

# **State of Alaska FY2008 Governor's Operating Budget**

## **Department of Health and Social Services Public Assistance Administration Component Budget Summary**

**Component: Public Assistance Administration**

**Contribution to Department's Mission**

Administer Public Assistance programs responsibly, accurately, and in compliance with law.

**Core Services**

Directs, supervises and coordinates the activities of the Division in planning and directing welfare administration.

- Develop and maintain public assistance program policy, procedure and State plans necessary for the operation of Denali Kid Care, Family Medicaid, Food Stamps, Interim Assistance, Adult Public Assistance, Adult and Long Term Care Medicaid, General Relief Assistance, Chronic and Acute Medical Assistance, Alaska Temporary Assistance, Work Services, Food Stamp Employment and Training, Child Care (Pass I, II, and III), Permanent Fund Dividend Hold Harmless, and SeniorCare programs.
- Provide guidance in procurement, development and management of grants and contracts for community-based services, accounting, payroll and personnel supporting Division activity.
- Research, interpret and transmit public assistance program information for use by Public Assistance field offices, state and federal government and the public.
- Conduct thorough research and analysis of program data for completion of required reports and to provide factual support for management decisions regarding the division's various programs and activities.
- Develop the division's annual budget, legislative position papers, fiscal notes, briefing documents and budget materials on public assistance issues.
- Establish performance measures and monitor progress toward the agency's stated targets, competitive bonuses and goals.
- Assure that agency programs and contracted work services maintain reasonable balance of the provision of services, work quality and productivity.
- Maintain the Public Assistance claims unit for the recovery of overpayments received by public assistance recipients due to fraud, agency or client-caused payment errors.

<b>FY2008 Resources Allocated to Achieve Results</b>		
<b>FY2008 Component Budget: \$3,127,500</b>	<b>Personnel:</b>	
	Full time	20
	Part time	0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>20</b>

**Key Component Challenges**

- Recipients of public assistance, by definition, are living in poverty. The division has made a concerted effort to sustain the emphasis of welfare reform by assisting individuals and families toward self-sufficiency: to plan for the future, move off public assistance and leave poverty through employment. The division's budget in recent years reflects a shift from direct financial assistance to child care and work services that help recipients find and retain employment. The early success of this approach has also yielded significant general fund savings.
- While the Alaska Temporary Assistance Program caseload and expenditure have declined significantly since FY97, the Division of Public Assistance continues to serve working families by providing Food Stamps, Medicaid, and other employment-related support services. Caseloads have grown in programs serving individuals for whom work is less likely. As Alaska's population has grown, so has the number of elderly and disabled persons needing safety net services, Adult Public Assistance and Medicaid.
- A number of families in Alaska live in highly stressful environments and are at risk of poor family outcomes.

These families face continued reliance on public assistance and the potential loss of services if they are not self-sufficient before they reach their 60-month lifetime limit on assistance. These families require more intensive services.

- The Division of Public Assistance's automated Eligibility Information System (EIS) is an aging inflexible application that has become difficult to adapt to the State's and the Division's diverse and ever-changing business practices. As a result, staff have developed a variety of manual and semi-automated system workarounds to support their day-to-day business needs. The cost and effort associated with developing and maintaining these workarounds could be reduced or eliminated by replacing EIS with a modern, more comprehensive application. As the EIS technology infrastructure continues to age, both the application architecture and hardware/software platform will become increasingly difficult to maintain and enhance due to a shrinking number of available support vendors in the marketplace.
- The division is continuing to experience the loss of long term knowledgeable professional staff through retirement, and turnover of technical staff that leave for better paying jobs or more favorable and less stressful workload environments.

### **Significant Changes in Results to be Delivered in FY2008**

No changes in results delivered.

### **Major Component Accomplishments in 2006**

- Offset the increased workload associated with the Medicaid citizenship verification requirements of the federal Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 by arranging for computer matching of Medicaid beneficiary records with Bureau of Vital Statistics electronic birth records.
- Transferred administration of the SeniorCare program from the Division of Alaska Pioneer Homes to the Division of Public Assistance, without any interruption in benefit payments to seniors.
- Timely implemented Medicare Part D prescription drug coverage for Medicaid beneficiaries, and made application processing for the Social Security low-income subsidy program available in Division of Public Assistance offices.
- Conducted significant outreach efforts in partnership with the Social Security Administration to make sure seniors were informed and aware of the availability of prescription drug insurance and benefit coverage through Medicare Part D and SeniorCare.
- Initiated project to replace paper public assistance program and policy manuals with web-based documents that can be accessed from the internet by the public, staff, and partner agencies.
- Participated in State and Department initiatives to improve social services, such as the Homelessness Ends in Alaska Advisory Team (HEAAT), the Food Coalition, and the Department of Corrections prisoner pre-release program.

### **Statutory and Regulatory Authority**

AS 47.05.010-080 - Public Assistance  
AS 47.25.975-990 Food Stamps  
AS 47.27.05-.990 Alaska Temporary Assistance Program  
AS 47.25.430-615 Adult Public Assistance  
AS 47.25.120-300 General Relief Assistance  
AS 47.45.300 – 390 SeniorCare  
AS 47.07.010-900 - Medicaid  
AS 43.23.075 - Permanent Fund Dividend Hold Harmless  
AS 47.25.001 – .095 Day Care Assistance and Child Care Grants  
AS 47.32.010 - .900 Centralized Licensing and Related Administrative Procedures  
Public Law 97-35 L.I.H.E.A.P. Act of 1981  
7 AAC 44 Heating Assistance Program

**Contact Information**

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**Public Assistance Administration  
Component Financial Summary**

*All dollars shown in thousands*

	FY2006 Actuals	FY2007 Management Plan	FY2008 Governor
<b>Non-Formula Program:</b>			
<b>Component Expenditures:</b>			
71000 Personal Services	1,402.9	1,726.6	1,946.6
72000 Travel	84.2	34.4	34.4
73000 Services	975.8	1,006.6	1,006.6
74000 Commodities	26.4	19.9	19.9
75000 Capital Outlay	0.0	0.0	0.0
77000 Grants, Benefits	480.9	0.0	120.0
78000 Miscellaneous	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>Expenditure Totals</b>	<b>2,970.2</b>	<b>2,787.5</b>	<b>3,127.5</b>
<b>Funding Sources:</b>			
1002 Federal Receipts	1,904.2	1,766.3	1,888.7
1003 General Fund Match	982.7	818.1	909.4
1004 General Fund Receipts	35.1	154.9	161.2
1156 Receipt Supported Services	48.2	48.2	168.2
<b>Funding Totals</b>	<b>2,970.2</b>	<b>2,787.5</b>	<b>3,127.5</b>

**Estimated Revenue Collections**

Description	Master Revenue Account	FY2006 Actuals	FY2007 Managem nt Plan	FY2008 Governor
<b>Unrestricted Revenues</b>				
None.		0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>Unrestricted Total</b>		<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>
<b>Restricted Revenues</b>				
Federal Receipts	51010	1,904.2	1,766.3	1,888.7
Receipt Supported Services	51073	48.2	48.2	168.2
<b>Restricted Total</b>		<b>1,952.4</b>	<b>1,814.5</b>	<b>2,056.9</b>
<b>Total Estimated Revenues</b>		<b>1,952.4</b>	<b>1,814.5</b>	<b>2,056.9</b>

**Summary of Component Budget Changes  
From FY2007 Management Plan to FY2008 Governor**

*All dollars shown in thousands*

	<u>General Funds</u>	<u>Federal Funds</u>	<u>Other Funds</u>	<u>Total Funds</u>
<b>FY2007 Management Plan</b>	<b>973.0</b>	<b>1,766.3</b>	<b>48.2</b>	<b>2,787.5</b>
<b>Adjustments which will continue current level of service:</b>				
-FY 08 Health Insurance Increases for Exempt Employees	0.1	0.3	0.0	0.4
<b>Proposed budget increases:</b>				
-Increase in Receipt Supported Services for Increased Collections of Benefit Overpayments	0.0	0.0	120.0	120.0
-FY 08 Retirement Systems Rate Increases	97.5	122.1	0.0	219.6
<b>FY2008 Governor</b>	<b>1,070.6</b>	<b>1,888.7</b>	<b>168.2</b>	<b>3,127.5</b>

Public Assistance Administration Personal Services Information				
Authorized Positions			Personal Services Costs	
	FY2007 Management Plan	FY2008 Governor		
Full-time	20	20	Annual Salaries	1,170,375
Part-time	0	0	Premium Pay	0
Nonpermanent	0	0	Annual Benefits	856,134
			<i>Less 3.94% Vacancy Factor</i>	(79,909)
			Lump Sum Premium Pay	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>Total Personal Services</b>	<b>1,946,600</b>

Position Classification Summary					
Job Class Title	Anchorage	Fairbanks	Juneau	Others	Total
Administrative Assistant	1	0	0	0	1
Administrative Clerk II	0	0	2	0	2
Administrative Clerk III	0	0	1	0	1
Coordinator	0	0	1	0	1
Division Director	1	0	0	0	1
Elig Technician II	0	0	1	0	1
Prog Coordinator	0	0	1	0	1
Project Coord	0	0	1	0	1
Public Assist Analyst I	0	0	2	0	2
Public Assist Analyst II	0	0	3	0	3
Public Asst Fld Svcs Mgr I	1	0	0	0	1
Public Asst Prog Off	0	0	2	0	2
Research Analyst III	0	0	1	0	1
Research Analyst IV	0	0	1	0	1
Secretary	0	0	1	0	1
<b>Totals</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>20</b>