

State of Alaska FY2024 Governor's Operating Budget

Department of Family and Community Services Inpatient Mental Health Results Delivery Unit Budget Summary

Inpatient Mental Health Results Delivery Unit

Contribution to Department's Mission

No mission statement.

Core Services

- Provide emergency and court-ordered inpatient psychiatric services
- Referral to an appropriate level of care and support for recovery from mental illness
- Provide support and personal well-being for vulnerable Alaskans
- Provide quality of life in a safe treatment and living environment for Alaskans

Major RDU Accomplishments in 2022

*Note: This RDU was created in FY2023, but the components existed previously.

- The passage of House Bill 172 (HB 172) during the 2022 legislative session allows for the department to fulfill obligations to improve capacity for individuals to receive timely evaluations and treatment in the least restrictive settings. HB 172 provides funding and allows for a new facility type to seek departmental designation to become evaluation facilities for involuntary commitment, thereby expanding capacity for psychiatric stabilization and treatment, and providing more crisis stabilization services throughout Alaska.
- Reopening of the Denali unit as a dedicated service location for adults with neuro cognitive disabilities to include but not limited to developmental delays, autism, and dementia. Programming focuses on individual and small group activities with individual behavior plans for complex and hard to place adults. By making this change and moving these special needs patients to a separate unit, workplace violence in our adult population has decreased by 41%, since January 2021
- Providing a clinical rotation for WWAMI (stands for the states served by the University of Washington School of Medicine: Washington, Wyoming, Alaska, Montana and Idaho) students from University of Washington.

Key RDU Challenges

- Alaska Psychiatric Institute is an 80-bed acute psychiatric facility with approximately 30 percent of patient population being long-term patients with complex discharge needs. This limits the number of beds available for admission from the community on a regular basis.
- Alaska Psychiatric Institute is the only psychiatric facility in Alaska. The hospital must admit patients that do not meet admission criteria because the community does not have the necessary infrastructure to meet specific population needs, i.e., individuals with developmental disabilities and mental health and/or substance abuse, geriatric patients with dementia or Alzheimer's, patients who are not competent, or not able to return to the community.
- Although Alaska Psychiatric Institute has had some success in recruiting staff, the hospital continues to rely on locum tenens providers to see patients due to poor results in recruitment efforts.
- Communities often lack adequate facilities or the professional staff necessary to safely stabilize individuals experiencing local behavioral health emergencies.
- Designated Evaluation and Treatment (DET) facilities and local community behavioral health centers will continue to struggle with workforce issues including staff shortages and turnover. There is a need for ongoing training in the management of psychiatric emergencies, short-term stabilization, and the treatment process.
- Over 80 percent of the Alaska Psychiatric Institute's annual admissions come from the Mat-Su Valley and Anchorage. Expanding DET facilities through the southcentral region could alleviate strain on API.
- DET services leverage federal funding in the Medicaid services component through Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH) funds. It is a challenge to administer and distribute these funds due to the complex fiscal analysis required for hospital eligibility and the required eligibility review to ensure that these funds are payor of last resort for each patient. However, some hospitals designated as a DET by the state may not qualify for the federal portion of this reimbursement for DSH services.
- Transportation costs have increased because of ending or limited flights on smaller regional airlines due to

COVID-19. Many individuals are being transported via charter flights. Transportation costs are also increasing due to longer wait times at airports for safety and health checks and additional time cleaning transport vehicles. Due to COVID-19, many hospitals have limited their admissions and this has increased the burden on other DETs.

Significant Changes in Results to be Delivered in FY2024

- The implementation of the 1115 Waiver has been a phased-in approach, as each region adopts new services and the crisis system responds to individuals in crisis with options to meet their needs. The new services include peer crisis support, mobile crisis response, 23-hour crisis stabilization, and short-term residential crisis stabilization. These services will reduce the high cost of emergency department care, treat people at the level of care that they need, and reduce the reliance on Designated Evaluation and Treatment beds. The department continues to pursue innovative ways to leverage these new service models to allow involuntary commitments to be served through Crisis Stabilization Centers.
- Designated Evaluation and Treatment will provide funding support for one additional hospital and two non-hospitals to stand up additional evaluation facilities for involuntary commitment clients.

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**Inpatient Mental Health
RDU Financial Summary by Component**

All dollars shown in thousands

	FY2022 Actuals				FY2023 Management Plan				FY2024 Governor			
	UGF+DGF Funds	Other Funds	Federal Funds	Total Funds	UGF+DGF Funds	Other Funds	Federal Funds	Total Funds	UGF+DGF Funds	Other Funds	Federal Funds	Total Funds
Formula Expenditures None.												
Non-Formula Expenditures Designated Eval & Treatment	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	9,844.9	4,650.0	0.0	14,494.9	10,369.8	4,800.0	0.0	15,169.8
Alaska Psychiatric Institute	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	23,028.6	35,333.4	0.0	58,362.0	24,222.7	35,813.0	0.0	60,035.7
Totals	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	32,873.5	39,983.4	0.0	72,856.9	34,592.5	40,613.0	0.0	75,205.5

**Inpatient Mental Health
Summary of RDU Budget Changes by Component
From FY2023 Management Plan to FY2024 Governor**

All dollars shown in thousands

	<u>Unrestricted Gen (UGF)</u>	<u>Designated Gen (DGF)</u>	<u>Other Funds</u>	<u>Federal Funds</u>	<u>Total Funds</u>
FY2023 Management Plan	32,873.5	0.0	39,983.4	0.0	72,856.9
Adjustments which get you to start of year:					
-Designated Eval & Treatment	754.0	0.0	150.0	0.0	904.0
Adjustments which continue current level of service:					
-Designated Eval & Treatment	-229.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	-229.1
-Alaska Psychiatric Institute	394.1	0.0	479.6	0.0	873.7
Proposed budget increases:					
-Alaska Psychiatric Institute	800.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	800.0
FY2024 Governor	34,592.5	0.0	40,613.0	0.0	75,205.5