

State of Alaska FY2020 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 2018**

The Division of Public Assistance served 263,250 unduplicated recipients during FY2018, an increase of 20,423 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 96,162 and an annual total of \$196,995.5 in benefits issued.

While the division approved the issuance of \$196,995.5 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.

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

The average monthly caseload for Medicaid has gone from 68,377 in FY 2014 to 114,955 in FY 2018. The average monthly caseload for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) has gone from 37,838 in FY 2014 to 41,945 in FY 2018. This increase has contributed to the backlog experienced by the division.

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.

Implementation of a new Electronic Benefit Transfer vendor during FY 2018 was a challenge, and continues to require attention.

Significant Changes in Results to be Delivered in FY2020

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
<p>Contact: Shawnda O'Brien, Assistant Commissioner Phone: (907) 465-1630 E-mail: shawnda.obrien@alaska.gov</p>

**Public Assistance
RDU Financial Summary by Component**

All dollars shown in thousands

	FY2018 Actuals				FY2019 Management Plan				FY2020 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	5,409.4	1,940.2	19,543.3	26,892.9	3,808.0	1,855.9	20,621.8	26,285.7	1,267.5	1,855.9	20,621.8	23,745.2
Adult Public Assistance	55,739.6	4,438.8	31.6	60,210.0	55,646.1	4,710.8	1,730.0	62,086.9	55,646.1	4,710.8	1,730.0	62,086.9
Child Care Benefits	7,378.0	0.0	29,119.0	36,497.0	8,253.3	0.0	33,656.5	41,909.8	8,098.4	0.0	33,515.3	41,613.7
General Relief Assistance	1,191.8	0.0	0.0	1,191.8	1,205.4	0.0	0.0	1,205.4	1,205.4	0.0	0.0	1,205.4
Tribal Assistance Programs	15,114.6	114.9	0.0	15,229.5	16,912.0	260.0	0.0	17,172.0	16,912.0	260.0	0.0	17,172.0
Senior Benefits Payment Program	19,825.3	0.0	0.0	19,825.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
PFD Hold Harmless Energy Assistance Program	0.0	14,070.9	0.0	14,070.9	0.0	17,724.7	0.0	17,724.7	0.0	17,724.7	0.0	17,724.7
	0.0	0.0	8,620.0	8,620.0	0.0	0.0	10,122.9	10,122.9	0.0	0.0	9,261.5	9,261.5
Non-Formula Expenditures												
Public Assistance Admin	1,832.2	0.0	4,259.3	6,091.5	2,130.4	1,078.6	4,920.0	8,129.0	2,260.8	1,082.0	5,058.3	8,401.1
Public Assistance Field Svcs	22,965.4	1,668.0	28,769.7	53,403.1	24,256.2	1,849.1	26,602.1	52,707.4	25,025.7	1,873.0	28,517.7	55,416.4
Fraud Investigation	747.0	0.0	1,005.9	1,752.9	790.3	0.0	1,110.7	1,901.0	856.7	0.0	1,212.5	2,069.2
Quality Control	660.4	0.0	684.8	1,345.2	1,215.4	0.0	1,514.3	2,729.7	1,225.6	0.0	1,562.0	2,787.6
Work Services	679.7	0.0	10,222.5	10,902.2	214.1	0.0	10,743.4	10,957.5	147.2	0.0	10,452.0	10,599.2
Women, Infants and Children	1,437.9	2,449.2	20,204.6	24,091.7	421.8	3,397.7	23,314.9	27,134.4	421.8	3,397.7	23,348.5	27,168.0
Totals	132,981.3	24,682.0	122,460.7	280,124.0	114,853.0	30,876.8	134,336.6	280,066.4	113,067.2	30,904.1	135,279.6	279,250.9

Public Assistance
Summary of RDU Budget Changes by Component
From FY2019 Management Plan to FY2020 Governor

All dollars shown in thousands

	<u>Unrestricted</u> <u>Gen (UGF)</u>	<u>Designated</u> <u>Gen (DGF)</u>	<u>Other Funds</u>	<u>Federal</u> <u>Funds</u>	<u>Total Funds</u>
FY2019 Management Plan	114,035.0	818.0	30,876.8	134,336.6	280,066.4
One-time items:					
-ATAP	-2,540.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	-2,540.5
-Public Assistance Field Svcs	-1,107.1	0.0	0.0	-1,107.2	-2,214.3
Adjustments which continue current level of service:					
-Child Care Benefits	-154.9	0.0	0.0	-141.2	-296.1
-Energy Assistance Program	0.0	0.0	0.0	-861.4	-861.4
-Public Assistance Admin	130.4	0.0	3.4	138.3	272.1
-Public Assistance Field Svcs	1,876.6	0.0	23.9	3,022.8	4,923.3
-Fraud Investigation	66.4	0.0	0.0	101.8	168.2
-Quality Control	10.2	0.0	0.0	47.7	57.9
-Work Services	-66.9	0.0	0.0	-291.4	-358.3
-Women, Infants and Children	0.0	0.0	0.0	33.6	33.6
FY2020 Governor	112,249.2	818.0	30,904.1	135,279.6	279,250.9