

State of Alaska FY2009 Governor's Operating Budget

Department of Health and Social Services General Relief Assistance Component Budget Summary

Component: General Relief Assistance

Contribution to Department's Mission

Provides a safety net for very low-income individuals who are not eligible for other state or federal assistance. General Relief Assistance is used as a last resort program to meet emergency food, clothing, shelter, and burial needs of low income Alaskans who have no other resources available. It is the bottom tier in Alaska's welfare system.

The Senior Benefits program helps low-income seniors who are at least 65 years of age remain independent in the community by providing a cash benefit.

Core Services

- General Relief Assistance primarily provides for indigent burials. A small portion is also used to meet emergency needs for food, clothing, and shelter.
- The Senior Benefits program provides monthly cash assistance to needy seniors. Payments are \$125.00, \$175.00, or \$250.00 per month depending on the senior's gross annual income. Income limits are tied to the Alaska Federal Poverty Guidelines and will change every year.

FY2009 Resources Allocated to Achieve Results		
FY2009 Component Budget: \$21,700,800	Personnel:	
	Full time	6
	Part time	0
	Total	6

Key Component Challenges

- Continue to serve individuals and families that represent one of Alaska's most needy and vulnerable populations. They are often marginal members of the community and may have a variety of significant barriers that preclude employment and successful participation in mainstream society.
- The new Senior Benefits program offers important assistance to Alaska seniors. By FY09, the division expects 11,000 seniors will qualify for assistance under this new program, a significant increase from the almost 7,000 seniors served under the former SeniorCare program.

Significant Changes in Results to be Delivered in FY2009

In FY08, the department temporarily transferred funds from the Adult Public Assistance program to the General Relief Assistance program to pay for the benefit and administrative costs of the new Senior Benefits Payment program. The Governor's FY09 budget requests \$20,345,400 to meet the projected need for this new program, which includes \$19,662,300 for cash payments to seniors and \$683,100 for six full-time staff needed to administer it.

Major Component Accomplishments in 2007

- Provided vendor payments for funeral and burial expenses for approximately 520 deceased indigents.
- Prevented the eviction and homelessness of approximately 70 individuals and families each month.
- The department successfully transitioned almost 7,000 seniors from the former SeniorCare program to the new Senior Benefits program, and began processing applications for individuals newly eligible under the income limits. For FY08, the department temporarily transferred funds from the Adult Public Assistance program to the General Relief Assistance program to pay for the benefit and administrative costs of the new Senior Benefits

program.

Statutory and Regulatory Authority

AS 47.25.120-300 General Relief Assistance
7 AAC 47.020-290 General Relief Assistance
AS 47.45.301 – 47.45.309 Senior Benefits Program
7 AAC 47.545 – 599 Senior Benefits Program

Contact Information
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**General Relief Assistance
Component Financial Summary**

All dollars shown in thousands

	FY2007 Actuals	FY2008 Management Plan	FY2009 Governor
Formula Program:			
Component Expenditures:			
71000 Personal Services	0.0	0.0	460.2
72000 Travel	0.0	0.0	9.7
73000 Services	0.0	0.0	169.7
74000 Commodities	0.0	0.0	43.5
75000 Capital Outlay	0.0	0.0	0.0
77000 Grants, Benefits	1,754.3	1,355.4	21,017.7
78000 Miscellaneous	0.0	0.0	0.0
Expenditure Totals	1,754.3	1,355.4	21,700.8
Funding Sources:			
1004 General Fund Receipts	1,754.3	1,355.4	21,700.8
Funding Totals	1,754.3	1,355.4	21,700.8

Estimated Revenue Collections

Description	Master Revenue Account	FY2007 Actuals	FY2008 Management Plan	FY2009 Governor
<u>Unrestricted Revenues</u>				
Unrestricted Fund	68515	14.0	0.0	0.0
Unrestricted Total		14.0	0.0	0.0
<u>Restricted Revenues</u>				
None.		0.0	0.0	0.0
Restricted Total		0.0	0.0	0.0
Total Estimated Revenues		14.0	0.0	0.0

**Summary of Component Budget Changes
From FY2008 Management Plan to FY2009 Governor**

All dollars shown in thousands

	<u>General Funds</u>	<u>Federal Funds</u>	<u>Other Funds</u>	<u>Total Funds</u>
FY2008 Management Plan	1,355.4	0.0	0.0	1,355.4
Proposed budget increases:				
-Senior Benefits Program HCS CSSB 4(FIN) (Reg Chg)	20,345.4	0.0	0.0	20,345.4
FY2009 Governor	21,700.8	0.0	0.0	21,700.8

**General Relief Assistance
Personal Services Information**

Authorized Positions		Personal Services Costs		
	<u>FY2008</u>	<u>FY2009</u>		
	<u>Management</u>	<u>Governor</u>		
	<u>Plan</u>			
Full-time	6	6	Annual Salaries	273,557
Part-time	0	0	COLA	26,447
Nonpermanent	0	0	Premium Pay	0
			Annual Benefits	163,227
			<i>Less 0.65% Vacancy Factor</i>	<i>(3,031)</i>
			Lump Sum Premium Pay	0
Totals	6	6	Total Personal Services	460,200

Position Classification Summary

Job Class Title	Anchorage	Fairbanks	Juneau	Others	Total
Administrative Clerk II	0	0	0	1	1
Elig Technician I	0	0	0	4	4
Elig Technician III	0	0	0	1	1
Totals	0	0	0	6	6