

State of Alaska
FY2024 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 2022

- The Office of Children's Services continues to succeed 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 FY2022, 180 new families became adoptive or guardianship parents. At the end of June 2022, there were 421 new adoptions and guardianships with 4,182 adoption and guardianship subsidy agreements continuing into FY2023.
- 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 an additional 21 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. Additionally, OCS has improved communications with families over the course of FY2022 by standardizing communication to families regarding upcoming subsidy changes and providing families more flexible routes to provide documents electronically.

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 FY2024

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 Family and Community Services

Component: Subsidized Adoptions & Guardianship (3313)
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	105.5	105.5	105.5	105.5	0.0	0.0%
74000 Commodities	0.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	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	42,925.0	43,187.7	46,387.7	46,125.0	-262.7	-0.6%
78000 Miscellaneous	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0%
Totals	0.0	43,040.5	43,303.2	46,503.2	46,240.5	-262.7	-0.6%
Fund Sources:							
1002 Fed Rcpts (Fed)	0.0	20,064.3	20,064.3	23,264.3	23,264.3	0.0	0.0%
1003 G/F Match (UGF)	0.0	16,748.0	16,748.0	16,748.0	16,748.0	0.0	0.0%
1004 Gen Fund (UGF)	0.0	6,228.2	6,228.2	6,228.2	6,228.2	0.0	0.0%
1265 COVID Fed (Fed)	0.0	0.0	262.7	262.7	0.0	-262.7	-100.0%
Unrestricted General (UGF)	0.0	22,976.2	22,976.2	22,976.2	22,976.2	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	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0%
Federal Funds	0.0	20,064.3	20,327.0	23,527.0	23,264.3	-262.7	-1.1%
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: 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	
***** Changes From FY2023 Conference Committee To FY2023 Authorized *****												
FY2023 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 Sec66(a) Ch11 SLA2022 P174 L14 (HB281) (FY23-FY24)												
	MultiYr	3.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.5	0.0	0	0	0
1265 COVID Fed		3.5										
Carryforward 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, which was reappropriated to the Department of Family and Community Services in Sec66(a) Ch11 SLA2022 P174 L14 (HB281).												
Sec66(a) The unexpended and unobligated balance of the appropriation made in sec. 18(h), ch. 1, SSSLA 2021, page 116, line 31 (Department of Health and Social Services, John H. Chafee foster care independence program), as amended by sec. 59(a)(18) of this Act, is reappropriated to the Department of Family and Community Services for the John H. Chafee foster care independence program for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2023, and June 30, 2024.												
Original appropriation: \$2,319,740.00 FY2021 Expenditures: \$ 472,806.17 FY2022 Expenditures: \$1,843,470.24 FY2023 Carryforward: \$ 3,463.59												
CARES Education Training Voucher Program Sec66(b) Ch11 SLA2022 P174 L20 (HB281) (FY23-FY24)												
	MultiYr	259.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	259.2	0.0	0	0	0
1265 COVID Fed		259.2										
Carryforward of the unexpended balance of the appropriation made in Sec18(h) Ch1 SSSLA2021 P117 L1 (HB69) for the education training voucher program, which was reappropriated to the Department of Family and Community Services in Sec66(b) Ch11 SLA2022 P174 L20 (HB281).												
Se 66(b) The unexpended and unobligated balance of the appropriation made in sec. 18(h), ch. 1, SSSLA 2021, page 117, line 1 (Department of Health and Social Services, education training voucher program), as amended by sec. 59(a)(19) of this Act, is reappropriated to the Department of Family and Community Services for the education training voucher program for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2023, and June 30, 2024.												
Original Appropriation: \$ 337,172.00 FY2021 Expenditures: \$ 0.00 FY2022 Expenditures: \$ 84,000.00 FY2023 Carryforward: \$ 253,172.00												
Subtotal		43,303.2	0.0	0.0	105.5	10.0	0.0	43,187.7	0.0	0	0	0
***** Changes From FY2023 Authorized To FY2023 Management Plan *****												

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	
Transfer from Front Line Social Workers and Foster Care Base Rate to Support Permanency Goals												
1002 Fed Rcpts	Trin	3,200.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3,200.0	0.0	0	0	0
Subtotal		46,503.2	0.0	0.0	105.5	10.0	0.0	46,387.7	0.0	0	0	0

Federal authority is transferred from Front Line Social Workers and Foster Care Base Rate 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.

The following federal receipt authority is transferred in:

- \$2,400.0 from Front Line Social Workers
- \$800.0 from Foster Care Base Rate

***** Changes From FY2023 Management Plan To FY2024 Governor *****												
Reverse CARES Education Training Voucher Program Sec66(b) Ch11 SLA2022 P174 L20 (HB281) (FY23-FY24)												
1265 COVID Fed	OTI	-259.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-259.2	0.0	0	0	0

Carryforward of the unexpended balance of the appropriation made in Sec18(h) Ch1 SSSLA2021 P117 L1 (HB69) for the education training voucher program, which was reappropriated to the Department of Family and Community Services in Sec66(b) Ch11 SLA2022 P174 L20 (HB281).

Se 66(b) The unexpended and unobligated balance of the appropriation made in sec. 18(h), ch. 1, SSSLA 2021, page 117, line 1 (Department of Health and Social Services, education training voucher program, as amended by sec. 59(a)(19) of this Act, is reappropriated to the Department of Family and Community Services for the education training voucher program for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2023, and June 30, 2024.

Original Appropriation: \$ 337,172.00
 FY2021 Expenditures: \$ 0.00
 FY2022 Expenditures: \$ 84,000.00
 FY2023 Carryforward: \$ 253,172.00

Reverse CARES John H. Chafee Foster Care Independence Program Sec66(a) Ch11 SLA2022 P174 L14 (HB281) (FY23-FY24)												
1265 COVID Fed	OTI	-3.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-3.5	0.0	0	0	0

Carryforward 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, which was reappropriated to the Department of Family and Community Services in Sec66(a) Ch11 SLA2022 P174 L14 (HB281).

Sec66(a) The unexpended and unobligated balance of the appropriation made in sec. 18(h), ch. 1, SSSLA 2021, page 116, line 31 (Department of Health and Social Services, John H. Chafee foster care independence program), as amended by sec. 59(a)(18) of this Act, is reappropriated to the Department of Family and Community Services for the John H. Chafee foster care independence program for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2023, and June 30, 2024.

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		
										PFT	PPT	NP
Original appropriation: \$2,319,740.00 FY2021 Expenditures: \$ 472,806.17 FY2022 Expenditures: \$1,843,470.24 FY2023 Carryforward: \$ 3,463.59												
	Totals	46,240.5	0.0	0.0	105.5	10.0	0.0	46,125.0	0.0	0	0	0

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

Component: Subsidized Adoptions & Guardianship (3313)

Line Number	Line Name		FY2022 Actuals	FY2023 Management Plan	FY2024 Governor
3000	Services		0.0	105.5	105.5
Object Class	Servicing Agency	Explanation	FY2022 Actuals	FY2023 Management Plan	FY2024 Governor
3000 Services Detail Totals			0.0	105.5	105.5
3000	Education Services	National Foster Parent Association and Association of Administrators of Interstate Compact	0.0	6.5	6.5
3007	Advertising and Promotions	Recruitment postings, media campaigns, and notices necessary to meet legal requirements.	0.0	10.0	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	59.0	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	30.0	30.0

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

Component: Subsidized Adoptions & Guardianship (3313)

Line Number	Line Name		FY2022 Actuals	FY2023 Management Plan	FY2024 Governor
4000	Commodities		0.0	10.0	10.0
Object Class	Servicing Agency	Explanation	FY2022 Actuals	FY2023 Management Plan	FY2024 Governor
4000 Commodities Detail Totals			0.0	10.0	10.0
4000	Business	Business supplies.	0.0	10.0	10.0

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

Component: Subsidized Adoptions & Guardianship (3313)

Line Number	Line Name	FY2022 Actuals	FY2023 Management Plan	FY2024 Governor
7000	Grants, Benefits	0.0	46,387.7	46,125.0

Object Class	Servicing Agency	Explanation	FY2022 Actuals	FY2023 Management Plan	FY2024 Governor
7000 Grants, Benefits Detail Totals			0.0	46,387.7	46,125.0

7001	Grants	Grants to support permanency for adoptive and guardianship children	0.0	750.0	750.0
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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."	0.0	45,387.7	45,125.0
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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.

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

Component: Subsidized Adoptions & Guardianship (3313)

Object Class	Servicing Agency	Explanation	FY2022 Actuals	FY2023 Management Plan	FY2024 Governor
7000 Grants, Benefits Detail Totals			0.0	46,387.7	46,125.0
7003	Sub-Recipient Pass-Through Grants	Grants for services for adoption support	0.0	250.0	250.0

Revenue Detail (1681)
Department of Family and Community Services

Component: Subsidized Adoptions & Guardianship (3313)

Revenue Type (OMB Fund Code) Revenue Source	Component	Comment	FY2022 Actuals	FY2023 Management Plan	FY2024 Governor
5002 Fed Rcpts (1002 Fed Rcpts)			0.0	23,264.3	23,264.3
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	23,264.3	23,264.3
5265 COVID Fed (1265 COVID Fed)			0.0	262.7	0.0
5028 Federal COVID Stimulus - Miscellaneous Grants		Chafee Foster Care Independent Living Program and Education Training Voucher Program	0.0	262.7	0.0

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

Component: Subsidized Adoptions & Guardianship (3313)

				FY2022 Actuals	FY2023 Management Plan	FY2024 Governor
Component Totals				0.0	30.0	30.0
With Department of Law				0.0	30.0	30.0
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, 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	30.0	30.0