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About

The Alaska Department of Family and Community Services (DFCS) includes the Division of Juvenile Justice, Alaska Psychiatric Institute, Alaska Pioneer Homes, and the Office of Children's Services. The mission of DFCS is to provide support, safety, and personal well-being for vulnerable Alaskans.

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PRESS RELEASE

Department of Family and Community Services Awarded Rural Health Transformation Funds to Modernize Child Welfare Technology

Juneau, AK – The Alaska Department of Family and Community Services (DFCS) has been awarded Rural Health Transformation Program funds to modernize the Office of Children's Services' (OCS) technology infrastructure. The funding is part of a significant investment announced by the Alaska Department of Health. These upgrades will strengthen Alaska's child welfare system, improve service delivery to families, and reduce administrative burdens for frontline workers.

OCS' current records management system is outdated, with it being 22 years old and at the end of its functional life. Upgrading this system to a Comprehensive Child Welfare Information System (CCWIS) is the first step in a multi year initiative to update outdated technology and provide staff with modern, reliable tools that better support our work with children and families across the state.

"This investment is a significant step forward for our child welfare system," said DFCS Commissioner Tracy Dompeling. "Modernizing our CCWIS and adopting supportive technology will directly improve outcomes for Alaska's children and families. It ensures our frontline staff have the tools they need to prioritize meaningful, in-person engagement."



The Alaska Comprehensive Child Welfare Information System (CCWIS) Project is supported by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), administered by the Alaska Department of Health, with a federal award totaling \$2,985,000. The startup phase of the project is 100 percent federally funded. The contents are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement, by CMS/HHS, or the U.S. Government.

This funding will allow OCS to:

- Enhance communication with youth, parents, Tribes, and legal parties.
- Strengthen collaboration and information-sharing with Tribal partners, service providers, community organizations, and other stakeholders.
- Improve flexibility and integration with new technologies, including mobile access and future system enhancements.
- Reduce long-term maintenance costs and improve system stability.
- Connect families to supportive resources.
- Reduce paperwork and administrative burden, especially for staff serving rural Alaska.
- Streamline routine tasks, including data entry, documentation, and record management.

OCS has already begun this work by acquiring a new foster care licensing module, which will:

- Speed up licensing and applications through online and mobile options.
- Increase kinship placements.
- Reduce paperwork and strengthen resource family support.
- Support more proactive resource family engagement.

DFCS looks forward to collaborating with partners, stakeholders, and communities as these modernization efforts continue.

For more information about the Rural Health Transformation Program, visit:

<https://health.alaska.gov/en/education/rural-health-transformation-program/>.