

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

**Department of Health**  
**Early Intervention/Infant Learning Programs**  
**Component Budget Summary**

**Component: Early Intervention/Infant Learning Programs****Contribution to Department's Mission**

**Early Intervention/Infant Learning Program (EI/ILP)** promotes access to a flexible array of quality services for Alaskan infants and toddlers with special developmental needs, and their families. The Early Intervention/Infant Learning Program provides early intervention services and support to families of children age birth to three who experience diagnosed conditions or significant developmental delay. Services are provided in a manner that respects families, communities, cultural differences, and promotes genuine partnerships in all aspects of service design and delivery. The program is administered in accordance with Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

**Core Services**

- Offer a Child Find system to ensure infants and toddlers with developmental delays are identified as early as possible through developmental screening and other outreach and public awareness activities.
- Ensure infants and toddlers who may have disabilities or developmental delays receive a comprehensive evaluation to identify the potential need for early intervention/infant learning services.
- Ensure that every child who is a victim of abuse or neglect is fully evaluated and offered enrollment in the early intervention program as appropriate.
- Provide family support services, developmental therapy, and coaching to optimize child development to all enrolled families.
- Assist enrolled infants and toddlers in "closing the developmental gap" with typically developing peers when possible.
- Advocate and work towards full inclusion for infants and toddlers in systems such as Child Care and Head Start.
- Ensure availability of comprehensive family support and parent education services that address the stressors impairing the ability of families to nurture and support the healthy development of their children.
- Provide Early Childhood Mental Health consultation to early care and learning programs, facilitating a learning network of professional development for professionals serving young children and their families.

**Major Component Accomplishments in 2021**

- Maintained compliance with Federal indicators. Made progress toward established targets for outcomes aligned with federal objectives, including "moving the bar" on young children's social and emotional development.
- Creation of a new, more functional, and secure database was prioritized due to the state cyber incident. The project is near completion and rolling out to programs, which have excelled at creating alternative data systems to maintain program reporting and compliance during the outage.
- Continued to develop skills in local providers to ensure that enrolled infants and toddlers have measurable gains in developmental/social-emotional skills and that families have the skills they feel they need to help their children grow and learn.
- Statewide, the number of referrals and enrollment remained steady. In FY2021, there were 3,000 referrals. Annual enrollment was 1,857 in FY2018, 1,913 in FY2019, 1,858 in FY2020, and 1,700 in FY21.\*
- The number of referrals from the Child Protection System or Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) referrals continued to be high. Referral numbers: 2017 = 619, 2018 = 849, 2019 = 824, 2020 = 940, and 832 = 2021. \*
- Local programs continued to build capacity to work with families who experience significant life stressors and may be involved with the child protection system. ILP is developing pilot programs with unique strategies to engage these reluctant and overwhelmed families. Infant Learning Program staff continue to work hard to adjust their practices in order to meet the needs of these infants/toddlers and their families.
- Early Intervention programs across the state have been following best practice models in delivering services through the coaching model, which builds on existing parent knowledge by guiding parents through a reflective process which supports them as their child's primary teacher.
- Due to COVID-19, local Early Intervention/Infant Learning providers moved Child Find, evaluation and

intervention activities from direct instruction to a distance platform. These new modes of service delivery allow for continuity of services and communication between Alaska families and their Early Intervention/Infant Learning Program and lay the foundation for future distance delivery of important services.

- Because the Early Intervention/Infant Learning Program statewide system is grounded in relationship-based practices and positive communication, local providers and state staff maintained good working relationships which allowed programs to focus on the challenges of meeting the needs of ILP families during COVID-19.

*\* Due to the cyber incident, 6 weeks of data is not yet available. Data reported has been extrapolated to more accurately reflect service numbers.*

### **Key Component Challenges**

- COVID-19 fundamentally impacted traditional service delivery models. Programs were responsive with outdoor, community based, office and virtual services, but both staff and families experienced fatigue with these alternate strategies.
- Program and state office staff were challenged by outages of the EI/ILP Database and the Grants Electronic Management System. Programs were responsive to state requests for reporting data in alternative formats but these methods often required more work for both program and state office staff.
- Providing a full array of services for children birth to three years old identified through either the child protective service system or from other community sources remains a challenge to the Infant Learning Program system. Recruitment and retention of early intervention staff who meet highly qualified standards remain a challenge for local agencies and teams. Staff stress and burnout is being reported at record high rates during the COVID-19 pandemic.

### **Significant Changes in Results to be Delivered in FY2023**

- Early Intervention/Infant Living Program is entering a new five-year cycle of federal reporting, with new targets related to key indicators. Strategies for progress in meeting these targets are being updated, with an increased focus on measuring implementation of evidence-based practices supporting young children's social and emotional development.
- Continued monitoring of providers to evaluate program quality as well as compliance with State and Federal regulations.
- The new, more secure database will allow for more accurate and comprehensive overview of data and submissions to Office of Special Education Programs and other regulatory organizations. The ability to update the database in response to changing reporting needs and perform more rigorous data analysis will support ILP in developing strategies to meet program targets.
- Continued response to COVID-19 conditions at a state and local level will protect children, families and providers while ensuring families receive the services they rely on. Local infant learning programs, with support from the state, will continue to find ways to increase flexibility and responsiveness of the service delivery system to ensure all regions of the state have access to high quality services.

### **Statutory and Regulatory Authority**

AS 47.20.070-075	Welfare, Social Services, and Institutions; Special Services for Children
7 AAC 78.010-320	Grant Programs
7 AAC 23.010-100	Infant Learning Program
7 AAC 80.010-925	Public Health Services
Federal Statute 33	Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)

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**Component Detail All Funds**  
**Department of Health**

**Component:** Early Intervention/Infant Learning Programs (3118)  
**RDU:** Senior and Disabilities Services (487)

Non-Formula Component

	<b>FY2021 Actuals</b>	<b>FY2022 Conference Committee</b>	<b>FY2022 Authorized</b>	<b>FY2022 Management Plan</b>	<b>FY2023 Governor</b>	<b>FY2022 Management Plan vs FY2023 Governor</b>	
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	9,174.3	9,283.6	9,283.6	9,283.6	9,743.6	460.0	5.0%
78000 Miscellaneous	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>9,174.3</b>	<b>9,283.6</b>	<b>9,283.6</b>	<b>9,283.6</b>	<b>9,743.6</b>	<b>460.0</b>	<b>5.0%</b>
<b>Fund Sources:</b>							
1002 Fed Rcpts (Fed)	1,778.4	1,859.1	1,859.1	1,859.1	1,859.1	0.0	0.0%
1037 GF/MH (UGF)	7,395.9	7,424.5	7,424.5	7,424.5	7,424.5	0.0	0.0%
1092 MHTAAR (Other)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	460.0	460.0	100.0%
<b>Unrestricted General (UGF)</b>	<b>7,395.9</b>	<b>7,424.5</b>	<b>7,424.5</b>	<b>7,424.5</b>	<b>7,424.5</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0%</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</b>	<b>0.0%</b>
<b>Other Funds</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>460.0</b>	<b>460.0</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
<b>Federal Funds</b>	<b>1,778.4</b>	<b>1,859.1</b>	<b>1,859.1</b>	<b>1,859.1</b>	<b>1,859.1</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0%</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 Health**

**Component:** Early Intervention/Infant Learning Programs (3118)  
**RDU:** Senior and Disabilities Services (487)

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 *****												
<b>FY2022 Conference Committee</b>												
	ConfCom	9,283.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	9,283.6	0.0	0	0	0
1002 Fed Rcpts		1,859.1										
1037 GF/MH		7,424.5										
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>9,283.6</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>9,283.6</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
***** Changes From FY2022 Management Plan To FY2023 Governor *****												
<b>MH Trust: Intensive At-Risk Early Intervention Services</b>												
	IncT	460.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	460.0	0.0	0	0	0
1092 MHTAAR		460.0										
<b>Totals</b>		<b>9,743.6</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>9,743.6</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

The State of Alaska's Early Intervention/Infant Learning Program (EI/ILP) is housed within the Department of Health & Social Services, Division of Senior & Disabilities Services (DHSS-SDS) which serves as a single point of entry for infants and toddlers whose families or others have concerns about their child's development. Under the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA), EI/ILP is responsible for implementing services to young children, birth to three years, who experience developmental delays and disabilities.

In FY2023, community agencies will receive grants to hire highly qualified EI/ILP providers for up to four regional family service coordinator positions for an innovative project focused on high-risk families with young children. Family service coordinators will provide screening, developmental monitoring, relationship-based parenting guidance, and resource/referral supports to high-risk families with infants and toddlers referred by child welfare agencies. This project will provide services to at least 200 at-risk families annually who are not eligible for early intervention under existing funding source criteria. The project will also work to remove systems barriers and identify sustainable funding to support the work after Mental Health Trust Authority funding fades over time.

The overall goal of this project is to promote the success of children in their home communities by early identification of young beneficiaries who may not otherwise be identified and provide evidence-based services that support development and improve outcomes. By screening, evaluating, and enrolling more high-risk children in ILP services, beneficiary children are better prepared for kindergarten - a key indicator of later success. This project will support and strengthen parents' ability to effectively support their child's development by improving access to the resources they need. Family service coordinators will work to remove barriers to participation by tailoring family engagement strategies for this group of children and families. Pre-enrollment activities will be designed to increase engagement of this often transient and reluctant group of families who have children who are at increased risk of developmental delays, disabilities, and early mental health/social emotional concerns.

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

**Component:** Early Intervention/Infant Learning Programs (3118)

Line Number	Line Name	FY2021 Actuals	FY2022 Management Plan	FY2023 Governor
7000	Grants, Benefits	9,174.3	9,283.6	9,743.6

Object Class	Servicing Agency	Explanation	FY2021 Actuals	FY2022 Management Plan	FY2023 Governor
<b>7000 Grants, Benefits Detail Totals</b>			<b>9,174.3</b>	<b>9,283.6</b>	<b>9,743.6</b>

7003	Sub-Recipient Pass-Through Grants	<p>Infant Learning Program grants to provide home-based therapy and education services for children from birth to two years who have moderate to severe mental or physical handicaps or are at risk for such delays. Provide educational medically oriented learning program for infants and children not yet old enough for special education offered through their local school district. Professional infant learning teachers and therapists regularly instruct parents and other caregivers to be the primary facilitator in an infant's development. Grant Funding for early intervention with very young children (birth to six years of age) at risk of becoming youth experiencing serious emotional disturbance (SED). Managed by DHSS, DBH, these funds are disseminated to a single grantee, Juneau Youth Services. They utilize funds to visit daycare sites where young children attend. They work with providers there to assess youth, to develop productive ways of working with them to reduce the possibility that they will be expelled from the facility and to</p>	9,174.3	9,283.6	9,743.6
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**Line Item Detail (1676)**  
**Department of Health**  
**Grants, Benefits**

**Component:** Early Intervention/Infant Learning Programs (3118)

Object Class	Servicing Agency	Explanation	FY2021 Actuals	FY2022 Management Plan	FY2023 Governor
<b>7000 Grants, Benefits Detail Totals</b>			<b>9,174.3</b>	<b>9,283.6</b>	<b>9,743.6</b>
<p>prevent a serious emotional disturbance (SED). Behavior intervention and supports for the Early Childhood System is to gather information about the effectiveness of ongoing, statewide training in the use of positive behavioral supports (PBS) for direct service providers and families supporting individuals who experience developmental disabilities. This project targets children receiving early intervention services and early childhood special education. Grant funding for early intervention with very young children (birth to six years of age) at risk of becoming youth experiencing serious emotional disturbance (SED).</p>					



**Revenue Detail (1681)**  
**Department of Health**

**Component:** Early Intervention/Infant Learning Programs (3118)

Revenue Type (OMB Fund Code) Revenue Source	Component	Comment	FY2021 Actuals	FY2022 Management Plan	FY2023 Governor
<b>5002 Fed Rcpts (1002 Fed Rcpts)</b>			<b>1,778.4</b>	<b>1,859.1</b>	<b>1,859.1</b>
5006 Federal Health and Human Services - Title XIX Grants		Medicaid Administration	0.0	46.6	46.6
5007 Federal Health and Human Services - Miscellaneous Grants		Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP), Early Intervention/Infant Learning Program federal grants.	1,778.4	1,812.5	1,812.5
<b>6037 GF/MH (1037 GF/MH)</b>			<b>0.0</b>	<b>7,424.5</b>	<b>7,424.5</b>
6123 General Fund Mental Health - Miscellaneous		General Fund Mental Health authority required for Part C grants.	0.0	7,424.5	7,424.5
<b>6092 MHTAAR (1092 MHTAAR)</b>			<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>460.0</b>
6691 Mental Health Trust Auth Auth Rec - Miscellaneous		In FY2023 community agencies will receive grants to hire highly qualified EI/ILP providers for up to four regional family service coordinator positions for an innovative project focused on high-risk families with young children will begin. Family service coordinators will provide screening, developmental monitoring, relationship-based parenting guidance, and resource/referral supports to high-risk families with infants and toddlers referred by child welfare agencies. This project will provide services to at least 200 at-risk families annually who are not eligible for early intervention under existing funding source criteria. The project will also work to remove systems barriers and identify	0.0	0.0	460.0

**Revenue Detail (1681)**  
**Department of Health**

**Component:** Early Intervention/Infant Learning Programs (3118)

Revenue Type (OMB Fund Code) Revenue Source	Component	Comment	FY2021 Actuals	FY2022 Management Plan	FY2023 Governor
		sustainable funding to support the work after Trust funding fades over time.			