

State of Alaska FY2019 Governor's Operating Budget

Department of Health and Social Services Public Assistance Results Delivery Unit Budget Summary

Public Assistance Results Delivery Unit

Contribution to Department's Mission

To promote self-sufficiency and provide for basic living expenses to Alaskans in need.

Results

(Additional performance information is available on the web at <https://omb.alaska.gov/results>.)

Core Services

- Determine Eligibility
- Issue Benefits
- Monitor Beneficiary and Provider Compliance
- Individual and Family Support Services

Measures by Core Service

(Additional performance information is available on the web at <https://omb.alaska.gov/results>.)

- 1. Determine Eligibility**
- 2. Issue Benefits**
- 3. Monitor Beneficiary and Provider Compliance**
- 4. Individual and Family Support Services**

Major RDU Accomplishments in 2017

The Division of Public Assistance served 242,827 unduplicated recipients during FY2017, a 12 percent increase from the previous fiscal year. The increased demand for public assistance services coincides with the state's current economic recession.

The division was able to significantly reduce the case count waiting to be processed for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) formerly Food Stamps. Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program had an average monthly recipient count of 87,304 and an annual total of \$187,771.4 in benefits issued.

While the division approved the issuance of \$187,771.4 in SNAP benefits a new program to assist SNAP recipients to become self-sufficient was started. The SNAP Employment and Training program rolled out in Anchorage with the help of four sub-grantees. Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Employment and Training assists SNAP recipients with job searches, education, and vocation training.

The division fully implemented SB 145 allowing the department the authority to garnish Permanent Fund Dividends for overpayments for all programs. The division recovered over \$200.0 from garnishing Permanent Fund Dividends during FY2017.

Completed or made substantial progress on task items identified in the Child Care Program Office Strategic Planning: January 2014-December 2019 document. Strategic focus areas include: Policies and Procedures; Alignment, Integration, and Streamlining; Technology; Regulations and Statutes; Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS); Emergency Preparedness; Budget; Data Collection, Tracking, Reporting and Analysis; Staff Resources, Training, and Workload Distribution; and Partners/Client Collaboration and Coordination.

Key RDU Challenges

While the majority of public assistance program case levels have remained relatively steady over the last five years,

there has been an increase in Medicaid, and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, formerly Food Stamps, cases. Medicaid cases have increased by approximately 43,000 and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program by approximately 7,500 between FY2012 and FY2017. The division receives approximately 11,000 applications a month, 8,000 of those are for Medicaid or Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. This has contributed to an application backlog as cases have increased but staffing levels have not.

Identifying and implementing enhanced work-processes in Field Eligibility offices to streamline and increase operational efficiencies.

Focus on providing timely, accurate, and effective delivery of services for needy Alaskans with existing staff resources despite the steady growth in applications for assistance, the growing number of households and individuals qualifying for public assistance, and changes in federal program policies and diminishing funding resources.

Ensuring an adequate supply of child care programs are available for working families in Alaska.

Program planning and implementation of the Women, Infant and Children's Electronic Benefit Transfer system to comply with the federal FY2020 mandate.

Changing our Electronic Benenefit Transfer vendor as JPMorgan has stopped offering this service.

Significant Changes in Results to be Delivered in FY2019

Continued development and growth of collaborative community based initiatives that address childhood overweight and obesity, breastfeeding rates, and iron deficiency/anemia rates of Women, Infants and Children (WIC) clients.

Participating in the development and implementation of a comprehensive Statewide Unified Workforce Plan under the new Workforce Innovations and Opportunities Act (WIOA).

Maintaining effective service coordination for Native families receiving benefits from Native Family Assistance programs and other types of public assistance such as Medicaid or Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits.

Implementation of improved workflow process re-design for increased efficiencies in our field offices.

Contact Information
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**Public Assistance
RDU Financial Summary by Component**

All dollars shown in thousands

	FY2017 Actuals				FY2018 Management Plan				FY2019 Governor			
	UGF+DGF Funds	Other Funds	Federal Funds	Total Funds	UGF+DGF Funds	Other Funds	Federal Funds	Total Funds	UGF+DGF Funds	Other Funds	Federal Funds	Total Funds
Formula Expenditures												
ATAP	6,901.0	1,855.9	19,567.5	28,324.4	1,267.5	1,855.9	20,621.8	23,745.2	1,267.5	1,855.9	20,621.8	23,745.2
Adult Public Assistance	54,327.8	4,710.8	764.0	59,802.6	55,646.1	4,710.8	2,030.0	62,386.9	55,646.1	4,710.8	2,030.0	62,386.9
Child Care Benefits	9,090.3	2.0	28,627.2	37,719.5	8,235.4	325.1	35,383.8	43,944.3	8,238.9	325.1	35,393.2	43,957.2
General Relief Assistance	1,264.7	0.0	0.0	1,264.7	1,205.4	0.0	0.0	1,205.4	1,205.4	0.0	0.0	1,205.4
Tribal Assistance Programs	14,866.6	161.2	0.0	15,027.8	16,912.0	977.9	0.0	17,889.9	16,912.0	977.9	0.0	17,889.9
Senior Benefits Payment Program	20,024.9	0.0	0.0	20,024.9	19,986.1	0.0	0.0	19,986.1	19,986.1	0.0	0.0	19,986.1
PFD Hold Harmless Energy Assistance Program	0.0	15,175.0	0.0	15,175.0	0.0	17,724.7	0.0	17,724.7	0.0	17,724.7	0.0	17,724.7
	0.0	0.0	7,150.7	7,150.7	0.0	0.0	12,622.9	12,622.9	0.0	0.0	12,622.9	12,622.9
Non-Formula Expenditures												
Public Assistance Admin	2,902.8	0.0	2,769.2	5,672.0	2,247.9	1,078.6	2,813.5	6,140.0	2,051.8	1,078.6	2,820.3	5,950.7
Public Assistance Field Svcs	25,733.5	0.0	25,418.0	51,151.5	22,867.9	802.3	25,093.9	48,764.1	22,954.1	806.1	25,309.5	49,069.7
Fraud Investigation	1,361.3	0.0	2,013.5	3,374.8	829.7	0.0	1,169.3	1,999.0	832.4	0.0	1,172.6	2,005.0
Quality Control	847.6	0.0	834.0	1,681.6	1,189.1	0.0	1,409.4	2,598.5	1,192.4	0.0	1,415.1	2,607.5
Work Services	26.1	0.0	10,033.6	10,059.7	250.6	0.0	10,885.3	11,135.9	250.8	0.0	10,766.6	11,017.4
Women, Infants and Children	793.8	2,089.8	22,542.1	25,425.7	421.0	4,397.8	24,036.9	28,855.7	421.0	4,397.7	24,041.0	28,859.7
Totals	138,140.4	23,994.7	119,719.8	281,854.9	131,058.7	31,873.1	136,066.8	298,998.6	130,958.5	31,876.8	136,193.0	299,028.3

Public Assistance
Summary of RDU Budget Changes by Component
From FY2018 Management Plan to FY2019 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>
FY2018 Management Plan	130,240.7	818.0	31,873.1	136,066.8	298,998.6
One-time items:					
-Public Assistance Admin	-200.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-200.0
Adjustments which continue current level of service:					
-Child Care Benefits	3.5	0.0	0.0	9.4	12.9
-Public Assistance Admin	3.9	0.0	0.0	6.8	10.7
-Public Assistance Field Svcs	86.2	0.0	3.8	215.6	305.6
-Fraud Investigation	2.7	0.0	0.0	3.3	6.0
-Quality Control	3.3	0.0	0.0	5.7	9.0
-Work Services	0.2	0.0	0.0	-118.7	-118.5
-Women, Infants and Children	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.1	4.1
Proposed budget decreases:					
-Women, Infants and Children	0.0	0.0	-0.1	0.0	-0.1
FY2019 Governor	130,140.5	818.0	31,876.8	136,193.0	299,028.3