

# **State of Alaska FY2023 Governor's Operating Budget**

## **Department of Family and Community 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 with special needs that make them hard to place. Because of the lifelong commitment, adoption is generally viewed as the preferable permanent placement. Guardianship is a stable, permanent alternative preferred in some situations.

Guardianships are considered for children who cannot be considered for adoption, or when guardianship is preferable for cultural, legal, or family reasons. 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 and culture 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 2021**

The Office of Children's Services continues to experience success in securing permanent homes for children by collaborating with numerous local and national partners including The Northwest Adoption Exchange, Heart Gallery of Alaska, Wendy's Wonderful Kids and AdoptUSKids; throughout FY2021, 226 new families became adoptive or guardianship parents. Additionally, the Office of Children's Services centralized the subsidy negotiation process in effort to provide more consistent and timely service to families, ensuring families have established contact with the unit that facilitates their post-finalization services and freeing up time for field permanency workers to focus on overcoming barriers to finalization for children in care. At the end of June 2021, there were 467 new adoptions and guardianships with 4,093 adoption and guardianship subsidy agreements continuing into FY2022. 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 25 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, more culturally appropriate manner.

### **Key Component Challenges**

- All children who exit state custody through adoption or legal guardianship have unique 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 abuse often continue to struggle throughout their childhood and into adulthood. The Office of Children's Services has recognized that the level of trauma 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 FY2023**

The subsidy program will continue to support adoption and guardianship families by helping to offset the costs of care and meeting the child's ongoing special needs. There has been an upward trend in the number of on-going subsidies and the total numbers of guardianship subsidies continues to grow. As a result of centralizing all subsidy negotiations as of September 1, 2021, it is anticipated that fewer subsidies will be negotiated to include add-on services or to increase the maximum base monthly amount, as negotiations for the entire state will be performed by more specialized staff.

**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

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**Component Detail All Funds**  
**Department of Family and Community Services**

**Component:** Subsidized Adoptions & Guardianship (3313)  
**RDU:** Children's Services (486)

Formula Component

	FY2021 Actuals	FY2022 Conference Committee	FY2022 Authorized	FY2022 Management Plan	FY2023 Governor	FY2022 Management Plan vs FY2023 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	105.5	105.5 100.0%	
74000 Commodities	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	10.0	10.0 100.0%	
75000 Capital Outlay	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0 0.0%	
77000 Grants, Benefits	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	42,925.0	42,925.0 100.0%	
78000 Miscellaneous	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0 0.0%	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>43,040.5</b>	<b>43,040.5 100.0%</b>	
<b>Fund Sources:</b>							
1002 Fed Rcpts (Fed)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	20,064.3	20,064.3 100.0%	
1003 G/F Match (UGF)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	16,748.0	16,748.0 100.0%	
1004 Gen Fund (UGF)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	6,228.2	6,228.2 100.0%	
<b>Unrestricted General (UGF)</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>22,976.2</b>	<b>22,976.2 100.0%</b>	
<b>Designated General (DGF)</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0 0.0%</b>	
<b>Other Funds</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0 0.0%</b>	
<b>Federal Funds</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>20,064.3</b>	<b>20,064.3 100.0%</b>	
<b>Positions:</b>							
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 Family and Community Services**

**Component:** Subsidized Adoptions & Guardianship (3313)  
**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	
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
***** <b>Changes From FY2022 Management Plan To FY2023 Governor</b> *****												
<b>Executive Order Transfer from the Department of Health and Social Services</b>	Atrin	43,040.5	0.0	0.0	105.5	10.0	0.0	42,925.0	0.0	0	0	0
1002 Fed Rcpts		20,064.3										
1003 G/F Match		16,748.0										
1004 Gen Fund		6,228.2										
By Executive Order, the Department of Health and Social Services will be reorganized into two distinct departments: the Alaska Department of Health and the Alaska Department of Family and Community Services. This reorganization streamlines and improves the delivery of critical programs and services while creating more flexibility and responsiveness in both departments resulting in improved outcomes.												
<b>Reappropriate Multi-Year Operating from Health and Social Services to Family and Community Services</b>	Language	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
* Sec. 17. DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES. (a) The unexpended and unobligated balances, including encumbered amounts, of the following appropriations are reappropriated to the Department of Family and Community Services for fiscal years ending June 30, 2023, and June 30, 2024: (1) sec. 18(h), ch. 1, SSSLA 2021, page 116, line 31 (John H. Chafee foster care independence program - \$2,319,740); (2) sec. 18(h), ch. 1, SSSLA 2021, page 117, line 1 (education training voucher program - \$337,172);												
<b>Totals</b>		<b>43,040.5</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>105.5</b>	<b>10.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>42,925.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

**Line Item Detail (1676)**  
**Department of Family and Community Services**  
**Services**

**Component:** Subsidized Adoptions & Guardianship (3313)

Line Number	Line Name		FY2021 Actuals	FY2022 Management Plan	FY2023 Governor
3000	Services		0.0	0.0	105.5
Object Class	Servicing Agency	Explanation	FY2021 Actuals	FY2022 Management Plan	FY2023 Governor
<b>3000 Services Detail Totals</b>			<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>105.5</b>
3000	Education Services	National Foster Parent Association and Association of Administrators of Interstate Compact	0.0	0.0	6.5
3007	Advertising and Promotions	Recruitment postings, media campaigns, and notices necessary to meet legal requirements.	0.0	0.0	10.0
		Copying/printing costs for recruitment postings, media campaigns, and notices necessary to meet legal requirements.			
3011	Other Services	Contracts for out-of-state adoption home studies, post placement services, and Northwest Resource Associates	0.0	0.0	59.0
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	0.0	30.0

**Line Item Detail (1676)**  
**Department of Family and Community Services**  
**Commodities**

**Component:** Subsidized Adoptions & Guardianship (3313)

Line Number	Line Name		FY2021 Actuals	FY2022 Management Plan	FY2023 Governor
4000	Commodities		0.0	0.0	10.0
Object Class	Servicing Agency	Explanation	FY2021 Actuals	FY2022 Management Plan	FY2023 Governor
<b>4000 Commodities Detail Totals</b>			<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>10.0</b>
4000	Business	Business supplies.	0.0	0.0	10.0

**Line Item Detail (1676)**  
**Department of Family and Community Services**  
**Grants, Benefits**

**Component:** Subsidized Adoptions & Guardianship (3313)

Line Number	Line Name		FY2021 Actuals	FY2022 Management Plan	FY2023 Governor
7000	Grants, Benefits		0.0	0.0	42,925.0
Object Class	Servicing Agency	Explanation	FY2021 Actuals	FY2022 Management Plan	FY2023 Governor
		<b>7000 Grants, Benefits Detail Totals</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>42,925.0</b>
7001	Grants	Grants to support permanency for adoptive and guardianship children	0.0	0.0	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.	0.0	0.0	41,925.0



**Line Item Detail (1676)**  
**Department of Family and Community Services**  
**Grants, Benefits**

**Component:** Subsidized Adoptions & Guardianship (3313)

Object Class	Servicing Agency	Explanation	FY2021 Actuals	FY2022 Management Plan	FY2023 Governor
		<b>7000 Grants, Benefits Detail Totals</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>42,925.0</b>
		\$575.0			
7003	Sub-Recipient Pass-Through Grants	Grants for services for adoption support	0.0	0.0	250.0

**Revenue Detail (1681)**  
**Department of Family and Community Services**

**Component:** Subsidized Adoptions & Guardianship (3313)

Revenue Type (OMB Fund Code)				FY2022	
Revenue Source	Component	Comment	FY2021 Actuals	Management Plan	FY2023 Governor
<b>5002 Fed Rcpts (1002 Fed Rcpts)</b>			<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>20,064.3</b>
5019 Federal - Miscellaneous Grants		Title IV-E, Social Services Block Grant, and other federal funding sources determined by the Public Assistance Cost Allocation Plan	0.0	0.0	20,064.3

**Inter-Agency Services (1682)**  
**Department of Family and Community Services**

**Component:** Subsidized Adoptions & Guardianship (3313)

				FY2021 Actuals	FY2022 Management Plan	FY2023 Governor
<b>Component Totals</b>				<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>30.0</b>
With Department of Law				0.0	0.0	30.0
Object Class	Servicing Agency	Explanation		FY2021 Actuals	FY2022 Management Plan	FY2023 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.		0.0	0.0	30.0