

State of Alaska
FY2023 Governor's Operating Budget

Department of Health
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

Contact Information
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Component Detail All Funds
Department of Health

Component: Subsidized Adoptions & Guardianship (1962)
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	40.0	105.5	105.5	105.5	0.0	-105.5 -100.0%	
74000 Commodities	1.5	10.0	10.0	10.0	0.0	-10.0 -100.0%	
75000 Capital Outlay	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0 0.0%	
77000 Grants, Benefits	42,268.7	42,925.0	45,109.1	45,109.1	0.0	-45,109.1 -100.0%	
78000 Miscellaneous	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0 0.0%	
Totals	42,310.2	43,040.5	45,224.6	45,224.6	0.0	-45,224.6 -100.0%	
Fund Sources:							
1002 Fed Rcpts (Fed)	20,817.9	20,064.3	20,064.3	20,064.3	0.0	-20,064.3 -100.0%	
1003 G/F Match (UGF)	16,568.8	16,748.0	16,748.0	16,748.0	0.0	-16,748.0 -100.0%	
1004 Gen Fund (UGF)	4,923.5	6,228.2	6,228.2	6,228.2	0.0	-6,228.2 -100.0%	
1265 COVID Fed (Fed)	0.0	0.0	2,184.1	2,184.1	0.0	-2,184.1 -100.0%	
Unrestricted General (UGF)	21,492.3	22,976.2	22,976.2	22,976.2	0.0	-22,976.2 -100.0%	
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	20,817.9	20,064.3	22,248.4	22,248.4	0.0	-22,248.4 -100.0%	
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

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 FY2022 Conference Committee To FY2022 Authorized *****												
FY2022 Conference Committee												
	ConfCom	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										
CARES John H. Chafee Foster Care Independence Program Sec18(h) Ch1 SSSLA2021 P116 L31 (HB69) (FY21-FY22)												
	CarryFwd	1,846.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1,846.9	0.0	0	0	0
1265 COVID Fed		1,846.9										

Carry forward of the unexpended balance of the appropriation made in Sec18(h) Ch1 SSSLA2021 P116 L31 (HB69) for the John H. Chafee foster care independence program.

Sec18(h) The sum of \$6,227,628.00 is appropriated from federal receipts received from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (P.L. 116-136) to the Department of Health and Social Services for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2021, and June 30, 2022, for the following purposes and in the following amounts:

- Alaska prescription drug monitoring program -- \$1,013,858.00
- Building epidemiology and laboratory capacity -- \$2,410,438.00
- John H. Chafee foster care independence program -- \$2,319,740.00
- Education training voucher program -- \$337,172.00
- Promoting safe and stable families program -- \$146,420.00

Original Appropriation: \$ 2,319,740.00
 FY2021 Expenditures: \$ 472,806.17
 FY2022 Carryforward: \$ 1,846,933.83

CARES Education Training Voucher Program Sec18(h) Ch1 SSSLA2021 P117 L1 (HB69) (FY21-FY22)

	CarryFwd	337.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	337.2	0.0	0	0	0
1265 COVID Fed		337.2										

Carry forward of the unexpended balance of the appropriation made in Sec18(h) Ch1 SSSLA2021 P117 L1 (HB69) for the education training voucher program.

Sec18(h) The sum of \$6,227,628.00 is appropriated from federal receipts received from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (P.L. 116-136) to the Department of Health and Social Services for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2021, and June 30, 2022, for the following purposes and in the following amounts:

- Alaska prescription drug monitoring program -- \$1,013,858.00
- Building epidemiology and laboratory capacity -- \$2,410,438.00
- John H. Chafee foster care independence program -- \$2,319,740.00
- Education training voucher program -- \$337,172.00

Change Record Detail - Multiple Scenarios with Descriptions
Department of Health

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
Promoting safe and stable families program -- \$146,420.00												
Original Appropriation: \$ 337,172.00												
FY2021 Expenditures: \$ 0.00												
FY2022 Carryforward: \$ 337,172.00												
Subtotal		45,224.6	0.0	0.0	105.5	10.0	0.0	45,109.1	0.0	0	0	0
***** Changes From FY2022 Management Plan To FY2023 Governor *****												
Reverse CARES John H. Chafee Foster Care Independence Program Sec18(h) Ch1 SSSLA2021 P116 L31 (HB69) (FY21-FY22)												
	OTI	-1,846.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-1,846.9	0.0	0	0	0
1265 COVID Fed		-1,846.9										
Reverse one-time federal authority for funding received from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (P.L. 116-136).												
Reverse CARES Education Training Voucher Program Sec18(h) Ch1 SSSLA2021 P117 L1 (HB69) (FY21-FY22)												
	OTI	-337.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-337.2	0.0	0	0	0
1265 COVID Fed		-337.2										
Reverse one-time federal authority for funding received from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (P.L. 116-136).												
Executive Order Transfer to the Department of Family and Community Services												
	Atout	-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.												
Totals		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0

Line Item Detail (1676)
Department of Health
Services

Component: Subsidized Adoptions & Guardianship (1962)

Line Number	Line Name		FY2021 Actuals	FY2022 Management Plan	FY2023 Governor
3000	Services		40.0	105.5	0.0
Object Class	Servicing Agency	Explanation	FY2021 Actuals	FY2022 Management Plan	FY2023 Governor
3000 Services Detail Totals			40.0	105.5	0.0
3000	Education Services	Education services	0.0	6.5	0.0
3007	Advertising and Promotions		0.1	10.0	0.0
3011	Other Services		31.7	0.0	0.0
3024	Inter-Agency Legal	Law - Department-wide	8.2	89.0	0.0
		Reimbursable services agreement with Department of Law for legal services			

Line Item Detail (1676)
Department of Health
Commodities

Component: Subsidized Adoptions & Guardianship (1962)

Line Number	Line Name		FY2021 Actuals	FY2022 Management Plan	FY2023 Governor
4000	Commodities		1.5	10.0	0.0
Object Class	Servicing Agency	Explanation	FY2021 Actuals	FY2022 Management Plan	FY2023 Governor
		4000 Commodities Detail Totals	1.5	10.0	0.0
4000	Business		0.0	10.0	0.0
4002	Household/Institutional		1.5	0.0	0.0

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

Component: Subsidized Adoptions & Guardianship (1962)

Line Number	Line Name		FY2021 Actuals	FY2022 Management Plan	FY2023 Governor
7000	Grants, Benefits		42,268.7	45,109.1	0.0
Object Class	Servicing Agency	Explanation	FY2021 Actuals	FY2022 Management Plan	FY2023 Governor
		7000 Grants, Benefits Detail Totals	42,268.7	45,109.1	0.0
7001	Grants		1,206.6	750.0	0.0
7001	Grants		0.0	1,846.9	0.0
7002	Benefits		40,812.1	42,262.2	0.0
7003	Sub-Recipient Pass-Through Grants		250.0	250.0	0.0

Revenue Detail (1681)
Department of Health

Component: Subsidized Adoptions & Guardianship (1962)

Revenue Type (OMB Fund Code) Revenue Source	Component	Comment	FY2021 Actuals	FY2022 Management Plan	FY2023 Governor
5002 Fed Rcpts (1002 Fed Rcpts)			21,082.8	20,064.3	0.0
5019 Federal - Miscellaneous Grants			21,082.8	20,064.3	0.0
5265 COVID Fed (1265 COVID Fed)			0.0	2,184.1	0.0
5028 Federal COVID Stimulus - Miscellaneous Grants		COVID funds	0.0	2,184.1	0.0

Inter-Agency Services (1682)
Department of Health

Component: Subsidized Adoptions & Guardianship (1962)

				FY2021 Actuals	FY2022 Management Plan	FY2023 Governor
Component Totals				8.2	89.0	0.0
With Department of Law				8.2	89.0	0.0
Object Class	Servicing Agency	Explanation		FY2021 Actuals	FY2022 Management Plan	FY2023 Governor
3024 Inter-Agency Legal	Law - Department-wide	Reimbursable services agreement with Department of Law for legal services		8.2	89.0	0.0