

State of Alaska
FY2025 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 2023

The Office of Children's Services (OCS) continued 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 FY2023, 195 new families became adoptive or guardianship parents. At the end of June 2023, there were 394 new adoptions and guardianships with 4,217 adoption and guardianship subsidy agreements continuing into FY2024.

Alaska is continuing to utilize guardianship as a permanency goal to facilitate timely permanency for children when deemed an appropriate alternative to adoption. In the last year, 12% of the youth exiting custody with a subsidy was via Guardianship. 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 streamlined subsidy related practices and several internal and external subsidy related forms to reduce processing timeframes when negotiating or renegotiating subsidies.

Key Component Challenges

All children who exit state custody through adoption or legal guardianship have unique needs and will continue to receive benefits through subsidy programs to assist their adoptive/guardian family in meeting those special needs.

Children that have been removed from situations of maltreatment and who 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. State funded guardianship subsidies do not include Medicaid which creates a challenge to achieving permanency.

Significant Changes in Results to be Delivered in FY2025

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. It is anticipated that in FY2024 the expense of the

program will continue to increase as families require the maximum subsidy amount due to greater out of pocket expenses to care for the basic and special needs of youth as inflation increases and fewer Medicaid accepting service providers available throughout the state.

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

	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	65.7	105.5	347.7	347.7	105.5	105.5	-242.2	-69.7%	
4000 Commodities	12.3	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	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	43,597.8	46,125.0	46,125.0	44,125.0	44,125.0	44,125.0	0.0	0.0%	
8000 Miscellaneous	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0%	
Totals	43,675.8	46,240.5	46,482.7	44,482.7	44,240.5	44,240.5	-242.2	-0.5%	
Fund Sources:									
1002 Fed Rcpts (Fed)	23,215.5	23,264.3	23,264.3	23,264.3	23,264.3	23,264.3	0.0	0.0%	
1003 G/F Match (UGF)	17,236.2	16,748.0	16,748.0	16,748.0	16,748.0	16,748.0	0.0	0.0%	
1004 Gen Fund (UGF)	3,144.6	6,228.2	6,228.2	4,228.2	4,228.2	4,228.2	0.0	0.0%	
1265 COVID Fed (Fed)	79.5	0.0	242.2	242.2	0.0	0.0	-242.2	-100.0%	
Unrestricted General (UGF)	20,380.8	22,976.2	22,976.2	20,976.2	20,976.2	20,976.2	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	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0%	
Federal Funds	23,295.0	23,264.3	23,506.5	23,506.5	23,264.3	23,264.3	-242.2	-1.0%	
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: 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 FY2024 Enrolled To FY2024 Authorized *****												
FY2024 Enrolled	Enrolled	46,240.5	0.0	0.0	105.5	10.0	0.0	46,125.0	0.0	0	0	0
1002 Fed Rcpts		23,264.3										
1003 G/F Match		16,748.0										
1004 Gen Fund		6,228.2										
CARES Education Training Voucher Program Sec66(b) Ch11 SLA2022 P174 L20 (HB281) (FY23-FY24)	CarryFwd	242.2	0.0	0.0	242.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
1265 COVID Fed		242.2										
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).												
Sec. 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												
FY2023 Expenditures: \$11,000.00												
FY2024 Carryforward: \$242,172.00												
Subtotal		46,482.7	0.0	0.0	347.7	10.0	0.0	46,125.0	0.0	0	0	0
***** Changes From FY2024 Authorized To FY2024 Management Plan *****												
Transfer to Foster Care Augmented Rate	Trout	-2,000.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-2,000.0	0.0	0	0	0
1004 Gen Fund		-2,000.0										
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.												
Subtotal		44,482.7	0.0	0.0	347.7	10.0	0.0	44,125.0	0.0	0	0	0
***** Changes From FY2024 Management Plan To FY2025 Governor Adjusted Base *****												
Reverse CARES Education Training Voucher Program Sec66(b) Ch11 SLA2022 P174 L20 (HB281) (FY23-FY24)	OTI	-242.2	0.0	0.0	-242.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
1265 COVID Fed		-242.2										

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
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).												
Sec. 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 FY2023 Expenditures: \$11,000.00 FY2024 Carryforward: \$242,172.00												
	Subtotal	44,240.5	0.0	0.0	105.5	10.0	0.0	44,125.0	0.0	0	0	0
	***** Changes From FY2025 Governor Adjusted Base To FY2025 Governor *****											
	Totals	44,240.5	0.0	0.0	105.5	10.0	0.0	44,125.0	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		FY2023 Actuals	FY2024 Management Plan	FY2025 Governor
3000	Services		65.7	347.7	105.5
Object Class	Servicing Agency	Explanation	FY2023 Actuals	FY2024 Management Plan	FY2025 Governor
3000 Services Detail Totals			65.7	347.7	105.5
3000	Education Services	National Foster Parent Association and Association of Administrators of Interstate Compact	6.5	6.5	6.5
3001	Financial Services	Financial Services	10.0	0.0	0.0
3007	Advertising and Promotions	Recruitment postings, media campaigns, and notices necessary to meet legal requirements.	2.7	10.0	10.0
3011	Other Services	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	46.5	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	272.2	30.0

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

Component: Subsidized Adoptions & Guardianship (3313)

Line Number	Line Name		FY2023 Actuals	FY2024 Management Plan	FY2025 Governor
4000	Commodities		12.3	10.0	10.0
Object Class	Servicing Agency	Explanation	FY2023 Actuals	FY2024 Management Plan	FY2025 Governor
4000 Commodities Detail Totals			12.3	10.0	10.0
4000	Business	Business supplies.	0.0	10.0	10.0
4002	Household/Institutional	General office supplies necessary to support programs and activities.	12.3	0.0	0.0

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

Component: Subsidized Adoptions & Guardianship (3313)

Line Number	Line Name	FY2023 Actuals	FY2024 Management Plan	FY2025 Governor
7000	Grants, Benefits	43,597.8	44,125.0	44,125.0

Object Class	Servicing Agency	Explanation	FY2023 Actuals	FY2024 Management Plan	FY2025 Governor
7000 Grants, Benefits Detail Totals			43,597.8	44,125.0	44,125.0

7001	Grants	Grants to support permanency for adoptive and guardianship children	749.9	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."	42,847.9	43,125.0	43,125.0
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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	FY2023 Actuals	FY2024 Management Plan	FY2025 Governor
		7000 Grants, Benefits Detail Totals	43,597.8	44,125.0	44,125.0
		\$575.0			
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	FY2023 Actuals	FY2024 Management Plan	FY2025 Governor
5002 Fed Rcpts (1002 Fed Rcpts)			23,215.5	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 Title IV-E, Social Services Block Grant, and other federal funding sources determined by the Public Assistance Cost Allocation Plan	23,215.5	23,264.3	23,264.3
5265 COVID Fed (1265 COVID Fed)			79.5	242.2	0.0
5028 Federal COVID Stimulus - Miscellaneous Grants		Chafee Foster Care Independent Living Program and Education Training Voucher Program Chafee Foster Care Independent Living Program and Education Training Voucher Program	79.5	242.2	0.0

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

Component: Subsidized Adoptions & Guardianship (3313)

				FY2023 Actuals	FY2024 Management Plan	FY2025 Governor
Component Totals				0.0	272.2	30.0
With Department of Law				0.0	272.2	30.0
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, 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	272.2	30.0