

State of Alaska FY2025 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 2023

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.

In 2019, The Office of Children's Services (OCS) launched the centralized statewide Special Needs Hotline (SNH) for resource families, tribes, and staff to utilize for accessing commodity needs for children in care. The SNH 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.

Key Component Challenges

The Office of Children's Services (OCS) faces a continuing challenge in keeping pace with increased costs to meet the varying needs of children and families. Federal requirements for family contact between children in custody and family members have resulted in increased travel costs, particularly in the rural areas of the state. OCS 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.

Significant Changes in Results to be Delivered in FY2025

The Office of Children's Services (OCS) will be implementing a Placement Search and Resource Family Support Unit (PSSU) to work in partnership with the Special Needs Hotline. This unit will streamline searching for placements for children in care. Unit staff will be available for resource families to call with general questions. The PSSU will also be performing the centralized augmented rate assessments, administering the OCS respite program, monitoring children placed outside of their region and assessing efforts to get them back to their home region, and providing other support services. The unit did a soft launch in October, 2023.

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

	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	14.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0%	
3000 Services	162.2	137.5	137.5	137.5	137.5	137.5	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	10,051.5	13,692.7	13,692.7	13,092.7	13,092.7	13,092.7	0.0	0.0%	
8000 Miscellaneous	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0%	
Totals	10,228.4	13,830.2	13,830.2	13,230.2	13,230.2	13,230.2	0.0	0.0%	
Fund Sources:									
1002 Fed Rcpts (Fed)	326.4	1,232.1	1,232.1	632.1	632.1	632.1	0.0	0.0%	
1003 G/F Match (UGF)	278.6	1,243.6	1,243.6	1,243.6	1,243.6	1,243.6	0.0	0.0%	
1004 Gen Fund (UGF)	8,840.5	6,772.4	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	3,799.2	0.0	0.0%	
1037 GF/MH (UGF)	782.9	782.9	782.9	782.9	782.9	782.9	0.0	0.0%	
Unrestricted General (UGF)	9,902.0	8,798.9	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	0.0%	
Other Funds	0.0	3,799.2	3,799.2	3,799.2	3,799.2	3,799.2	0.0	0.0%	
Federal Funds	326.4	1,232.1	1,232.1	632.1	632.1	632.1	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 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 FY2024 Enrolled To FY2024 Authorized *****												
FY2024 Enrolled	Enrolled	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 FY2024 Authorized To FY2024 Management Plan *****												
Transfer to Foster Care Augmented Rate	Trout	-600.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-600.0	0.0	0	0	0
1002 Fed Rcpts		-600.0										
Subtotal		13,230.2	0.0	0.0	137.5	0.0	0.0	13,092.7	0.0	0	0	0
***** Changes From FY2025 Governor Adjusted Base To FY2025 Governor *****												
Totals		13,230.2	0.0	0.0	137.5	0.0	0.0	13,092.7	0.0	0	0	0

In April of 2023 regulations under 7 Alaska Administrative Code 53.061(d) were amended and increased rates for Foster Care Augmented Rate. This transfer is a projection based on FY2023 fourth quarter expenditures.

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

Component: Foster Care Special Need (3317)

Line Number	Line Name		FY2023 Actuals	FY2024 Management Plan	FY2025 Governor
2000	Travel		14.7	0.0	0.0
Object Class	Servicing Agency	Explanation	FY2023 Actuals	FY2024 Management Plan	FY2025 Governor
2000 Travel Detail Totals			14.7	0.0	0.0
2000	In-State Employee Travel	In-state employee travel cost. This includes airfare, surface transportation, lodging, meals, and incidentals.	7.3	0.0	0.0
2001	In-State Non-Employee Travel	In-State Non-Employee	6.5	0.0	0.0
2002	Out of State Employee Travel	Out of State Employee Travel	0.9	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		FY2023 Actuals	FY2024 Management Plan	FY2025 Governor
3000	Services		162.2	137.5	137.5
Object Class	Servicing Agency	Explanation	FY2023 Actuals	FY2024 Management Plan	FY2025 Governor
3000 Services Detail Totals			162.2	137.5	137.5
3000	Education Services	Conference registration, membership dues, employee tuition and other employee training costs.	1.0	0.0	0.0
3001	Financial Services	Contract for services related to Social Security applications and appeals	1.0	110.0	110.0
3006	Delivery Services	Delivery, freight, messenger, and courier costs.	0.0	2.5	2.5
3011	Other Services	Other Services	136.0	0.0	0.0
3024	Inter-Agency Legal	Law - Department-wide Reimbursable Services Agreement: Department of Law, Civil Division, Tribal discovery charges reimbursement.	18.9	25.0	25.0
3032	Inter-Agency Health	Health - Department-wide Inter-Agency Health	5.3	0.0	0.0

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

Component: Foster Care Special Need (3317)

Line Number	Line Name		FY2023 Actuals	FY2024 Management Plan	FY2025 Governor
7000	Grants, Benefits		10,051.5	13,092.7	13,092.7
Object Class	Servicing Agency	Explanation	FY2023 Actuals	FY2024 Management Plan	FY2025 Governor
7000 Grants, Benefits Detail Totals			10,051.5	13,092.7	13,092.7
7001	Grants	Toxicology testing services for Office of Children's Services clients, Provider Agreement	779.7	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.	9,271.8	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	3,129.2	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	FY2023 Actuals	FY2024 Management Plan	FY2025 Governor
7000 Grants, Benefits Detail Totals			10,051.5	13,092.7	13,092.7
		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	800.0
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	FY2023 Actuals	FY2024 Management Plan	FY2025 Governor
5002 Fed Rcpts (1002 Fed Rcpts)			326.4	632.1	632.1
5019 Federal - Miscellaneous Grants		Various Federal Receipts and Title IV-E of the Social Security Act	326.4	632.1	632.1
		Various Federal Receipts and Title IV-E of the Social Security Act			
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
		Reimbursable Services Agreement with Public Assistance Child Care for working foster care providers			

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

Component: Foster Care Special Need (3317)

				FY2023 Actuals	FY2024 Management Plan	FY2025 Governor
Component Totals				24.2	40.0	40.0
With Department of Law				18.9	25.0	25.0
With Department of Health				5.3	0.0	0.0
With Department of Health & Social Services				0.0	15.0	15.0
Object Class	Servicing Agency	Explanation		FY2023 Actuals	FY2024 Management Plan	FY2025 Governor
3024	Inter-Agency Legal	Law - Department-wide	Reimbursable Services Agreement: Department of Law, Civil Division, Tribal discovery charges reimbursement.	18.9	25.0	25.0
3032	Inter-Agency Health	Health - Department-wide	Inter-Agency Health	5.3	0.0	0.0
7002	Benefits	H&SS - Department-wide	Reimbursable Services Agreement: Vital record copies and inquiries.	0.0	15.0	15.0