

State of Alaska FY2024 Governor's Operating Budget

Department of Family and Community Services Foster Care Special Need Component Budget Summary

Component: Foster Care Special Need**Contribution to Department's Mission**

Provide funding to meet special and/or occasional needs of children in state custody, as mandated by statute. This financial support enhances the State's service delivery system by fulfilling many fiduciary obligations for children in state custody and their families that fall outside of monthly reimbursed rates to foster parents.

Core Services

- To pay for pre-approved essential expenditures not covered by the foster care base rate and are assessed on a case-by case basis.

Major Component Accomplishments in 2022

The centralization of requests for commodities (tangible goods) was implemented to provide timely support for caregivers and lift administrative work off case carrying Protective Services Specialists. Centralization included establishing a 1-800 number and a centralized e-mail in-box to facilitate direct connection to a team member who can quickly help navigate the processes necessary to secure the tangible item or services for children in their care.

The Special Needs Hotline team supported caregivers across the state in meeting the needs of the children by managing a spectrum of commodities. The need for services for parents and children not otherwise covered under grants, Medicaid, or other health insurance plans are assessed by OCS through frequent contact and collaboration with parents, children, and caregivers. Services are designed to address the concerns that brought a family to the attention of the department, with the goal of safely reunifying children with their families. More than 14,000 requests for commodities or services were processed on behalf of children, families, and caregivers.

Key Component Challenges

- The Office of Children's Services faces a continuing challenge in keeping pace with increased costs to meet the varying needs of children and families. Federal requirements for visitation between children in custody and family members have resulted in increased travel costs, particularly in the rural areas of the state. The Office of Children's Services is also responsible for medical and clinical expenses not covered under Indian Health Services, Medicaid, or private health insurers. A lack of Medicaid providers in many areas of the state contributes to high general fund expenditures for necessary medical and behavioral health services for children and their parents involved in the foster care system.
- When the COVID-19 pandemic hit its impacts were far reaching. This included dramatic decreases in the number of licensed childcare facilities that remained operational during the pandemic and significant decreases in staffing levels and enrollment capacity at childcare facilities that did remain open. As Alaska learned to navigate through the challenges posed by COVID-19, many licensed childcare facilities could not or chose not to resume pre-COVID-19 operations; this continues to pose difficulties for caregivers who need licensed childcare. Additionally, the Division of Public Assistance Child Care Assistance Program rate continues to be less than market rates in some locations thereby requiring caregivers to pay the difference in cost.

Significant Changes in Results to be Delivered in FY2024

Since its implementation, the Special Needs Hotline team has regularly provided training to OCS staff members on the role the Special Needs Hotline serves in evaluating and processing commodities requests. Incorporating Special Needs Hotline training into the on-boarding process of all new employees is being considered. The centralization of services is well underway with consultation being had with the Department of Health's Medicaid team. The collaboration with DBH's Medicaid team will assist OCS in structuring a spending Matrix for paying for services delivered by non-Medicaid providers as well as in vetting providers to ensure they meet the qualification

needed to provider specific services.

Statutory and Regulatory Authority

AS 47.05.010	Duties of Department
AS 47.10	Children in Need of Aid
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

Title IV-E of the Social Security Act

Contact Information
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Component Detail All Funds
Department of Family and Community Services

Component: Foster Care Special Need (3317)
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	137.5	137.5	137.5	137.5	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	13,692.7	13,692.7	13,692.7	13,692.7	0.0	0.0%
78000 Miscellaneous	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0%
Totals	0.0	13,830.2	13,830.2	13,830.2	13,830.2	0.0	0.0%
Fund Sources:							
1002 Fed Rcpts (Fed)	0.0	1,232.1	1,232.1	1,232.1	1,232.1	0.0	0.0%
1003 G/F Match (UGF)	0.0	1,243.6	1,243.6	1,243.6	1,243.6	0.0	0.0%
1004 Gen Fund (UGF)	0.0	6,772.4	6,772.4	6,772.4	6,772.4	0.0	0.0%
1007 I/A Rcpts (Other)	0.0	3,799.2	3,799.2	3,799.2	3,799.2	0.0	0.0%
1037 GF/MH (UGF)	0.0	782.9	782.9	782.9	782.9	0.0	0.0%
Unrestricted General (UGF)	0.0	8,798.9	8,798.9	8,798.9	8,798.9	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	3,799.2	3,799.2	3,799.2	3,799.2	0.0	0.0%
Federal Funds	0.0	1,232.1	1,232.1	1,232.1	1,232.1	0.0	0.0%
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 Family and Community Services

Component: Foster Care Special Need (3317)
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 *****												
FY2023 Conference Committee												
	ConfCom	13,830.2	0.0	0.0	137.5	0.0	0.0	13,692.7	0.0	0	0	0
1002 Fed Rcpts		1,232.1										
1003 G/F Match		1,243.6										
1004 Gen Fund		6,772.4										
1007 I/A Rcpts		3,799.2										
1037 GF/MH		782.9										
	Subtotal	13,830.2	0.0	0.0	137.5	0.0	0.0	13,692.7	0.0	0	0	0
***** Changes From FY2023 Management Plan To FY2024 Governor *****												
	Totals	13,830.2	0.0	0.0	137.5	0.0	0.0	13,692.7	0.0	0	0	0

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

Component: Foster Care Special Need (3317)

Line Number	Line Name		FY2022 Actuals	FY2023 Management Plan	FY2024 Governor
2000	Travel		0.0	0.0	0.0
Object Class	Servicing Agency	Explanation	FY2022 Actuals	FY2023 Management Plan	FY2024 Governor
2000 Travel Detail Totals			0.0	0.0	0.0
2000	In-State Employee Travel	In-state employee travel cost. This includes airfare, surface transportation, lodging, meals, and incidentals.	0.0	0.0	0.0

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

Component: Foster Care Special Need (3317)

Line Number	Line Name		FY2022 Actuals	FY2023 Management Plan	FY2024 Governor
3000	Services		0.0	137.5	137.5
Object Class	Servicing Agency	Explanation	FY2022 Actuals	FY2023 Management Plan	FY2024 Governor
3000 Services Detail Totals			0.0	137.5	137.5
3001	Financial Services	Contract for services related to Social Security applications and appeals	0.0	110.0	110.0
3006	Delivery Services	Delivery, freight, messenger, and courier costs.	0.0	2.5	2.5
3024	Inter-Agency Legal	Law - Department-wide Reimbursable Services Agreement: Department of Law, Civil Division, Tribal discovery charges reimbursement.	0.0	25.0	25.0

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

Component: Foster Care Special Need (3317)

Line Number	Line Name		FY2022 Actuals	FY2023 Management Plan	FY2024 Governor
7000	Grants, Benefits		0.0	13,692.7	13,692.7
Object Class	Servicing Agency	Explanation	FY2022 Actuals	FY2023 Management Plan	FY2024 Governor
7000 Grants, Benefits Detail Totals			0.0	13,692.7	13,692.7
7001	Grants	Toxicology testing services for Office of Children's Services clients, Provider Agreement	0.0	800.0	800.0
7002	Benefits	Reimbursement to foster parents for the direct purchase of goods and services for one-time or irregular expenditures that are not covered by the Foster Care Base Rate or Foster Care Augmented Rate benefits. Costs include but are not limited to; damages and loss to foster parents, parent training, childcare, and travel for children in foster care to visit their families.	0.0	968.5	968.5
7002	Benefits	H&SS - Department-wide Reimbursable Services Agreement: Vital record copies and inquiries.	0.0	15.0	15.0
7002	Benefits	Costs for childcare for working foster parents. Reimbursed by federal Title IV-D federal (designated Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) through a reimbursable services agreement with the Division of Public Assistance.	0.0	3,729.2	3,729.2
7002	Benefits	Client travel for case related activities. Including child transports, meals, lodging, and ground transportation.	0.0	2,450.0	2,450.0
7002	Benefits	Client travel for case related	0.0	16.0	16.0

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

Component: Foster Care Special Need (3317)

Object Class	Servicing Agency	Explanation	FY2022 Actuals	FY2023 Management Plan	FY2024 Governor
7000 Grants, Benefits Detail Totals			0.0	13,692.7	13,692.7
		activities. Including child transports, meals, lodging, and ground transportation.			
7002	Benefits	Basic need items for children in custody including clothing, personal incidentals, special one-time items, birth certificates, and food.	0.0	616.0	616.0
7002	Benefits	Damages to foster homes reimbursements.	0.0	18.0	18.0
7002	Benefits	Mental Health Counseling, Assessment and Medical costs for services provided on behalf of children in foster care.	0.0	1,480.0	1,480.0
7002	Benefits	Emergency relief payments for relative placements pending licensure.	0.0	1,200.0	1,200.0
7002	Benefits	Residential costs for children with medically complex issues that require Medicaid decertified specialty care.	0.0	1,400.0	1,400.0
7002	Benefits	Support for foster youth aged 18-21	0.0	1,000.0	1,000.0

Revenue Detail (1681)
Department of Family and Community Services

Component: Foster Care Special Need (3317)

Revenue Type (OMB Fund Code) Revenue Source	Component	Comment	FY2022 Actuals	FY2023 Management Plan	FY2024 Governor
5002 Fed Rcpts (1002 Fed Rcpts)			0.0	1,232.1	1,232.1
5019 Federal - Miscellaneous Grants		Various Federal Receipts and Title IV-E of the Social Security Act	0.0	1,232.1	1,232.1
5007 I/A Rcpts (1007 I/A Rcpts)			0.0	3,799.2	3,799.2
5301 Inter-Agency Receipts	H&SS - Department-wide	Reimbursable Services Agreement with Public Assistance Child Care for working foster care providers	0.0	3,799.2	3,799.2

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

Component: Foster Care Special Need (3317)

				FY2022 Actuals	FY2023 Management Plan	FY2024 Governor
Component Totals				0.0	40.0	40.0
With Department of Law				0.0	25.0	25.0
With Department of Health & Social Services				0.0	15.0	15.0
Object Class	Servicing Agency	Explanation		FY2022 Actuals	FY2023 Management Plan	FY2024 Governor
3024	Inter-Agency Legal	Law - Department-wide	Reimbursable Services Agreement: Department of Law, Civil Division, Tribal discovery charges reimbursement.	0.0	25.0	25.0
7002	Benefits	H&SS - Department-wide	Reimbursable Services Agreement: Vital record copies and inquiries.	0.0	15.0	15.0