



UNIVERSITY  
*of* ALASKA  
*Many Traditions One Alaska*

Corrective Action Plan  
Year Ended June 30, 2004

The following corrective action plan is prepared in accordance with Office of Management and Budget Circular A-133, Section .315(c). Accordingly, it is management's response to Finding 2004-1 identified in the University of Alaska Audit in Accordance with OMB A-133 for the year ended June 30, 2004. Finding 2004-1 is presented below with management's response following:

**Finding 2004-1**

**Department of Education, TRIO Cluster, TRIO-Talent Search Program, CFDA #84.044, Program Year 2002 – 2003**

**Criteria or Specific Requirement** – According to the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 34, Sections 643-10 and 643-7, at least two-thirds of the individuals served by a talent search project must be low-income individuals who are potential first generation college students.

**Condition** – For the program year 2002–2003, 63.5 percent of the University of Alaska Anchorage Talent Search Program participants were low-income individuals who were potential first generation college students. For the program year 2002–2003, 12.2 percent of the University of Alaska Fairbanks (Bristol Bay region) Talent Search Program participants were low-income individuals who were potential first-generation college students.

**Questioned Costs** – None.

**Context** – Isolated to Talent Search Program.

**Effect** - The University provided talent search program services to a population that did not meet the program's earmarking requirement.

**Recommendation** – The University should make every effort to serve the number of Talent Search participants required by the program.

**Management's Response** – The University of Alaska Anchorage and University of Alaska Fairbanks (Bristol Bay region) Talent Search Programs had previously reported the percentage of participants served to the grantor in their annual performance reports for the program year 2002-2003.

During the program year 2002-2003, the University of Alaska Anchorage program had an ineffective database system and significant staff turnover, including the director. The director who supervised the talent search director over saw the program while a search was conducted for a replacement. For the program year 2003-2004, a new director was hired with 20 years TRIO experience and a new database system was implemented leading to the University of Alaska Anchorage program exceeding the two-thirds requirement.

The 2002-2003 program year was the first year of the University of Alaska Fairbanks (Bristol Bay Region) Talent Search Program, and the program faced significant cultural challenges in rural Alaska. There has been a continued hesitance by participants and families to provide needed financial information, thereby delaying verification of participant eligibility. As trust for the program has increased in the region, progress has been made. The program served 52 percent low-income and potential first-generation college students in 2003-2004. The program is on track to meet the two-thirds objective for the 2004-2005 program year.

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