

State of Alaska FY2021 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**

The General Relief Assistance component promotes and protects the health and well-being of Alaskans by providing a safety net for very low-income individuals who are not eligible for other state or federal assistance.

Core Services

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

Major Component Accomplishments in 2019

- The General Relief Assistance program provides for rent, food, utilities, and burial assistance.
- The General Relief Assistance program had an average monthly recipient count of 94 during FY2019 down from 103 during FY2018.
- Benefit payments were not delayed due to continued reduction in burial benefits through department review and approval.

Key Component Challenges

- Meeting the expectation to significantly reduce expenditures while continuing to help families who need help paying burial expenses for deceased family members.
- Meeting the emergent needs of 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.

Significant Changes in Results to be Delivered in FY2021

Several changes were made to the General Relief Assistance Burial program in order to reduce expenditures:

- Changed policy to count the income of all relatives living with the deceased at the time of death instead of the month of application.
- Require pre-approval of some of the more costly burial items.
- Require funeral homes to bill on a form provided by the department.
- All invoices receive a secondary review from the Policy Unit for approval prior to payment approval.
- Regulation change is in process and is expected to further reduce expenditures.

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

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Component Detail All Funds
Department of Health and Social Services

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

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	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	891.9	605.4	605.4	605.4	605.4	0.0	0.0%
78000 Miscellaneous	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0%
Totals	891.9	605.4	605.4	605.4	605.4	0.0	0.0%
Fund Sources:							
1004 Gen Fund (UGF)	891.9	605.4	605.4	605.4	605.4	0.0	0.0%
Unrestricted General (UGF)	891.9	605.4	605.4	605.4	605.4	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	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 FY2020 Conference Committee To FY2020 Authorized *****												
FY2020 Conference Committee	ConfCom	605.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	605.4	0.0	0	0	0
1004 Gen Fund		605.4										
Subtotal		605.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	605.4	0.0	0	0	0
***** Changes From FY2020 Management Plan To FY2021 Governor *****												
Totals		605.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	605.4	0.0	0	0	0

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

Component: General Relief Assistance (221)

Line Number	Line Name		FY2019 Actuals	FY2020 Management Plan	FY2021 Governor
7000	Grants, Benefits		891.9	605.4	605.4
Object Class	Servicing Agency	Explanation	FY2019 Actuals	FY2020 Management Plan	FY2021 Governor
7000 Grants, Benefits Detail Totals			891.9	605.4	605.4
7002	Benefits	AS 41.15.120 provides vendor payments on behalf of eligible individuals for shelter, burial assistance, and other emergent needs.	891.9	605.4	605.4

Revenue Detail (1681)
Department of Health and Social Services

Component: General Relief Assistance (221)

Revenue Type (OMB Fund Code) Revenue Source	Component	Comment	FY2019 Actuals	FY2020 Management Plan	FY2021 Governor
6004 Gen Fund (1004 Gen Fund)			0.0	605.4	605.4
6047 General Fund - Miscellaneous		General fund.	0.0	605.4	605.4