

State of Alaska FY2022 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 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 2020

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. At the end of June 2020, there were 437 new adoptions and guardianships with 3,937 adoption and guardianship subsidy agreements continuing into FY2021. Alaska is continuing to improve its use of guardianship as a permanency goal, to facilitate timely permanency for children. In the last year, the number of guardianship subsidies has increased by 28 percent. Guardianships do not require the legal termination of parental rights which shortens the legal process and allows for children to exit foster care in a timelier manner.

Key Component Challenges

- All children who exit state custody through adoption or legal guardianship have special needs and will continue to receive benefits through the subsidy programs to assist their adoptive/guardian family in meeting those special needs. 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 often continue to struggle throughout their childhood and into adulthood. The Office of Children's Services has recognized 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 which often includes financial assistance and continued Medicaid coverage. State funded guardianship subsidies do not include Medicaid, and this creates a challenge to achieving permanency in some cases where the guardian will need to rely on Medicaid resources to meet the child's ongoing needs.

Significant Changes in Results to be Delivered in FY2022

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 and the total numbers of guardianship subsidies to continue to grow.

Statutory and Regulatory Authority

AS 25.23	Adoption
AS 25.23.190-240	Subsidy For Hard-to-Place Child - Definitions
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
<p>Contact: Sylvan Robb, Division Director Phone: (907) 465-1630 E-mail: sylvan.robbs@alaska.gov</p>

Component Detail All Funds
Department of Health and Social Services

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

Formula Component

	FY2020 Actuals	FY2021 Conference Committee	FY2021 Authorized	FY2021 Management Plan	FY2022 Governor	FY2021 Management Plan vs FY2022 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	48.2	177.7	177.7	105.5	105.5	0.0	0.0%
74000 Commodities	2.3	31.6	31.6	10.0	10.0	0.0	0.0%
75000 Capital Outlay	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0%
77000 Grants, Benefits	40,891.2	40,016.2	40,016.2	40,110.0	42,510.0	2,400.0	6.0%
78000 Miscellaneous	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0%
Totals	40,941.7	40,225.5	40,225.5	40,225.5	42,625.5	2,400.0	6.0%
Fund Sources:							
1001 CBR Fund (UGF)	0.0	5,640.4	5,640.4	5,640.4	0.0	-5,640.4	-100.0%
1002 Fed Rcpts (Fed)	19,351.4	17,664.3	17,664.3	17,664.3	20,064.3	2,400.0	13.6%
1003 G/F Match (UGF)	16,901.7	12,249.7	12,249.7	12,249.7	16,333.0	4,083.3	33.3%
1004 Gen Fund (UGF)	4,688.6	4,671.1	4,671.1	4,671.1	6,228.2	1,557.1	33.3%
Unrestricted General (UGF)	21,590.3	22,561.2	22,561.2	22,561.2	22,561.2	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	19,351.4	17,664.3	17,664.3	17,664.3	20,064.3	2,400.0	13.6%
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 FY2021 Conference Committee To FY2021 Authorized *****												
Conference Committee												
	ConfCom	40,225.5	0.0	0.0	177.7	31.6	0.0	40,016.2	0.0	0	0	0
1001 CBR Fund		5,640.4										
1002 Fed Rcpts		17,664.3										
1003 G/F Match		12,249.7										
1004 Gen Fund		4,671.1										
Subtotal		40,225.5	0.0	0.0	177.7	31.6	0.0	40,016.2	0.0	0	0	0
***** Changes From FY2021 Authorized To FY2021 Management Plan *****												
Align Authority with Anticipated Expenditures												
	LIT	0.0	0.0	0.0	-72.2	-21.6	0.0	93.8	0.0	0	0	0
Transfer authority from services and commodities to cover anticipated grants costs. The remaining services and commodities authority is sufficient to cover anticipated expenditures.												
Subtotal		40,225.5	0.0	0.0	105.5	10.0	0.0	40,110.0	0.0	0	0	0
***** Changes From FY2021 Management Plan To FY2022 Governor *****												
Growing Number of Children in State Subsidized Adoptions and Guardianship												
	Inc	2,400.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2,400.0	0.0	0	0	0
1002 Fed Rcpts		2,400.0										

The Subsidized Adoption and Guardianship Program facilitate 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 are considered for children who cannot return to their parents. The program provides for a negotiated monthly monetary payment between the Office of Children's Services and the prospective adoptive parent that cannot exceed the existing foster care payment.

At the end of the first quarter in FY2021, 3,984 children were living in permanent homes assisted through subsidized adoptions and guardianships. In FY2015 there were 3,309 subsidized adoptions and guardianships. The growth between the first quarters of FY2015 and FY2021 is 20.4 percent. In FY2021 an increase in the Subsidized Adoption and Guardianship Program provided for \$200.0 federal and \$1,000.0 general fund match.

While it is difficult to point to one definitive reason for the growth, there are elements that appear to be growing trends. Some of these contributing factors are: annual rate of children in out-of-home placement grew during this period, the special needs of many of these children are increasingly complex in nature, and many of the families require the maximum amount allowable based on the child's needs and the rising cost of treatment services.

FY2020 actual subsidized adoptions and guardianship spending:
 Federal \$19,351.4
 General Fund \$21,590.3

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		
										PFT	PPT	NP
Other past increases to this component:												
FY2014 - \$2,325.0 Federal (Title IV-E adjustments)												
FY2013 - \$740.0 Federal, \$1,110.0 General Fund (Foster Care Base Rate Study)												
FY2017 - \$4,825.0 Federal, \$4,825.0 General Fund Match (growth of subsidies)												
Fund Source Adjustment of CBRF to UGF												
	FndChg	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
1001 CBR Fund	-5,640.4											
1003 G/F Match	4,083.3											
1004 Gen Fund	1,557.1											
Replace Constitutional Budget Reserve Fund (CBRF) used as a one-time funding mechanism in FY2021.												
	Totals	42,625.5	0.0	0.0	105.5	10.0	0.0	42,510.0	0.0	0	0	0

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

Component: Subsidized Adoptions & Guardianship (1962)

Line Number	Line Name		FY2020 Actuals	FY2021 Management Plan	FY2022 Governor
3000	Services		48.2	105.5	105.5
Object Class	Servicing Agency	Explanation	FY2020 Actuals	FY2021 Management Plan	FY2022 Governor
3000 Services Detail Totals			48.2	105.5	105.5
3000	Education Services	National Foster Parent Association and Association of Administrators of Interstate Compact	6.5	5.5	6.5
3002	Legal and Judicial Services		0.2	0.0	0.0
3004	Telecommunications	Miscellaneous audio/video conference costs	0.0	0.0	0.0
3006	Delivery Services	Postage and freight	0.0	0.0	0.0
3007	Advertising and Promotions	Recruitment postings, media campaigns, and notices necessary to meet legal requirements.	0.0	10.0	10.0
		Copying/printing costs for recruitment postings, media campaigns, and notices necessary to meet legal requirements.			
3011	Other Services	Contracts: out-of-state Adoption home studies and post placement services, and Northwest Resource Associates	35.5	60.0	59.0
3024	Inter-Agency Legal	Law - Department-wide	6.0	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 have been in state custody for extended periods. Includes case costs such as travel, outside			

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

Component: Subsidized Adoptions & Guardianship (1962)

Object Class	Servicing Agency	Explanation	FY2020 Actuals	FY2021 Management Plan	FY2022 Governor
3000 Services Detail Totals			48.2	105.5	105.5
contracts, and transcription services.					

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

Component: Subsidized Adoptions & Guardianship (1962)

Line Number	Line Name		FY2020 Actuals	FY2021 Management Plan	FY2022 Governor
4000	Commodities		2.3	10.0	10.0
Object Class	Servicing Agency	Explanation	FY2020 Actuals	FY2021 Management Plan	FY2022 Governor
4000 Commodities Detail Totals			2.3	10.0	10.0
4000	Business	Business supplies.	0.0	10.0	10.0
4002	Household/Institutional		2.3	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		FY2020 Actuals	FY2021 Management Plan	FY2022 Governor
7000	Grants, Benefits		40,891.2	40,110.0	42,510.0
Object Class	Servicing Agency	Explanation	FY2020 Actuals	FY2021 Management Plan	FY2022 Governor
		7000 Grants, Benefits Detail Totals	40,891.2	40,110.0	42,510.0
7001	Grants	Grants to support permanency for adoptive and guardianship children	749.9	999.9	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.	39,891.3	39,110.1	41,510.0

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

Component: Subsidized Adoptions & Guardianship (1962)

Object Class	Servicing Agency	Explanation	FY2020 Actuals	FY2021 Management Plan	FY2022 Governor
7000 Grants, Benefits Detail Totals			40,891.2	40,110.0	42,510.0
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	FY2020 Actuals	FY2021 Management Plan	FY2022 Governor
5002 Fed Rcpts (1002 Fed Rcpts)			19,351.4	17,664.3	20,064.3
5019 Federal - Miscellaneous Grants		Title IV-E, Social Services Block Grant, and other federal funding sources determined by the Public Assistance Cost Allocation Plan	19,351.4	17,664.3	20,064.3
6004 Gen Fund (1004 Gen Fund)			2.6	0.0	0.0
6046 General Fund - Prior Year Reimbursement Recovery			2.6	0.0	0.0

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

Component: Subsidized Adoptions & Guardianship (1962)

				FY2020 Actuals	FY2021 Management Plan	FY2022 Governor
Component Totals				6.0	30.0	30.0
With Department of Law				6.0	30.0	30.0
Object Class	Servicing Agency	Explanation		FY2020 Actuals	FY2021 Management Plan	FY2022 Governor
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.		6.0	30.0	30.0