

ALASKA JUVENILE JUSTICE

ADVISORY COMMITTEE



1998 ANNUAL REPORT

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

The Alaska Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee (AJJAC) is comprised of committed citizens from all parts of Alaska who have experience with youth and juvenile justice issues. This non-partisan group of volunteers includes parents, youth, teachers, social service workers, and court and corrections employees.

AJJAC's activities are based on the belief that delinquency is a community problem requiring a community response. One of its primary responsibilities is to assist in the distribution of federal grant funds appropriated to Alaska under the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP).

In FY99 JJDP grant funds totaling \$1,009,480 were distributed to 42 programs in 19 Alaskan communities.

The JJDP grants are awarded through a Request for Proposal (RFP) process designed to elicit local responses to community needs involving youth. A list of the OJJDP-funded programs in Alaska, including the communities and amounts, may be found at the end of this report. The funded programs focus on both prevention and intervention activities, including family and victim-offender mediation, youth courts, alternatives to suspension, mentoring, tutoring, electronic monitoring and non-secure attendant shelters. The award of grants to numerous programs throughout Alaska reflects varied local needs and the varied approaches that communities take to meet those needs.

Another important AJJAC responsibility is helping maintain the State's compliance with federal mandates in order to maintain eligibility for the JJDP grant funds. The federal funding is a cost savings for the State and provides valuable services to Alaska's youth, families and communities.

AJJAC looks forward to providing funding for more community-based programs throughout Alaska in the future and to serving as an active advisory board for the State.

*Vicki J. Blankenship, Chair
Alaska Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee*

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS - FY98

Accountability, Community Protection, Competency Development

- **Electronic Monitoring Programs:** One hundred fourteen accused or adjudicated youth remained in their homes with around-the-clock electronic monitoring for a total of 7,010 days at an average cost of only \$27.01 per day. If these youth had been placed in locked juvenile institutions instead the cost to the State would have been \$262.83 per day, an increase of \$1,653,098.20.
- **Non-Secure Emergency Shelters:** Four hundred fifty-four accused youth were held temporarily in staff-secure shelters while awaiting a court hearing and/or transport to their home or a locked juvenile institution. Seventy-two percent of these youth were in rural communities where the only other available placement would have been an adult community jail. If these youth have been placed in the community jails instead, the State would have been in violation of JJDP mandates and at risk of losing \$832,500 annually in JJDP grant funds.
- **Aftercare Program For Youth Released From Locked Juvenile Institutions:** Seventy-one youth and their families received intensive supervision and counseling to support their successful return to the community. Their school attendance increased, and their behavior problems and recidivism decreased.
- **Mediation Programs for Victims and Families:** Thirty-two accused youth and their victims chose to participate in victim-offender mediation as an alternative to the traditional court process. Twenty-eight contracts were negotiated by trained volunteer mediators, and \$4,810.42 restitution was collected. One hundred and one youth and their families participated in family mediation with volunteer mediators to reduce runaway behavior. Sixty-eight contracts were negotiated, and the majority of the youth remained in their homes.
- **Youth Courts:** Six hundred eighty-six accused youth were referred to youth courts as an alternative to the traditional court process. These youth performed 4755.5 hours of work service for their communities and paid \$11,172.14 restitution to their victims.
- **Native Culture Camps:** Ninety-seven youth from thirteen villages learned about healthy traditional lifestyles from elders and community leaders as an alternative to delinquency and substance abuse.

Technical Assistance, Training and Information Sharing

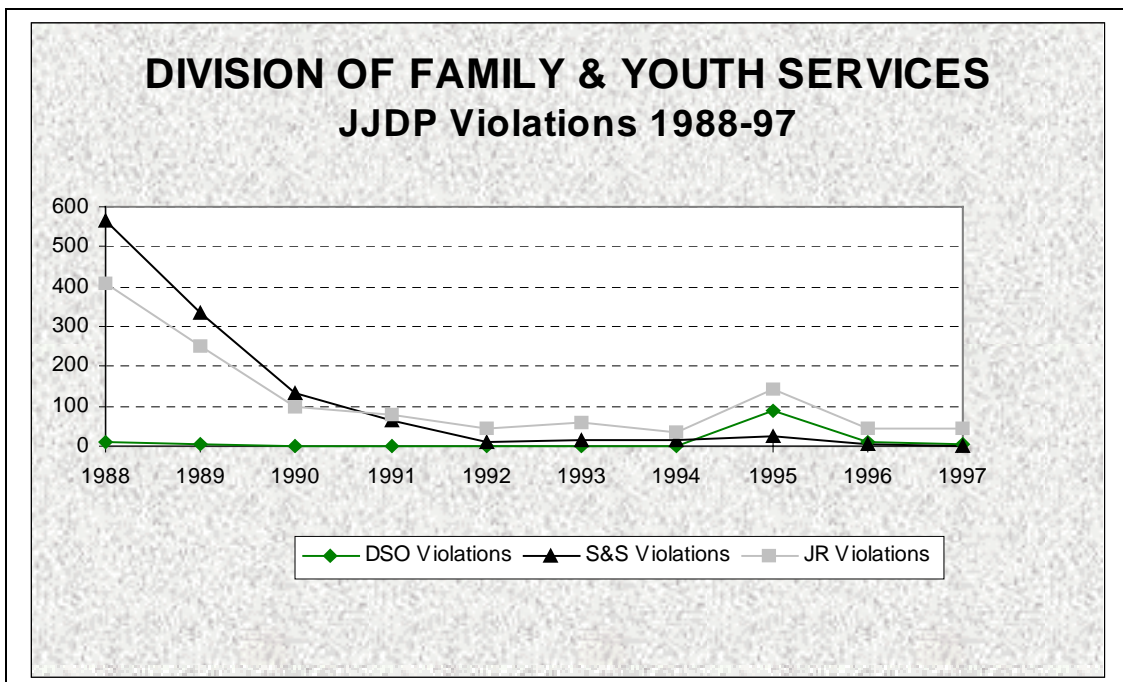
- **Youth Corrections Strategic Planning:** JJDP funds provided technical assistance for a state-wide strategic planning process for Youth Corrections. The planning sessions were attended by forty-seven probation, treatment and detention supervisors from all regions of the state. The final strategic plan will guide Youth Corrections through the next 3-5 years as it incorporates community and restorative justice practices into the traditional juvenile justice system.
- **Youth Courts Conference:** JJDP funds helped support the Second Annual Alaska Youth Court Conference hosted by the Mat-Su Youth Court. One hundred seven youth and adults from fourteen Alaskan communities participated in the conference. Two communities have already used the information to implement their own youth courts, and several more are in the planning stage.
- **Statewide Public Forum:** The appointment of new AJJAC members in Barrow and Sitka allowed the expansion of AJJAC public meeting sites to those communities as well as Anchorage, Fairbanks and Juneau. At these meetings Alaskans voice their concerns and suggestions about juvenile justice issues.
- **National Leadership:** AJJAC member Tom Begich represented Alaska in the national Coalition for Juvenile Justice as Past Chair on the Steering Committee, Chair of the Strategic Planning Committee, Chair of the Nominations Committee, and member of the Government Relations and Youth Committees.
- **National Videoconferencing:** JJDP funds disseminated three Bureau of Justice videoconferences to sites throughout Alaska. The conferences presented up-to-date information and interactive discussion about best practices for school safety, youth courts, treatment of serious and violent juvenile offenders, and treatment of female offenders. Videotapes of the conferences were added to the Youth Corrections training library.
- **Information Sharing:** Eight members of the AJJAC attended state and national training programs on treatment of serious and violent offenders, treatment of female offenders, gangs, graduated sanctions, restorative justice, safe schools and youth courts. Information from these trainings was disseminated to juvenile justice staff, other AJJAC members and their communities.

AJJAC also assisted in the distribution of the 1997 annual report of the national Coalition for Juvenile Justice (CJJ) entitled "False Images: The News

Media and Juvenile Crime.” Copies of this report as well as previous CJJ reports are available from AJJAC members.

Federal Compliance and Continued Federal Funding

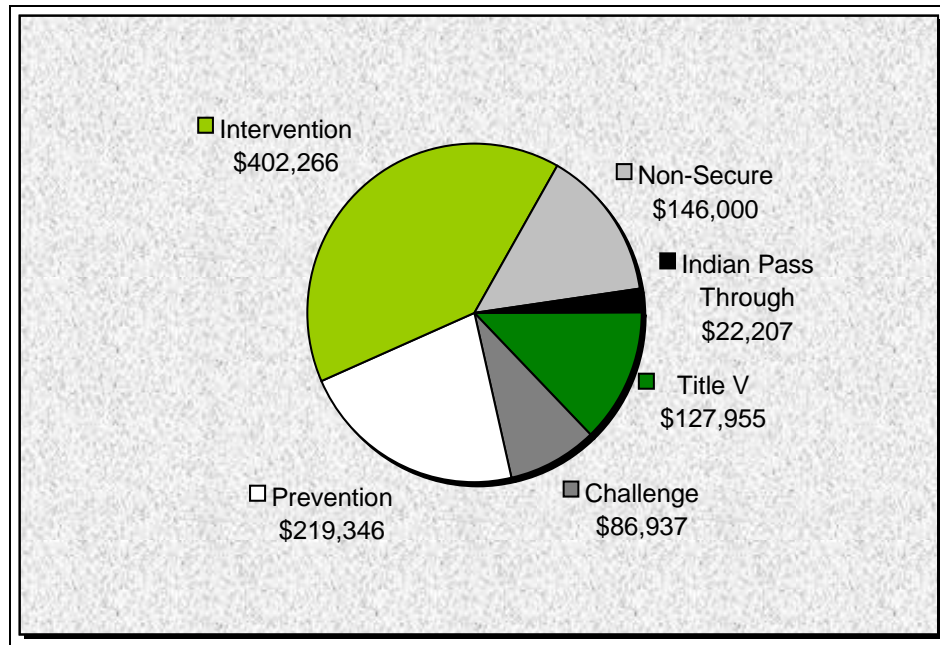
- **Implementation of Best Practices for Holding Juvenile Offenders:** Alaska continued to improve its compliance with federal mandates. The following graph shows progress in the past decade in the areas of de-institutionalization of status offenders, sight and sound separation of juveniles from adults, and removal of juveniles from adult facilities. The FY98 compliance data will be available in early 1999 and will be reported in the next AJJAC annual report:



- **Examination of Disproportionate Minority Representation:** Alaska continued to assess disproportionate minority representation in the juvenile justice system in accordance with federal mandates. All JJDP grantees were required to evaluate the cultural competency and appropriateness of their programs and how they impact minority youth.
- **Continuation of Maximum Federal Funding:** Based on continued compliance with federal mandates, Alaska continued to receive the maximum annual allotment of JJDP grant funds.

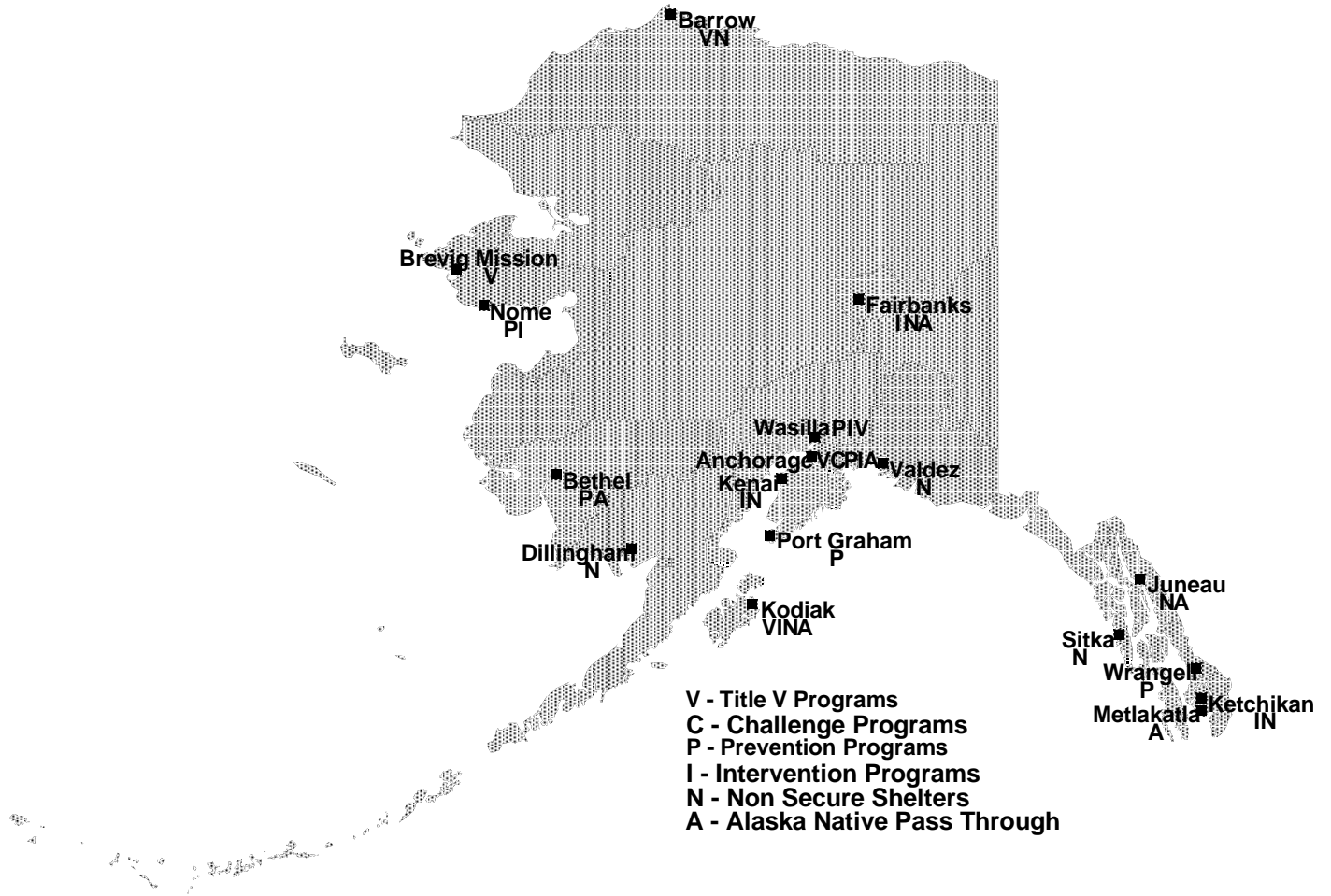
PROGRAM FUNDING - FY99

Alaska receives JJDP grant funds in the following categories for distribution to different types of programs. A complete list of JJDP-funded programs in Alaska in FY99 is included at the end of this report.



- **Title II Formula Grant Funds (including Prevention, Intervention, Non-Secure and Indian Pass Through monies)** - Title II of the JJDP Act provides grant funds based on the state's juvenile population. These funds must first be used to achieve and maintain compliance with the mandates of the JJDP Act by such means as establishment of non-secure shelters. Any remaining funds may be used for prevention and intervention programs. A portion of funds is set aside for Native tribes to support their youth programs.
- **Title II Challenge Activity Grant Funds** - The 1992 Amendments to the JJDP Act added funding for programs in ten specified Challenge activity areas. AJJAC allocated Alaska's FY99 Challenge grant funds for alternatives to school suspension and aftercare for juveniles released from locked institutions.
- **Title V Delinquency Prevention Grant Funds** - Title V of the JJDP Act provides grant funds to units of local government for delinquency prevention programs targeting the risk factors associated with delinquency.

- **Geographic Distribution of JJDP Grant Funds:** The JJDP grant funds are distributed to programs throughout urban and rural Alaska as shown below.



RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE FUTURE

Recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature:

Governor's Conference on Youth & Justice (GCYJ): AJJAC recommends continued implementation of the recommendations developed by this year-long systems improvement project.

Recommendations to the Department of Health & Social Services:

Division of Juvenile Justice: AJJAC recommends creating a separate Division of Juvenile Justice within the Department.

Governor's Conference on Youth & Justice (GCYJ): AJJAC recommends continued implementation of the recommendations developed by GCYJ.

Youth Corrections Web Page: AJJAC recommends expansion of the Department's existing web page to provide more information to the public about Youth Corrections programs and AJJAC activities.

Youth Corrections Newsletter: AJJAC recommends publication of a newsletter as an additional means of providing information to the public about Youth Corrections and AJJAC.

Increased Collaboration between Youth Corrections and AJJAC: AJJAC recommends expanding collaboration to include participation by AJJAC in grantee site visits and development of a Youth Corrections user questionnaire.

THE JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION ACT

Alaska's JJDP grant funds are appropriated by Congress under the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974, as amended. The purpose of this Act is to develop effective delinquency prevention and intervention programs. In order to qualify for the funds Alaska must comply with the following four core mandates of the Act. The mandates are based on research which shows these practices reduce the risk of harm to incarcerated youth:

De-institutionalization of Status Offenders (DSO):

States must ensure that youth who are charged with status offenses are not placed in locked detention or correctional facilities. Status offenses are behaviors which are not criminal when committed by adults, such as drinking, violating curfew, running away and truancy.

Sight and Sound Separation of Juvenile and Adult Offenders (Separation): States must ensure that youth who are temporarily confined in adult jails or lockups do not have sight or sound contact with adult inmates.

Removal of Juveniles from Adult Jails and Lockups (Jail Removal): States must ensure that youth who are accused of delinquent acts are held for processing for no more than 6 hours in adult jails or lockups.

Overrepresentation of Minorities in the Juvenile Justice System (DMC): States must work towards eliminating any overrepresentation of minority youth in secure juvenile facilities.

Alaska is in compliance with all four mandates and therefore receives the maximum amount of JJDP formula grant funds. The funds are administered through the Department of Health and Social Services, Division of Family and Youth Services, Youth Corrections Section (DFYS-YC), with assistance from the Alaska Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee (AJJAC).

THE ALASKA JUVENILE JUSTICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (JJDP) Act requires the Governor to appoint a citizen advisory group to assist the Department of Health and Social Services in fulfilling the requirements of the JJDP Act. The Alaska Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee (AJJAC) was created to meet this requirement. The major responsibilities of the AJJAC are:

- **Public Comment:** AJJAC holds public meetings throughout the State which encourage public comment on AJJAC activities and other juvenile justice issues.
- **Legislative Review:** AJJAC reviews legislation impacting juveniles and advances positions which support the goals of the JJDP Act.
- **National Networking:** AJJAC works with the national Coalition for Juvenile Justice to promote research, training, and cooperative action by state advisory groups.
- **Research and Recommendations:** AJJAC develops recommendations for improvements in Alaska's juvenile justice and delinquency prevention systems.
- **Funding for Local Programs:** AJJAC assists in the development of requests for proposals (RFPs) for the expenditure of Alaska's JJDP grant funds; it reviews the grant applications submitted; and it makes funding recommendations to the Commissioner of the Department of Health and Social Services.
- **Technical Assistance:** AJJAC promotes technical assistance to juvenile probation, juvenile facilities, juvenile court, law enforcement, and other professionals working with youth.
- **Oversight:** AJJAC monitors the State's compliance with the mandates of the JJDP Act to ensure continuation of maximum federal funding.
- **Annual Review and Report:** AJJAC assists in the annual review of the three-year plan for Alaska's juvenile justice system; and it reports annually to the Governor and the Legislature on Alaska's juvenile justice system and AJJAC's activities and recommendations.

AJJAC ROSTER – 1998

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Michael I. Jeffery Superior Court Judge	Barrow
Virgie M. King Teacher (retired)	Fairbanks
Sue Lagao Development Specialist - DPA	Anchorage
Abad Senquiz, Jr. Counselor – Akeela House	Anchorage
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Jaime M. Zellhuber Youth Member	Juneau

DFYS-YC Staff Contact: Barbara Learmonth	Juneau 465-3855
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JUVENILE JUSTICE & DELINQUENCY PREVENTION PROGRAMS - FY99

Name of Grantee	Program Location	Funding Type	Funding Level	Program Description
Municipality of Anchorage	Anchorage	Title V	\$23,750	Youth court
Village of Brevig Mission	Brevig Mission	Title V	\$20,455	Subsistence activities for village youth
City of Kodiak	Kodiak	Title V	\$23,750	Development of youth services network
City of Wasilla	Wasilla	Title V	\$30,000	Youth court
North Slope Borough	Barrow	Title V	\$30,000	After-school skill development and mentoring program
Anchorage School District	Anchorage	Challenge	\$59,953	Intensive supervision for youth released from locked juvenile institution
Anchorage Community YMCA	Anchorage	Challenge	\$27,000	Alternative to suspension program for elementary and middle school students
Kids Are People, Inc.	Wasilla	Title II – Prevention	\$29,850	Family mediation program
Community Dispute Resolution Center	Anchorage	Title II - Prevention	\$29,050	Family mediation program
Anchorage Mutual Housing Association	Anchorage	Title II - Prevention	\$19,500	After-school tutoring and activity program
Muldoon Community Development Corp.	Anchorage	Title II - Prevention	\$30,000	Job training program
Tundra Women's Coalition	Bethel	Title II - Prevention	\$20,470	Conflict management training for youth
Port Graham Village Council	Port Graham	Title II - Prevention	\$15,500	Youth activity club for village youth

Name of Grantee	Program Location	Funding Type	Funding Level	Program Description
Tundra Women's Coalition	Bethel	Title II - Prevention	\$25,718	Teen sobriety theater group
Nome Community Center	Nome	Title II - Prevention	\$24,928	Youth activity center
Tundra Women's Coalition	Wrangell	Title II - Prevention	\$24,330	Youth activity center
Fairbanks Native Association	Fairbanks	Title II - Intervention	\$30,000	Electronic monitoring program
Anchorage Youth and Parent Foundation	Anchorage	Title II - Intervention	\$50,000	Electronic monitoring program
Nome Community Center	Nome	Title II - Intervention	\$28,607	Prevention class for youth offenders
Community Dispute Resolution Center	Anchorage	Title II - Intervention	\$29,490	Victim-offender mediation program
Kenai Peninsula Comm Care Center	Kenai & Homer	Title II - Intervention	\$29,981	Youth court
Kodiak Youth Services Center	Kodiak	Title II - Intervention	\$30,000	Youth Court
Alaska Coalition to Prevent Shoplifting	Anchorage	Title II - Intervention	\$50,000	Prevention class for youth offenders
Kids Are People, Inc.	Wasilla	Title II - Intervention	\$51,792	Electronic monitoring program
Women in Safe Homes	Ketchikan	Title II - Intervention	\$58,500	Electronic monitoring program
Nome Community Center, Inc.	Nome	Title II - Intervention	\$15,220	Youth court
City of Wasilla	Wasilla	Title II - Intervention	\$29,780	Youth court

Name of Grantee	Program Location	Funding Type	Funding Level	Program Description
Fairbanks Native Association	Fairbanks	Title II - Non-secure	\$15,000	Non-secure shelter
Youth Advocates of Sitka	Sitka	Title II - Non-secure	\$14,000	Non-secure shelter
Juneau Youth Services	Juneau	Title II - Non-secure	\$15,000	Non-secure shelter
City of Dillingham	Dillingham	Title II - Non-secure	\$15,000	Non-secure shelter
Kodiak Youth Services Center	Kodiak	Title II - Non-secure	\$6,000	Non-secure shelter
Kenai Peninsula Community Care Center	Kenai, Seward & Homer	Title II - Non-secure	\$50,000	Non-secure shelters
Residential Youth Care, Inc.	Ketchikan	Title II - Non-secure	\$20,000	Non-secure shelter
North Slope Borough	Barrow	Title II - Non-secure	\$5,000	Non-secure shelter
City of Valdez	Valdez	Title II - Non-secure	\$6,000	Non-secure shelter
Association of Village Council Presidents	Bethel	Title II - Indian pass through	\$7,150	Emergency shelter for village youth
Tlingit & Haida Central Council	Juneau	Title II - Indian pass through	\$3,402	Prevention classes in village schools
Chugachmiut	Anchorage	Title II - Indian pass through	\$2,640	Healthy lifestyles conference for village youth

Name of Grantee	Program Location	Funding Type	Funding Level	Program Description
Kodiak Area Native Association	Kodiak	Title II - Indian pass through	\$2,747	Spirit camp for village youth
Tanana Chiefs Conference	Fairbanks	Title II - Indian pass through	\$3,348	Training for village youth workers
Metlakatla Indian Community	Metlakatla	Title II - Indian pass through	\$2,920	Counseling program for youth offenders in village

Funds for the printing of this document were made available through a federal grant (Grant #96-JF-CX-0002) from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention in accordance with the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974, as amended in 1992. The points of view or opinions in this document do not necessarily represent the views or opinions of the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention or the U. S. Department of Justice.