

State of Alaska FY2012 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

Provide a safety net for very low-income individuals who are not eligible for other state or federal assistance.

Core Services

- Provide for indigent burials.
- Provide emergency food, clothing, shelter, and burial needs of low income Alaskans, who have no other resources available.

Key Component Challenges

Continuing to serve individuals and families that represent one of Alaska's most needy and vulnerable populations. Recipients are often marginal members of the community and may have a variety of significant barriers that preclude employment and successful participation in mainstream society.

A key challenge will be accommodating the continual increase in costs and number of families requesting help in paying for burial expenses for deceased family members.

Significant Changes in Results to be Delivered in FY2012

The General Relief Assistance (GRA) program will continue to experience an increasing number of families applying for help to pay for the costs of funeral and burial expenses of deceased relatives that lack the means to pay for such services.

Status Updates for Changes in Results to be Delivered in FY2011

No major change in results is anticipated.

Major Component Accomplishments in 2010

- Provided vendor payments for funeral and burial expenses for approximately 600 deceased indigents.
- Prevented the eviction and homelessness of approximately 60 individuals and families each month.

Statutory and Regulatory Authority

AS 47.25.120-300 General Relief Assistance
7 AAC 47.020-290 General Relief Assistance
Chapter No. 2, 4 SSLA 2008 (SB4002)

Contact Information

Contact: Joe Hall, Budget Manager
Phone: (907) 465-1629
Fax: (907) 465-1850
E-mail: joseph.hall@alaska.gov

**General Relief Assistance
Component Financial Summary**

All dollars shown in thousands

	FY2010 Actuals	FY2011 Management Plan	FY2012 Governor
Formula Program:			
Component Expenditures:			
71000 Personal Services	0.0	0.0	0.0
72000 Travel	0.0	0.0	0.0
73000 Services	0.0	0.0	0.0
74000 Commodities	0.0	0.0	0.0
75000 Capital Outlay	0.0	0.0	0.0
77000 Grants, Benefits	1,760.9	1,655.4	1,905.4
78000 Miscellaneous	0.0	0.0	0.0
Expenditure Totals	1,760.9	1,655.4	1,905.4
Funding Sources:			
1003 General Fund Match	115.0	0.0	0.0
1004 General Fund Receipts	1,645.9	1,655.4	1,905.4
Funding Totals	1,760.9	1,655.4	1,905.4

**Summary of Component Budget Changes
From FY2011 Management Plan to FY2012 Governor**

All dollars shown in thousands

	<u>Unrestricted Gen (UGF)</u>	<u>Designated Gen (DGF)</u>	<u>Other Funds</u>	<u>Federal Funds</u>	<u>Total Funds</u>
FY2011 Management Plan	1,655.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	1,655.4
Proposed budget increases:					
-Program Funding Increase Due to Caseload Growth	250.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	250.0
FY2012 Governor	1,905.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	1,905.4

Component Detail All Funds
Department of Health and Social Services

Component: General Relief Assistance (221)
RDU: Public Assistance (73)

	FY2010 Actuals	FY2011 Conference Committee (Final)	FY2011 Authorized	FY2011 Management Plan	FY2012 Governor	FY2011 Management Plan vs FY2012 Governor	
71000 Personal Services	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0%
72000 Travel	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0%
73000 Services	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0%
74000 Commodities	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0%
75000 Capital Outlay	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0%
77000 Grants, Benefits	1,760.9	1,655.4	1,655.4	1,655.4	1,905.4	250.0	15.1%
78000 Miscellaneous	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0%
Totals	1,760.9	1,655.4	1,655.4	1,655.4	1,905.4	250.0	15.1%
Fund Sources:							
1003 G/F Match	115.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0%
1004 Gen Fund	1,645.9	1,655.4	1,655.4	1,655.4	1,905.4	250.0	15.1%
Unrestricted General (UGF)	1,760.9	1,655.4	1,655.4	1,655.4	1,905.4	250.0	15.1%
Designated General (DGF)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0%
Other Funds	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0%
Federal Funds	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0%
Positions:							
Permanent Full Time	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Permanent Part Time	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Non Permanent	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%

Change Record Detail - Multiple Scenarios With Descriptions
Department of Health and Social Services

Component: General Relief Assistance (221)

RDU: Public Assistance (73)

Scenario/Change Record Title	Trans Type	Totals	Personal Services	Travel	Services	Commodities	Capital Outlay	Grants, Benefits	Miscellaneous	Positions		NP
										PFT	PPT	
***** Changes From FY2011 Conference Committee (Final) To FY2011 Authorized *****												
FY2011 Conference Committee	ConfCom	1,655.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1,655.4	0.0	0	0	0
1004 Gen Fund		1,655.4										
Subtotal		1,655.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1,655.4	0.0	0	0	0
***** Changes From FY2011 Authorized To FY2011 Management Plan *****												
Subtotal		1,655.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1,655.4	0.0	0	0	0
***** Changes From FY2011 Management Plan To FY2012 Governor *****												
Program Funding Increase Due to Caseload Growth	Inc	250.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	250.0	0.0	0	0	0
1004 Gen Fund		250.0										
Totals		1,905.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1,905.4	0.0	0	0	0

The Division of Public Assistance projects a 4.0% expenditure growth for the General Relief Assistance Program in FY12, which results in a shortfall of \$250.0 for this program. The cost of the General Relief Assistance Program has grown due to a significant increase in the number of burials paid for by the program. There has also been more demand for assistance to individuals and families who need emergency services as the result of economic changes. The actual number of funeral and burial expenses of indigent deceased persons increased over 18% in FY10. Currently, 90% of program expenditures are used to pay for funeral and burial expenses. Current funding levels are inadequate to meet projected expenditures.

If this increment is not funded the General Relief Assistance Program will have to be changed to reduce the amount of benefits paid or change the eligibility requirements for the program. This will require changes to statute and regulation. If this is not done, current benefits will be provided until funds are expended and then further assistance will not be provided. These are very low-income individuals who lack needed resources and are not eligible for other state or federal assistance.

Line Item Detail
Department of Health and Social Services
Grants, Benefits

Component: General Relief Assistance (221)
RDU: Public Assistance (73)

Line Number	Line Name		FY2010 Actuals	FY2011 Management Plan	FY2012 Governor
77000	Grants, Benefits		1,760.9	1,655.4	1,905.4
Expenditure Account	Servicing Agency	Explanation	FY2010 Actuals	FY2011 Management Plan	FY2012 Governor
77000 Grants, Benefits Detail Totals			1,760.9	1,655.4	1,905.4
77250	Social Assistance (Benefits)	AS 47.15.120 provides GRA formula program vendor payments on behalf of individuals for shelter, indigent burial, and other emergent needs.	1,760.9	1,655.4	1,905.4