huge difference for the individual at a modest annual cost. The money they save on power bills is then available and is spent in our stores. It is not just the rural resident who would feel the pinch if this funding was not appropriated in full.

It is also my understanding that next year's power cost equalization amount was determined by LAST year's fuel cost, and that the funding should not be tied to NEXT year's oil prices.

We urge you to fully fund power cost equalization, and are always available for any questions you may have.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William Beck".

William Beck
Owner/Manager
907-522-1299

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sally Huntley".

Sally Huntley
Owner/Manager
907-562-2213

Pitka's Point Traditional Council
P.O. Box 127
St. Mary's, AK 99658
(907) 438-2833 (907) 438-2569 fax

April 7, 2006

Senate Finance Committee:

RE: HB365, the FY07 State Operating Budget

TESTIMONY:

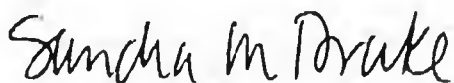
My name is Sandra Drake, I am the Tribal Administrator for Pitka's Point Traditional Council. The RUBA program has been a very beneficial and effective resource for our Tribal Organization. The Community of Pitka's Point has been working for many years to construct a NEW proposed piped water and sewer system with the involvement of DEC Village Safe Water program, Department of Community and Economic Development RUBA Program and the Alaska Native Health Consortium.

Our Staff has been receiving on-going technical support and assistance through the RUBA program to attend the Utility Management Training which we are utilizing in our day-to-day operations. We received series of Manuals as references and use as guidance to better understand finances and Utility management systems. These technical support services are very vital to small communities as ours in new construction and other community projects as the piped water and sewer system.

Our staff is using the Quick books program for each of our grant programs. The Quick book is an essential tool which allows us to develop, submit reports; track varies accounts and bill customers. On-going training in Quick book will be a fundamental tool to help us keep up with new changes in our technology.

I ask that you take serious consideration in your decision with reducing the HB365 funding. My utmost concern is for small communities that are very limited in resources and have high cost of living is that we continue to need the RUBA program to carry out our on-going training and services. Please provide this testimony to all senate finance committee members. Quyanah.

In Respect,



Sandra M. Drake
Tribal Administrator



YAKUTAT POWER

PO Box 129 Yakutat, AK 99689
Phone: (907) 784-3242
Fax: (907) 784-3922
Email: yakpower@ptialaska.net

Testimony from Scott Newlun General Manager Yakutat Power, Inc.

I urge you to fully fund the PCE program in next year's operating budget. It is an extremely needed program that is a fair way to distribute some of the funds created by high oil prices. Most of Rural Alaska is suffering from one of the worst catastrophes in recent time. High power costs are causing hardships on all citizens, communities, school districts, and businesses that are dependent on diesel generated power. With the diversion of funds from these sources in Rural Alaska I can assure you that the urban areas will feel the after effects of this situation. I also ask that you not tie the funding to the price of oil for next year because the PCE amount was based on last years prices. PCE will make a huge impact on the overall economy of the State of Alaska for a minimal annual cost.

Thank you,

Scott Newlun
General Manager
Yakutat Power, Inc.
(907) 784-3242

To: Alaska State Legislature

April 7, 2006

ATTN: Senate Finance Committee
FAX: 907 465-2187

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate Finance committee on funding Alaska Vocational Technical Center through the 2006 FY General Fund.

Committee, please consider this public testimony to the legislature,

As a member of the maritime industry of Alaska, and a three-year curriculum board member, of the Alaska Vocational Technical Center (AVTEC) I would like to express my thanks to the committee for the funds previously provided to this excellent training center.

AVTEC is truly a market driven school. Their response to industry needs can be measured in a multitude of ways, but I would like to speak of three specific areas that AVTEC has responded to our needs; resulting in the placement and advancement of Alaska people in Alaskan jobs.

1. AVTEC Maritime instructors developed a United States Coast Guard (USCG) approved course to train Tankerman for barge work. Tankerman are difficult to find, as the job requires a five-day in-depth training class that includes fire fighting and learning the complexities of transferring fuel products, as well as at a minimum six months sea-time. Alaskan rural communities rely heavily on barges for transporting their village, and personal fuel oil needs, it is imperative that the Barge companies operating in Alaska are able to have crewmembers that are trained to discharge and load fuel in a safe and efficient manner. As a result of AVTEC's relationship with the maritime community they recognized the need for training Tankerman to meet the needs of transportation to rural Alaska. AVTEC personnel worked hard to develop the program and get USCG approval for this course, which held their first training session in April of 2005 with 15 Mariners enrolled. Through the Tankerman program they have been able to train and put to work more than 50 people over the past year. Prior to the AVTEC tankerman program people had to leave the state to get the necessary training and Alaskans were at a disadvantage for available jobs as Tankerman.

The cost of leaving Alaska to train coupled with the cost of obtaining United States Coast documentation often times keeps people from pursuing this goal.

2. Another example of AVTEC's affect on the community through training is their expertise in training Masters, Mates, and Pilots. The simulator at AVTEC is said to be one of the best in the country. This was proven to our company when the Instructors put together a personalized training class for 8 Masters and Mates that needed to improve their Maritime license to advance in their field by passing a comprehensive Celestial Navigation course. Advancement was necessary so they could maintain employment with the ever-changing USCG regulations. The instructors spent many extra hours out of the classroom offering expertise and practice so that each person was able to confidently perform the duties necessary to take command of the simulator. Every student passed the exam and was able to receive their qualifications on their USCG license. Also, because of the great reviews from the group, many of their peers went to AVTEC to train for their Celestial Navigation endorsement.
3. Basic Safety Training, BST- meeting the needs of the industry. Providing BST is important, valuable, and necessary for mariners to maintain their license with the USCG. Again, due to the ever-changing USCG regulations, AVTEC stepped up to the plate and put together a comprehensive training course required for mariners to sail in outside waters. Many Alaskans' have taken advantage of this course, but many more need the course. BST is in fact a condition of employment for most Mariners.

With the decline of the fishing industry rural Alaskans have found themselves without a viable means to make a living for their families. Many of these people have had life long careers on the waters of Alaska, operating their own fishing vessels and businesses. With fishing in decline they are left with large boat payments and no money coming in. Daily I hear the desperation and sadness in their voices. These folks are hard working, intelligent, and know how to work on the water safely. Most are ready and willing to move forward in the maritime industry, but lack the necessary USCG credentials to work outside the fishing industry. The Coast Guard paperwork process is daunting for people that are accustomed to the paperwork world, but to those that haven't the exposure to governmental entities, the task seems impossible. By having classes available in Alaska people are more likely to move forward to get what is necessary to continue a career in doing what they know best. At AVTEC they are taught the basic courses so that they can get their Coast Guard documents and begin earning a living again. In that process they are also introduced to the USCG requirements and can get help with the necessary paperwork to obtain these documents.

Another great achievement of AVTEC is developing a partnership with the University of Alaska. Through their relationship a student is allowed college credits as a graduate of the AVTEC training programs. Providing hands on training along with course work gives students the confidence and experience necessary to prepare them for furthering their

education at the University, plus a head start by gaining credits toward earning their associate's degree and specializing in a field they have experienced hands on. AVTEC also reaches out to high school students introducing and preparing them for jobs available now, but also those coming to the state in the future.

Since year 2000 enrollment at AVTEC has steadily increased. There has been a 22% increase in enrollment of women and minorities. AVTEC students come from over 200 communities in Alaska. 96% of the 2004 graduates are placed in training related jobs, and 80% of students complete and graduated with a certificate. AVTEC provides quality, in-state training to Alaskan's preparing them for jobs that keep our state moving.

AVTEC is helping to realize jobs for the present and "Jobs for Alaska's Future" by matching the needs of the employers with trained Alaskans ready and willing to work. Please fund this school so that they can keep up with the demand and grow to meet the ever-changing requirements of the work place. Training and employing people that live in Alaska is a "win win" situation for all of us.

Thanks for your time and consideration.

Ketra Anderson
3629 Knik Ave
Anchorage, Alaska 99517

(907) 229-2302

Testimony of Mayor Royce Purinton
2nd Class City of Nulato
HB365
4/8/06

*The City of Nulato has a population of around 330 people, 95+% Athabascan Indians. It is almost exactly 350 air miles due west of Fairbanks, on the Yukon River, 50 river miles below Galena. There are few year round jobs. The permanent employers are the USPO, the School, Nulato Tribe, and the City. The order listed, indicates the highest paying jobs. The range of pay for city staff ranges from \$10 to \$12.

*As administrator and mayor of a 2nd class city w no significant dependable budget income, except the Fuel Depot which makes a slight profit, an overpriced W&S System (costing \$115 month/household) that doesn't pay for itself, ignoring the delinquency rate.; and there is some rent from City owned buildings. We do have the Designated Legislative Grant '06-RR-028 (Equipment Purchases & Community Improvements; \$30,496 of which approx. \$17K is left.

*Even at this level we are full computenizing the City of Nulato w Internet Banking (direct Deposits etc. We have adopted Adobe pdf file format for all City records. The rest of the Grant will be exhausted shortly.

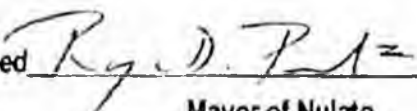
*In the distant past, I was a System Programmer, GS-11, for the Naval Weapons Lab. My hobby for years have been computers; and I have keep up w the literature as best I could. I recently retired from the Telephone Company; and have worked in Kenai, Kodiak, and Homer as a Telephone Tech. I'm the resident technical advisor and trainer for the City Staff at no cost to the City.

*Staffing is a serious problem (current maximum pay for the city is \$12 hour and hs been at that level for 20 years) and keeping good trained staff is almost impossible. We have an excellent City Clerk and City Treasurer and a fine young staff. Thankfully, there are a few highly people that have chosen the rural (Bush) lifestyle w all it problems and frustrations.

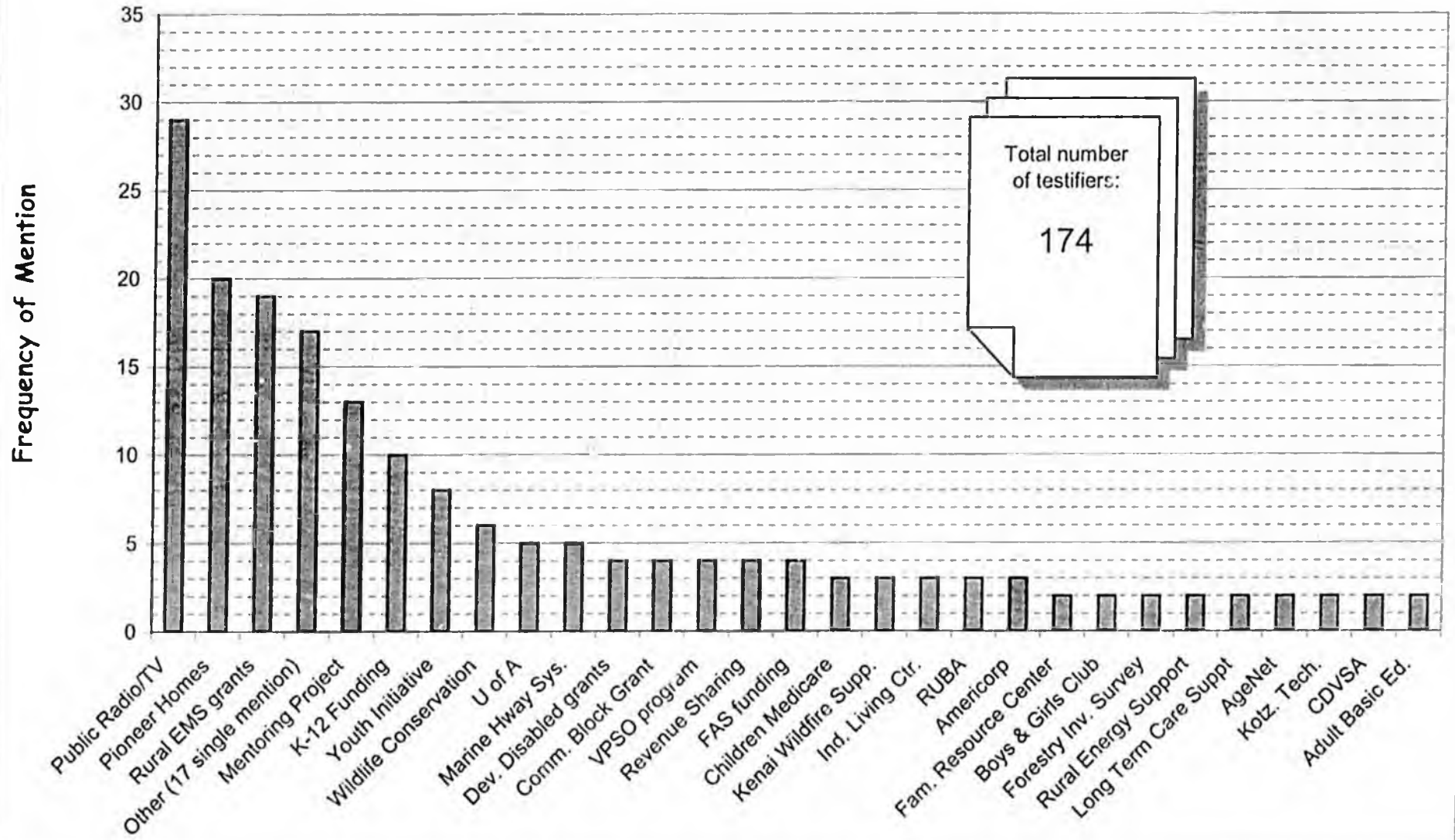
*It is essential that small 2nd class cities have onsite training (the city has very little money to send people for training. Most funded travel and training is not at the advanced technical level needed.

*It should be noted that the city had just finished selecting the Alternate Office Aid, this last Tuesday. Yesterday we lost our Office Aid to TCC for \$14.20 an hour in Fairbanks. I wished her the best of luck on her move to Fairbanks. The Alternate Aid selected last Tuesday, is now the Office Aid and the Office Aid training and Probation begins again. We will re-advertise immediate for a new Alternate Aid; but the personal pool is about dry.

*The City of Nulato needs RUBA and fully supports HB 365 and asks for your vote in support.

Signed 
Mayor of Nulato

Public Testimony - FY 07 Operating Budget
 April 6, 7, & 8, 2006



Re: Pioneers Home - Budget

Apr 7, '06

John R. Larsen

P.O. Box 6047

Sitka, Alaska 99835

My name is John Larsen and my wife has been in the Sitka Pioneers Home for five years - with Alzheimer's - and will be here the rest of her life - Certainly I have a 'vested interest' and I'm currently paying some \$75,000/year for her care. The rate was established on her 'level of care', and decreasing the staffing through budget cuts decreases the care she gets. In the past 15 months since I moved to Sitka I have been present at 700 plus meal times to feed her, and there are several other family members who come to help, also.

At a time when State oil revenues are increasing these facilities should receive the care needed to extend their usefulness and the staffing should be maintained to assure proper care of the residents who are unable to care for themselves.

II

Arbitrarily making budget cuts by the numbers will cut the staffing and therefore the care received by the residents. This is the equivalent of buying 'low-bid' engines for the O/NV Fairweather - the price was great, the VALUE was not. The people who staff the Sitka Pioneers' Home (and care for my wife!) make a wonderful effort for the residents' welfare, and they should be supported.

Thanks for your help -
John R. Laver

Ph 747-8071

RECEIVED

APR 05 2006

April 04, 2006

Dear Senator Wilken,

The Fairbanks Fetal Alcohol Community Evaluation Team has been providing diagnostic evaluation for children affected by Fetal Alcohol syndrome and their families for four years. The community based team received extensive training at the University of Washington's FAS Diagnostic and Prevention Network. Evaluation results and recommendations are shared with families, caretakers, teachers, and others involved with each child. An average of 24 diagnoses a year have taken place. We encourage you to maintain the FY 06 funding level for FASD Provider Agreements so that the teams around the state may continue to offer this valuable service.

A diagnosis of FASD with a detailed description of a child's skills and needs and recommendations for treatment enables the family to obtain services to remediate developmental and behavioral concerns. Each child receives individual testing in the areas of medical/health, cognitive/psychological/ motor, speech and language, social emotion skills. Each of these testing sessions has a value of \$200 to \$800. Team members bill 3rd party insurers and donate time to team case conferencing and diagnostic meetings. ACCA provides the office and meeting space, phone, fax, copier, etc. So the team is primarily self sustaining with a minimal amount of funding needed for coordination - making appointments, intake, record keeping and documentation. I know of few programs that give so much 'bang for the buck'.

FASD has a profound impact on the individual, family, and community. The cost is significantly reduced when needs are assessed at a young age and intervention provided. Children whose particular needs are understood by their parents and teachers will have fewer academic and behavioral problems thus lessening the impact on the special education system, social service systems and juvenile justice systems.

Please maintain funding for FAS in the Health and Social Services budget and consider the incremental increase of \$500,000. Without this minimal statewide funding, the efforts and strides made over the past decade will not be maintained and further gains will be unlikely.

Thank You, The Fairbanks Community Fetal Alcohol Evaluation Team

Marvin Bergeson, MD Pediatrician
Kristin Bradshaw, OTR/L
Donnell Houx, SLP, CCC
Mary MacFarlane, MD Pediatrician
Sue Guinn, MS, SLP, CCC
Sheree Dohner, PHN
Joan Franz, OTR/L
Salette Thompson, PhD, Clinical Psychologist
Claudia French PhD, Clinical Psychologist
Maureen Harwood, MS, Developmental Disabilities Specialist
Jackie Sunnyboy, Parent Navigator
Vicki Horodyski, Parent Navigator
Linden Staciokas, Social Worker



Alaska Broadcasters Association

"Membership Has Its Benefits"
An Alaskan Corporation

P.O. Box 102424
Anchorage, AK 99510
Phone (907) 258-2424
Fax (907) 258-2414
E-mail akba@gci.net

April 4, 2006

RECEIVED

APR 05 2006

Senator Gary Wilken
Senator Lyda Green
Co-Chairs, Senate Finance Committee
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Senators Wilken and Green:

We understand that a Senate subcommittee has proposed to slash Governor Murkowski's budget request for Alaska public TV and radio broadcast by passing a 40 per cent cut of \$1.3 million dollars.

The Alaska Broadcaster's Association is an industry group representing most of Alaska's commercial and public radio and TV stations. During emergencies, these broadcasters immediately become first responders providing critical and life-saving communications assisting local, regional and state authorities. We are concerned that any reduction in support for Alaska public TV and radio broadcasting would seriously impact vital public services to many Alaskans, and severely limit emergency response to any disaster, putting hundreds and possibly thousands of Alaskans at risk.

As to the quality of life in Alaska, public TV provides important educational and children's programming, while public radio brings statewide news and public service to rural and urban Alaska. Together, public television and radio are indispensable communications tools in Alaska, providing free, over-the-air broadcasting to people who have few if any other choices.

Alaska's commercial broadcasters have long understood the important role that public broadcasting plays, and many of our industry leaders were instrumental helping establish public radio and TV in Alaska in the 1960s and 70s. Commercial and public stations aren't competitors in Alaska - we work side by side to provide vital emergency services that entertain, inform, educate Alaskans and save lives each year.

We urge you to reconsider the subcommittee vote to cut critical support for Alaskan public TV and radio broadcasting, and fully support funding at the level proposed by the Governor and approved by the House.

Respectfully,

Ric Schmidt
ABA President

Sen. Gary Wilken

From: akrogers@alaska.net
Sent: Thursday, April 06, 2006 4:22 PM
To: Sen. Lyda Green; Sen. Gary Wilken; Sen. Con Bunde; Sen. Fred Dyson; Sen. Donny Olson; Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Lyman Hoffman
Subject: HB 365

Senators Lyda Green and Gary Wilken,
Co-Chairs, and members of the Senate Finance Committee

RE: HB 365

Senators,

My name is Rick Rogers. I am a certified forester with 25 years of experience living and working in Alaska forestry and resource management in Alaska. I serve as the forest trade association member of the Board of Forestry. I regret being unavailable for tonight's Anchorage hearing on HB 365, operating budget. I would like to provide some short comments regarding the administration's budget increment request for forest inventory.

In spite of valiant efforts by current and past administrations and legislators, the inability of federal land managers to provide a reliable supply of timber to our forest products industry has devastated what once was the workhorse of the Southeast Alaska economy. While we should continue efforts to influence federal forest policy, the State of Alaska can and should manage State timber resources to further their potential and contribute to existing industry and foster economic development. A critical component of this economic development and stewardship is a forest inventory program.

Forest inventory is an essential element of prudent management of the forest resources. Forest resources are dynamic, with growth, mortality, fire, wind throw, disease and harvest all influencing the current and future composition and value of this resource. I cannot think of another example of a forest landowner with millions of acres of commercial forest land, public or private, that does not regularly invest in forest inventory. Title VIII of the constitution requires the management of these forest resources for the maximum benefit for all Alaskans and consistent with sustained yield principles. Forest inventory is essential in fulfilling this constitutional mandate.

The New Growth initiative for interior forests has resulted in promising inquiries regarding the ability of the forest resource in the interior to support value added manufacturing. Potential investors are inquiring regarding the forest inventory and information is incomplete. This operating budget increment and an associated capital budget will significantly improve the chances of a new hardwood value added processing industry becoming a reality in interior Alaska.

I urge you to amend HB 365 and restore the forest inventory increment as originally included in the administrations operating budget.

Thank you for allowing me to share my views.

Rick Rogers

John Cannon
3101 Whispering Woods Dr.
Wasilla, Alaska 99654
907.376.6063 Phone

RECEIVED

APR 12 2006

Testimony Senate Finance Committee
4-6-06

Good evening Senators. My name is John Cannon I am from Wasilla, AK. I serve as the Executive Director of Mat Su Services for Children and Adults a Valley based non profit organization serving Mat-Su residents with Developmental Disabilities. I am compelled to testify this evening to ask your support of community services for Alaskans with Developmental Disabilities. According to a study conducted by the State of Alaska in 2005 there are 1233 Alaskans waiting for critically needed services. I strongly urge you to take the House's position on the operating budget by supporting a \$3 million dollar increment for Community DD services.

The individuals and family members I've spoken with are optimistic for the first time in many years that their son or daughter will finally get funding for long awaited services because of the 1.4 billion dollar surplus. I can tell you that the hopes, dreams and spirits of these Alaskans will be broken if the waiting list is not addressed fiscally this year. These individuals have waited and suffered long enough. On behalf of those who wait I ask you to please support a \$3 million dollar increment to address the Developmental Disabilities Wait List. We have the resources to do this. Let's do the right thing for some of Alaska's most vulnerable citizens. Thank you.

John Cannon

4-6-06



FAIRBANKS LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION OFFICE
119 N. CUSHMAN ST. SUITE 101
FAIRBANKS, AK 99701

WRITTEN TESTIMONY TRANSMITTAL SHEET

TO:	FROM:
Senate Finance	Karisse/Fbx LIO
COMPANY:	DATE:
	4/7/2006
FAX NUMBER:	
465-2187	
PHONE NUMBER:	FAXED ON:
	4/7/06
RE:	TELECONFERENCED ON:
Written Comments	4/6/06

URGENT FOR REVIEW PLEASE COMMENT PLEASE REPLY PLEASE RECYCLE

NOTES/COMMENTS:

Written testimony from Fairbanks. Re: Senate Finance, April 6, 2006.

Written testimony to Senate Finance Committee
Thursday, April 6, 2006
Regarding budget, HB365
Fairbanks LIO

From Taber Rehbaum, Arctic Alliance for People and Big Brothers Big Sisters
P.O. Box 438, Ester AK 99725, taber@mosquionet.com

On behalf of Arctic Alliance for People and its nearly 50 member Interior social service agencies, I would like to ask you to restore the Governor's requested increment to the Health and Social Services Community Matching Block Grant. In the last several years, this grant has been drastically reduced, yet the critical needs in the eligible communities (Anchorage, Fairbanks, and Mat-Su) have not. Having essential human services delivered by efficient and accountable non-profits saves the state money both in the short and long term. It is vitally important to these hub communities as well – in Fairbanks last year every state dollar from this grant source was leveraged by a factor of 19 by the recipient agencies. We recently completed the application process, and without an increase several important programs may not receive funding, including Youth Court (which provides a clear and current savings to the State), the Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders Care Continuum Project, the TEFAP Food Distribution program, and Meals on Wheels. Funding the increment would be making an investment that will pay immediate as well as long term dividends, and we strongly urge that you restore this line item to the requested \$3 million.

On behalf of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Alaska, I would like to ask that you fund the Youth Success Initiative, an exciting partnership to provide services to youth on a statewide basis through the Division of Behavioral Health. The partner organizations are all well established and have proven outcomes and a track record of success. They are Big Brothers Big Sisters, Boys and Girls Clubs, the Alaska Association of School Boards, and RuralCap. Working together through the Division we can develop a coordinated and effective approach to the issues of substance abuse and suicide that will make a significant and positive impact on the future of our state. Alaska has one of the highest, if not THE highest, rates of teen suicide in the nation. Your decisions today can change that. This Initiative would provide a vehicle for these successful programs to make a difference on a statewide basis - to improve and save young lives. Please make this investment in our young people. Even if you aren't able to fund the entire \$6 million that has been requested – we believe that \$2.5 or 3 million would be enough to get this partnership off the ground and begin to show results.

Thank you for your attention.



Fairbanks North Star Borough

Health & Social
Services Commission

520 Fifth Ave. PO Box 71267 Fairbanks, Alaska 99707-1267
(907) 459-1474 FAX (907) 459-1280

MEMORANDUM

To: Senate Finance Committee

From: Carrie Dershin, Health and Social Services Commission *C. Dershin*

Date: April 6, 2006

Subject: Human Services Community Matching Grant

On behalf of the Health and Social Services Commission, I am asking you to support the \$3M increment as presented in the Governor's budget for the Human Services Community Matching Grant. I have served as a volunteer on the Fairbanks North Star Borough Health and Social Services Commission for four years. I have been fortunate to work with our local social service agencies and have seen, first hand, the direct impact of these grant funds to members of the Fairbanks community.

We have a rigorous RFP process in place to address the effectiveness and efficiency by which these funds are delivered locally. Through the RFP, applicants are required to document program needs, define expected outcomes, thoroughly describe their methodology, provide a detailed budget, demonstrate organizational capacity and document a program evaluation plan. We have a solid process in place that is reviewed each year. There continues to be an even greater focus on outcomes, the impact on the community, sustainability and the cost savings to the state. These state dollars are used to leverage other funds, through additional grants, in kind donations and fundraising to bring a return of \$19 to each \$1 state dollar.

The need in our communities will only continue to increase. There is a significant increase in individuals seeking food assistance, our senior population continues to grow, medical cost are climbing and the need to support programs that prevent child abuse and neglect, youth mentoring and positive alternatives to children could not be more important and timely.

Some have said, 'why put in the increase if we will need to take it away in future years?' For the people who receive services through the support of this grant, *now* is the time help them. Now is the time to support a child at risk of delinquency, to help a homebound elder have a healthy meal delivered, to get an uninsured mother in to see a doctor before costly and urgent medical intervention is required. Now is the time to support the people in our communities who are most in need. By allocating \$3M to the HSCMG you can help our local social service agencies do what they do best: provide cost effective, compassionate and competent care within our communities.

Testimony to the Senate Finance Committee
April 6, 2006

Thank you for the opportunity to speak today. My name is Cheryl Keepers; I work for the Fairbanks North Star Borough, as staff to Health & Social Services Commission and in the administration of the Human Services Community Matching Grants.

State funds for this grant have decreased dramatically since FY02, dropping from \$1.7M to \$1.0M in FY04. In FY05 the Matanuska Susitna borough became eligible for funds, and the state budget was adjusted to \$1.235M to hold other participants harmless. We are currently operating with 41% fewer dollars than we had in FY02.

The impact of these funds is substantial. Combined with other dollars and in-kind donations, non-profit agencies provided food to 32,000 hungry people; supported 110 terminally ill patients and 300 loved ones; enriched life for 700 children with adult attention and support; and much more in FY 05.

To accomplish this, agencies leverage the grant dollars with other funds, project income and in-kind donations. In FY 05, the return on investment for state dollars was 19 to 1: for every state dollar, 19 were leveraged.

Projects funded with these dollars also save the state money, through prevention and cost-effective programs. Two examples:

- If Hospice care reduces hospital use by only 10 days, the savings exceed \$2 million.
- With an in-kind budget of 31%, North Star Youth Court provides juvenile services at a fraction of the cost.

The amount of the increment would, when distributed among the eligible communities and matched with the required 30% local contribution, allow us to meet essential human service needs documented in the FY06 allocation process.

As you know, our Mayor and Assembly support the increment, and I urge your support as well. Again, thank you.



Fairbanks North Star Borough

Financial Services
Health & Social Services Commission

520 Fifth Ave. PO Box 71267 Fairbanks, Alaska 99707-1267 (907) 459-1474 FAX (907) 459-1280

MEMORANDUM

To: Interior Delegation
From: Cheryl Keepers, for the H&SS Commission
Date: March 13, 2006 *clb*
Subject: Savings to State

Applicants for FY2007 Human Services Community Matching Grant funds were asked to describe how their project leverages funds in terms of savings to the State. The following are excerpts from proposals recently received:

*In 2005, the Interior Community Health Center saved the Medicaid program \$1,892,110.

*With an in-kind budget of 31%, North Star Youth Court provides juvenile services for Fairbanks and the State at a fraction of the cost.

*Based on the number of at-risk youth serviced by Big Brothers Big Sisters and the juvenile arrest rate in the Fairbanks area, 17 more youngsters would have been arrested if they had not received services. The cost to the State to incarcerate one minor is \$98,257 per year.

*The cost per patient in the Hospice program is about \$23 per day. Many Hospice patients are on the Medicaid program. If Hospice care reduced the use of:

- assisted living by 30 days, the savings would be about \$700,000;
- skilled medical care by 20 days, the savings would be about \$1M;
- hospital care by 10 days, the savings would be over \$2M.

*North Star Council on Aging Meals on Wheels: by preventing the use of more intensive services for 5% of clients served (10), MOW generates savings of over \$1.2M.

Other applicants describe savings that are not as easily quantified. Savings come primarily through preventative services that avoid higher state costs at a later time, or by providing services that would cost more if provided by the State.

Thank you for your continued support.

cc: Mayor Whitaker
Health & Social Services Commission

**Fairbanks North
Star Borough
Health & Social
Services
Commission**

**Human Services Community
Matching Grant**

Highlights of the Community Impact

**Grant Funds Were Distributed to
Seven Non-profit Agencies**

- Alaska Legal Services Corporation
- Big Brothers / Big Sisters
- Fairbanks Community Food Bank
- Hospice of the Tanana Valley
- Interior Community Health Center
- North Star Council on Aging
- North Star Youth Court

**FY
2005**

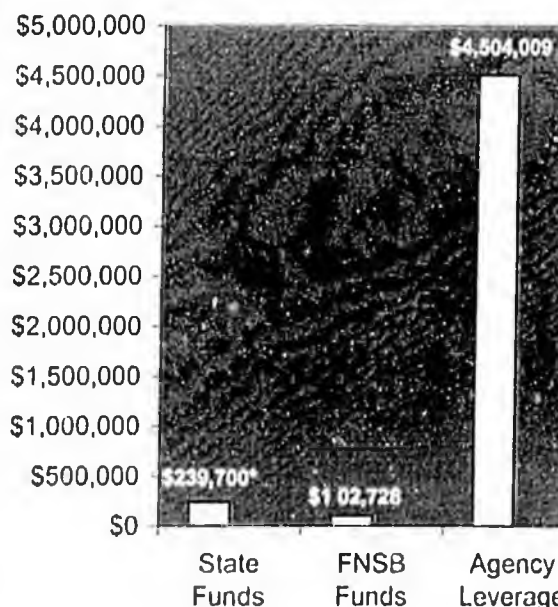
Revised

The agencies used state funds to leverage 19 times that amount in the value of services to the community

19
→

State funds*	\$ 239,700
Borough funds	\$ 102,728
Income generated by projects	\$ 282,090
Other funds received by projects	\$ 1,371,657
In-kind generated by projects	\$ 2,850,262
Total value to the community	\$ 4,846,437

FUNDING LEVERAGE



Highlights of Services Provided

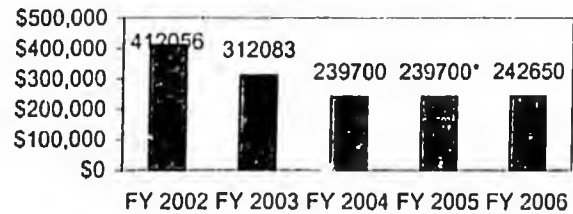
- Distributed 841,523 pounds of food to 32,403 hungry people using 20,653 volunteer hours
- 163 homebound seniors received 59,006 hot meals delivered to their home
- 314 people were provided bereavement services after the death of a loved one and 110 terminally ill patients were provided with patient care services
- 306 individuals received legal advice and referrals for housing, family law, health, and income maintenance problems
- 703 children spent time with their Big Brother / Big Sister, enriching their lives with adult attention and support; over 77% showed improvement in school performance; 69% showed improvement in his/her attitude about school; 78% reported improvement with relationships with adults
- 65 youth were referred to youth court, diverting work from the formal juvenile justice system; youth defendants contributed 909 hours of community service
- 1,537 people were provided with primary healthcare

*Revised - funding includes the HSCMG and supplemental funds from the DNSS

State Funding Decreased 41% Since FY 2002.

The community lost the potential to generate \$459,466, \$769,652, \$1,287,480, \$1,887,899 and \$2,166,736 of other funds, project income and in-kind contributions in FY02-03-04-05-06 respectively, due to insufficient state funding.

State Funding FY 2002- 2006



FY 2006 Human Services Community Matching Grant

Agency	Projects Funded Brief Project Description	Grant Amount	Other Funds, Project Income & In-Kind Contributions
Alaska Legal Services Corp.	Provide legal assistance to low-income families (those with incomes below 125% of poverty level) in civil cases such as housing, income, public assistance benefits, health care and family law.	\$50,000	\$68,656
Big Brothers Big Sisters	Match children in need of additional adult attention with adult volunteers.	\$50,000	\$1,382,156
Fairbanks Community Food Bank	Collect local surplus food and give it to people who need it, through agencies who are trained to identify and respond to those needs.	\$50,000	\$2,226,000
Interior Community Health Center with Chief Andrew Isaac Health Center	Provide preventative & primary health care services on a sliding fee schedule to low & moderate income people. (Funding request is for \$50,000 but only \$35,419 is available.)	\$35,357	\$172,200
North Star Youth Court	Operate community-based juvenile justice diversion and victim/offender mediation program.	\$50,000	\$195,115
Resource Center for Parents and Children with Alaska Center for Children and Adults	Provide a comprehensive, coordinated, and sustainable effort to intervene in the lives of children, ages 0 - 5 who have been prenatally exposed to alcohol.	\$59,667	\$15,220
Audit Cost Passed Through to Funded Agencies	DHSS has placed controversial audit requirements, which exceed the State Single Audit standards, on these grants that directly reduces available dollars for program delivery	\$580	
Total Projects Funded		\$335,606	\$4,059,355

Projects NOT Funded

Boys & Girls Club of the Tanana Valley	Confront Alaska's high youth suicide numbers by increasing youth protective factors (recognize warning signs, intervene and offer appropriate referrals to trained professionals as needed)	\$48,000	\$29,390
The Bread Line	Provide food and support to people in need. Serve nutritious hot breakfasts and lunches and provide sack lunches through Stone Soup Cafe. Operate a lottery-based day labor program.	\$50,000	\$431,510
Fairbanks Native Association	Provide food boxes to homeless and low income families and individuals, including local elders	\$49,875	\$270,863
Hospice of the Tanana Valley	Provide Patient Care Services and support to terminally ill people and their loved ones. Provide Bereavement Services, education, information and training on issues relating to death and dying, grief and loss	\$50,000	\$530,038
Interior AIDS Association	Provide a comprehensive methadone treatment program and harm reduction services for opiate drug users and their community	\$50,000	\$203,575
Interior Community Health Center with Chief Andrew Isaac Health Center	Provide preventative & primary health care services on a sliding fee schedule to low & moderate income people. (Funding request is for \$50,000 but only \$30,281 is likely to be funded)	\$14,643	\$1,800
Literacy Council with Food Bank, Love INC, Hope Counseling Center	Provide resources to overcome poverty, literacy issues, basic mental health issues and economic need to low income families	\$89,891	\$175,286
North Star Council on Aging	Deliver hot healthy meals as well as social contact and daily monitoring of their personal well-being to homebound elders living within the FNSB. to include frozen meal service on weekends	\$50,000	\$309,541
Salvation Army	Provide secondary and tertiary preventative dental care services to non-native adults living at 150% of the poverty level	\$50,000	\$164,721
Total Projects Not Funded		\$462,409	\$2,116,736

Total Project Request for FY 2006

\$788,015

\$6,176,091

* Revised - funding includes the HSCMG and supplemental funds from the DHSS

**The North Star Council on Aging, Senior Center
Meals on Wheels Senior Nutrition Project
FY 2007 Human Services Community Matching Grant Program**

Part H- Leveraging State Savings

It is difficult to quantify the total savings generated by this project. The State of Alaska receives federal funding to coordinate and fund this project statewide. The Senior Nutrition Program utilizes a proactive prevention approach to defer the cost of other more costly care services such as Medicaid Choice Waiver In-Home Care Services, Assisted Living Care, and Hospitalization. Authorization to receive Choice Waiver services takes a period of two-six months, making this an unfeasible alternative for many consumers who are temporarily incapacitated. Utilizing the figures listed in Chan F-1 (Page F-1), and conservatively estimating that 10 program recipients (5%) do not need more intensive forms of care, it is reasonable to estimate that the program generates over 1.2 million dollars in savings to the State of Alaska.

HOSPICE OF THE TANANA VALLEY
706 THIRD AVENUE
FAIRBANKS, AK 99701
474-0311

H. Leveraging State Savings.

Without the availability of the services and support of Hospice staff and volunteers, many patients with terminal illnesses and their families would be required to use the facilities of assisted living homes, the Denali Center or the Fairbanks Memorial Hospital, especially in the days or weeks immediately preceding the patient's death. In other cases, when a need exists but the patient's condition is not yet critical enough, insurer limitations or lack of coverage can result in the patient and family going without any assistance if Hospice volunteer services were not available.

In 2005, 99 patients were served by Hospice with an average length of stay in the program of 93 days for a total of 9,207 patient days. Using 2005 Hospice expenses of \$213,700, the cost per patient per day was about \$23. The average daily cost for room and care at an assisted living home is about \$257, at Denali Center about \$460, and at Fairbanks Memorial Hospital about \$2,400.

If Hospice care helped reduced the number of days the average Hospice patient spent in assisted living by 30 days, the cost savings would be about \$700,000. If Hospice care helped reduced by the number of days the average patient spent in skilled medical care at Denali Center by 20 days, the cost savings would be about \$1 million. If Hospice care helped reduced by the number of days the average patient spent in Fairbanks Memorial Hospital by 10 days, the cost savings would be about \$2.4 million.

Hospice bereavement clients indicated they would not have received any bereavement support had Hospice services been unavailable. Research supports the rationale that stress and trauma from unresolved grief results in illness, lost work, substance abuse, relationship, and parent-child difficulties (dysfunction). Offering bereavement support lessens the demands for other Human Services, thereby resulting in long-term cost savings to the family, community and to the state.

The requested grant of \$50,000 supports less than 30% of Hospice's personnel costs including benefits and payroll expenses. If the State of Alaska were to directly provide the same services as were delivered by Hospice in 2006, the cost just for the equivalent personnel (not considering other operational costs) is estimated as follows:

Executive Director	\$75,962
<i>AK Social Worker Level IV, \$36.52/hr Full-time</i>	
Patient Care Coordinator	\$53,305
<i>AK Social Worker Level III, \$34.17/hr 1/2 Time</i>	
Volunteer Coordinator	\$46,644
<i>AK Social Worker Level II, \$29.90/hr 1/2 Time</i>	
Bereavement Coordinator	\$62,189
<i>AK Social Worker Level III, \$34.17/hr 3/4 Time</i>	
Office Manager	\$40,466
<i>AK Admin Support Specialist, \$25.94/hr 1/2 Time</i>	

Patient Care/Bereavement Volunteers	\$43,336
<i>Certified Nurses Aide II, \$19.77/hr (2,192 hrs in 2005)</i>	
Office Volunteers	\$35,131
<i>AK Admin Assistant, \$22.52/hr (1560 hrs in 2005)</i>	
Professional Service Volunteers	\$292,080
<i>Doctors, nurses, accounts, counselors, board & committee, \$60/hr (4,868 hrs in 2005)</i>	
Total Direct Cost for State Personnel	\$649,113
Less Grant Request to Hospice	<u>(\$50,000)</u>
Total Savings to the State of Alaska	<u>\$599,113</u>

North Star Youth Court

800 Cushman St. Suite 101 • PO BOX 82147 • Fairbanks, AK • (907) 457-6792

H. LEVERAGING STATE SAVINGS

North Star Youth Court is preventing the need for State services, empowering youth and the community to provide more effective services, and ultimately reducing the number of youth and adults that burden the Alaska Department of Corrections. NSYC accepts from 10-25% of the Fairbanks' jurisdiction misdemeanor referrals, and now reports a greater number of cases with the Minor Consuming Alcohol referrals from the District Court. Each case is saving the State the need to assign a Juvenile Probation Officer at the minimum. This is not to mention the reduction of repeat offenders that results in future savings of perhaps the Attorney General's Office and the Superior Court for adjudication of a more serious offense. A reduction of repeat youth MCA offenders could ultimately cut costs to the State in the areas of alcohol related vehicle fatalities, arrests, and substance addiction. With a budget comprise of 31% In-kind, NSYC provides juvenile and youth services for the Fairbanks community and the State of Alaska at a fraction of the amount that it would cost either.



BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS
Greater Fairbanks Area

*Where Little Moments make
Big Magic in Children's Lives*

II. Leveraging State Savings

How has this project leveraged funds in terms of savings to the State?

By matching at-risk kids with positive adult role-models, Big Brothers Big Sisters prevents such behaviors as delinquency, drug and alcohol abuse, teenage pregnancy, and failure at school. The costs of the alternatives to prevention are staggering. Institutional drug rehabilitation costs over \$500 a day. Incarceration of a minor costs \$98,257 per year. The cost of one full time caseworker, providing services to over 50 matched and 30 unmatched at-risk children for a full year is less than 1/2 the cost of incarcerating a single juvenile. BBBS served nearly 600 at-risk youth in matches in 2005. Based on the number of school-aged children in the Borough and the total number of youth arrests, we estimate the juvenile arrest rate to be about 3%. If we apply that arrest rate to the nearly 600 kids served by Big Brothers Big Sisters, we can conservatively estimate that 17 youngsters would have been arrested if they hadn't received our services. If even only two had gone on to be incarcerated, the cost to the State would have been **\$196,514**. This is a very conservative estimate, as the population we serve has higher risk factors than the general population from which we are calculating the arrest rate. Based on the percentage of our 2005 Community Matching Block Grant that represents State dollars, that's a 461% return on investment.

In 2005 over 60,000 hours of companionship, mentoring and friendship were provided by our volunteer Big Brothers and Big Sisters to the children with whom they were matched. When compared to the cost of professional counseling services (much of which could potentially be medicaid billable) at a rate of anywhere from \$60 to \$200 per hour, this represents a savings of between **\$3,600,000 to \$12,000,000**.

The Health and Human Services Community Matching Block Grant provides critical funding that allows the agency to sustain and grow our core programs. The success of these programs has allowed us to bring in additional grant monies for program expansion totaling well over **\$780,000**. A conservative estimate of the value of in-kind contributions and volunteer time is over **\$1 million**.

Interior AIDS Association PROJECT SPECIAL DELIVERY

H. Leveraging State Savings

The state did not contribute funds to PSD in FY 2005, therefore savings to the state are truly a bonus. If the Community Matching Grant is funded, the state's small investment of match to the Borough funds will yield even greater savings, by improving health care monitoring – which will undoubtedly save state dollars by decreasing Medicaid expenses for pregnant or seriously ill consumers.

Cost of Treatment:

PSD's Annual Cost in FY 2005 Per Client Year was \$7,773. Consumers with low-income and no insurance pay ¼ of this cost. Medicaid and insurance typically reimburse for about half the actual cost of treatment. In FY 2005, consumers paid 46% of the treatment costs in cash or through their benefits. This reduced the unreimbursed cost to \$4,353 per year for each consumer – the amount which is supported by grants from the government.

Cost of NOT having treatment available

- Cost of incarceration for one year: \$41,245 (Fairbanks Correctional Center, 12/04).
- Police Department time and expense to pursue and arrest addicts for drug dealing, drug possession, burglary, shoplifting, etc.: not tracked.
- Emergency Room admissions – 41% of PSD consumers reported accessing emergency services 1-6 times in the 6 months prior to starting treatment. After treatment intake, 38% had accessed the ER in the prior six months, and those who did went less often – not drug-related.
- \$2.5 million in illegal drug sales in Fairbanks. A consumer survey (see page 77) indicates that the average amount spent for drugs prior to treatment was \$280 per day. In order to support this expense, many also sold drugs-increasing crime and the potential for violence.
- 70% of consumers have minor children, who had to cope with the drug use and drug seeking behavior of their parent(s) prior to treatment.

Methadone maintenance treatment reduces the frequency of injecting and needle sharing behaviors. Methadone treatment is an important point of contact with service providers and offers opportunities to teach drug users harm reduction techniques such as how to prevent HIV/AIDS, hepatitis, and other health problems that endanger drug users and their communities. PSD participants have gone back to work, gone back to school, resumed taking care of their children, saved their marriages, and much more. When asked at intake, why they want to enter treatment, the most common response is, "I want my life back." Many are well on their way to achieving this goal.

Methadone treatment reduces criminal behavior.⁵ Drug-related arrests decline because methadone treatment participants reduce or stop buying and using illegal drugs. Arrests for predatory crimes decrease because participants no longer need to finance costly heroin habits.

Treatment allows many to stabilize their lives and obtain legitimate employment

⁵ (Hubbard, R.L., Rachal, J.V., Craldick, S.G. *Treatment Outcome Prospective Study*, NIDA Research Monograph 51, 1984, and Ball, J.C., Ross, A. *The Effectiveness of Methadone Treatment* Springer-Verlag 1991.)



Interior Community Health Center

Quality health care accessible to all

1606 23rd Avenue
Fairbanks, AK 99701

H. Leveraging State Savings

ICHC leverages funds from this grant in terms of savings to the state in that the 1,838 individuals served by this grant make a cost/patient of approximately \$122 per person. This means that for an input of \$50,000 the state receives over \$224,225 worth of services.

The February 3, 2006 APCA *Update* reported that in, "1994 Stanford University found that 10% of all emergency room visits are for non-urgent conditions that could be treated in a primary care setting." They reported that researchers estimated that each unnecessary ER visit was equal to a potential \$650 in savings. FMH ER provided approximately 27,000 visits in 2005, which according to the Stanford University research means that 2,700 of those visits were unnecessary ER visits. At an estimated cost of \$650 per visit, \$1.755 million could be saved if those individuals sought services at a primary care facility. The savings are even more notable when Alaska's high cost of health care is considered.

The APCA *Update* also reported that the Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured reported that the Alaska Medicaid program's "average total Medicaid spending for each Medicaid patient was \$5,568." The *Update* also reported that, "health centers save the Medicaid program more than 30% in annual spending per beneficiary due to reduced specialty care referrals and fewer hospital admissions." According to ICHC's calendar year 2005 UDS data, ICHC served 1,133 Medicaid patients. The average total Medicaid spending per Medicaid patients of \$5,568 multiplied by 30% in savings equals \$1,670 in annual saving per health center Medicaid patient. \$1,670 multiplied by ICHC's 1,133 Medicaid patients equals \$1,892,110 in total annual Medicaid Savings.

All calculations and considerations show that a \$50,000 grant can be leveraged to millions of dollars of services for Alaska's residents.



Fairbanks Counseling and Adoption

912 Barnette Street
P.O. Box 71544
Fairbanks, Alaska 99707
(907) 456-4729 - Telephone
(907) 456-4623 - Fax

E-mail: fca@fcaalaska.org
Website: <http://www.fcaalaska.org>

Leveraging State Savings: This project is cost effective for the Fairbanks North Star Borough and the state. The overall goal of this project is to work in partnership with Ft. Wainwright Mental Health Services to promptly address issues of child abuse and neglect, family violence, alcohol and substance use and mental health and emotional issues as they develop and provide prevention and services. The purpose is to address these issues swiftly so that more serious problems will not develop. The ultimate goal is to provide services that will promote individual health and overall family functioning, well-being and stability.

The benefits to the community and state for providing these services are: decreased child abuse and family violence situations; decreased law enforcement involvement; a decrease in the involvement of the Office of Children's Services; decreased unemployment and lack of productivity resulting from family violence, alcohol and substance use and combat stress related issues. The cost to the borough per military family is \$53, with the overall project cost being \$90. This is less than the standard cost for one hour of professional counseling, which is \$125. Further, this project encourages military soldiers and families to use community mental health service providers and the costs associated with this should be mostly covered by Tricare or similar coverage.



RESOURCE CENTER FOR PARENTS AND CHILDREN

1401 Kellum Street
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701
907-456-2866
Fax 907-451-8125

LEVERAGING STATE SAVINGS

This project reduces secondary disabilities in children affected by prenatal alcohol exposure. Due to the supports and services provided by the Care Continuum, fewer of these children will end up in the juvenile justice system. More of them will graduate from school and will move into employment as adults. Additionally, there will be fewer days of productivity lost due to parents leaving work to deal with behavioral issues. All of these impacts result in a cost savings to the state of Alaska.

September 30, 2005

Commissioner Karleen Jackson
Department of Health & Social Services
350 Main Street, Room 404
P.O. Box 110601
Juneau, AK 99811-0601

Dear Commissioner Jackson,

We are writing to request an increase in the state budget for the Human Services Community Matching Grant (HSCMG). This program provides direct funds to the Municipality of Anchorage, and the Matanuska-Susitna and Fairbanks North Star Boroughs for essential human services, i.e., those services whose unavailability would subject persons needing the services to serious mental or physical hardship. State funding for this program has declined 43% since 2001. The needs have not.

Based on the needs we are currently experiencing, we request state funding for the HSCMG be increased to \$3M. This amount would be allocated by population among the three communities, who, in turn, provide a 30% match with local dollars. Funds are then allocated to non-profit organizations who provide the services.

These grants save the state considerable money by providing services in a very cost effective manner.

- Using non-profits to deliver services adds more value to the grant. Non-profits use grant dollars to leverage other funds and in-kind donations. The "return on investment" can be tremendous: in FY04, for every \$1 of state funds, a return of \$17 was generated by the non-profits in Fairbanks.
- Using non-profits simply costs less than providing services through the state.
- The HSCMG funds activities that save state dollars in the long run. Again using an example from Fairbanks, one day of Hospice care cost about \$21 in FY04. The average cost for room & care at an assisted living home was about \$140, at the Denali Center about \$350 and at Fairbanks Memorial Hospital over \$2,000. In 2004, over 100 people received Hospice assistance, for an average of 95 days. Without Hospice, many of these people would have had to turn to the State to pay for care at a much higher cost.

Similar savings and results are replicated in Anchorage and Mat-Su, providing vital services in the most cost-effective manner.

The needs continue to substantially increase, while dollars available to fund these vital health and human services continue to dramatically decrease.

The current amount of \$1.2 M does not meet our communities' needs. We respectfully request the grant be increased to \$3M. This statewide amount would allow each of us to meet the needs as presented to us in the most recent year.

- Fairbanks:
 - Access to food is a basic need. The Fairbanks Community Food Bank has served a relentlessly increasing percentage of the population in recent years. While HSCMG funding has decreased 43% since 2001, the number of individuals in the FNSB seeking food assistance has risen from 32% of the population to 38% of the population. Over 32,600 individuals requested and received food assistance at least once in 2004. This is a 14% increase since 1995.
 - Requests for funding for FY06 jumped by 61% from the prior year. Vital programs providing hot meals for homebound seniors, meals for homeless people, hospice services to the terminally ill and their families, dental care for the poor and more were not funded.
- Anchorage:
 - The level of food insecurity, derived from national statistical data, has increased to 11.5% of our total population. Using Bean's Cafe as a representative example, Bean's has seen a 16% increase in individuals needing food from FY04 to FY05. The current trend in "meals served" counts indicate that last year's increase of 16% will be exceeded again this year. Bean's is in imminent danger of reaching capacity.
 - Another increasing and alarming unmet need in Anchorage, and across the state, is oral health care. Anchorage Neighborhood Health Clinic (ANHC) uses its HSMG funds to provide dental care. According to ANHC, rural health clinics spend more money to fly people into Anchorage for oral health care than for any other medical necessity. In 2003 ANHC saw 4,398 oral health patients for a total of 7,413 patient visits. Despite those numbers the clinic was forced to turn away many needy patients. The clinic's capacity is severely limited by the number of dentists that they can hire. In 2004 with the loss of another staff

dentist, ANHC was only able to see 3,550 patients for a total of 6,571 visits – a 20% reduction in capacity. The director of the clinic noted that demand exceeds their capacity to provide care by over 300%. People are increasingly forced to turn to the state for dental care at a higher cost. Additionally, medical evidence clearly indicates that poor oral health care directly results in highly expensive medical conditions such as heart disease. Providing health care to severely or chronically ill patients also increases the state's financial burden.

- Mat Su:
 - The Matanuska-Susitna Borough continues to be the fastest growing region in Alaska and the demand for services is also increasing rapidly. As documented in the 2005 Matanuska-Susitna Community Assessment, the lack of affordable health care was a major issue in every community throughout the Borough. Top concerns also included alcohol and methamphetamine abuse, inadequate public transportation, unemployment or underemployment, family violence, and the lack of availability of services in all areas of the Borough.
 - In FY06, the Human Services Citizens Advisory Committee recommended a cap of \$35,000 per program in an attempt to more equitably distribute funding. Even with the funding cap, Mat-Su was not able to fully fund many critically needed programs because the need for services greatly exceeded available funds

The local communities are good stewards of these state funds. Our communities make every effort to ensure that these monies are used in cost-effective manners to target the greatest needs in our communities. For example:

Fairbanks:

- The Health & Social Services Commission has developed a rigorous RFP process that requires applicants to: document the need, define expected project outcomes, describe methodology, provide a detailed budget, prove organizational capacity, and include a project evaluation component . Proposals must receive a certain score to be eligible. We frequently hear from grant applicants that this process is the most demanding of the all the grants they receive.
- Grant requests for the current year totaled \$787,435. All of these requests met the criteria for funding, as outlined above. Only the highest scoring proposals were funded. Over time, many non-profits have been discouraged from applying due to the work involved and the declining funding. Thus, we could easily allocate a greater amount.

Anchorage:

- Anchorage also uses a rigorous RFP process. In FY 03, 32 agencies met the rigorous funding criteria. Grant requests totaled \$2,839,279. Available HSMG funding allowed the MOA to fund only \$1,544,523 of those requests.
- In FY 04, because of further reductions in the HSMG grant from the state, the MOA eliminated 50% (16) of those agencies previously eligible for funding. Vital services were not funded. Agencies have been forced to eliminate or drastically reduce programming as a result of the continuing decrease in amount of HSMG funds available.

Mat Su:

- The Matanuska-Susitna Borough's rigorous RFP process is similar to that of Anchorage and Fairbanks. A volunteer Human Services Citizens Advisory Committee independently scores the applications based on project need, goals, methodology, budget/cost effectiveness, management/organization, program evaluation, and value to the community. The committee also considers the Mat-Su Community Assessment in scoring the applications. The committee then tackles the difficult task of making recommendations to the assembly in accordance with the scores and available funding.
- FY05 was the first year that the Matanuska-Susitna Borough was eligible to receive HSMG funding. In FY05, nine applications were received from eligible agencies totaling \$316,685 in funding requests, with a deficit in available funds of \$161,885. Only the top scoring proposals were fully funded out of a diverse array of programs providing critically needed services for residents with disabilities, victims of domestic violence, seniors, residents with mental health challenges, and homeless youth.
- The number of applications received for Mat-Su HSMG funding increased by nearly 50% in FY06. Thirteen eligible agencies requested funding totaling \$354,766. This represents a 12% increase in eligible funding requests from the previous year and a funding deficit of \$219,766.

Regarding the 30% local match, we have attached letters of support from our respective administrations.

Thank you for your consideration. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact any or all of us. We look forward to an opportunity to discuss this with you in the near future.

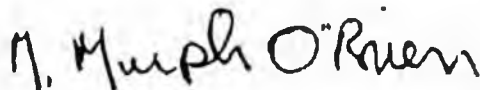
Sincerely,



Carrie Dershin
Health & Social Services Commission
Fairbanks North Star Borough



Michele Brown
United Way Anchorage
(contractor to the Municipality of Anchorage)



Murph O'Brien, Planning and Land Use Director
Matanuska-Susitna Borough

cc: Janet Clarke, Assistant Commissioner for Finance & Management, Dept.
of Health & Social Services

Attachments

Letters of support from:

Jim Whitaker, Mayor, Fairbanks North Star Borough
Mark Begich, Mayor, Municipality of Anchorage
John Duffy, Manager, Matanuska-Susitna Borough



Fairbanks North Star Borough

Office of the Mayor

809 Pioneer Road

P.O. Box 71267

Fairbanks, Alaska 99707-1267

907/459-1300

Fax 907/459-1102

Email mayor@co.fairbanks.ak.us

September 26, 2005

Commissioner Karleen Jackson
Department of Health & Social Services
350 Main St. Room 404
PO Box 110601
Juneau, AK 99811-0601

Dear Commissioner Jackson:

I am writing to support the request to increase state funding for the Human Services Community Matching Grant. During my tenure as Mayor, I have seen this grant program serve a vital purpose in our community.

The allocation process we have developed is fair and rigorous. The recipients make excellent use of state and borough dollars and provide much needed services. They are able to leverage these grant dollars with other funds and in-kind donations and thus provide a value that greatly exceeds the cash value.

The Fairbanks North Star Borough has limited health and social services powers. Providing the required match to this grant program is one of the few steps available to us to address our pressing health and social services needs.

It is appropriate that the borough budget include an increased level of funding for fiscal year 2007 to match an increased state amount; very few efforts return a greater benefit to the taxpayers.

Do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions, or you may direct questions to Cheryl Keepers, who provides staff support to our Health & Social Services Commission, at 459-1474.

Sincerely,

Jim Whitaker, Mayor



Municipality of Anchorage

P.O. Box 198650 • Anchorage, Alaska 99519-6650 • Telephone: (907) 343-4431 • Fax: (907) 343-4499 <http://www.muni.org>

Mayor Mark Begich

Office of the Mayor

September 29, 2005

Commissioner Karleen Jackson
Department of Health & Social Services
P.O. Box 110601
Juneau, AK 99811-0601

Re: Human Services Matching Grant

Dear Commissioner Jackson:

Congratulations on your new position as commissioner. You are certainly well versed in the social service and health arena. That is why I know that you will understand why I am writing to request an increase in the state budget for the Human Services Matching Grant (HSMG). As you know, this program provides direct funds to the Municipality of Anchorage, the Matanuska-Susitna and Fairbanks North Star Boroughs for essential human services. State funding for this program has declined 43 percent since 2001 although the needs have not

The current year budget amount is \$1,235,300, allocated by population among the three communities. In turn, each community matches their amount with 30 percent local cash, bringing the cash total to \$1,764,714. Funds are then allocated to non-profit organizations that provide the services.

Because grant funds are to nonprofit agencies that use volunteer labor and donated items, the HSMG funds provide many times their monetary value in services to needy Alaskans. These grants save the state considerable money by providing services in a more cost effective manner. Using nonprofits to deliver services adds more value to the grant. Nonprofits use grant dollars to leverage other funds and in-kind donations. The "return on investment" can be incredible.

The needs continue to substantially increase, while dollars available to fund these vital health and human services continue to dramatically decrease. The amount of \$1.2 million does not meet Anchorage's human services needs. We respectfully request the grant be increased to \$3 million. This statewide amount that would allow each of us to meet the needs as presented to us in the most recent year.

Community, Security, Prosperity

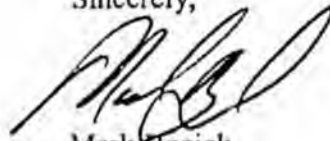
Commissioner Karleen Jackson
September 29, 2005
Page -2 -

Last year, with the support of your office, the United Way of Anchorage began administering the HSMG in Anchorage. This is another example of the nonprofits stretching the grant monies even further. Unfortunately, each year we have been forced to eliminate or drastically reduce programming as a result of the continuing decrease in amount of HSMG funds available. The local communities are good stewards of these state funds. Our community partners make every effort to ensure that these monies are used in cost-effective manners to target the greatest needs in our communities.

My administration continues to be supportive of the HSMG and will continue to with the 30 percent match necessary to obtain this grant. An increase in the amount allocated to the three communities will provide essential funds that are the safety net of the poor and vulnerable in Alaska.

As you are beginning the budget process for Fiscal Year 2007, I am grateful for your effort in securing the continuance of the HSMG and would appreciate your support in this requested increase for the three communities. Please do not hesitate to contact me or my staff assistant, Diane DiSanto at 343-7105, with any questions. I look forward to working with you in your new capacity as commissioner.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Begich', written in a cursive style.

Mark Begich
Mayor



MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH

Borough Manager's Office

350 East Dahlia Avenue • Palmer, AK 99645

Phone (907) 745-9689 • Fax (907) 745-9669

September 29, 2005

Commissioner Karleen Jackson
Department of Health and Social Services
P.O. Box 110601
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0601

Dear Commissioner Jackson:

Please accept my congratulations on your new position as commissioner. I believe that your expertise in the health and social services field will be of great value to the citizens of Alaska.

On behalf of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough, I strongly support the request by the Municipality of Anchorage, the Fairbanks North Star Borough, and the Matanuska-Susitna Borough to increase funding for the Human Services Community Matching Grant Program.

During the brief time that the Matanuska-Susitna Borough has participated in the program, we have seen a 50 percent increase in the number of applications received and a 12 percent increase in requested funds. In FY06, the Human Services Citizens Advisory Committee recommended a cap of \$35,000 per program in an attempt to more equitably distribute funding. Even with the cap, we were not able to fully fund many critically needed programs because the need for services greatly exceeded available funds.

Rapid population growth is expected to continue in the Matanuska-Susitna Borough and the need and demand for services are great, as documented by the 2005 Mat-Su Community Assessment. Therefore, we are requesting an increase in HSMG funds and are committed to providing additional local matching funds so that these and other critically needed programs can be fully funded.

We respectfully request your consideration of the proposed funding increase from \$1.2 million to \$3 million and look forward to working with you for the continued benefit of our citizens. If you have questions or would like additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at (907) 745-9869.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Duffy".

John Duffy,
Borough Manager

KeyBank

Terry B. Smith
Vice President
Relationship Manager
Commercial Banking

KeyBank N.A.
Malloode AK-42-12-0401
101 West Benson Blvd, S. 401
Post Office Box 100420
Anchorage, Alaska 99510-0420

April 13, 2006

907-564-0429 Work
907-564-0200 Fax
907-230-8307 Cellular

Senate Finance Committee

Via Fax (907) 465-2187

Sirs:

I write today to voice my support to fully fund power cost equalization in next year's operating budget.

I am employed by KeyBank and work as a corporate banker out of Anchorage. Over the years, my work in the corporate and public finance area gave me an intimate look at life in rural Alaska. My clients encounter significant living and working challenges to sustain their lives and communities. As you are keenly aware, each dollar circulated in our Alaskan communities has a multiplier effect. It is no secret, this multiplier is more pronounced in smaller communities as money leaves an economy. As fuel prices climb, discretionary income evaporates, and with it, both jobs and sustainability.

Last December, a mayor of a small town I spoke with went for a number of months without pay to keep the electricity flowing in his community. At issue, fuel costs eroded their available budget dollars. As I am learning, this sacrifice is not an isolated event. Economic times are tough enough in rural Alaska, in this case, we should share the State's oil revenue with our friends and neighbors in our bush communities.

High fuel prices provide an unusual irony for Alaska with its exceptional surpluses and sacrifices. It is both the best and worst of times. Fully funding PCE is an insignificant increase to the overall budget and, in my view, the highest and best use of those funds. The funds we send through PCE are scaled to actual costs, they keep people working, buying, and sharing their wealth with the rest of Alaska's transportation hubs. Please help provide this essential service and keep the power on in rural Alaska.

Again, Power Cost Equalization for bush residents makes a huge difference for these residents at a modest annual cost to the State. The money they save on power bills is then available to spend elsewhere in our economy and keeps people employed. If we don't fully fund PCE, we all hurt. When considering how power cost equalization is set, please also consider closely matching the PCE to the most recently confirmed purchase prices of fuel.

I urge you to fully fund power cost equalization, and am always available for any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Terry B. Smith
Vice President



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the

SFIN

committee name

Committee on

HB365

bill # / subject

, dated

4-8-06

public hearing date

SEE ATTACHED PAGE

Signed:

KATHERINE PARKER

Testifier

SELF

Representing (optional)

PO BOX 349

SOLDOTNA, AK 99669

Address

262-4580

Phone number

I was disappointed to read that the Senate Finance Subcommittee recommended cutting the funding for our wonderful public television and radio.

Please reverse this stand. Almost nothing in that budget means more to me than helping KAKM and public radio continue at the present level.

The wonderful children's programs I was thankful for when my daughter was growing up, and now thankful that my granddaughter can enjoy and learn from them. The adult programs provide great evening entertainment, on a level far above what is available on regular channels.

In this age when we're growing concerned about our education ratings falling behind other countries, and violence and sex dominating so much of other television, keeping public television and radio as appealing as possible is more important than ever. Our long winters and isolated areas add to the Alaska need.

Programs like Frontline, Nova, American Experience, and the many special Alaska historical programs are great. And Public Radio broadens and deepens reports of world and Alaska news

I feel KAKM already struggles to get donor contributions during many evenings devoted to fundraising, with the studio filled with enthusiastic volunteers taking the calls. They are trying hard. Please don't reduce what they are achieving.

I appreciate your attention to this matter, and hope you will support.

Katherine Parker
907-262-4580
(An Alaskan for 54 years, Owner-
operator of Soldotna Map Shop)

HB

365/366

PUBLIC

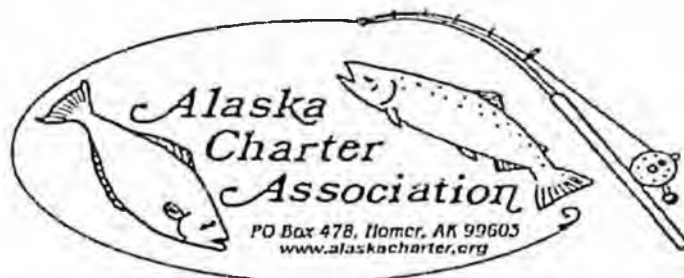
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THE
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ORIGINAL
COPIES



"To Preserve and Protect the Rights and Resources of Alaska's Sport Fishermen"

March 26, 2006

Ms. Shar Smith
House Finance Committee
State Capital, Room 519
Juneau, Ak. 99801-1182

Re: Budget Support for the Ak. Division of Fish and Game

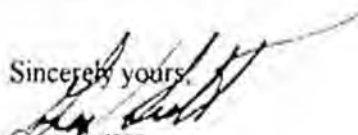
Dear Ms. Smith,

Please forward a copy of this letter to all Finance Committee members. The Alaska Charter Association supports and recognizes the need for adequate funding for the Alaska Division of Fish and Game. Fish and wildlife and their uses are important to Alaskans and to Alaska's overall economy. The economies of many of our coastal communities are dependent on healthy stocks of fish and wildlife and accurate assessments. In recent years, however, the state's financial commitment to fish and wildlife has lagged. This resulted in cuts to programs, especially in the area of stock and population assessments that are critical to sustaining yields and appropriate allocation decisions. We have also seen proven management techniques hampered due to lack of supporting data.

I believe it is time to invest in our fish and wildlife resources to assure they continue to provide the benefits Alaskans expect and rely upon. Additionally, for decades, hunters, trappers, anglers, and commercial fishermen have funded a significant portion of fish and wildlife management in Alaska. However, under our constitution, fish and wildlife are reserved to the people in common. It is only fair that everyone pay to sustain and manage these precious resources because of the significant economic and social benefits they provide for all Alaskans.

At this point, the only way to accomplish that is to appropriate more general funds for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game's budget. With these thoughts in mind, I am writing to ask your support of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game's FY2007 budget request. Thank you for your support

Sincerely yours,


Greg Sutter
President

Carter Crawford
107 Maple 99701 452-1395 3/25/06

Representative Coghill's rationale for not supporting full funding of the \$3m Community Matching Grant is going to result in huge increases to the State's HSSS Dept. he points to the state's increases in fixed expenses for salaries and utilities without acknowledging every private and non profit has the same, and they do not have an oil windfall to cover expenses. It seems that he does not fully embrace the uniqueness of this grant; one which actually saves the state money. I have said repeatedly it should be used as a model for all state expenses. The state puts up grant money, the local community (FNSB) must match (30% in this case and for admin., accounting and legal), and the recipient receives money only based on ability to meet specific objectives and including a substantial match. Over the years I have seen the match (in volunteer time and materials) be anywhere from 2 to 10x ; averaging over 4x what they receive. And these are all services that would otherwise be required by the state, at a cost of 4x what the non-profits provides it for (lower salaries, more targeting, faster service preventing more serious problems, match). While the state complains about the rising costs of Medicare and Medicaid, here is a program treating mental and physical health of everyone from children to seniors who otherwise will be medicare and or meicaid patients.

Our legislators have repeatedly asked for suggestions on where to find money. Some very good ideas have been suggested but often overlooked. I have suggested on numerous occasions they raise the fines on certain criminal activities, especially DUI, and I see progress. But judges too often do not fully fund the fine, and never for underage drinking. Every first time offense is forgiven \$400 of the (the \$600 often leaving \$4000 on the table a week in Fairbanks alone. And worse, the repeat offenders are being forgiven \$500 of \$1000.

It is extremely frustrating to see millions going out to state departments with very little oversight and far less cost effectiveness and here sits a program that is highly ...and the most cost effective means of reducing health and social service costs, and \$13 is too much.

LIO Fairbanks

From: foote [foote@alaska.com]
To: LIO Fairbanks
Cc:
Subject: Budget Comments with Highlights
Attachments:

Sent: Fri 3/17/2006 2:08 PM

I would like to encourage my legislators to consider two main things as they pass the current budget.

The first is to keep the Governors numbers for the Community Matching Grants. This is one of the most single important dollar coming to Fairbanks, not only for what it allows non-profits to provide to those in need, but also for how much they leverage those dollars into much more. These dollars also save us money in important but hard to measure prevention ways. Please don't reduce this amount.

Secondly, the University is an important economic engine for the entire State. The dollars discussed for UA also gets leveraged not only for those that receive the education (I provide health education to the most rural sites), but also as we write for more federal dollars. We are working with students who live and work in rural Alaska and who plan to stay there. This is critical to their economy and as they graduate they provide important services right where they live. This too saves the State money while contributing to it!

Thanks for your hard work, and remember the land, oil and gas belongs to all of us so don't let be given away to the wrong people.

Torie Foote

3-16-2006
Ted Meninski

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**AT&T ALASCOM COMMENTS BEFORE THE
HOUSE FINANCE COMMITTEE IN SUPPORT OF SB 157**

Good afternoon, my name is William Saupe and I am with the Anchorage law firm of Ashburn & Mason. I have practiced law before the RCA and its predecessor, the APUC, since 1985. I am here today on behalf of AT&T Alascom, which strongly supports SB 157.

AT&T Alascom believes that the proposed \$3 million increase in the Regulatory Cost Charge is the most reasonable means of raising the funds necessary to upgrade the RCA's computer systems. Our understanding is that the additional funds would be administered by a users' committee, made up of a broad spectrum of utility industry and public interest representatives, whose job will be to acquire and implement new and substantially improved computer systems that will allow for (1) electronic submission of all filings made at the Commission, (2) improved internal tracking of open dockets, and (3) creation of a searchable data base of all documents on file at the Commission.

From AT&T Alascom's perspective, these would all be major improvements that would greatly improve the agency's efficiency and enhance the consistency and quality of its orders. Just as important, it would save utilities substantial amounts of time, effort and money, by making filing and research easier and less time consuming.

AT&T Alascom would like to see this project undertaken as soon as possible and all at the same time, if possible. It is concerned that if it is broken down into pieces or implemented in stages, there is a risk that momentum will be lost and perhaps even a risk that the various upgrades will not be properly coordinated.

For these reasons, AT&T Alascom urges you to pass SB 157 and to insure that the RCC increase is sufficient to fund the entire project that the user committee has developed.

Thank you.

ALASKA ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Alaska's 18 regional Adult Basic Education (ABE) programs have been progressive over the past year:

1. Village programs in the Northwest Arctic (Kotzebue Regional Adult Education Program), on the North Slope, and in Bristol Bay have expanded services through support from the Division of Public Assistance.
2. The PLATO distance learning program has expanded to an additional five communities outside of Anchorage (Kodiak, Homer, Soldotna, Fairbanks, and Barrow). With support from Alaska Job Center Partners statewide, Nine Star Enterprises has provided the training and licenses. *Success Story:* Two youth under age 20 in Brevig Mission studied using PLATO and completed the GED and entered the Alaska Sealink Program in Ketchikan.
3. Tlingit-Haida Central Council provided extra support for regional adult education services in four communities in Southeast Alaska through SERRC's Southeast Regional Adult Education Program.
4. The Anchorage Regional Adult Education Program increased the number of locations for classes from 12 to 17 in 2005-2006.
5. In cooperation with the *Building Alaska's Workforce* plan under the Alaska Department of Labor, the Anchorage Regional Adult Education Program offered a Construction Trades Math Class during the winter quarter with 30 students enrolled.
6. The Aleutian-Pribilof program with its far flung population has 1,000 additional student hours due to the PLATO program delivery with five new graduates.
7. The Bristol Bay (Dillingham-based) Adult Education Program has shown educational gains as reported in this information sheet.
8. **The number of GED graduates increased in Alaska from 1,457 in 2002 (the year the test was updated) to 1,646 in 2005.**

Despite these accomplishments, there is a critical lack of infrastructure in Adult Basic Education. Full time personnel are needed in every program to sustain the demand for basic skills services. An example of that demand is the increase in GED graduates in Anchorage to 221 in the fall quarter 2005 from 154 in the fall quarter 2004.

Adult Basic Education is a fundamental need if you want to put people in jobs. And I've made this statement and I absolutely believe it with the data I have been presented. If we could provide sufficient Adult Basic Education in the State of Alaska we would have more Alaskans filling more jobs than will be created by the simultaneous opening of ANWR and the building of the gas pipeline...It's a problem much larger than the University if we are going to put Alaskans in jobs.

— University of Alaska President Mark Hamilton
Joint Finance Committees, Juneau, Alaska, February 3, 2005

Some of the following information was presented by the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Employment Security Division, in testimony to the House Finance Committee on Labor this year.

The Challenge

- The National Adult Literacy Survey released on December 18, 2005 affirms the downturn in adult skills needed to qualify for entry level positions in construction trades, mining, and health care.
- From the 2000 census, the number of Alaskans without a high school diploma required for most stable jobs is 57,000 people.
- Employers are finding increasing dissatisfaction with graduating students' level of proficiency in meeting employability standards as documented by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.
- University of Alaska colleges must offer remedial courses to high school graduates that enroll in the university system.

Adult Basic Education: A Success Story

- One measure of the Adult Basic Education Program is the number of GED graduates. Averaging the past seven years statistics, **GED graduates account for more than 20% of the State of Alaska's high school graduates.**
- The Adult Basic Education program is the state's single largest source of high school diplomas.

Diplomas	2005		2004		2003		2002		2001		2000		1999		1998	
High School*	7,350	82%	7,290	81%	7,366	80%	6,945	83%	6,812	71%	6,668	76%	6,826	75%	6,496	80%
GED	1,646	18%	1,661	19%	1,860	20%	1,457	17%	2,783	29%	2,071	24%	1,919	22%	1,640	20%
Total	8,996		8,951		9,226		8,408		9,595		8,739		8,745		8,136	

*Alaska Department of Education & Early Development (<http://www.eed.state.ak.us/stats/>)
 2005 High School Diploma Count Estimate as of 1/11/06

- All students are asked to set goals for themselves when they enter the Adult Basic Education Programs in Alaska. Below is a table showing goal completion in FY04.

	Percentage of Full-Time Students Achieving Their Goal **
Enter Employment	62.3%
Retain Employment	73.4%
Obtain a GED	79.2%
Enter Postsecondary Ed	74.2%*

*43% of those the goal of "enter postsecondary education," enrolled in the University of Alaska

Budget Increase Supported by Alaska Adult Education Association

A \$1 million increase in State ABE/GED funding would provide:

- An additional 76,923 hours of direct instruction.
- An estimated 21 additional teachers statewide resulting in an estimated increase of 600 GED high school graduates.

Adult Basic Education is Direct Service and reaches its target:

- In FY05, 91.7 percent of the state's general fund monies were distributed to local/regional ABE providers through grant agreements.

Fiscal Year	04	05	06	07
General Fund	1,570.5	1,558.6	1,565.0	2,571.1
Federal Funds	1,240.2	1,371.4	1,355.9	1,362.8
Total Funds	2,810.7	2,930.0	2,920.9	3,933.9
Total Hours of Instruction	158,284	159,170	161,500*	230,000**
# of GED's Issued	1,661	1,646	1,700*	2,300**

* Estimate

** Estimate based upon additional \$1,000,000 with the result being 600 additional GED graduates. The number of graduates derived is based on approximately 100 instructional hours per graduate over a three year period.

Thank you for your support!

For more information contact:

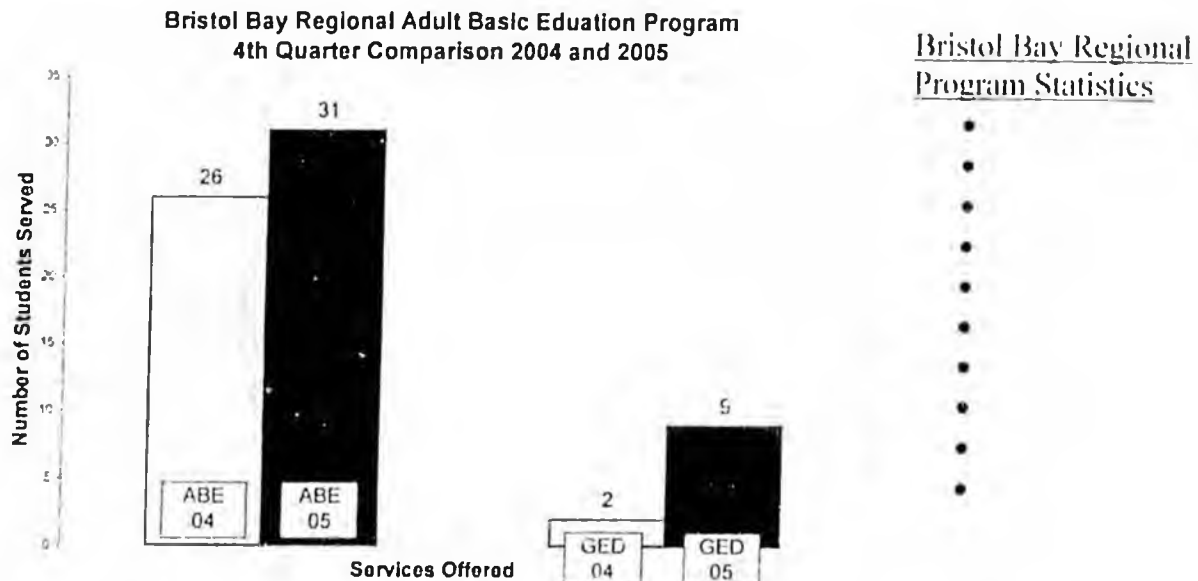
Jan Peyton, President, Alaska Adult Education Association
c/o Kenai Peninsula College, Kachemak Bay Campus, 533 East Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska
99603, cell phone: 299-0153 or 235-5446 (evenings), janpeyton73@alaska.net

David Alexander, AAEA Legislative Committee Chair, Nine Star Enterprises, Anchorage, 279-
7827, davida@ninestar.com

Carin Smolin, AAEA Board Member, Southeast Regional Adult Education Programs, SERRC,
Juneau, 586-5718, carins@serre.org

State of Alaska Adult Basic Education Website: www.ajen.state.ak.us/abe

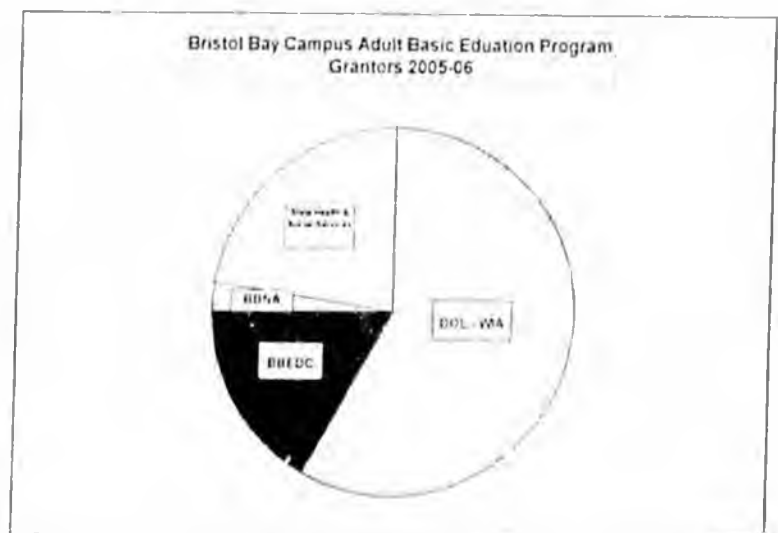
Example of growth and improvement: Bristol Bay Adult Education



- As of the 2000 census, 1,176 residents between the ages of 18 and 44 do not have high school diplomas.
- 74% of students served in 2005 began with a grade equivalency of 5.8.
- With a staff of 13 part-time instructors, 4 part-time GED examiners, and one full time program director, ABE/GED services extend to 32 communities spread throughout an approximately 40,000 square mile area.
- Increasing direct instruction within the 32 communities makes a significant difference. \$40,000 from Alaska State Department of Health and Social Services, Public Assistance Work Services Program received 12/05 provided funds to increase the number of part-time ABE/GED instructors from 6 to 13.

Results:

- 12/04 - 66 students served regionally
- 12/05 - 79 students served regionally
- 2/04 - 1 GED graduate
- 2/05 - 2 GED graduates
- 2/06 - 11 GED graduates





Catholic Community Service

419 Sixth Street
Juneau, Alaska 99801
(907) 463-6100
(907) 586-9018 Fax
www.cesjuneau.org

Child Care & Family Resources

Hospice & Home Care of Juneau

Southeast Senior Services

March 17, 2006

Testimony for the House Finance Committee
From: Rosemary Hagevig, Executive Director

I would like to speak with you today about two major components that are not included in the most recent version of the House Health and Social Services Budget Document for FY 2007.

First, I join several other non-profit social services organizations in Alaska who are very concerned that as of this June 30th, prevention and early intervention services for high-risk young families targeting children in the 0-10 age group will not exist. The attached PHOENIX PROGRAM pilot project proposal will provide a structured effective approach toward early intervention alternatives for families. The non-profit sector in our state provides a wide array of "on the ground" grass roots services that are tailored to address the immediate needs of these children and their parents and continues to be the first line of defense that can intervene early before a case escalates to the emergent need to move a family to "open case" status at the Office of Children's Services. The non-profit providers are more flexible, able to respond in a more timely manner and are less burdened by expensive bureaucracies. The social services non-profit organizations in Alaska are critical partners with OCS. We continue to be the most efficient and economical means of delivery of effective services to families. As agencies with many years of experience in providing services to the most needy in our communities, we see this pilot program as a viable opportunity to proactively respond to families at significant risk of child abuse and neglect. We would appreciate your review of the attached copy of our proposal.

My second request is that the full Finance Committee consider re-instating the Department's request for \$500,000 for the Healthy Marriages Program. We feel that there may have been insufficient information provided at the subcommittee level for this program to be identified as the "happy couples" program. As a recipient of a small \$50,000 Healthy Marriages grant from the Department, and I can assure you that these funds have been very judiciously spent assisting CCS in funding parenting classes, financial literacy classes, parent support groups, relationship guidance for teen parents, and some support for mental health counseling for very needy families, many of whom are homeless. As is the case with all of our programs at CCS, our ultimate goal is to work with families as they strive toward self-sufficiency and security for their children, and these limited funds have become an essential tool in achieving these outcomes.



United Way Member Agency

THE PHOENIX PILOT PROJECT: STRENGTHENING ALASKA'S FAMILIES

Background: This project is the result of a statewide effort to improve outcomes for families in Alaska that struggle with domestic violence, substance abuse, mental health issues, and other barriers to effective parenting. The Phoenix Pilot Project is the culmination of many months of planning and discussion with the Office of Children's Services, the Division of Public Assistance, and community service agencies working with families throughout the state.

The Phoenix Pilot Project seeks to strengthen and preserve Alaska's families and break the generational family cycles in families who may be at-risk for child abuse and neglect but who would otherwise not be served by existing programs. It provides wrap-around services to address multiple stressors affecting families through different levels of care. It is intended to break down silos between service providers and integrate family services.

PROGRAM NEEDS

In FY2005, there were approximately 9,500 reports of harm reported to the Office of Children's Services statewide. Almost 30% of these reports (2,598) were "screened out" and not investigated. Evidence suggests that many of these calls include prenatal exposure to alcohol/drugs, homelessness, lack of medical care for children, or poor school attendance. While these families are technically screen-outs, it is clear that many of them are in need of some type of intervention to address the underlying issues.

The Phoenix Pilot Project provides support and intervention as needed to families who have been identified by:

- the Office of Children's Services
- the Division of Public Assistance
- statewide medical providers
- local community service providers

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES: STRENGTHENING FAMILIES

Vision: The Phoenix Pilot Project keeps children safe and in healthy environments by supporting parents. Services are provided by agencies that have an integrated, comprehensive family approach serving families with children of all ages.

Target Population: Families with children prenatal to age 10 who are at-risk of child abuse and neglect, nearing the limit on state TANF benefits, or identified by medical and community service providers.

The referral process is inclusive of:

- Screen-out referrals from OCS
- Referrals from medical and other community providers
- Division of Public Assistance (family service teams)

THE PHOENIX PILOT PROJECT: STRENGTHENING ALASKA'S FAMILIES

Service Area: The Phoenix Pilot Project will serve the entire state of Alaska with services based out of five regional sites. Remote and isolated communities that have traditionally been neglected by early intervention programs can benefit from Tier 1 and Tier 2 services (*see Program Implementation below*) made available through the regional sites. The regions represented are listed below along with the anticipated regional site:

Region	Regional Site
Southeast	Juneau
Northern	Fairbanks
Southcentral	Kenai
Anchorage	Anchorage
Matanuska-Susitna Valley	Wasilla

Goals: The goals of the Phoenix Pilot Project are to:

1. Reduce risks (substance abuse, mental health, family violence) for high risk families and reduce numbers of protective service reports to OCS
2. Assist DPA in providing transitional services to TANF families
3. Reduce family stress identified by community and medical providers

Objectives:

- Increase parenting skills
- Improve relationship skills
- Identify and enhance natural supports
- Enrich home environment and safety
- Increase family self-sufficiency
- Improve financial literacy for high risk families

Outcomes: Outcomes for the project are concrete, measurable and specific. They are:

1. Formal Data Analysis at 6, 12, 18 and 24 month intervals that specifically identifies numbers of families receiving services through project agencies that are not subsequently referred to OCS for further action by child protective services - (See attached Document #1)
2. two months after contact by the Phoenix Pilot Project, 50% of families will report engagement in referral services when available
3. 60% of families will engage in home visiting services when appropriate
4. pilot project agencies will respond to 100% of referrals from OCS, DPA, medical and community providers
5. 75% of families will report improvement in issues related to referral (See attached Document #2)

PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION: Project services include a single point of entry with a three-tiered approach to intervention. Referral from a community partner will include a screening tool provided by the project. Based on the screen, an intake

THE PHOENIX PILOT PROJECT: STRENGTHENING ALASKA'S FAMILIES

coordinator determines the level of service required. Three levels of service exist based on the intake screening:

Tier 1: Phone call to family by intake coordinator. Services include:

- discussion of reason for referral from OCS/DPA
- general resource sharing and referrals to appropriate programs
- follow-up contact within two months

Tier 2: Phone call to family by intake coordinator followed by direct referrals to community service agencies. Services include:

- discussion of reason for referral from community partners
- targeted resource sharing
- active referrals to community agencies
- follow-up contact within two months

Tier 3: Phone call to family by agency intake personnel, followed by family assessment and offer of home visiting. Services include:

- discussion of reason for referral from community partners
- in-depth assessment of family stress
- goal-oriented home visits to provide support and education
- targeted resource sharing
- active referrals and collaboration with community partners
- follow-up contact within two months following final home visit

Program Components: The project may include any of the following components:

- Parenting curriculum/classes referral
- Financial literacy classes referral
- Relationship skill building activities
- Parent mentoring/parent support activities
- Screening for developmental delays
- Harm reduction/referrals/safety plans
- Breaking generational family cycles (risk)
- Connecting families to support/services
- Addressing substance abuse, mental health issues and domestic violence leading to child abuse and neglect

PROGRAM EVALUATION: All services are accountable to the program outcomes listed above. In short, each tier is accountable to specific outcome measures depending on the intensity of services:

Tier 1: Tier 1 services will be accountable to outcomes # 1, 2, 4, 5

Tier 2: Tier 2 services will be accountable to outcomes # 1, 2, 4, 5

Tier 3: Tier 3 services will be accountable to outcomes # 1, 2, 3, 4, 5

**THE PHOENIX PILOT PROJECT:
STRENGTHENING ALASKA'S FAMILIES**

BUDGET: The Phoenix Pilot Project will serve the entire state of Alaska in the five identified regions with a budget of \$1.5 million.

**THE PHOENIX PILOT PROJECT:
STRENGTHENING ALASKA'S FAMILIES**

Document 1

Subsequent Protective Service Reports/OCS cases opened/removal/custody

Families Referred to Agency Intake	Family	6 Months	12 Months	18 Months	24 Months
	Family 1				
	Family 2				
	Family 3				
	Family 4				
	Family 5				
	Family 6				
	Family 7				
	Family 8				
	Family 9				
	Family 10				
	Family 11				
	Family 12				
	Family 13				
	Family 14				
	Family 15				
	Family 16				
	Family 17				
	Family 18				
	Family 19				
Family 20					

Early intervention success is measured by: comparing the number of children/families referred and subsequently entering active status with OCS to those children and families referred to agencies and receiving some level of intervention services as identified in this proposal and not requiring additional attention from OCS during the pilot period.

**THE PHOENIX PILOT PROJECT:
STRENGTHENING ALASKA'S FAMILIES**

Document 2

Analysis of Services Received by Families Served Leading to Increased
Stability/Self-Sufficiency

Family	6 Months	12 Months	18 Months	24 Months
Family 1				
Family 2				
Family 3				
Family 4				
Family 5				
Family 6				
Family 7				
Family 8				
Family 9				
Family 10				
Family 11				
Family 12				
Family 13				
Family 14				
Family 15				
Family 16				
Family 17				
Family 18				
Family 19				
Family 20				

Table S-1
Summary of Estimated Beneficial and Adverse Impacts of Proposed Project Alternatives⁸

Factors	Alternatives						
	No Action	2B	3	4A	4B	4C	4D
Cost Factors							
Initial Capital Costs (\$ million)	0	\$258	\$268	\$131	\$142	\$111	\$103
30-Year Life Cycle Costs ¹ (\$ million)	\$267	\$352	\$375	\$495	\$482	\$326	\$313
Annual Maintenance and Operations Costs (\$millions)	\$10.2	\$9.0	\$9.2	\$16.6	\$15.5	\$11.6	\$11.3
Net Present Value ² (\$ millions)	0	\$70	\$22	-\$56	-\$23	-\$57	\$3
Purpose and Need Factors							
Projected Summer Capacity to Skagway (vehicles per day)	71	636	408	223	227	149	203
Projected Summer Capacity to Haines (vehicles per day)	96	544	1,008	229	284	154	208
Summer Travel Time – Auke Bay to Skagway ³ (hours)	3.8/9.1	3.0	4.2	4.1/9.1	3.8/9.1	6.3/9.1	5.3/9.1
Summer Travel Time – Auke Bay to Haines ³ (hours)	3.5/7.1	2.5	2.9	3.8/7.1	3.5/7.1	6.0/7.1	5.0/7.1
Number of Ferry Round-trips/Week – Auke Bay to Skagway (Summer)	7	42	42	16	16	9	16
Number of Ferry Round-trips/Week – Auke Bay to Haines (Summer)	8	56	84	16	30	9	16
Net State Cost Over 35-Year Analysis Period (\$millions)	\$61	\$88	\$86	\$98	\$94	\$78	\$70
Net State Cost per vehicle	\$45	\$15	\$18	\$46	\$37	\$51	\$36
Total / Out-of-Pocket User Costs – Juneau/Skagway ⁴	\$237 / \$237	\$77 / \$51	\$111 / \$85	\$261 / \$261	\$174 / \$163	\$237 / \$237	\$160 / \$149
Total / Out-of-Pocket User Costs – Juneau/Haines ⁴	\$180 / \$180	\$60 / \$34	\$70 / \$45	\$198 / \$198	\$124 / \$113	\$180 / \$180	114 / \$103
Employment and Population Impacts							
Juneau							
New Local Employment (2038)	0	200	70	45	90	0	30
Population Increase (2038)	0	300	100	70	140	0	45
Skagway							
New Local Employment (2038)	0	55	0	10	15	0	0
Population Increase (2038)	0	70	0	10	20	0	0

⁸ Initial capital costs (those costs required to design and construct the alternative) have been updated to 2007 dollars. All other costs remain in 2004 dollars as expressed in the Supplemental Draft EIS and appendices.

Association of Alaska School Boards - Elgee ReMold Mertz - Full Circle Music - Glacier Valley Student Council - Juneau Brass & Winds - Ron Mass Family - Na
ophtics of Et Camino St. - Northern Audiology & Hearing Services, Inc. - True North Federal Credit Union - USMA Architects - White Frog Bank Alaska - Winthrop - ATLAS - Australia, Inc. - Gray's Gym Inc.

Glacier Valley School Presents



Saturday, March 18th
Glacier Valley Gym

8:00-7:00 Dance Workshops
7:00-9:00 Live Music
Free Admission

Ballroom & Art Fundraiser

All proceeds will support ARTS Education at Glacier Valley School

P.C. - Lynn Williams - Filipino Community Inc. - Alaska State Council on the Arts - Alaska State Legislature - The National Endowment for the Arts - and the Raymond Foundation - Glacier Valley Parent Group

Dale - Dave & Jene - Jonson Vodka Ltd, Inc. - HWY Architects - HWY Architects - Pinow's Carpet & Upholstery Cleaning Services - Simpson Tidymat Services - Soemson & Logsdon

Dale - Dave & Jene - Jonson Vodka Ltd, Inc. - HWY Architects - HWY Architects - Pinow's Carpet & Upholstery Cleaning Services - Simpson Tidymat Services - Soemson & Logsdon

Juneau schools face over \$2 million in cuts unless the Alaska State Legislature increases funding beyond the Governor's \$90 million. Estimated impacts:

* Class sizes will increase

	Current Ave. Class Size	Projected Ave class size (06-07 school year)
K-2	22:1	25:1
3-5	25:1	26:1
6-8	30:1	31.5:1
9-12	30:1	31.8:1

* Instructional materials for students will diminish

Examples: There has been no budget for replacing aging textbooks for at least four years. My son's High School Advanced Biology text is 15 years old. Increased costs of photocopying will put a large dent in materials purchasing power next year for each school, and further diminish purchasing power.

* New services/programs are vulnerable

New student-centered programs - like elementary art - may be eliminated. Counseling for elementary students - previously funded with a federal grant which is ending - may be substantially curtailed, for lack of funds. Remedial tutoring to prepare students for the high school exit exam may be a thing of the past. Innovations, which have been in the works at the High School to address the terrible drop out rate, may falter.

No matter how you calculate it, Juneau will be making cuts to services and programs for students next school year *unless state funding is increased.*

Juneau citizens already contribute to the cap with local property tax dollars. Local dollars represents 43% of the Juneau school budget. In addition, there is tremendous community support for athletics, arts and student initiatives. However, there is a limit on the capacity of any community to increase or sustain this level of fundraising and financial support for its youth.

Alaska is wealthy. Alaska can afford to increase funding for schools. Scrimping and cutting and squeezing is counterproductive and DIMINISHES the quality of learning opportunities for our kids.

Alaska's students deserve GREAT schools.

STATE OF ALASKA

Frank H. Murkowski, GOVERNOR

DEPT. OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

*Advisory Board on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse
Alaska Mental Health Board*

P.O. BOX 110608
JUNEAU, AK 99811-0608
PHONE: (907) 465-8920
FAX: 465-4410

March 17, 2006

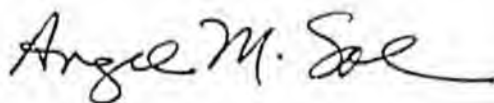
Testimony to the House Finance Committee
HB 365/HB 366

Bring The Kids Home (BTKH) is an initiative developed by the Department of Health and Social Services and the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority to improve services and outcomes for severely emotionally disturbed Alaskan youth by keeping them at home so they can receive the help they need in their own communities while close to their own families. Outcome data from the Division of Behavioral Health shows that BTKH efforts are succeeding - the number of kids being sent to treatment facilities in the lower 48 has dropped by over 5%. This is better for the kids, for their families and for the state's Medicaid bottom line.

Governor Murkowski picked up the ball and proposed a budget package to support continued efforts to Bring and keep the Kids Home. However, the DHSS Finance Subcommittee has recommended reductions that eliminate a crucial piece of the package - services for youth and their families designed to prevent out of state placement from every happening. The Governor's request for \$1.25 million to increase Community Behavioral Health Center funding will enhance the capacity of these agencies to work with families and youth at risk of being referred to expensive out-of-state or out-of-region residential care. These youth are often not eligible for Medicaid-funded services, so the Centers must currently absorb the cost of these services within their diminishing state grant funding. This funding will provide these very troubled children services in their home community to keep them at home, and, if they must be referred out to residential treatment, will provide a more effective continuity of care for transitions to and discharges from that treatment.

Please maintain the BTKH momentum. We are concerned that unless you fully fund BTKH efforts the initiative will be less successful, and more kids will be sent out of state to distant and expensive residential care. Please do not jeopardize the BTKH efforts, but ensure their continuing success by reinstating \$1.25 for essential mental health services at home.

Sincerely,



Angela M. Salerno, Advocacy Coordinator
Alaska Mental Health Board
Advisory Board on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse

From:004

807 3495335

03/18/2006 14:40

#018 P.003/003

Alaska Baptist Family Services

1600 O' Malley Road, Anchorage, Alaska 99507 (907) 349-2222
Main Line: 349-2222 Fax Line: 349-5335 Email: akfamilies@acl.net



March 16, 2006

House Finance
Alaska State Capital
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representatives,

This letter is to support the full funding for the governor's request for the Bring The Kids Home Initiative. Bring The Kids Home (BTKH) is a plan developed by the Department of Health and Social Services and the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority to improve services and outcomes for severely emotionally disturbed Alaskan youth. Governor Murkowski has developed a budget package to support continued Bring The Kids Home efforts. Already, BTKH efforts are succeeding and more kids are being served in state. The distinct number of out-of-state (OOS) residential psychiatric treatment center (RPTC) Medicaid recipients decreased 5.1% in FY2005 - the first decrease in the OOS RPTC population since 1998. However, without full funding to adequately implement all of the BTKH strategies, we cannot expect to continue to achieve the results necessary to be successful.

The DHSS Subcommittee of the House Finance Committee has proposed cuts to the FY07 Governor's proposed budget that are critical to the success of the Bring the Kids Home (BTKH) Initiative. Full funding of this initiative will help prevent placements of over 600 Alaskan youth annually in out-of-state care and to provide services closer to their home. \$40 million dollars a year is spent on these out of state placements, often when a lower level of care (and less cost to the State) would have been more appropriate.

Bring the Kids Home FY07

Operating Budget - Total Funds

HFin DHSS Subcomm actions 2/28/06		Total Funds		
Component	Short Description	Governor	HFin Subcommittee	diff
1	Behav Health Admin Gatekeeping functions - Regional placement Committees	290.0		-290.0
2	SED Youth BTKH Expansion - Instate services & capacity development	2,120.0	870.0	-1,250.0
3	SED Youth BTKH - data collection	50.0	50.0	
4	DJJ/Protection Services Gatekeeping functions - Regional placement Committees	200.0		-200.0
5	OCS/Management Gatekeeping functions - Regional placement Committees	200.0		-200.0
6	OCS Medicaid Expand Behavioral Rehab Services (BRS)	2,500.0	2,500.0	
TOTAL		5,360.0	3,420.0	-1,940.0

TOP PRIORITY AMENDMENT

Item 2: REINSTATE GOVERNOR'S PROPOSED SUPPORT FOR IN-STATE SERVICE CAPACITY

Within the Governor's FY07 budget BTKH budget expansion described above is \$1.25 million to increase Community Behavioral Health Center funding. This will enhance their capacity to work with families and youth at risk of being referred to expensive out-of-state or out-of-region residential care. Funding provides services in their home community to keep them at home, and if referred out to residential treatment provides more effective continuity of care for transitions to and discharges from that treatment. The youth are commonly not eligible for Medicaid-funded services at this point, so the Centers must absorb the cost of these services within their diminishing state grant funding.

PRIORITY AMENDMENT

Items 1, 4, 5: REINSTATE GOVERNOR'S PROPOSED SUPPORT FOR "GATEKEEPING" FUNCTIONS IN PLACEMENT COMMITTEES

This funding provides adequate staff resources to ensure a state review of youth who are at risk for placements in expensive high levels of care, such as residential psychiatric treatment centers often outside of their home community or immediate region. DHSS is currently finalizing the best model for this gate keeping function. This funding is essential to ensure that youth are not referred to higher levels of care when lower levels of care or outpatient care in their home community would have been appropriate.

Sincerely,

Lorie Morris

Integrity

Quality

Safety

Accountability

Spirituality

From:004

807 3495335

03/16/2006 12:55

#017 P.003/003

Alaska Baptist Family Services

1600 O'Malley Road, Anchorage, Alaska 99507 (907) 349-2222
Main Line: 349-2222 Fax Line: 349-5335 Email: abfamilica@acl.net



March 16, 2006

House Finance
Alaska State Capital
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representatives,

This letter is to support the Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS) 2007 budget request for an 18% rate increase for Behavioral Rehabilitation Service providers. These providers have not received a rate increase since the BRS program inception in 2000 and this increase is a much needed step in the right direction. Today we are at a breaking point and I fear if small non-profits are not adequately reimbursed for the services they are providing to the state's children some providers will not survive. It is imperative that the State of Alaska properly fund and expand existing services of providers who have succeeded in caring for Alaska's children in need.

Providers throughout the state have not been compensated at the necessary level to provide the necessary care and have maintained quality care by shifting money away from necessary administrative functions. At the same time, we have seen dramatic increases in the cost to provide care to our consumers. For example, from FY 2003 to FY 2004 Alaska Baptist Family Services (ABFS) workman's compensation rates increased 117% with the last two years also seeing increases over 50%. The rising cost of medical insurance has only been maintained by the agency cutting benefits or shifting the cost to employees. In addition, ABFS employees have not had a cost of living increase in their wages since FY 2001 because of financial constraints. Agencies, such as ABFS, cannot continue to shift money away from administrative functions or programs will suffer.

I am currently serving as Executive Director of ABFS which has a rich history of serving Alaska's children in need beginning in 1948 as an orphanage, in response to the diphtheria outbreak. For the last 30 years ABFS has served emotionally disturbed children who require residential treatment. Please help us to continue our important work as we partner with the state to serve Alaska's children by supporting the DHSS 2007 budget request to increase Behavioral Rehabilitation Services and provide a rate increase for the state's providers.

Sincerely,

Lorie Morris

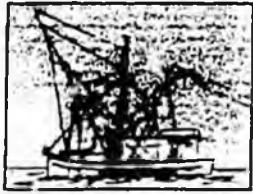
Integrity

Quality

Safety

Accountability

Spirituality



Alaska Trollers Association

130 Seward St., No. 211
Juneau, Alaska 99801
(907) 586-9400
(907) 586-4473 Fax

March 17, 2006

Representative Mike Chenault, Co-Chair
Representative Kevin Meyer, Co-Chair
House Finance
Alaska State Legislature
Juneau, AK 99811

Dear Representatives Chenault, Meyer, and Committee Members:

I'd like to make you aware of concerns of the Alaska Trollers Association (ATA) with regard to the short and long term state of Alaska Department of Fish and Game's (ADFG) operating budget. ATA supports general fund increases for all divisions of ADFG.

ATA represents hook and line salmon fishermen operating in Southeast Alaska. With over 2600 permit holders, the troll fleet is one of the largest in the state. The fleet is 85% resident and a large number of trollers live in rural communities.

ADFG commercial fisheries division began experiencing deep budget cuts in 1986. Since that time, increased research and management burdens have been placed on the agency, yet the general fund component of its budget has been further reduced or, at best, level funded with no account for rising costs. ADFG's inability to maintain, much less grow, its budget in the face of additional workload has reduced its ability to keep and attract staff.

Since 1986, the state has received large sums of federal money, due to the Pacific Salmon Treaty (Treaty) and a series of federal mandates to meet US Treaty goals and objectives. This money has helped to mitigate the loss of state general fund money in the Southeast Region. At this time, federal money is funding roughly half of the Southeast Region budget.

For many years, our association has expressed concern about the level of reliance the state has placed on federal money to finance management of our state's resources. Obviously, unfunded federal mandates are unacceptable and states should not be required to pay the cost of meeting commitments made by the US government. The problem is that chronic under-funding of the general fund component of the budget has forced ADFG to become increasingly reliant on federal funds to secure core staff and programs. Now that federal money is at a premium, it is not unlikely that all ADFG regions could suffer if federal monies are limited and ADFG struggles to do too much with too little.

Of significant concern this year is impending loss of essential fish and game staff through retirement or recruitment by other entities. By the end of 2006, on the precipice of crucial Pacific Salmon Commission, our region could lose up to eight people who deal with key Treaty issues. Many of them are high level fishery managers and scientists, with few qualified replacements waiting in the wings. In a state with the wealth of Alaska and significant financial

bolstering by the federal government, it is incredible that the budget has not provided the means to hire and train the amount of staff necessary to cope with the current wave of 'boomer' retirement. The loss of qualified personnel at ADFG could lead to reductions in our base of knowledge and institutional memory, more restrictive management, and reductions in our ability to negotiate beneficial Treaty agreements. Given the taxes paid by our industry, this situation could mean a direct loss of revenue for the state.

The task is on your shoulders to forge a meaningful solution to the state's budget problems and we appreciate the enormity of some aspects. However, we urge you to take action now with a long term view towards the future of management in our highly resource reliant state. If you don't, the costs could be enormous to our communities and the state.

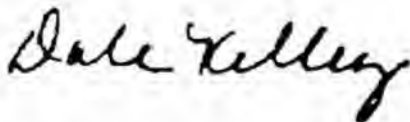
ATA is proud of ADFG and its outstanding track record of resource management. The seafood industry and most Alaskan communities depend on ADFG's continued ability to sustain healthy fisheries resources.

The seafood industry is still the second largest revenue generator for the state and its communities. Alaskan's from all walks of life benefit from healthy fish and game resources. It makes both common and economic sense to invest in ADFG.

It is our hope that you will find the means to adequately fund ADFG to ensure management, research, and development of our resources, as well as provide employment packages that attract new personnel of the high caliber we are used to working with.

If I can be of assistance on this or other matters, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Dale Kelley
Executive Director

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPT. OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

*Advisory Board on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse
Alaska Mental Health Board*

Frank H. Murkowski, GOVERNOR

*P.O. BOX 110608
JUNEAU, AK 99811-0608
PHONE: (907) 465-8920
FAX: 465-4410*

March 17, 2006

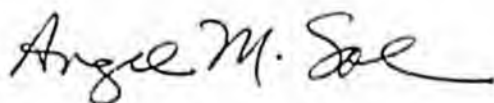
Testimony to the House Finance Committee
HB 365/HB 366

Bring The Kids Home (BTKH) is an initiative developed by the Department of Health and Social Services and the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority to improve services and outcomes for severely emotionally disturbed Alaskan youth by keeping them at home so they can receive the help they need in their own communities while close to their own families. Outcome data from the Division of Behavioral Health shows that BTKH efforts are succeeding - the number of kids being sent to treatment facilities in the lower 48 has dropped by over 5%. This is better for the kids, for their families and for the state's Medicaid bottom line.

Governor Murkowski picked up the ball and proposed a budget package to support continued efforts to Bring and keep the Kids Home. However, the DHSS Finance Subcommittee has recommended reductions that eliminate a crucial piece of the package - services for youth and their families designed to prevent out of state placement from every happening. The Governor's request for \$1.25 million to increase Community Behavioral Health Center funding will enhance the capacity of these agencies to work with families and youth at risk of being referred to expensive out-of-state or out-of-region residential care. These youth are often not eligible for Medicaid-funded services, so the Centers must currently absorb the cost of these services within their diminishing state grant funding. This funding will provide these very troubled children services in their home community to keep them at home, and, if they must be referred out to residential treatment, will provide a more effective continuity of care for transitions to and discharges from that treatment.

Please maintain the BTKH momentum. We are concerned that unless you fully fund BTKH efforts the initiative will be less successful, and more kids will be sent out of state to distant and expensive residential care. Please do not jeopardize the BTKH efforts, but ensure their continuing success by reinstating \$1.25 for essential mental health services at home.

Sincerely,



Angela M. Salerno, Advocacy Coordinator
Alaska Mental Health Board
Advisory Board on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse

Public Opinion Message

Dillingham Legislative Information Office (LIO)
 P O Box 829 · Dillingham, AK 99576 · Phone: 842-5319 Fax: 842-5105

This form must be completely filled out. You may phone, fax, or deliver your POM to any LIO.

From: Please PRINT the information below. This form must be signed by the sender.

Mr. / Ms. / Mrs. Mr	First name THOMAS	M.I.	Last name TILDEN	Jr. / Sr. / III
Group affiliation (if applicable)				Daytime telephone number
Mailing address PO Box 786 Dillingham Alaska				Zip code 99576
Residence (street) address if different from mailing address				Zip code
Email address tildenthomas@yahoo.com		Signature <i>[Handwritten Signature]</i>		Date 3-18-06

To: Put a in the appropriate box(es).

Committees		House members		Senate members			
<input type="checkbox"/>	H or S	<input type="checkbox"/>	Anderson (ade)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Kelly (kel)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Bunde (bun)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Community & Regional Affairs (cra)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Berkowitz (ber)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Kerttula (ker)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Cowdery (coy)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Finance (fin)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Chenault (che)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Kohring (koh)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Davis (dab)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Health, Ed. & Social Services (hes)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Cissna (cis)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Kott (kol)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Dyson (dys)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Judiciary (jud)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Coghill (cog)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ledoux (leu)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ellis (ell)
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<input type="checkbox"/>	Minority (min)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Joule (jou)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Weyhrauch (weh)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Wagoner (wag)
		<input type="checkbox"/>	Kapsner (kap)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Wilson (wis)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Wilken (wik)

Subject: Fill out the boxes below OR enter a Subject.

HB or SB	Bill number	and check one:	<input type="checkbox"/> Support	<input type="checkbox"/> Oppose	<input type="checkbox"/> Amend	OR enter a general Subject (LIO staff may modify):
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Message: Your PRINTED message cannot exceed 50 words or contain any vulgar language.

PCE	needs	MORE	funding.	when	5
energy	costs	go	up	everything	10
else	does	for.	we	live	15
in	the	richest	state	in	20
USA	and	are	forgetting	all	25
the	dams	and	power	structures	30
we	built	for	urban	Alaska	35
and	PCE	was	put	in	40
place	for	rural	ak	to	45
deal	with	energy	costs.		50

March 17, 2006

Dear Representative Jim Holm:

I am writing to request that \$750,000 in the Governor's proposed budget for the recommendations of the Ready to Read, Ready to Learn Task Force be reinstated in the budget under the Department of Education and Early Development.

Too many Alaskan children are entering the schools at kindergarten and first grade unprepared to begin reading and learning. This is an issue because kids that start school behind their peers tend to stay behind. Further, assessments done by schools statewide show that in Alaska the situation is steadily growing worse.


Across the nation, other states are investing in early childhood education because the age of 0-6 is a critical window of opportunity for a child when it comes to learning. Research on brain development is backed-up by long-term economic studies which show that investing in children in this age range has a much greater return than investing at any other age. One 40-year study, the Highscope Perry Preschool Study, shows that for every \$1 invested in a child during this time period, \$17 was either saved in areas such as teen pregnancy, juvenile justice, welfare and corrections or was later returned in the form of greater tax revenues from higher adult incomes, and a higher proportion of home ownership.

I urge you to keep the \$750,000 in the budget to help with projects that will improve the early reading and learning skills of Alaska's young children and benefit Alaska's future.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Gara Bridwell



March 17, 2006

Dear Representative Mike Kelly:

I am writing to request that \$750,000 in the Governor's proposed budget for the recommendations of the Ready to Read, Ready to Learn Task Force be reinstated in the budget under the Department of Education and Early Development.

Too many Alaskan children are entering the schools at Kindergarten and first grade unprepared to begin reading and learning. This is an issue because kids that start school behind their peers tend to stay behind. Further, assessments done by schools statewide show that in Alaska the situation is steadily growing worse.

Across the nation, other states are investing in early childhood education because the age 3-6 is a critical window of opportunity for a child when it comes to learning. Research on brain development is backed-up by long-term economic studies which show that investing in children in this age range has a much greater return than investing at any other age. One 40-year study, the Highscope Perry Preschool Study, shows that for every \$1 invested in a child during this time period, \$17 was either saved in areas such as teen pregnancy, juvenile justice, welfare and corrections or was later returned in the form of greater tax revenues from higher adult incomes, and a higher proportion of home ownership.

I urge you to keep the \$750,000 in the budget to help with projects that will improve the early reading and learning skills of Alaska's young children and benefit Alaska's future.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Gara Bridwell

