

# **REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR AND THE ALASKA LEGISLATURE**

**January 2006**

**Submitted by the  
Alaska Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee**

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## **Letter from the Chair**

I am pleased to present the 2006 annual report from the Alaska Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee to the Governor, Legislature, and the people of Alaska.

The AJJAC is comprised of committed volunteers from around the state, who have knowledge and experience with youth and the juvenile justice system. They reside in both rural and urban Alaska and represent parents, youth, teachers, social service workers, and court and juvenile justice employees.

Each year, the Alaska Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee (AJJAC) is required to submit a report to the Governor and Legislature regarding the juvenile justice system. This year the focus of our report will be on our efforts in conjunction with the Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) to keep Alaska in compliance with the core mandates of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (JJDP) Act. Those mandates are explained in this report and are the primary focus of AJJAC. One major accomplishment this year is the development of a compliance monitoring video to educate those in the field on the core mandates. We expect this video to have far reaching, positive effects throughout Alaska's juvenile justice system.

The final responsibility of the AJJAC, in collaboration with DJJ is to assist with the allocation of federal grant funds awarded to the State by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP). In FY06 these funds provided assistance to help support delinquency prevention and intervention projects in urban and rural communities around the State. A listing of those projects and communities is included in this report.

Please contact us with any questions about this report and feel free to use us as a resource for juvenile justice issues.

Barbara Tyndall  
AJJAC chair

The federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974 (JJDP Act) is a landmark reform measure designed to improve the nation's juvenile justice system and to reduce juvenile delinquency and the unsafe incarceration of youth. Through the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), the JJDP Act allocates federal juvenile justice grant funds to states that comply with the Act's four core mandates:

**Core Mandates of the JJDP Act**

1. **Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenders** – Youth who are charged with status offenses (i.e. drinking alcohol, smoking cigarettes, and violating curfew) may not be held in locked detention and correctional facilities.
2. **Sight and Sound Separation of Youth and Adult Offenders** – Youth who are temporarily held in adult jails or lock-ups may not have sight or sound contact with adult inmates.
3. **Removal of Youth from Adult Jails and Lock-ups (Jail Removal)** – Youth who are accused of delinquent acts may not be held for processing in adult jails or lock-ups for more than 6 hours before their first court appearance and 6 hours after court.
4. **Disproportionate Minority Contact** – States must assess and work to eliminate their juvenile justice systems' disproportionate contacts with minority youth.

States that are not in compliance with the core mandates face the loss of federal grant funding and Alaska has worked hard to maintain compliance. In 2004, the legislature passed SB240, instrumental state legislation that reconciled Alaska statutes with federal mandates to prohibit placement of minors in a secure facility when they have not been accused of committing a crime. SB 240 helps Alaska stay in compliance and assures that federal money continues to provide Alaska with much needed funding for prevention and intervention programs across the state.

The Alaska Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee (AJJAC) is appointed by the Governor under Administrative Order No. 137 to serve as the Division of Juvenile Justice's (DJJ) citizen advisory board. AJJAC is mandated by the JJDP Act to advise DJJ in maintaining Alaska's compliance with the core mandates. AJJAC's efforts help to ensure that DJJ continues to receive federal grant funding and provide Alaska's youth with meaningful opportunities to succeed.

To fulfill its mandates, AJJAC offers this report on the state's compliance with the JJDP Act core mandates, the allocation of the state's federal grant funds, and the AJJAC's recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature.

## Alaska's Compliance with the Core Mandates

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**Compliance Monitoring** -- This effort works towards reducing violations in each of the four core mandate areas with a focus on reducing the numbers of juveniles incarcerated for status offenses (deinstitutionalization), maintaining sight and sound separation of adult and juvenile offenders (separation), and removal of juveniles placed in adult jail facilities. Some of the most promising developments in this effort include:

- ❑ Creation of a compliance monitoring training video to serve as a training tool to assist rural law enforcement, DJJ staff, courts, and community partners in the core mandates of the JJDP Act. This innovative and highly-praised video will also be used as a training tool in states across the country.
- ❑ Continued operation of alternative to detention programs like non-secure shelters and electronic monitoring for youth who do not pose a risk to the community.
- ❑ Monitoring of and technical assistance provided by DJJ to communities experiencing high violation rates and to those requesting aid in complying with the core mandates through development of placards, brochures, and telephonic assistance.
- ❑ DJJ field staff participation in on-site audits for rural jail and lock-up facilities.
- ❑ In conjunction with law enforcement, DJJ is working to develop a training schedule in rural areas on compliance with the core mandates.
- ❑ In partnership with Professional Administrative Services, Inc., DJJ has streamlined the data collection process and improved monitoring of juvenile holds across the state.
- ❑ Awarding certificates of recognition to communities that have shown progress in reducing violations of the core mandates.

If Alaska is in compliance, DJJ receives grant funds from OJJDP that can be used to enhance the Division's programs and encourage positive system changes. Last year DJJ used these funds to help implement a statewide system improvement plan to assist Alaska in maintaining a balanced juvenile justice service continuum. AJJAC members were involved in the initial system improvement strategy sessions. This strategic plan encompasses a host of evidence-based improvements that help ensure safe and equitable treatment for all of Alaska's youth.

- ❑ Implementation of YLS-CMI (Youth Level of Service/Case Management Inventory), a risk needs instrument that assesses youth using factors that are linked to delinquent behavior and particularized needs in order to allow staff to make case decisions and treatment plans that are data-driven and responsive to a youth's individual risk factors.
- ❑ Adoption of the Alaska Detention Assessment Instrument (DAI), a risk-based, structured assessment tool which ensures youths are detained for public safety reasons; identifies lower-risk offenders who can be served through community-based alternatives; and implements statewide standards to assist with making the decision to securely detain. The use of DAI ensures detention decisions to securely detain are based on objective criteria, supported by data and focus on those juveniles who present the highest risk to the community
- ❑ Integration of performance-based standards (PbS), a data-driven ongoing quality improvement and accountability system that measures the effectiveness, safety, and security of Alaska's juvenile facilities.

Compliance with the JJDP Act core mandates will assure continued federal funding for Alaska, improved services for our youth, and increased safety for all Alaskan communities. In support of these goals, AJJAC asks the Governor and Legislature to weigh the following recommendations to assist us in improving compliance with the core mandates.

### **AJJAC's 2006 Recommendations**

1. Provide increased funding to the Division of Juvenile Justice to assist in the state's compliance monitoring efforts through expansion of alternative to detention programs such as non-secure shelters and electronic monitoring, and provide funding for training opportunities for DJJ staff, courts, law enforcement, and other community partners.
2. Expand funding to provide for adequate "front end" services including sufficient probation staffing levels at offices and youth facilities across the state.
3. Continue to support and promote the development of statewide quality assurance efforts in the juvenile justice system to foster DJJ compliance with the core mandates of the JJDP Act.
4. Recognize the extent that communication barriers may contribute to the disproportionate rates of detention for Alaska's minority youth. Utilize the resources of state government to address the critical need of the juvenile justice system to provide language interpretation services for parents in delinquency cases by exploring ways in which public funding can be applied to the development and training of language interpreters throughout the system.

In state Fiscal Year 2006, OJJDP awarded Alaska over 1.3 million in federal juvenile justice grant funds under the JJDP Act. These funds are awarded to the Department of Health and Social Services and administered by the Division of Juvenile Justice.

## FY06 Juvenile Justice Grant Awards Supported by Federal JJDP Act Grant Funds

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### Formula Non-Secure Attendant Care Shelter Grants

Kenai Peninsula Community Care Center	Kenai Peninsula	Non-secure shelter	20,000
Youth Advocates of Sitka	Sitka	Non-secure shelter	8,000

### Formula Non-Secure Attendant Care Shelter Provider Agreements 69,000

North Slope Borough	Barrow	Non-secure shelter
Fairbanks Native Association	Fairbanks	Non-secure shelter
Juneau Youth Services	Juneau	Non-secure shelter
Covenant House Youth Reception Center	Anchorage	Non-secure shelter
Kids Are People-Saxton Youth Shelter	Wasilla	Non-secure shelter
Providence Kodiak Island Counseling Center	Kodiak	Non-secure shelter

### Formula Indian Pass-Through Grants

Aleutian Pribilof Island Association	Aleutians	VPSO delinquency training	3,679
Kodiak Area Native Association	Kodiak Island	Family spirit camp	3,600
Maniilaq Association	Kotzebue	Youth court	5,976

### Formula Delinquency Prevention

Victims for Justice, Inc.	Anchorage	Delinquency prevention/ Victim Advocacy	25,000
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### Title V Delinquency Prevention Grants

City of Kenai	Kenai	Delinquency Prevention	51,491
Nunakauyak Traditional Council	Tooksook Bay	Delinquency Prevention	18,671

### Serious and Violent Re-entry Program

Alaska Children's Services	Anchorage	Functional Family Therapy	124,412
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Alaska	Statewide	Mentoring Program	80,000

### Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws Grant

MADD Anchorage Chapter	Anchorage	Youth-led prev. coalition	30,000
Nat'l Council on Alcoholism & Drug Dependence	Juneau, Sitka, Craig	Youth-led prev. coalition	20,000
Nome Community Center	Nome	Youth-led prev. coalition	20,000
RSA to Dept. of Public Safety (ABC Board)	Statewide	Youth assisted enforcement	100,000
RSA to Div. Behavioral Health, (JASAP)	Kodiak & Anchorage	Youth oriented substance abuse education program	100,000
DJJ Training	Statewide	Juvenile Justice Officer and Juvenile Probation Officer Substance Abuse Certification support	

### Congressional Earmark Program

#### Alaska Youth Court and Community Panel Program

United Youth Courts of Alaska	Statewide	Training and Tech.Assist	181,010
Anchorage Youth Court	Anchorage	Youth Court	55,543
Delta Youth Court	Delta	Delta Junction Youth Court	15,543

Emmonak Tribal Council	Emmonak	Youth Court	5,543
Juneau School District	Juneau	Youth Court	40,543
Kenai Peninsula Youth Court	Kenai, Homer	Youth Court	50,543
Ketchikan Youth Court	Ketchikan	Youth Court	40,543
Agdaagux Tribal Council	King Cove	Youth Court	13,393
Kodiak Teen Court	Kodiak	Youth Court	30,543
Nome Community Center	Nome	Youth Court	30,543
North Star Youth Court	Fairbanks	Youth Court	45,543
Native Village of St. Michael	St. Michael	Youth Court	13,393
Valdez Youth Court	Valdez	Youth Court	25,000
City of Wasilla, Mat-Su Youth Court	Mat-Su Valley	Youth Court	50,543
Wrangell Police Department	Wrangell	Youth Court	5,543
Youth Advocates of Sitka	Sitka	Youth Court	15,543

## **Alaska Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee Members**

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