

State of Alaska FY2025 Governor's Operating Budget

Department of Administration Satellite Infrastructure Component Budget Summary

Component: Satellite Infrastructure

Contribution to Department's Mission

To sustain the key satellite infrastructure used for the delivery of audio and video news, public affairs, legislative and other state government content, public service information, entertainment, education, and state and federal emergency alert services to communities statewide.

Core Services

- State and Federal Emergency Alert System (EAS) with real time delivery of emergency alerts and tests distributed statewide to rural and urban communities as provided for in the State of Alaska's plan for emergency preparedness.
- Alaska Rural Communications Service (ARCS) as the rural low power television service, owned and operated by the state, delivers multifaceted program services including educational programming, news and information, sports and cultural events of statewide interest, from urban public and commercial stations into remote communities.
- Alaska Public Television is statewide public television distributed by satellite and broadcast throughout the state, providing rural viewers with Alaskan and national non-commercial programming.
- 360 North offers unique Alaskan programs, Gavel Alaska providing extensive coverage of the Alaska Legislature and government proceedings, originating at KTOO in Juneau, distributed by satellite to viewers across rural Alaska.
- UATV provides cultural, educational and informational programs from the University of Alaska.
- Public Radio Services in the form of content delivery by eight different public radio stations and Alaska Statewide News to the 27 individual local stations and their translators reaching 95 percent of Alaska's population.
- Technical monitoring and system maintenance of the satellite infrastructure is managed by Alaska Public Media (APM) provides comprehensive management support and trouble-shooting services at the statewide and community levels.

Major Component Accomplishments in 2023

- Managed and coordinated the statewide satellite distribution systems and the ARCS television program service without any major system-wide shutdowns, failures, or outages.
- As a State Satellite Relay Network, ARCS participated in and distributed all the EAS emergency alerts including tsunami, wildfire, severe storm warnings, as well as all monthly and annual state and national level exercises, and all resultant analysis endeavors in association with the State Emergency Communications Committee.
- ARCS programming highlights include full coverage of the annual AFN convention, Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race, ASAA High School basketball tournaments, statewide elections coverage, Governor's addresses, and numerous special news programs. ARCS is delivered into the homes of thousands of Alaskans in communities where other alternatives are either too expensive or simply do not exist.
- Successfully managed the operation of the satellite infrastructure responsible for delivering ARCS, Alaska Public Television, 360 North, University of Alaska Television and multiple public radio audio channels including Alaska Statewide news.
- State of Alaska ARCS broadcast license renewals – Renewed approximately 130 FCC Station Licenses with the FCC in early 2023.

Key Component Challenges

Alaska Emergency Alert System (EAS) - The collaboration between ARCS and the state's Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management alerting systems for distribution of emergency alert and warning systems is critical. As a Satellite Relay Network, ARCS plays a central role in the state's EAS Plan as a "designated monitoring assignment" for Alaska broadcasters required to maintain compliance with FCC regulations, including new national level alerting protocols. Concurrently, the ARCS low power television signals in rural communities provide year-round 24/7 access to emergency information for rural viewers in their homes.

Satellite Uplink Equipment Replacement – The satellite uplink equipment has operated past its designed service life and has been failing. Service interruptions have become frequent due to the age of the equipment and create unreliable and frequently disrupted service to the Alaskan Public. Much of the core equipment is no longer supported by their manufacturers or is no longer serviceable. Measures to keep the system running require scrounging the used equipment market from such sources as EBAY and availability is very sparse for some critical pieces of equipment and requires frequent service visits.

ARCS Maintenance - Though owned and operated by the State of Alaska, it is rural communities that fund ongoing local maintenance while individuals at remote sites provide labor on a volunteer basis. Community organizations provide space and power for antennas and electronics. Costs of maintenance of satellite dish antennas, cables, transmission towers and antennas, and the electronics that support ARCS distribution remain the responsibility of local communities. The fleet of satellite dish antennas, some of which have been in service for 30 years, continues to serve as the distribution backbone of public communications services in rural Alaska.

Significant Changes in Results to be Delivered in FY2025

ARCS Digital Conversion Project - This project replaces all analog transmitters at remote ARCS broadcast sites with new generation digital equipment. As sites are converted to digital the full set of video services on the satellite carrier are broadcast through the new transmitters to viewers in their homes representing a 300 percent increase in service, going from one channel to four, with no increase in operating costs.

Satellite Downlink Equipment Replacement - Refurbishment work at satellite downlink facilities continues to improve service. Additional improvements to maintain the rural satellite downlink sites require additional funding. Deflecting costs of maintaining this set onto individual communities as they become affected by service outages may delay and/or prevent repairs from continuing.

Statutory and Regulatory Authority

AS 44.21.305-330 Telecommunications

Contact Information
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Component Detail All Funds
Department of Administration

Component: Satellite Infrastructure (2349)
RDU: Public Communications Services (30)

Non-Formula Component

	FY2023 Actuals	FY2024 Enrolled	FY2024 Authorized	FY2024 Management Plan	FY2025 Governor Adjusted Base	FY2025 Governor	FY2024 Management Plan vs FY2025 Governor		
1000 Personal Services	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0%	
2000 Travel	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0%	
3000 Services	834.8	879.5	879.5	879.5	879.5	879.5	0.0	0.0%	
4000 Commodities	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0%	
5000 Capital Outlay	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0%	
7000 Grants, Benefits	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0%	
8000 Miscellaneous	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0%	
Totals	834.8	879.5	879.5	879.5	879.5	879.5	0.0	0.0%	
Fund Sources:									
1004 Gen Fund (UGF)	634.8	779.5	779.5	779.5	779.5	779.5	0.0	0.0%	
1007 I/A Rcpts (Other)	200.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	0.0	0.0%	
Unrestricted General (UGF)	634.8	779.5	779.5	779.5	779.5	779.5	0.0	0.0%	
Designated General (DGF)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0%	
Other Funds	200.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	0.0	0.0%	
Federal Funds	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0%	
Positions:									
Permanent Full Time	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%	
Permanent Part Time	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%	
Non Permanent	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%	

Change Record Detail - Multiple Scenarios with Descriptions
Department of Administration

Component: Satellite Infrastructure (2349)
RDU: Public Communications Services (30)

Scenario/Change Record Title	Trans Type	Totals	Personal Services	Travel	Services	Commodities	Capital Outlay	Grants, Benefits	Miscellaneous	Positions		NP
										PFT	PPT	
***** Changes From FY2024 Enrolled To FY2024 Authorized *****												
FY2024 Enrolled	Enrolled	879.5	0.0	0.0	879.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
1004 Gen Fund		779.5										
1007 I/A Rcpts		100.0										
Subtotal		879.5	0.0	0.0	879.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
***** Changes From FY2025 Governor Adjusted Base To FY2025 Governor *****												
Totals		879.5	0.0	0.0	879.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0

Line Item Detail (1676)
Department of Administration
Services

Component: Satellite Infrastructure (2349)

Line Number	Line Name		FY2023 Actuals	FY2024 Management Plan	FY2025 Governor
3000	Services		834.8	879.5	879.5
Object Class	Servicing Agency	Explanation	FY2023 Actuals	FY2024 Management Plan	FY2025 Governor
3000 Services Detail Totals			834.8	879.5	879.5
3003	Information Technology	Software licensing and maintenance, training, and consulting.	157.3	140.4	140.4
3004	Telecommunications	Local, long distance, and cellular telephone charges, television, data/network, telecommunication equipment, and other wireless charges from outside vendors.	677.5	738.2	738.2
3027	Inter-Agency Financial	Admin - Accounting (3134)	0.0	0.7	0.7
3027	Inter-Agency Financial	Admin - Finance (59)	0.0	0.2	0.2

Revenue Detail (1681)
Department of Administration

Component: Satellite Infrastructure (2349)

Revenue Type (OMB Fund Code) Revenue Source	Component	Comment	FY2023 Actuals	FY2024 Management Plan	FY2025 Governor
5007 I/A Rcpts (1007 I/A Rcpts)			200.0	100.0	100.0
5301 Inter-Agency Receipts	Univ - Department-wide	University of Alaska Fairbanks transponder fees.	200.0	100.0	100.0

Inter-Agency Services (1682)
Department of Administration

Component: Satellite Infrastructure (2349)

				FY2023 Actuals	FY2024 Management Plan	FY2025 Governor
Component Totals				0.0	0.9	0.9
With Department of Administration				0.0	0.9	0.9
Object Class	Servicing Agency	Explanation		FY2023 Actuals	FY2024 Management Plan	FY2025 Governor
3027	Inter-Agency Financial	Admin - Accounting (3134)	SSoA Accounts Payable and Travel Chargeback.	0.0	0.7	0.7
3027	Inter-Agency Financial	Admin - Finance (59)	Division of Finance chargeback for IRIS FIN, HRM, and ALDER.	0.0	0.2	0.2