

**State of Alaska**  
**FY2021 Governor's Operating Budget**

**Department of Health and Social Services**  
**Senior and Disabilities Services**  
**Results Delivery Unit Budget Summary**

**Senior and Disabilities Services Results Delivery Unit**

**Contribution to Department's Mission**

To promote health, well-being and safety for individuals with disabilities, seniors and vulnerable adults by facilitating access to quality services and supports that foster independence, personal choice and dignity.

**Results**

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

**Core Services**

- Long-term care services
- Home and community-based services
- Quality assurance
- Access
- Long-term care facility and program safety
- Long-term care workforce
- All applicants for services are evaluated for program eligibility.
- Grant services
- Protection of vulnerable adults

**Measures by Core Service**

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

- 1. Long-term care services**
- 2. Home and community-based services**
- 3. Quality assurance**
- 4. Access**
- 5. Long-term care facility and program safety**
- 6. Long-term care workforce**
- 7. All applicants for services are evaluated for program eligibility.**
- 8. Grant services**
- 9. Protection of vulnerable adults**

**Major RDU Accomplishments in 2019**

- The Division of Senior and Disabilities Services provided information on Alaska Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security benefits by providing in-person public seminars, presentations or fairs, and through the use of statewide radio, television, and printed ad campaigns. Topics discussed included Medicare prescription drug coverage, Medicare health plans, Medigap, and Medicaid enrollment, eligibility, and benefits.
- The division continued collaboration with the Medicaid Fraud Control Unit and program integrity. 243 investigations were conducted, and 69 allegations substantiated.
- The Aging and Disability Resource Centers screen individuals requesting service to determine if they may need services offered through Medicaid Waiver (Alaskans Living Independently and Adults with Physical and Developmental Disabilities waivers) and Personal Care Services. The Aging and Disability Resource Centers' specialists provide options of counseling to identify long-term support needs, explore options to meet their needs through a facilitated decision-support process, connect callers and visitors with the resources they choose, and follow-up to ensure the

needs have been met. In order to ensure adequate access to services the Division expanded the Aging and Disabilities Resource Center to Fairbanks.

- In FY2019, approximately 36,300 individuals were served through Senior Community Based programs. Services include but are not limited to providing assistance accessing services, outreach, referral, congregate and home delivered meals, transportation, homemaker, respite, chore, case management, adult day services, health promotion and disease prevention, Medicare counseling, caregiver support groups, and caregiver training.
- During FY2019 the Division completed 358 telehealth assessments. The Division also completed 61 observations for the People with Intellectual and Developmental Disability and Individualized Supports Waiver programs. There were also 6 team meetings done via Zoom for individuals in out of state Intermediate Care Facilities for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities and Long Term Care Facilities. Overall 372 individual consumers were served.
- The General Relief/Temporary Assisted Living program served 809 clients in FY2019. The division worked closely with care coordinators, hospital discharge planners, assisted living homes, family members, and adult protective services to determine eligibility for the General Relief Program and match vulnerable adults with assisted living homes.
- In FY2019, the Adult Protective Services Program received 6,373 reports of harm and investigated 2,138 of these reports. These critical services help to prevent or stop harm from occurring to vulnerable adults and include information and referral, investigation of reports, protective placement, guardianship/conservatorship counseling and mediation.
- The Division reorganized and created a new Nursing Unit, Assessment Unit, and General Relief and Central Application Processing Unit to create division workflow efficiencies in an effort to reduce ongoing backlogs.

### **Key RDU Challenges**

- Alaska is the state with the fastest growing senior population in the nation for the past five years, and people age 60+ are the fastest growing demographic in the State. People are living longer, and many are active; however, the numbers of seniors with dementia, chronic health conditions, and behavioral health needs are also increasing proportionately. (State Plan for Senior Services FY2016-2019). This results in the increased need for long-term care services and increased waiting lists for nutrition, transportation and support services.
- The division will maintain compliance with federal and state requirements to manage the Medicaid waiver programs and meet documentation and timeline requirements. This includes initial assessments, reassessments, level of care determinations, and completed plans of care that must be mailed to each participant.
- Senior and Disabilities Services will maintain federal compliance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act Part C, Center for Medicare and Medicaid, Administration on Community Living, and Health Resources & Services Administration.
- Ongoing implementation of new functionality within the State Accounting System requires additional capacity to ensure federal and state compliance and reporting.
- Implementation of the Automated Service Plan requires additional effort and staff time through development phases.
- Implementation of Medicaid reform efforts as result of SB74 requires additional staff capacity. The division's capacity to control program growth and cost remains a constant challenge.
- Development and Implementation of Electronic Visit Verification System for Personal Care Services and Home Health, as required by the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Cures Act, requires additional effort and staff to manage the program and provide audit and provider oversight.

### **Significant Changes in Results to be Delivered in FY2021**

- The Division of Senior and Disabilities Services will continue to implement Medicaid reform efforts as a result of SB74. The Division will begin the implementation of the InterRai Assessment Tool for Long Term Services and Supports programs.
- The Home and Community Based Service, Chore, will transition to a Community First Choice Service Option.
- The Division of Senior and Disabilities Services is currently in the process of designing, developing, and implementing an Automated Service Plan system with a provider portal in support of the division's programs.

The implementation of this system will emphasize service integration among state programs, including the Division of Senior and Disabilities Services, Medicaid, Behavioral Health, Eligibility, Financial Services, Certification and Licensing, and Public Health.

- The Division of Senior and Disabilities Services will issue an RFP to implement the federally required Electronic Visit Verification for Personal Care Assistance Providers.
- The practice of Home and Community Based Services provider affiliation will be amended to ensure federal Medicaid compliance and increased oversight over providers.
- To address reduction in staff the Division is restructuring the Nursing Facility Level of Care Assessment Team to focus Nursing Duties and maximize federal reimbursement to nursing tasks.
- The Divisions of Senior and Disabilities Services continues to partner with Behavioral Health partnered and the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation to offer supported living housing vouchers through a federal program called 811 Project Rental Assistance. This program will provide housing vouchers to clients interested in transitioning from the General Relief Assisted Living setting to an apartment with supportive services designed to teach residents how to live independently and maintain tenancy.

Contact Information
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**Senior and Disabilities Services  
RDU Financial Summary by Component**

*All dollars shown in thousands*

	FY2019 Actuals				FY2020 Management Plan				FY2021 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
<b>Formula Expenditures</b> None.												
<b>Non-Formula Expenditures</b>												
SDS Community Based Grants	10,848.9	2,146.5	6,289.5	19,284.9	11,472.7	951.5	7,045.4	19,469.6	11,472.7	951.5	7,045.4	19,469.6
Early Intervention Learning Prgm	7,385.2	0.0	1,782.2	9,167.4	7,424.5	0.0	1,859.1	9,283.6	7,424.5	0.0	8,859.1	16,283.6
Senior/Disabilities Svcs Admin	10,412.6	903.7	10,296.2	21,612.5	10,814.1	1,002.0	12,044.1	23,860.2	11,045.5	1,078.8	12,560.2	24,684.5
Genl Relief/Temp Assisted Living	7,141.1	0.0	0.0	7,141.1	7,141.4	0.0	0.0	7,141.4	7,141.4	0.0	0.0	7,141.4
Commission on Aging	0.0	382.2	0.0	382.2	0.1	344.8	0.0	344.9	0.0	345.6	0.0	345.6
Governor's Cncl/Disabilities	18.0	677.0	741.0	1,436.0	25.0	798.1	911.9	1,735.0	25.0	704.2	915.4	1,644.6
<b>Totals</b>	<b>35,805.8</b>	<b>4,109.4</b>	<b>19,108.9</b>	<b>59,024.1</b>	<b>36,877.8</b>	<b>3,096.4</b>	<b>21,860.5</b>	<b>61,834.7</b>	<b>37,109.1</b>	<b>3,080.1</b>	<b>29,380.1</b>	<b>69,569.3</b>

**Senior and Disabilities Services**  
**Summary of RDU Budget Changes by Component**  
**From FY2020 Management Plan to FY2021 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>
<b>FY2020 Management Plan</b>	<b>36,877.8</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>3,096.4</b>	<b>21,860.5</b>	<b>61,834.7</b>
<b>One-time items:</b>					
-SDS Community Based Grants	0.0	0.0	-300.0	0.0	-300.0
-Senior/Disabilities Svcs Admin	0.0	0.0	-128.2	0.0	-128.2
-Commission on Aging	0.0	0.0	-130.4	0.0	-130.4
-Governor's Cncl/Disabilities	0.0	0.0	-333.5	0.0	-333.5
<b>Adjustments which continue current level of service:</b>					
-SDS Community Based Grants	0.0	0.0	300.0	0.0	300.0
-Senior/Disabilities Svcs Admin	93.9	0.0	205.0	103.6	402.5
-Commission on Aging	-0.1	0.0	131.2	0.0	131.1
-Governor's Cncl/Disabilities	0.0	0.0	239.6	3.5	243.1
<b>Proposed budget increases:</b>					
-Early Intervention Learning Prgm	0.0	0.0	0.0	7,000.0	7,000.0
-Senior/Disabilities Svcs Admin	137.5	0.0	0.0	412.5	550.0
<b>FY2021 Governor</b>	<b>37,109.1</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>3,080.1</b>	<b>29,380.1</b>	<b>69,569.3</b>