

**ALASKA
JUVENILE JUSTICE
ADVISORY COMMITTEE**



**1999
ANNUAL REPORT**

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Message From the Chair

As Chair of the Alaska Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee (AJJAC), I am pleased to present our 1999 Annual Report to the Governor and Legislature.

The AJJAC is comprised of committed citizens throughout Alaska who have experience with youth and the juvenile justice system. This non-partisan group of volunteers includes parents, youth, teachers, social service workers, and court and corrections employees.

One of our roles as an advisory board is to provide recommendations regarding the juvenile justice system to the Governor and Legislature. This annual report lists specific recommendations we believe will help reduce and prevent juvenile delinquency in Alaska. In addition, the report will provide you with information about the AJJAC's history, who we are and what we do.

Another facet of the AJJAC's work is to assist the Division of Juvenile Justice in allocating and distributing federal grant funds. **In FY00, the AJJAC distributed Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention grant funds totaling \$855,300.** This money helped 33 programs in over 22 communities throughout the State. The majority of these programs focused on prevention and intervention and reflects varied approaches to local needs. A complete listing of the programs we funded, including the communities and amounts, may be found at the end of this report.

I hope this report gives you a better understanding of the Alaska Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee. I also encourage you to review our recommendations and to use the AJJAC as a resource for juvenile justice issues.

Vicki J. Blankenship, Chair
Alaska Juvenile Justice
Advisory Committee

Alaska Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee: Who We Are

The Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974 (JJDP Act) requires each state to establish an advisory group, appointed by the Governor. The State Advisory Groups provide assistance and guidance to elected officials in meeting the federal core requirements, administer federal funds, and generate local citizen involvement and investment in the campaign to reduce and prevent youth crime and violence. The Alaska Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee (AJJAC) is the advisory group for Alaska. Some of our responsibilities include:

Funding for Local Programs: AJJAC assists in the development of requests for proposals (RFPs) for the expenditure of Alaska's JJDP grant funds. AJJAC reviews the grant applications submitted and makes funding recommendations to the Commissioner of the Department of Health and Social Services.

Oversight: AJJAC monitors the State's compliance with the mandates of the JJDP Act to insure continuation of maximum federal funding.

Annual Report to the Governor and Legislature: AJJAC provides an annual report on its activities and makes recommendations to improve the juvenile justice system.

Resource and Technical Assistance: AJJAC serves as a resource to the Governor, Legislature and the Division of Juvenile Justice. AJJAC promotes technical assistance to those in the juvenile justice system.

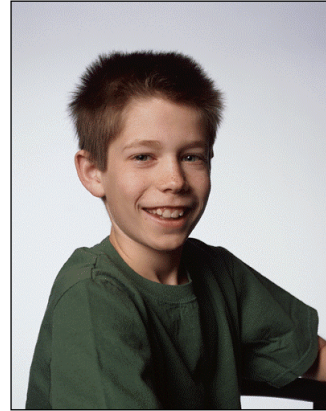
Three Year Plan for Juvenile Justice: AJJAC provides a three-year plan for Alaska's juvenile justice system to the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. This plan is reviewed annually.

Legislative Review: AJJAC reviews federal and state 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.

Program Highlights - FY99

Non-Secure Emergency Shelters: Three 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. Sixty-six percent of these youth were in rural communities where the only other available placement would have been an adult facility. If these youth had been placed in an adult facility instead, the State would have been in violation of JJDP mandates and at risk of losing \$867,500 annually in JJDP grant funds.



Intensive Supervision Program: Fifty-nine 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-eight victim-offender mediations were held with one hundred nine victims served. Thirty-seven formal or informal agreements were negotiated, and \$6,555 in restitution was collected. Two family mediation programs were funded that served one hundred twenty-six youth and their families.

Youth Courts: Six hundred sixty-five youth were referred to youth courts as an alternative to the traditional court process. These youth performed 12,350 hours of work service for their communities and paid \$6,300 restitution to their victims.

Youth Court Conference: JJDP funds helped support the 1999 National Youth Court Conference in Anchorage. Over three hundred sixty youth and adults from Alaska and twenty-two other states attended. Programs included national speakers, a mock trial, informational panels, and discussion of different youth court models.

Native Culture Camps: Eighty-seven youth from fourteen villages learned about healthy traditional lifestyles from elders and community leaders as an alternative to delinquency and substance abuse.

Electronic Monitoring Programs: One hundred twenty-two accused or adjudicated youth remained in their homes with around-the-clock electronic monitoring for a total of 6,874 days at an average cost of only \$27.24 per day. If these youth had been placed in locked juvenile institutions instead, the average cost to the State would have been \$185 per day, an increase of \$1,084,442.

School Suspension Program: One hundred fifty-two middle school students were placed in alternative school programs with supplemental tutoring while suspended from their regular schools. These alternative school programs provided positive supervised activities for the students and helped them maintain or improve their academic standing.

Anger Management Presentations: Eight hundred forty-one people of all ages in four rural communities attended presentations on violence and anger management that were written and presented by local youth.

Job Training: Thirty-nine low-income high-risk youth received job readiness and skills training. As part of their training, they donated 5,086 hours of work service to their communities.



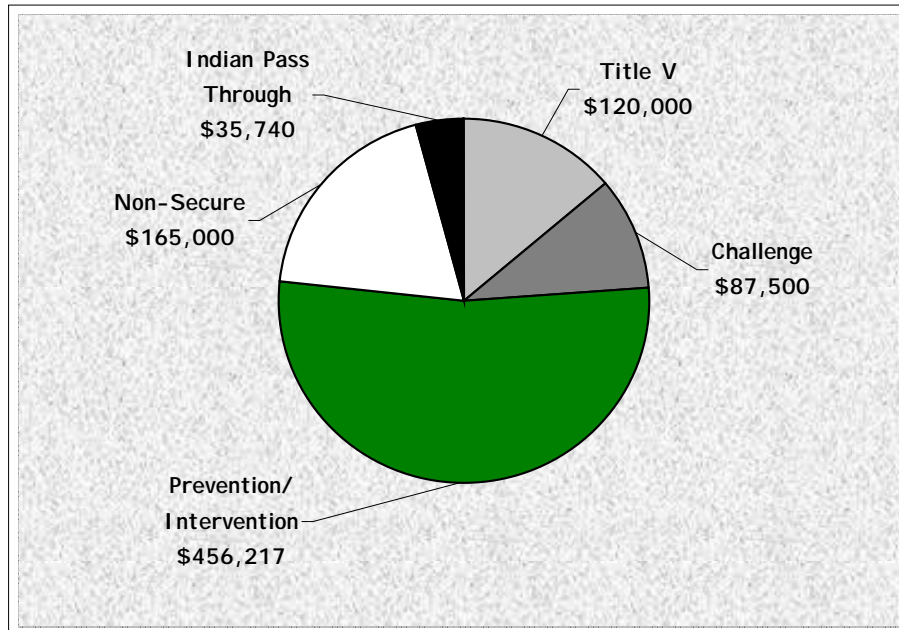
Mentoring/Youth Activities: Five hundred eighty-three youth participated in supervised youth activities, including mentoring, tutoring, sports and cultural activities.

Diversion Programs: Five hundred thirty-one delinquent youth were referred to diversion programs such as substance abuse education, anger management classes, anti-shoplifting education, and other activities to reduce their likelihood to reoffend.

National Leadership: AJJAC Chair, Vicki Blankenship represented Alaska in the national Coalition for Juvenile Justice. She is the Vice-Chair of the Western Region Conference. She also serves on the National Government Relations Committee and is the Legislative Liaison for the Western Region. Ms. Blankenship is the Chair of the Fall Conference Planning Committee for the Coalition. AJJAC member Tom Begich serves on the National Planning Committee. Mr. Begich has served as both Chair of the National Coalition of Juvenile Justice and of the Western Region.

Program Funding - FY2000

Alaska receives JJDP grant funds in the following categories for distribution to different types of programs. For a variety of reasons, not all funds available were necessarily distributed. A complete list of JJDP-funded programs in Alaska in FY00 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 - AJJAC allocated Alaska's FY00 Challenge grant funds for intensive supervision for juveniles released from locked institutions and for gender-specific programs for female juvenile offenders.

Title V Delinquency Prevention Grant Funds - Title V of the JJDP Act provides grant funds to units of local government and tribes for delinquency prevention programs targeting the risk factors associated with delinquency.

Organizations Serving More Than One Community (some organizations receiving grants serve more than one community. These are listed below. Note that the symbol to the left indicates which grant program serves the organization):

● Tanana Chiefs Association
(37 villages)

● Southeast Alaska Guidance Association

| | |
|--------|---------|
| Hoonah | Klukwan |
| Kake | Angoon |

● Chugachmiut

| | |
|--------------|-----------------|
| Cordova/Eyak | Seward/Qutekcak |
| Valdez | Tatitlek |
| Chenega Bay | Nanwalek |
| Port Graham | |

● Maniilaq Association Family Resources

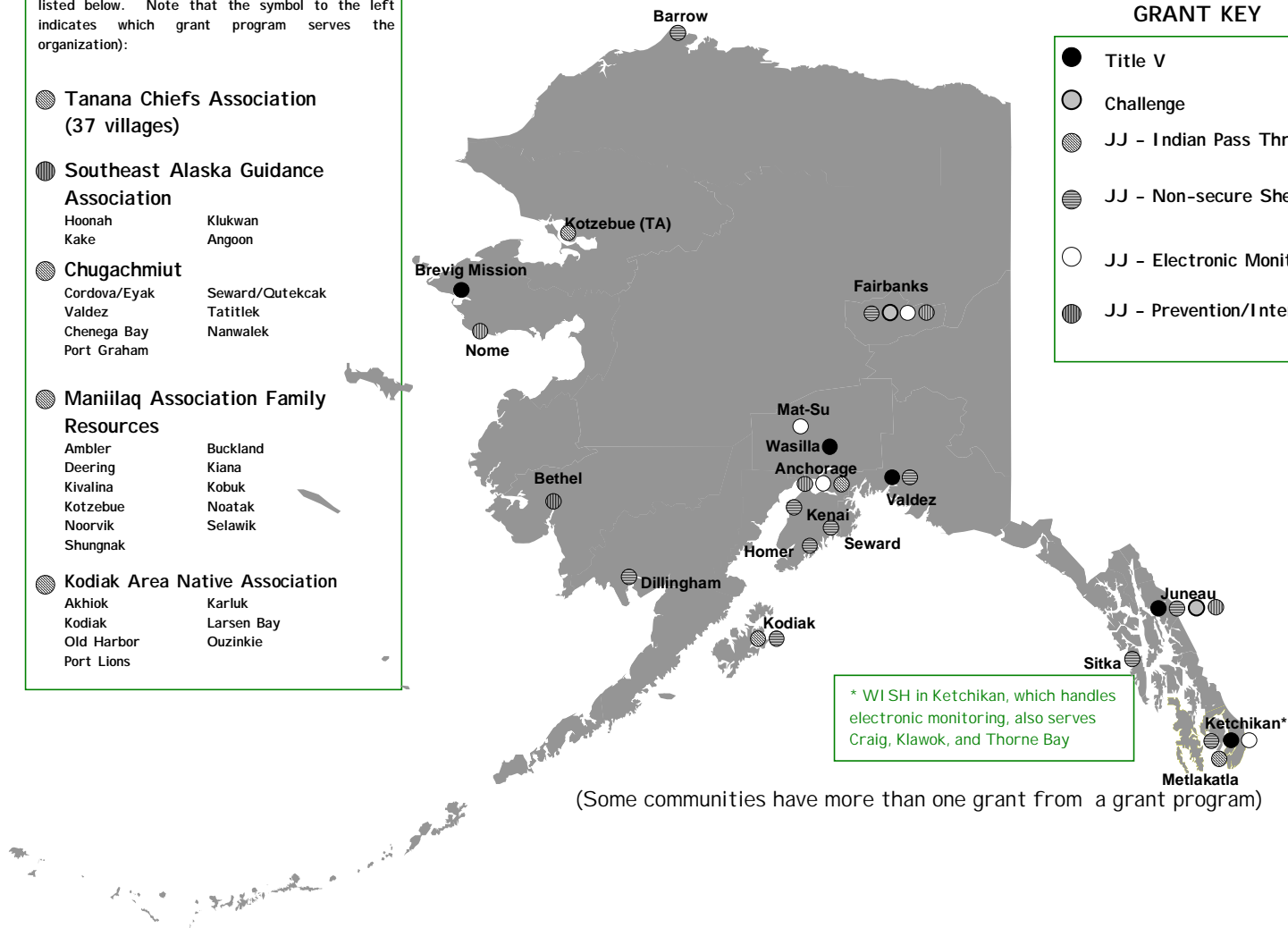
| | |
|----------|----------|
| Ambler | Buckland |
| Deering | Kiana |
| Kivalina | Kobuk |
| Kotzebue | Noatak |
| Noorvik | Selawik |
| Shungnak | |

● Kodiak Area Native Association

| | |
|------------|------------|
| Akhiok | Karluk |
| Kodiak | Larsen Bay |
| Old Harbor | Ouzinkie |
| Port Lions | |

GRANT KEY

- Title V
- Challenge
- JJ - Indian Pass Through
- JJ - Non-secure Shelters
- JJ - Electronic Monitoring
- JJ - Prevention/Intervention



(Some communities have more than one grant from a grant program)

Recommendations for the Future

Recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature:

- AJJAC recommends that the Governor and Legislature use this committee as a resource on youth and juvenile justice issues.
- AJJAC recommends continued implementation of the 106 recommendations developed by the Governor's Conference on Youth and Justice systems improvement project.

Recommendations to the Department of Health & Social Services:

- **Increased Collaboration between the Division of Juvenile Justice and AJJAC:** AJJAC recommends continued collaboration in planning for and serving youth within the juvenile justice system.
- **Overall Funding Strategies for the Division of Juvenile Justice:** AJJAC recommends that this committee develop a strategic plan for all public grant funds received by the Division of Juvenile Justice. This would help to assure a more equitable distribution of grant dollars around the State and allow for simplification of the granting process for applicants.
- **Encourage and Monitor Alaska's Compliance with the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Core Requirements:** AJJAC has formed work groups addressing the core requirements which include Jail Removal and Disproportionate Minority Confinement. AJJAC recommends continued support of the core requirements.
- **Fetal Alcohol Syndrome/Fetal Alcohol Effect:** AJJAC recommends that the Department of Health and Social Services examine and encourage specific programs and partnerships targeting FAS/FAE youth.
- **Community Networking and Collaboration:** AJJAC recommends supporting local communities in collaboration, particularly in the area of youth courts and mediation.
- **Public Education:** AJJAC will develop a public education strategy to include media training for the committee, submission of informational articles to the departmental newsletter and other publications, and development of an AJJAC site on the departmental web page.

The Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act

Congress, under the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974 as amended, appropriates Alaska's JJDP grant funds. 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 that 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 that 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 (S&S):

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 (JR):

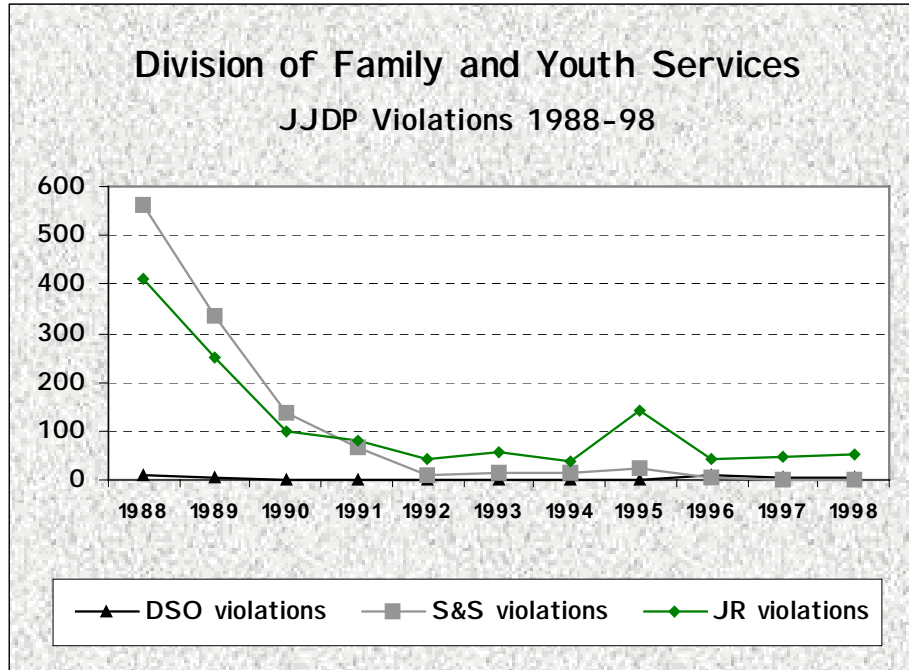
States must ensure that youth who are accused of delinquent acts are held for processing for no more than 6 hours in adult jails or lockups.

Overrepresentation of Minorities in the Juvenile Justice System (DMC):

States must work towards eliminating any overrepresentation of minority youth in secure juvenile facilities.

Alaska's compliance with these mandates has improved dramatically during the past decade, as shown in the following table. Institutionalization of status offenders (DSO violations) has been virtually eliminated, and sight and sound contacts (S&S violations) between juveniles and adults in adult facilities are now very rare.

Unfortunately the number of jail removal violations (JR violations) remains high, mainly due to the unique challenges of service delivery in rural Alaska. AJJAC and the Division of Juvenile Justice will dedicate substantial time and resources in the coming year to reduce jail removal violations.



The Department of Juvenile Justice is preparing an updated statistical report on Alaska's disproportionate minority representation (DMC) 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. Several members of AJJAC attended a national ethnic and cultural diversity training conference and brought back information to be used within the state.

Alaska complies 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 Juvenile Justice, with assistance from the Alaska Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee (AJJAC).

AJJAC Membership Roster

| | |
|--|---------------------------|
| Vicki Blankenship, Chair blank@alaska.net | Fairbanks 907-479-9511 |
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| Jeff Budd | Sitka |
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| Virgie King | Fairbanks |
| Sue Lagao | Anchorage |
| Joe Murdy | Anchorage |
| Barbara Murray | Juneau |
| Joe Pruitt | Barrow |
| Abad Senquiz, Jr. | Anchorage |
| Renee Stevens | Juneau |
| Jaime Zellhuber | Juneau |

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AJJAC Web Page: www.hss.state.ak.us/djj

Alaska Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee
1999 Annual Report

AJJAC Grantees - FY 2000

Title V Grants

| | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------|----------|
| City of Valdez | Youth court | \$36,334 |
| City of Wasilla | Youth court | \$40,000 |
| City of Brevig Mission | Subsistence activities | \$2,202 |
| City and Borough of Juneau | Youth employment | \$39,895 |

Challenge Grants

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|----------|
| Fairbanks Counseling and Adoption | Female offenders program | \$8,182 |
| Juneau Youth Services | Female offenders program | \$19,318 |

Formula Grants - Prevention/Intervention Programs

| | | |
|--|-------------------------------|----------|
| Alaska Youth and Parent Foundation (Anchorage) | Youth offender employment | \$30,000 |
| Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Anchorage | School-based mentoring | \$28,000 |
| Fairbanks Native Association | After-school program | \$30,000 |
| Juneau Youth Services | Mbile crisis unit | \$30,000 |
| Juneau Youth Services | Alternative to suspension | \$19,156 |
| Nome Community Center | Juvenile diversion program | \$29,998 |
| Southeast Alaska Guidance Association (Hoonah/Klukwan/Kake/Angoon) | Youth employment | \$29,910 |
| Tundra Women's Coalition (Bethel) | Teens Acting Against Violence | \$29,998 |

Formula Grants - Electronic Monitoring

| | | |
|---|-----------------------|-----------|
| Alaska Youth & Parent Foundation (Anchorage) | Electronic monitoring | \$139,000 |
| Fairbanks Native Association | Electronic monitoring | \$45,000 |
| Kids Are People (Wasilla) | Electronic monitoring | \$50,000 |
| Women in Safe Homes (Ketchikan/ Prince of Wales Island) | Electronic monitoring | \$65,000 |

Formula Grants - Non-secure Attendant Care Shelters

| | | |
|--|--|----------|
| City of Dillingham | | \$15,000 |
| Fairbanks Native Association | | \$15,000 |
| Juneau Youth Services | | \$15,000 |
| Kenai Peninsula Community Care Center (Kenai, Seward and Homer) | | \$50,000 |
| Kodiak Youth Services Center | | \$8,000 |
| North Slope Borough (Barrow) | | \$5,000 |
| Residential Youth Care (Ketchikan) | | \$23,000 |
| City of Valdez | | \$6,000 |
| Youth Advocates of Sitka | | \$12,000 |

Formula Grants - Indian Pass Through Funds

| | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------|---------|
| Chugachmiut | Youth spirit camp | \$2,640 |
| Kodiak Area Native Association | Youth spirit camp | \$2,747 |
| Metlakatla Indian Community | Diversion counseling program | \$2,920 |
| Tanana Chiefs Conference | Youth court (planning) | \$3,348 |
| Maniilaq Association (Kotzebue) | Youth court (training) | \$3,510 |

Funds for the printing of this document were made available through a federal grant (Grant #98-JF-FX-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.