

# **State of Alaska FY2024 Governor's Operating Budget**

## **Department of Family and Community Services Foster Care Base Rate Component Budget Summary**

**Component: Foster Care Base Rate**

**Contribution to Department's Mission**

Reimburse licensed foster parents for the basic needs of foster children in their care.

**Core Services**

- Reimburses foster parents for the basic and ongoing costs of raising a child.

**Major Component Accomplishments in 2022**

Provided foster care payments for a monthly average of 1,902 full-time equivalent children in foster care. “Full-time equivalent” is a methodology used to calculate foster care expenditures while compensating for the daily fluctuation of children moving in and out of the program. In recent years, children placed in foster care have more complex needs and issues, and foster parents are often required to have a greater level of specialized knowledge. The Office of Children’s Services supplied foster parent training to provide the essential skills needed to successfully deal with the individual behaviors and special needs of the children in their care.

The department also continued to offer childcare to working foster parents as a foster parent recruitment and retention effort.

**Key Component Challenges**

During the COVID-19 pandemic, a large number of foster homes closed their license. The Office of Children's Services continues to explore recruitment of non-child specific foster homes. The number of children with complex medical and behavioral needs has outpaced the Office of Children's Services ability to recruit foster parents with the willingness and capability to care for these high-needs children.

Foster care base rates are computed and reviewed on an annual basis to determine if established rates are sufficient for the daily care and supervision of a child in a licensed foster care placement. Considerations are given to the needs of children by age and geographic location to equitably compensate, recruit, and retain foster parents. With recent dramatic increases to the general cost of living, the base foster care rate is no longer sufficient to attract and retain foster families across the state which is worsening the shortage of available foster placements.

**Significant Changes in Results to be Delivered in FY2024**

On July 1, 2022, the new 7 AAC 67 Licensing Regulations became law. The implementation of the new regulations will occur over the next two years. The Office of Children's Services anticipates having new regulation for the difficulty of care augmented rate and intensive augmented rate. Foster children will be assessed more accurately for augmented rates and foster parents will receive financial support to care for these children.

**Statutory and Regulatory Authority**

AS 47.05.065(3)	Legislative Findings Related to Children
AS 47.10	Children in Need of Aid
AS 47.14.020	Duties of Department
AS 47.14.100	Powers and Duties of Department Over Care of Child
AS 47.17	Child Protection
AS 47.40	Purchase of Services
7 AAC 53, Article 1	Child Foster Care Payment Rates and Difficulty-of-Care Augmentation
7 AAC 53, Article 3	Children in Custody or Under Supervision: Needs and Income

Titles IV-E of the Social Security Act

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

**Component:** Foster Care Base Rate (3315)  
**RDU:** Children's Services (486)

Formula Component

	FY2022 Actuals	FY2023 Conference Committee	FY2023 Authorized	FY2023 Management Plan	FY2024 Governor	FY2023 Management Plan vs FY2024 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	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	0.0	22,569.9	22,569.9	23,825.9	23,825.9	0.0	0.0%
78000 Miscellaneous	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>22,569.9</b>	<b>22,569.9</b>	<b>23,825.9</b>	<b>23,825.9</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0%</b>
<b>Fund Sources:</b>							
1002 Fed Rcpts (Fed)	0.0	6,336.6	6,336.6	5,536.6	5,536.6	0.0	0.0%
1003 G/F Match (UGF)	0.0	5,172.3	5,172.3	5,172.3	5,172.3	0.0	0.0%
1004 Gen Fund (UGF)	0.0	5,461.0	5,461.0	7,517.0	7,517.0	0.0	0.0%
1005 GF/Prgm (DGF)	0.0	5,600.0	5,600.0	5,600.0	5,600.0	0.0	0.0%
<b>Unrestricted General (UGF)</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>10,633.3</b>	<b>10,633.3</b>	<b>12,689.3</b>	<b>12,689.3</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0%</b>
<b>Designated General (DGF)</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>5,600.0</b>	<b>5,600.0</b>	<b>5,600.0</b>	<b>5,600.0</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>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0%</b>
<b>Federal Funds</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>6,336.6</b>	<b>6,336.6</b>	<b>5,536.6</b>	<b>5,536.6</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 Family and Community Services**

**Component:** Foster Care Base Rate (3315)  
**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 FY2023 Conference Committee To FY2023 Authorized *****												
<b>FY2023 Conference Committee</b>												
	ConfCom	22,569.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	22,569.9	0.0	0	0	0
1002 Fed Rcpts		6,336.6										
1003 G/F Match		5,172.3										
1004 Gen Fund		5,461.0										
1005 GF/Prgm		5,600.0										
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>22,569.9</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>22,569.9</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
***** Changes From FY2023 Authorized To FY2023 Management Plan *****												
<b>Transfer from Family Preservation to Support Foster Families</b>												
	Trin	890.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	890.0	0.0	0	0	0
1004 Gen Fund		890.0										
As a result of utilizing general fund match in Family Preservation to match federal awards, undesignated general funds can be utilized in other areas of the division to provide additional support. Undesignated general funds are transferred from Family Preservation to support foster families in Alaska.												
<b>Transfer From Front Line Social Workers to Support Permanency Goals and Strengthen Families</b>												
	Trin	1,166.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1,166.0	0.0	0	0	0
1004 Gen Fund		1,166.0										
General Fund authority is transferred from Front Line Social Workers to ensure foster children placed in homes are adequately cared for. Front Line Social Workers has sufficient general fund authority to meet requirements.												
<b>Transfer to Subsidized Adoptions and Guardianship to Support Permanency Goals</b>												
	Trout	-800.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-800.0	0.0	0	0	0
1002 Fed Rcpts		-800.0										
Federal authority is transferred to Subsidized Adoptions and Guardianship to support the Office of Children's Services mission of providing permanency and well-being to Alaskan children. There has been an average increase of six percent year-to-year of the past four fiscal years in eligible Title-IV E, Social Services Block Grant, and other federal funding sources utilized to support adoptions and guardianship subsidies. Foster Care Base Rate has sufficient federal authority to support its mission.												
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>23,825.9</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>23,825.9</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
***** Changes From FY2023 Management Plan To FY2024 Governor *****												
<b>Totals</b>		<b>23,825.9</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>23,825.9</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

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

**Component:** Foster Care Base Rate (3315)

Line Number	Line Name		FY2022 Actuals	FY2023 Management Plan	FY2024 Governor
7000	Grants, Benefits		0.0	23,825.9	23,825.9
Object Class	Servicing Agency	Explanation	FY2022 Actuals	FY2023 Management Plan	FY2024 Governor
		<b>7000 Grants, Benefits Detail Totals</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>23,825.9</b>	<b>23,825.9</b>
7002	Benefits	Reimbursement to foster care providers for the basic ongoing needs of a foster child. Costs include but are not limited to items such as; food, clothing, shelter, personal, and grooming items.	0.0	23,825.9	23,825.9

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

**Component:** Foster Care Base Rate (3315)

Revenue Type (OMB Fund Code) Revenue Source	Component	Comment	FY2022 Actuals	FY2023 Management Plan	FY2024 Governor
<b>5002 Fed Rcpts (1002 Fed Rcpts)</b>			<b>0.0</b>	<b>5,536.6</b>	<b>5,536.6</b>
5019 Federal - Miscellaneous Grants		Title IV-E of the Social Security Act funding	0.0	5,536.6	5,536.6
<b>5005 GF/Prgm (1005 GF/Prgm)</b>			<b>0.0</b>	<b>5,600.0</b>	<b>5,600.0</b>
5115 Program Receipts Health & Human Svcs - Charges for Services		General fund program receipts ability to receive Supplemental Security Income/Social Security Administration and child support	0.0	5,600.0	5,600.0