

Division of Public Assistance FY2026 Budget Overview

Senate Finance Subcommittee

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Public Assistance Statewide Profile FY2024



Mission: To promote self-sufficiency and provide for basic living expenses to Alaskans in need

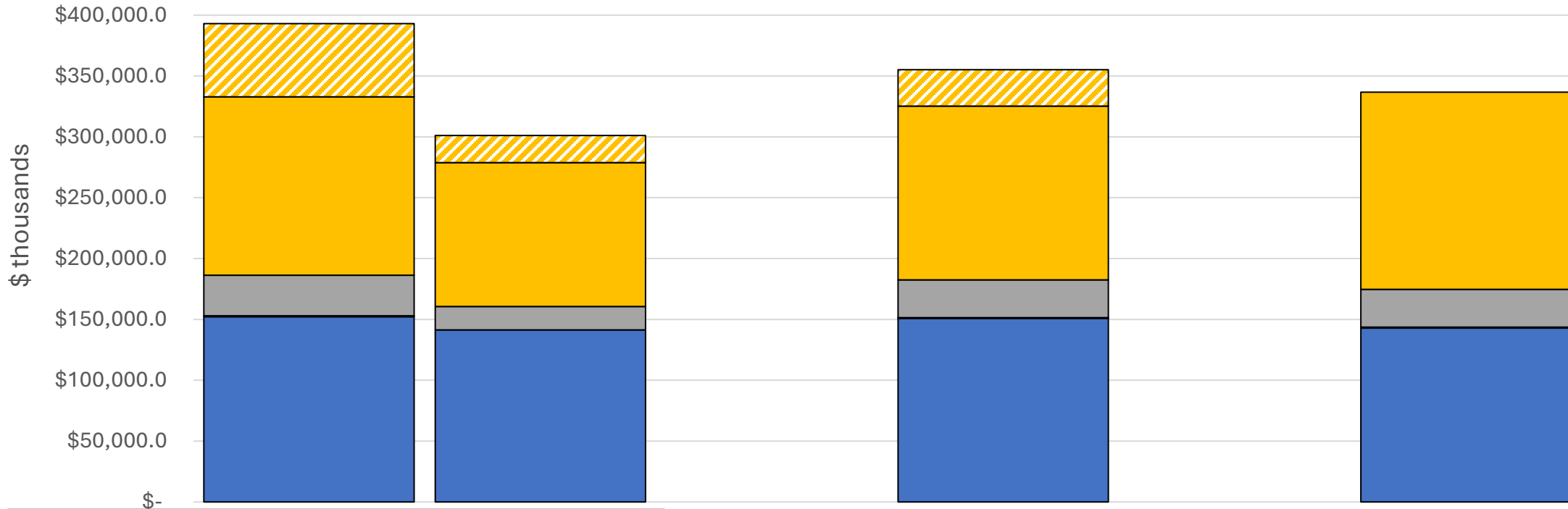
Program	Average Monthly Recipients (Individuals)
Adult Public Assistance	13,817
Alaska Temporary Assistance	3,307
Child Care Assistance	1,996
General Relief Assistance	25
Heating Assistance	6,153
Interim Assistance	63
Medicaid	242,636
Senior Benefits	10,663
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance	65,778
Women, Infants, and Children	14,528
Total	358,966

Division of Public Assistance Budget



Operating Budget (FY2024-FY2026)

\$ thousands



	FY2024		FY2025	FY2026
	Final Authorized	Actuals	Management Plan	Governor Amended
UGF	\$ 152,250.3	\$ 141,293.4	\$ 150,637.2	\$ 142,838.1
DGF	\$ 814.7	\$ -	\$ 814.7	\$ 814.7
Other	\$ 33,295.4	\$ 19,210.4	\$ 31,027.9	\$ 31,069.4
Federal	\$ 146,600.1	\$ 118,275.4	\$ 142,861.5	\$ 161,952.4
Federal (COVID-19)	\$ 60,145.8	\$ 22,299.0	\$ 29,726.8	\$ -
Total	\$ 393,106.3	\$ 301,078.2	\$ 355,068.1	\$ 336,674.6

* Including Senior Benefits Payment Program

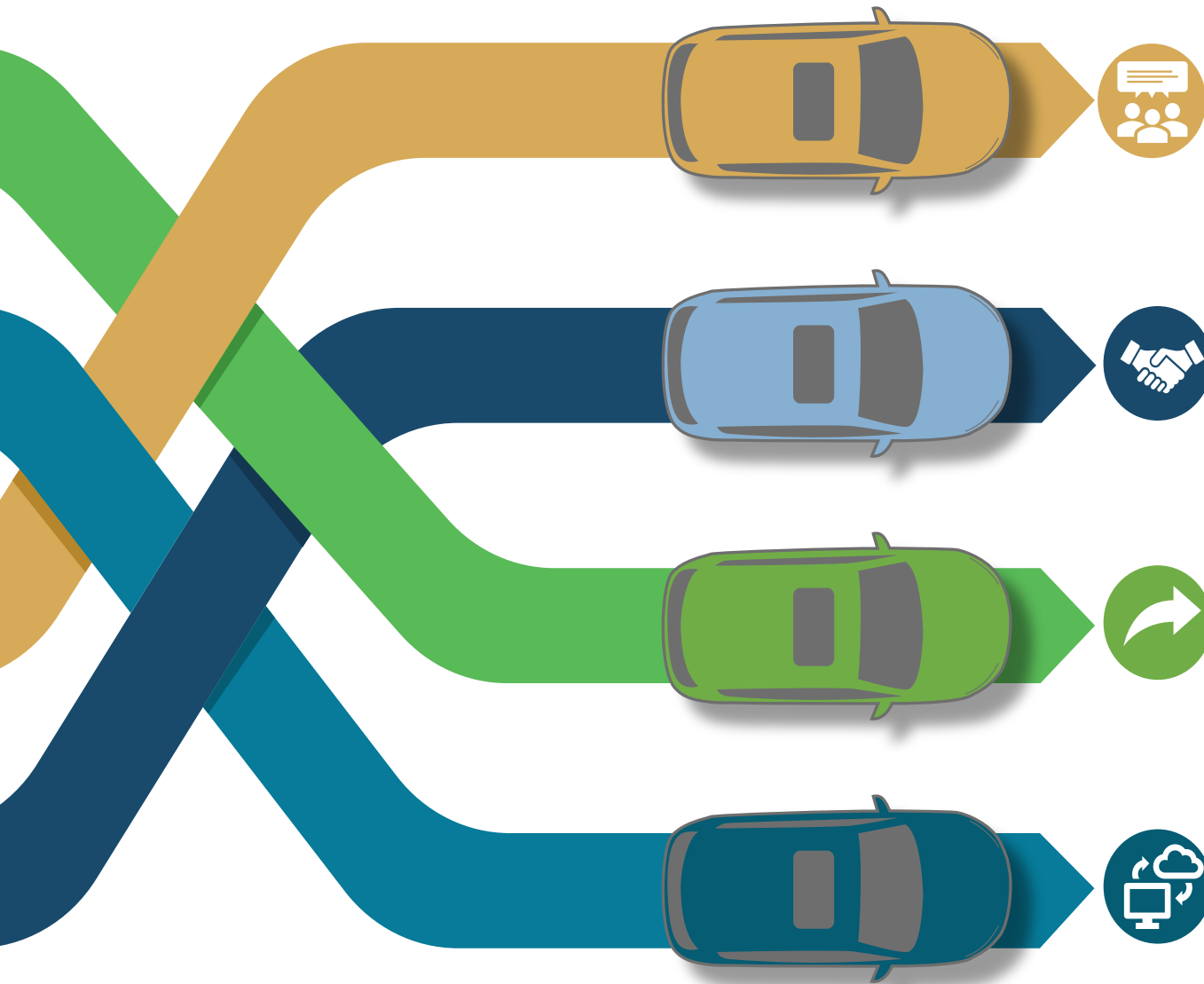
Division of Public Assistance



FY2026 Budget Changes

Reverse one-time funding for child care and food security	(\$9,000.0)
Reverse multi-year funding for Medicaid eligibility redeterminations	(\$8,632.2)
Reverse multi-year funding for addressing SNAP backlog	(\$8,829.2)
Child care tax credits, SB189 fiscal note	\$6,092.2
Federal Receipts for Heating Assistance Program	\$5,000.0
Extend Senior Benefits	\$470.8
Federal Receipts for Child Care Benefit Block Grant	\$1,200.0
Federal Receipts to enhance access and quality childcare in Alaska	\$14,000.0
Maintain the Virtual Contact Center	\$8,200.0
Add 15 full-time Eligibility Technician positions	\$1,629.8

Drivers of Improvement



Client Engagement

Client Portal | Simplified applications | Online forms | Text messaging for SNAP & Medicaid



Workforce Enhancements

Business process redesign | Technology | Communications/Surveys



Policies Streamlined

Improved SNAP timeliness | Interview compliance | Elderly Simplified Application Project Certification



IT Improvements

Modernization Roadmap



Division of Public Assistance: IT Modernization



Enhance Client Engagement ●

- ✓ Text messaging
- ✓ Secure document upload
- eForms & multi-program application
- Client portal

Operational Efficiency ●

- ✓ Automated ex-parte process
- ✓ Automated email search process
- Data integrations between platforms
- Automated asset verification
- Return mail solution

Integrated Eligibility Enrollment System ●

- Migrate non-MAGI categories off mainframe
- Migrate SNAP off mainframe
- Migrate TANF & Cash Programs off mainframe

Family Nutrition

- ✓ WIC Spirit

Child Care

- ✓ AK Child Care Information System

ARIES Maintenance & Operations

- ✓ Shifted to secure, cloud-based system



2028

Department of Health: FY2023 Audit Report



FY2023 Audit Corrective Action Report

- Nine findings
 - Two disagree with the finding
 - Five anticipate resolution by end of FY2025
 - Two anticipate resolution by end of FY2026

Category 1: Division of Public Assistance Federal Program Findings

Category 2: Finance and Management Services Financial Findings



Category 1: Division of Public Assistance Federal Program Findings

Programs with Findings

- Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer Food Benefits Program (PEBT)
 - Benefit payment process and timeframes - Disagree
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance (SNAP)
 - Recertification timelines - Agree
 - Daily reconciliations - Agree
 - Benefit reporting - Disagree
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Program (TANF) - Agree
 - Inadequate supporting documentation
 - Benefit reporting
- Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) - Agree
 - Benefit reporting
 - Eligibility errors



Category 2: Finance and Management Services Financial Findings

Shortfalls

- Ten potential revenue shortfalls – partially corrected
 - Addressing each shortfall with:
 - Billing adjustments and reconciliations for federal awards and reimbursable service agreements
 - Ongoing financial oversight and process improvements

Questions?

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