

State of Alaska
FY2021 Governor's Operating Budget

Department of Health and Social Services
Subsidized Adoptions & Guardianship
Component Budget Summary

Component: Subsidized Adoptions & Guardianship**Contribution to Department's Mission**

Facilitates permanent placements through adoptive or guardianship homes for the increasing number of children in state custody for whom special needs make them hard to place. Adoption is viewed as the most permanent placement for a child and is therefore the preferable option.

Guardianships are considered for children who cannot be considered for adoption, but for whom a reasonably permanent home can be provided through guardianship. This is often the best choice for children who cannot live with their parents, but continue to maintain an important emotional tie with their families that should not be severed.

Core Services

- Facilitate permanency through recruitment of homes for children who need permanent homes; home studies on potential adoptive and guardianship families; pre-adoption services for the child and family; and post-adoption services after the final adoption or guardianship court hearing.
- Provide for permanent homes to children that are in the custody of the state and who are unlikely to be adopted or placed in a guardianship without a subsidy.

Major Component Accomplishments in 2019

The Office of Children's Services continues to experience success in securing homes for children as they are simultaneously presented in the Northwest Adoption Exchange, AdoptUSKids, and Heart Gallery of Alaska websites. These profile listing sites attract significant attention from families interested in adopting children, aiding in recruitment of adoptive homes. A collaboration between the photo listing websites and local non-profit agencies and Office of Children's Services have enhanced recruitment by developing a system of responding to and orienting families interested in adoption. In addition, Alaska's Preparation for Adoption Readiness of Kids in Alaska Project focuses on intensive preparation of families who are seeking adoption of special needs children in foster care. Since FY2010, 54 hard to place children with special needs have been placed with families who have graduated from the program. At the end of June 2019, there were 460 new adoptions and guardianships with 3,799 adoption and guardianship subsidy agreements continuing into FY2020. Alaska is continuing to improve its use of guardianship as a permanency goal when appropriate, in order to facilitate timely permanency for children. Guardianships do not require the legal termination of parental rights which shortens the legal process and allows for children to exit foster care timelier.

Key Component Challenges

- When children leave foster care, their special needs are reassessed to determine whether they will need continuing assistance through the Subsidized Adoption and Guardianship program. Virtually all children who exit state custody through adoption or legal guardianship are considered to have special needs and will continue to receive benefits through the subsidy programs. The Office of Children's Services continues to see significant growth in expenditures in this budget area due to the expanded growth of children in the state entering foster care and the associated cost of having them exit through adoption or guardianships.
- Children that have been removed from situations of maltreatment and experienced physical, mental, or emotional disturbances continue to struggle even after being removed from their home. The Office of Children's Services has recognized for some time that the level of disturbance and complexity of problems for children in custody is increasing. These factors make it difficult to find permanent adoptive or guardianship homes without providing a subsidy. It is preferable and more cost-effective for the state to provide a means for children to be given a permanent home with a state-funded subsidy than for the state to continue being solely financially responsible for the child. The adoption or guardianship subsidy covers the costs of the child's special needs and is available to the family until the child reaches age 18.

Significant Changes in Results to be Delivered in FY2021

The subsidy program will continue to support adoption and guardianship families by helping to defray the costs of care and meeting the child's ongoing special needs. There has been an upward trend in the number of continuing and on-going subsidies.

Statutory and Regulatory Authority

AS 25.23 Adoption
AS 25.23.190-240 Subsidy for hard-to-place child
AS 47.10.080 Judgments and orders
7 AAC 53 Article 2 Subsidized Adoption and Subsidized Guardianship Payments

Title IV-E of the Social Security Act
42 USC 1305 Adoptions and Safe Families Act of 1997

Contact Information
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Component Detail All Funds
Department of Health and Social Services

Component: Subsidized Adoptions & Guardianship (1962)
RDU: Children's Services (486)

Formula Component

	FY2019 Actuals	FY2020 Conference Committee	FY2020 Authorized	FY2020 Management Plan	FY2021 Governor	FY2020 Management Plan vs FY2021 Governor	
71000 Personal Services	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0%
72000 Travel	4.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0%
73000 Services	57.4	177.7	177.7	177.7	177.7	0.0	0.0%
74000 Commodities	3.0	31.6	31.6	31.6	31.6	0.0	0.0%
75000 Capital Outlay	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0%
77000 Grants, Benefits	39,156.2	36,836.2	36,836.2	38,816.2	38,816.2	0.0	0.0%
78000 Miscellaneous	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0%
Totals	39,221.1	37,045.5	37,045.5	39,025.5	39,025.5	0.0	0.0%
Fund Sources:							
1002 Fed Rcpts (Fed)	18,700.6	15,484.3	15,484.3	17,464.3	17,464.3	0.0	0.0%
1003 G/F Match (UGF)	17,492.1	14,533.0	14,533.0	14,533.0	15,333.0	800.0	5.5%
1004 Gen Fund (UGF)	3,028.4	7,028.2	7,028.2	7,028.2	6,228.2	-800.0	-11.4%
Unrestricted General (UGF)	20,520.5	21,561.2	21,561.2	21,561.2	21,561.2	0.0	0.0%
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	18,700.6	15,484.3	15,484.3	17,464.3	17,464.3	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: Subsidized Adoptions & Guardianship (1962)
RDU: Children's Services (486)

Scenario/Change Record Title	Trans Type	Totals	Personal Services	Travel	Services	Commodities	Capital Outlay	Grants, Benefits	Miscellaneous	Positions		NP
										PFT	PPT	
***** Changes From FY2020 Conference Committee To FY2020 Authorized *****												
FY2020 Conference Committee												
	ConfCom	37,045.5	0.0	0.0	177.7	31.6	0.0	36,836.2	0.0	0	0	0
1002 Fed Rcpts		15,484.3										
1003 G/F Match		14,533.0										
1004 Gen Fund		7,028.2										
Subtotal		37,045.5	0.0	0.0	177.7	31.6	0.0	36,836.2	0.0	0	0	0
***** Changes From FY2020 Authorized To FY2020 Management Plan *****												
Transfer from Foster Care Base Rate and Family Preservation for Subsidy Payments												
	Trin	1,980.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1,980.0	0.0	0	0	0
1002 Fed Rcpts		1,980.0										
Transfer from Foster Care Base Rate to Subsidized Adoptions and Guardianship for subsidy payments. This transfer provides federal authority needed due to the increase in the number of subsidized adoptions and guardianships. The subsidized adoption and guardianship program facilitates permanent placements in adoptive and guardianship homes for an increasing number of children in custody whose special needs make them hard to place. Adoption and guardianship is considered for children who cannot return to their parents. At the end of FY2019, 3,798 children were living in permanent homes assisted through subsidized adoptions and guardianships. Since FY2015, the number of subsidized adoptions and guardianships has steadily increased at a rate of 4.3 percent annually.												
Subtotal		39,025.5	0.0	0.0	177.7	31.6	0.0	38,816.2	0.0	0	0	0
***** Changes From FY2020 Management Plan To FY2021 Governor *****												
Replace to Align with Anticipated Expenditures												
	FndChg	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
1003 G/F Match		800.0										
1004 Gen Fund		-800.0										
Replace general fund with general fund match to reflect proper use of funds and align with anticipated expenditures. Federal law changes have provided for most children to be Title IV-E eligible resulting in a 50 percent federal match requirement for subsidy payments. This change has resulted in a steady increase in federal and general fund match expenditures as non-eligible children age out of the program and new children enter. This change in law will steadily decrease state only subsidies and increase Title IV-E subsidies.												
Totals		39,025.5	0.0	0.0	177.7	31.6	0.0	38,816.2	0.0	0	0	0

Line Item Detail (1676)
Department of Health and Social Services
Travel

Component: Subsidized Adoptions & Guardianship (1962)

Line Number	Line Name	FY2019 Actuals	FY2020 Management Plan	FY2021 Governor
2000	Travel	4.5	0.0	0.0
Object Class	Servicing Agency	FY2019 Actuals	FY2020 Management Plan	FY2021 Governor
2000 Travel Detail Totals		4.5	0.0	0.0
2000	In-State Employee Travel	0.1	0.0	0.0
2003	Out of State Non-Employee Travel	4.4	0.0	0.0

Line Item Detail (1676)
Department of Health and Social Services
Services

Component: Subsidized Adoptions & Guardianship (1962)

Line Number	Line Name		FY2019 Actuals	FY2020 Management Plan	FY2021 Governor
3000	Services		57.4	177.7	177.7
Object Class	Servicing Agency	Explanation	FY2019 Actuals	FY2020 Management Plan	FY2021 Governor
3000 Services Detail Totals			57.4	177.7	177.7
3000	Education Services	National Foster Parent Association and Association of Administrators of Interstate Compact	5.5	0.0	5.5
3001	Financial Services		0.7	0.0	0.0
3004	Telecommunications	Miscellaneous audio/video conference costs	0.3	0.0	0.0
3006	Delivery Services	Postage and freight	0.0	0.2	0.0
3007	Advertising and Promotions	Recruitment postings, media campaigns, and notices necessary to meet legal requirements.	0.3	10.0	10.0
		Copying/printing costs for recruitment postings, media campaigns, and notices necessary to meet legal requirements.			
3010	Equipment/Machinery		0.6	0.0	0.0
3011	Other Services	Contracts: out-of-state Adoption home studies and post placement services, and Northwest Resource Associates	31.8	137.5	132.2
3024	Inter-Agency Legal	H&SS - Bureau of Vital Statistics (961)	18.2	0.0	0.0
3024	Inter-Agency Legal	Law - Department-wide	0.0	30.0	30.0
		Reimbursable Services Agreement: Department of Law, Civil Division, Permanency Placement (Project Succeed). Fund legal services to promote and identify permanent placements for those children who			

Line Item Detail (1676)
Department of Health and Social Services
Services

Component: Subsidized Adoptions & Guardianship (1962)

Object Class	Servicing Agency	Explanation	FY2019 Actuals	FY2020 Management Plan	FY2021 Governor
3000 Services Detail Totals			57.4	177.7	177.7
<p>have been in state custody for extended periods. Includes case costs such as travel, outside contracts, and transcription services.</p>					

Line Item Detail (1676)
Department of Health and Social Services
Commodities

Component: Subsidized Adoptions & Guardianship (1962)

Line Number	Line Name		FY2019 Actuals	FY2020 Management Plan	FY2021 Governor
4000	Commodities		3.0	31.6	31.6
Object Class	Servicing Agency	Explanation	FY2019 Actuals	FY2020 Management Plan	FY2021 Governor
4000 Commodities Detail Totals			3.0	31.6	31.6
4000	Business	Business supplies.	0.0	31.6	31.6
4002	Household/Institutional		3.0	0.0	0.0

Line Item Detail (1676)
Department of Health and Social Services
Grants, Benefits

Component: Subsidized Adoptions & Guardianship (1962)

Line Number	Line Name		FY2019 Actuals	FY2020 Management Plan	FY2021 Governor
7000	Grants, Benefits		39,156.2	38,816.2	38,816.2
Object Class	Servicing Agency	Explanation	FY2019 Actuals	FY2020 Management Plan	FY2021 Governor
7000 Grants, Benefits Detail Totals			39,156.2	38,816.2	38,816.2
7001	Grants	Grants to support permanency for adoptive and guardianship children	741.0	1,000.0	750.0
7002	Benefits	Fund adoption and guardianship subsidies to facilitate permanent placements in adoptive homes, or stable guardianships for children in state custody whose special needs make them hard to place. Federal guidelines for Title IV-E federal adoptions define a hard-to-place child as a "minor who is not likely to be adopted or to obtain a guardian by reason of physical or mental disability, emotional disturbance, recognized high risk of physical or mental disease, age, membership in a sibling group, racial or ethnic factors, or any combination of these conditions." Grant to outside vendor (Northwest Resources Associates) to recruit adoptive families that reflect the ethnic and racial diversity of the children served by Office of Children's Services. Costs include training and support of resource families designed to improve the safety of children in care, streamline procedures, and avoid delays.	38,165.2	37,816.2	37,816.2

Line Item Detail (1676)
Department of Health and Social Services
Grants, Benefits

Component: Subsidized Adoptions & Guardianship (1962)

Object Class	Servicing Agency	Explanation	FY2019 Actuals	FY2020 Management Plan	FY2021 Governor
			7000 Grants, Benefits Detail Totals	39,156.2	38,816.2
			\$575.0		
7003	Sub-Recipient Pass-Through Grants	Grants for services for adoption support	250.0	0.0	250.0

Revenue Detail (1681)
Department of Health and Social Services

Component: Subsidized Adoptions & Guardianship (1962)

Revenue Type (OMB Fund Code) Revenue Source	Component	Comment	FY2019 Actuals	FY2020 Management Plan	FY2021 Governor
5002 Fed Rcpts (1002 Fed Rcpts)			18,711.3	17,464.3	17,464.3
5019 Federal - Miscellaneous Grants		Title IV-E, Social Services Block Grant, and other federal funding sources determined by the Public Assistance Cost Allocation Plan	18,710.3	17,464.3	17,464.3
5021 Federal - Other Prior Year Reimbursement Recovery			1.0	0.0	0.0

Inter-Agency Services (1682)
Department of Health and Social Services

Component: Subsidized Adoptions & Guardianship (1962)

			FY2019 Actuals	FY2020 Management Plan	FY2021 Governor
Component Totals			18.2	30.0	30.0
With Department of Health and Social Services			18.2	0.0	0.0
With Department of Law			0.0	30.0	30.0
Object Class	Servicing Agency	Explanation	FY2019 Actuals	FY2020 Management Plan	FY2021 Governor
3024	Inter-Agency Legal	H&SS - Bureau of Vital Statistics (961)	18.2	0.0	0.0
3024	Inter-Agency Legal	Law - Department-wide Reimbursable Services Agreement: Department of Law, Civil Division, Permanency Placement (Project Succeed). Fund legal services to promote and identify permanent placements for those children who have been in state custody for extended periods. Includes case costs such as travel, outside contracts, and transcription services.	0.0	30.0	30.0